

**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE PETER S.  
SHIVUTE AT THE CHEVENING ALUMNI NETWORK OF  
NAMIBIA'S ALUMNI SUMMIT, 6 OCTOBER 2023, WINDHOEK**

*His Excellency, Mr. Charles Moore, British High Commissioner to  
Namibia*

*Ms. Charlotte Fenton, Deputy British High Commissioner to Namibia*

*Honourable Faustina Kale, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and  
Culture*

*Dr. Jennifer Kandjii, Co-chairperson of the Chevening Alumni Network  
of Namibia*

*Mr. Moses Matyayi, Co-chairperson of the Chevening Alumni Network  
of Namibia*

*Esteemed Chevening Alumni*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

1. It is a privilege for me to address this gathering of my fellow Chevening alumni. I applaud the organisers, the Chevening Alumni Network of Namibia, for creating this platform where alumni, professionals, leaders and experts from across

disciplines can meet to meaningfully discuss and debate pressing issues of public importance. I am certain that the impact of your discourse today will extend far beyond the confines of this room.

2. As alumni we should all appreciate the privileged position we occupy as past recipients of this prestigious award. It is a privilege not available to many.
3. I still vividly remember the excitement I felt nearly three decades ago when I received the call notifying me of the success of my application. It was the confirmation that I would embark on a journey to Warwick University, Coventry, to pursue a Master's Degree in a course called Law in Development. The cherished memories of my university days and the lasting relationships I forged are still very much alive in my mind. More importantly, the knowledge and skills I acquired during my time at the university have been instrumental in shaping my career, and I continue to apply them to this day.

4. I am confident that most, if not all of you, share similar experiences from your time studying in the UK. Nevertheless, we must bear in mind the overarching purpose of the opportunity we were given. A Chevening Scholarship is not just a golden ticket to higher education in the United Kingdom, nor is it solely an opportunity for personal and professional growth. Above all, it is a means to pour back the skills and knowledge gained into our respective fields of work and communities, in turn contributing to the betterment of our nation.

5. As the dialogue progresses today, I want us to think about where we stand as a community and as individuals on the injustices of our time - how we can contribute, not through occasional side-projects but through our regular lives and day jobs. We must be strategic and compassionate in what we prioritize, in how we put the knowledge we have into practice. To quote from the speech of an 'American journalist, Anand Giridharadas to the Aspen Global Leadership Network, "we plainly live in a new Gilded Age, in which extraordinary changes in our economies and technologies have created, as

revolutionary times always do, extreme winners and extreme losers.”

6. Rapid technological advancements have significantly changed how we communicate and participate in democratic processes. In these times, it is all the more important to harness the positive potential of technology responsibly, ensuring that fundamental rights remain strongly safeguarded in the digital age without stifling innovation.
7. The rise of digital platforms in an attention economy, enabled by anonymity, virality, instantaneity and the use of AI to create deepfakes, has rendered all of us vulnerable but not all of us are equally vulnerable. Concerns over privacy, digital access, data protection, and manipulation of information must be addressed with a steadfast commitment to upholding the principles of transparency, fairness, and accountability.
8. Therefore, as you hatch, discuss, and debate crucial ideas today about innovation, technologies, and sustainability, I want you to remain mindful of the fundamental rights and freedoms for all

which voice the egalitarian aspirations of Namibia's Constitution.

9. I say this because I have faith in the extraordinary potential of this community, to do more than it has done, to lead with humility and robust vision, and to engage stakeholders and communities in designing and implementing that vision.
  
10. American writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin said, "The purpose of education, finally, is to create in a person the ability to look at the world for himself, to make his own decisions, to say to himself this is black, or this is white, to decide for himself whether there is a God in heaven or not. To ask questions of the universe, and then learn to live with those questions..." The Chevening scholarship allowed me to consider possibilities in myself, and my country that I had not considered before. This is what education should aim to empower young minds with: hope, self-worth, and good conscience, making them unafraid to ask tough questions, come to their own

conclusions, and change society for the better. An educated and enlightened youth in Namibia can steer the nation forward towards a brighter future, in line with fairness, justice and the emancipatory values of our transformative Constitution.

11. Similarly, the search for equity and justice in public health requires access to basic services, clean environments and fulfilled human rights obligations. All these ambitious and mighty endeavors are interlinked. Improvements in health and education contribute massively to economic and social development, which allows people the freedoms and capabilities required to innovate.
  
12. Finally, in the face of a rapidly changing world, given the urgency of the climate crisis and the astonishing potential of AI to create novel risks and efficiencies, legal frameworks are constantly evolving. Businesses should ensure that their industry practices remain compliant with relevant domestic legislations

and global trade regulations to create more sustainable models, addressing Namibia's developmental goals.

13. Forums like these present us with genuine opportunities to build solidarity by converging our values and ideas, and in doing so, multiplying the force of our actions.
14. In conclusion, I encourage you to motivate others to take a chance and apply for the scholarship. I further urge you to support and mentor those you know who are currently in the trenches, and once they return to engage and work with them as you are already doing.
15. I extend my best wishes to all of you for a successful event and I look forward with enthusiasm to the outcome of your deliberations.

I thank you.