

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TRANS-NZOIA

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COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

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Transforming the public service workforce

20th August 2025

Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee,

RE: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION – Dr. DOREEN CHERUTO

It is my great honor to recommend Dr. Doreen Cheruto for the Rhodes Scholarship to enable her to pursue her master's at the Oxford University. I provide this recommendation, having served as the Principal of Moi Girls High School, Eldoret, at the time when Dr. Cheruto was a student between 2013 to 2016. During this period, I came to know her well both as an academic high achiever and as a very competent student leader. Dr. Cheruto served as Deputy Captain of the school, a position of responsibility which she carried with dignity, humility, and remarkable effectiveness.

From an academic standpoint, Dr. Cheruto was among the very top performers in her cohort of over 300 students, excelling in the 2016 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examinations, where she achieved outstanding results that placed her and the school in national headlines. This had been the culmination of a journey she started from her first year at Moi Girls High School, yet at the same time exhibiting a good balance of academics and leadership, and service. As Deputy Captain, she demonstrated moral courage, integrity, and unselfishness. She was a leader who balanced firmness with kindness, guiding her peers while also supporting them through challenges. In most cases, high school student leaders don't necessarily attract a lot of love from the students, often due to how strict they can be in implementing rules and ensuring discipline and order in school. Dr. Cheruto, however, had found a way of striking the balance between maintaining discipline and remaining cordial with the entire school fraternity. I often observed her mediating conflicts, encouraging struggling students, and taking initiative in organizing school programs. Accordingly, she was therefore respected and attracted a lot of love and admiration from students across all levels, even her seniors, not only for her intellect but also for her fairness and willingness to put the needs of others before her own. It is these traits that significantly eased my work as a Chief Principal in ensuring the school has high discipline and academic performance. I always found it inspiring and admittedly, I even drew lessons from her on how to inspire and not enforce discipline and integrity among students.

Her character was most visible in her devotion to duty and her sense of fellowship with all

stakeholders in the school including students, faculty, and support staff. Whether leading bi-weekly morning assemblies, leading junior student's mentorship cohorts, or representing the school in academic forums, she consistently displayed the Rhodes virtues of truth, integrity, kindness, devotion to duty, and protection of the weak. At times, her reflective and humble style of leadership meant she was not always the loudest voice in the room, despite the authority she bore, but she commanded respect through her example, reliability, and moral force of character. Beyond high school, even as I moved into public service, I have followed Dr. Cheruto's journey into medicine with pride, and it is quite evident that the seeds of leadership and service she displayed at Moi Girls High School have continued to flourish into the healthcare space. We have grown beyond the mentorship space into a mother-daughter relationship and I have opened the doors to my family where she actively mentors my grandchildren who look up to her with admiration.

Studying at Oxford in my view as an academician and long term teacher, I believe will not only serve to equip her with the necessary intellectual skills in line with the two Master courses she aims to pursue, but stands to equip her with skills and knowledge on how to practically manage situations and circumstances and how she can use that to transform the healthcare state in Kenya. While her reflective and humble leadership style, is often a strength particularly in fostering trust, and inspiring a shared vision, sometimes it proves a weakness in the settings where firmness is called for in addressing difficult groups and where a loud assertive voice is needed. Oxford will therefore challenge her to stretch her intellectual and leadership capacities further, contextualize it to healthcare leadership and I am confident she will rise to the occasion when called upon. I firmly assure the selection committee at both Rhodes and Oxford that Dr. Cheruto has both the discipline to excel academically and the compassion to use her education in service of others, a blend of qualities most needed in the healthcare sector. The Oxford environment, as I have come to know it is very good at stretching the capacities of its scholars and with this in mind, I am certain she will encounter diverse perspectives and rigorous intellectual debates that will challenge her to project her vision for healthcare more confidently on global platforms. In today's world this is a very much needed skill, which will allow her to be transformed from a thoughtful leader into a more assertive global health advocate, with capacity to make cases for investment in healthcare, especially following the recent drop in healthcare aid to countries in Africa and inspire stakeholders from multiple sectors towards a shared vision, influence policy and systemic change while at the same time remaining true to her values of humility and service.

In my judgment and based on my long-term interaction with Dr. Cheruto over the past two decades, she exemplifies all the qualities sought in a Rhodes Scholar and with my recommendation will be very glad to see her taken up for this much sought after scholarship.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Rosemary Wanaswa,

Former Principal, Moi Girls High School, Eldoret

Vice Chairperson, Trans Nzoia County Public Service Board