

IN MY OWN WORDS

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DOING IT MY WAY

My name is Choongo Chibawe, some people call me Chucky cause that is technically my middle name (Charles). I was born in Chingola, Zambia, and spent most of my childhood in Livingstone, Home of the Victoria Falls. My family has been based in Lusaka for the past eight years but as for now, Livingstone will forever be my true home. In 2015, I started my undergraduate studies in Pure and Applied Mathematics at UCT. I am currently doing my Honours in Mathematics and despite the extremely cold temperatures I think Cape Town is finally warming up to me.

Character-wise, I am probably one of the most childish-mature people you'll ever know. I live by the quote, "Always take your job seriously, never yourself", Dwight Eisenhower. This means I am basically a clown unless a specific task demands otherwise. It is an aspect of my character as I don't see the real need to have a solemn look, unless I am bored.



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This also means that I really love to be around kids, whether at the Sunday school at my home church or my extended family.

I believe 3 - 7 is the perfect age, that's when their minds are most pure and curious about everything and they have the most energy. I find joy in helping them experience the wonders of being a kid and teaching them something along the way is a bonus.

Leadership hasn't always been a big thing to me. Most representations I was exposed to felt too serious and solemn for me. An example is how the head student of my high school would never interact nor be seen by students of the lower grades unless it was an official event.

In my view it seemed to be that the respected one had to be serious, and I was and still am not willing to change my character for a role.

This is where UCT and especially Smuts hall come into the picture. If someone in my first year had told me I would be a Sub-warden one day, I would have laughed in their face. This is because when I first arrived I could immediately tell that this role held the same stigma as that of my high school head student, so from day one I wrote myself off as a prospect. But working in other areas of this house such as SFDA and even later leading the team, I got to understand how leadership works for someone like me. Everything came full circle when I was applying for this role last year as every doubt imaginable came to mind. I almost cried when I was selected because it shattered the false belief I built up. It was then that I chose to make up for the lost opportunities of my past, to develop my own style of leading that takes account of my character and values. It doesn't mean changing who I am to fit a role, but growing myself to be as unique and specific as God planned for me from the start.