Two Recommendations:

How Government Leaders Can Make a Difference with Orphans

By:

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Being an orphan makes for a very difficult life, especially when you are a teenager. Even if you are a good student, life can feel hopeless. You may want to continue your studies at school, but you don't have money and there is no one to help you fill out the proper forms to enter UNAM or the Polytechnic, let alone to apply for a bursary. Because orphans have no one in their own family who can guarantee their funds in the event they won’t complete their education, they also don’t qualify for most loan schemes. I have also heard that some orphans are shy about showing anyone their parents’ death certificate, which has the words HIV & AIDS written on it.

We hear that Namibia will soon be a nation of orphans, so if we don’t help turn these orphans into our future leaders, many of them will end up on the streets and that will cause big trouble for everyone. Therefore, what the Government should do is set up a separate Bursary Scheme for Orphans, where there are counselors who can help you choose what institution you should apply-to, and then assist with the application forms and make a bursary available.

Government officials should also show the way by setting an individual example. They should each sponsor one orphan, or maybe more, and invest in that child to finish primary and secondary school, and if possible to continue after that, as well. If they could legally adopt one or more of these orphans, that would be even better, because a young orphan is lonely and hungry for love, not just food and an education. I have personally seen adoption in white families but never in African families, although we Africans will help our neighbours and extended family members. But why not someone we don’t know, as well? Therefore, I am appealing to our African leaders, the salt of the earth, to set a good example.

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1 Because Muremi had a medical emergency on 29 October 2005, he could not attend the all-day Research Seminar with the other Leadership Summit students from Namibia. He wrote the background for this short essay before the 29th, based on his own life experiences.