A very good evening & pleasant greeting to you all, to our honorable guest The Country Director of USAID Ms. JOAN LAROSSA your presence is highly valued. To all our different dignitaries from various institutions & ministries we welcome you to this auspicious occasion.

My name is Munashe Chirimanzi, a young man of sixteen years. Currently studying & undergoing my IGSCE. Enough about me onto the “HOT POT COOK ON THE STOVE” (like my mother says).

My current mission is not only to inform you but to educate you about a very unique organization, so similar to the military though their weapon isn’t one of mass-destruction. Picture a collection of young women & men equipped with impeccable knowledge, general life skills & moral of an elite class. A pack of wolves trained not to kill, but to push for innovation at every given occasion. A generation of leaders, with the nations at heart. Who hunger & thrive for the very best, from east to west for their society. Not only are they bringing the change, ladies & gentlemen they are the change the future has been longing & searching endlessly for! I think at this very moment, we can all agree that vision 2016 will be possible with such men & women. The good news is that they too, couldn’t agree any less!

Ladies & gentlemen I present to you TAWLA, The Africa Women’s Leadership Academy. A non-profit organization, dedicated to excel & embrace success. TAWLA isn’t only changing the future it’s preserving & grooming the tomorrow through us, it’s highly ambitious & motivated personal.

Though the main question on your minds right now, is how a man is representing an organization whose name specifies that it’s a women’s platform. This was also my first question, when I received my invitation. So I went to my first session with a low spirit & even lower expectations. Little did I know that these very women, would totally change my state of mind & thinking capacity. Enhancing my social, academic & general way of life. “My people perish, due to lack of knowledge”, a statement I only understood fully after my first meeting at TAWLA. I’m very proud & humbled to be counted in the first group of young men, part of something extraordinary & relevant.

If we look closely geographically, we are 22’ degrees south of the Equator, 24’ degrees east of Greenwich meridian. Botswana a landlocked country but with limit-less keys to a brighter future and I’m not just talking about our diamonds. You see here at TAWLA we have been taught the importance of enhance our mother-land & elevate Botswana to greater heights. To exercise our rights for the benefit of the greater good. From neighborhood to neighborhood, we’ve been trained to study our areas & innovate, in-force & maintain change. We’ve been taught the value of culture & tradition of our nation, so much that even as we seek higher & quality tertiary education outside the borders of Botswana, no questions asked that our occupation, career & bread winning will take place on these Tswana soil. As we develop & pave a path for the next generation of this strong nation.
My life so far as a mentee of this organization has change to realistic & complex goals. As mentee of TAWLA, I’m fully awe that no scholarship, high profile job, flashy car, fancy house, business or lifestyle will come my way without that extra sweat or mile. TAWLA is an army & I’m a soldier equipped with weapons of special caliber. TALWA increased my hunger for success, made me thirsty for excellence & trained me to put others before myself. Throughout our training my colleagues & I were exposed to some professionals from major organization. Ranging from:

**Barclays Bank**-(That taught us money skills & the importance of budgeting & how to use credit cards effectively)

**The Ministry Of Heath**-(Who informed us on sexual violence/rap, many other types of abuse)

F.S-(Which taught you youth rights & responsibilities & informed us on youth friendly services)

We were taught to treat our sisters with respect & protect them when necessary, & not see them as sexual objects or trophies. To love & respect ourselves, as we carry & dress with the art-most dignity, all in the name of self-esteem. We were also taught about many if not all, puberty issues & how to deal with them effectively.

I must say the body polities’ session, reviewed many things that I had over looked, & perhaps never put to thought! Did you know the way one walks or carries themselves, could determine who they become.

We are now fully aware of how exactly to keep balanced diet, because a healthy body makes a healthy heart & a strong mind. As a leader of many different platforms in & outside of school, I’ve experienced some drastic changes in the way I handle & co-ordinate tasks with my teams! With self-awareness skills, I’ve learnt to adapt to every situation & tolerant to a range of things in life with study methods such as the SQ3R. It’s no surprise! My study skills & time table have immensely improved & are currently helping me excel to greater heights. My daily schedule is always well organized & updated. All thanks to TAWLA training & my mother (who keeps a close eye, making sure I stay in check). Another value that we’ve been taught by TAWLA family is very vital, re-guideless who you are, where you come from or background status. We can’t choose family & loving them is mandatory.

My expectation has long since changed & massively increased. You would understand this if you were with us in some of our heart breaking sessions. Where my eyes where opened up to the truth, the world hides on a daily bases. I strongly believe that this mentorship program will enhance & mentor me further. Guide & groom me, into the success I aspire to be. I’ve faith in the mentor, I shall be paired with. As they help keep me in check with my progress, & as I seek more knowledge & clarity on my career. I’ll be open to correction & constructive criticism. No doubt this is a master plan for success! As I shadow them, in preparation of my own career, I’m going to use this opportunity to my art-most advantage. After all, we soldiers only get one short to capture our future & dreams.

I’m sure by now we all get the picture, that we TAWLA soldiers mean serious business; we’ve no time for unnecessary chat. We pay no-attention to games or destruction, sleeping is a luxury we cannot currently afford, though we keep it on lay-bay for when the time is right. For our mission is to keep moving & establishing more gateways for batter, greater & durable solution to real life issues & problems. So in conclusion.....
If there is one thing I’ve realized is that, vision is an element so rare only a few can obtain it but not all can bring it to life. We are currently fighting a dirty war, though as a TAWLA soldier I’m well awe that it’s not about me, it’s just up to me.

THANK YOU!

By Munashe Chirimanzi