

B E L I N D A O D H I A M B O



Mug story at five

A Letter To The 5-Year-Old Me

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Dear Belinda,

30 years ago you had brownish-red hair and a bulging stomach. People made fun of you as they called you "Adeli" meaning the one with a big stomach. You were malnourished... Eating all forms of corn meal was the order of the day, it was in the form of ugali, porridge, boiled maize and once in a while with some beans.

Who knew that one day you would overcome malnutrition and become a global brand ambassador for a nutrition company known as "Chew On This?" Oh yes, you overcame all the occasions that you could sleep on sugarless porridge. In fact, I remember vividly the night of that Christmas when the late uncle Sam visited and wondered why you were having plain rice and sugarless black tea for dinner... It was always a mystery to you. You always wished for a better life and guess what? Your wishes became realities... I will talk about your wishes in the next letter.

Can you remember peeping at Diana's house together with your sister Vera at the small space between the glass window and the curtain for almost 1 hour 30 mins in order to watch "POLICE STORY" by Jackie Chan? Thanks to (Toto) nowadays known as Diana, you watched that movie almost 50 times. You kept wondering how these people were able to fit in a small box and their complexion was totally different from yours, leave alone the accent. You kept on telling yourself that one day you would also appear in a box to be watched in people's sitting rooms... Aha, this has happened in numerous occasions.

Thank you for making your parents proud at school. You didn't allow the circumstances around you to make your dreams fade. Whenever people were sad you could always throw in a joke to make the situation better. You couldn't have known that all the hardships you were going through were preparing you for your purpose. You have so many stories to tell that will empower children, teenagers and youths who are facing challenges.

The Journey has just begun, it doesn't always have to end the way it started!

PS: To every child who is going through difficulties; just know that things are going to get better. You are an overcomer!

Kind Regards

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