

Locating yourself as a youth leader in transformation – The way of the borboleta*

- It is with so much pleasure to be witnessing these young men and women from Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado having come this far today. Let me first congratulate you for completing the Transformational Leadership Academy Course. And also thank the organizers for creating this space for these young people. For 12 weeks, you have denied yourselves some pleasures and made that sacrifice to attend this course with resource persons taking you through five leadership training modules as well as helping and guiding you with your leadership change making projects. Like I said yesterday, you would be receiving certificates to show that indeed you have been equipped with the necessary tools for change and transformation. And I urged you not to use that as an additional decoration and upgrade on your CVs with which you are going to be roaming from office to office or people to people begging and pushing for a space.



We have blamed existing leadership of the older generations (in Africa) for being too corrupt in power and resources, creating inequality, bad leadership, ineffective structures and institutions, marginalizing and excluding (especially) the youth and disintegrating society. Consequently, we see them leaving the youth with nothing but a hopeless and a blurry future in a seeming lawless, crime prone world where people are beginning to think that violence and terrorism are almost the means of survival. Time is running out on the African child to create the future they have so desired and dreamt of. It is upon this basis that you are receiving your certificate today... to go out and start being change agents in the family, community and the society you find yourself, positively influencing your generation by cascading knowledge and demonstrating with good examples of inclusiveness, equality and equity. It is time to prove and to show how you wished things should have been done long time ago. These people ahead have done theirs. Even if we see what they did as wrong, it is up to you to use it as an example and foundation to right and to build differently.

During the “Do Camp” we walked the journey by sharing ideas on how we have to unlearn, learn and relearn some things in transformation and how we need to look into our tool boxes and re-tool them. It was during these interactive sessions that we understood that transformation means an ongoing process of change that represents a sharp break from the past and this break is a major difference between transformation and simple change. We exchanged ideas and deepened our knowledge on the kinds of leadership we would want to be and then finally enriched our visions with the metamorphosis of the borboleta which vividly described to you transformation.

Through the four stages of the borboleta, you identified your selves and discovered the stages where you are. For some of you, this training is the first stage you have found yourselves. You have just discovered yourself with potentials, ideas and passion. You have just conceived and layed your dream eggs. Remember, it doesn't necessarily have to be big. As tiny as the eggs of the borboleta, it still develops into caterpillar. So do not overlook that little passion burning inside you.



Jo Vondee-Awortwi (PhD)
 Programme Coordinator, African Governance Institute,
 The Hague, Netherlands (joanvondee@gmail.com : jovondee@afrugl.org)

Some of you have developed into a larva or caterpillar which is the second stage. This is where you have to “eat” in order to grow. All the caterpillar does is to eat and eat and eat. For some of you, all you have been doing is absorbing all kinds of information, knowledge and experiences including this academy in order to develop yourself. For some of you, this is the only thing you have to eat. Whatever your state is, in this second stage, you have absorbed or grown in some ways.

For some of you, you are at the third stage known as the chrysalis or the pupa stage. This is a very critical stage for some of you because you are undergoing a transformation or metamorphosis. The parts would be recognized as a borboleta are beginning to form. But what the pupa does at this stage is to turn into a cocoon and stay very quiet and still. Some of you would have to go into a reflective mode and rediscover or redevelop yourselves. You may need to take a second look at your passion and visions, your strengths and abilities and consider the opportunities and the resources available. At this stage you have to be aware that, it is you as the

(young) leader undergoing the transformation but not society, the environment or any other thing. It is important to know that transformation begins with one's self before it is transferred.

The final stage is the full developed borboleta which begins to fly. For some of you, you are now borboleta because of this academy. It has transformed you inwardly and equipped you enough with the necessary tools and provided you the space you need. All you need to do is to fly and start influencing society as a young transformed leader.

You should bear in mind that being a borboleta does not mean the end of your achievement but an opportunity to go back and start laying eggs again and going through the cycle over and over again!

Mozambique is known to have a very young population so you all stand the greatest opportunity of being influential leaders among your peers and even the younger ones. If you refuse to influence or make transformation happen to include all, other people may arise from somewhere and influence your peers and the unfortunate thing would be the end result of a society which will work against you, kill your visions and dreams and leave you nothing to live for.

Through the five modules, you have been equipped to build a new generation of Mozambican leaders with the necessary skills, values and attitudes that are needed for national transformation and development. You have been empowered to become agents of transformation today and drivers of national development and now you are expected to translate good leadership skills into action at both the national and sub-national levels.

You must demonstrate key leadership values and skills that are necessary for national transformation and development.

Beginning from today, you are expected to facilitate the altering of existing institutions that do not work for inclusiveness in your spheres of influence and ensure an effective implementation of new inclusive institutions as credible drivers of change. You are to communicate visions as change agents and work towards making change happens. As young leaders and agents of change who have been equipped with values and necessary skills for national transformational leadership, you are expected to demonstrate public integrity, discipline, accountability and public interest values and put into practical work ethics that serve public interest and social cohesiveness.

In conclusion, I urge you all seated here as young change agents ready to put your names in the history of Mozambique. Today we are behind you, urging you on and also beside you walking with you. But tomorrow, we will be in front asking you how far you have come with the vision, how strong you have been and the change you have become yourself and the transformation that has taken place because of you. Know that to whom much is given, much is expected and therefore, much is expected from you as you step out of this room!

Thank you!!

*** On the occasion of the graduation of the first cohort of 30 youth participants from the Transformational Leadership Academy in Mozambique
Pemba, 25th November 2022**

The Way of The Borboleta

Stage One: Egg

The first stage of a butterfly's (borboleta) life is a very small egg.

Stage Two: Caterpillar

When the egg hatches, a "larva" or "caterpillar" emerges. Caterpillar must grow quickly, so it eats continually.

Stage Three: Chrysalis

When the caterpillar reaches full size, it forms into a "chrysalis" or "pupa." Inside, it is undergoing a transformation or "metamorphosis." The parts we recognize as a butterfly (borboleta) are beginning to form.

Stage Four: Butterfly

The adult butterfly (borboleta) emerges from the chrysalis with its soft wings folded about its body. After a while, the butterfly (borboleta) begins to fly.



FINANCING PARTNERS

Property: CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento
Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: Emídio Beula
Author: Jo Vondee-Awortwi (PhD)
Layout: CDD

Address:
Rua de Dar-Es-Salaam Nº 279, Bairro da Sommerschild, Cidade de Maputo.
Telefone: +258 21 085 797

CDD_moz
E-mail: info@cddmoz.org
Website: <http://www.cddmoz.org>

FINANCING PARTNERS

