

KAS Scholarship Engagement

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On 22 April, 2021 The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Namibia/Angola Office engaged its scholars in Windhoek, and via zoom for those based in Zambia and Angola. The engagement provided scholars with an opportunity to share challenges they are facing during their studies, more in particular COVID-19 restrictions and virtual learning. Additionally, scholars discussed socio-economic issues and their life aspirations.

The event was moderated by Ms Claudia Gossow, KAS Programme Manager, who opened the discussion by setting the agenda and introducing the team of the three Namibian and Zambian-based scholars, Mr. Cleff Tjiposa, Mr. Ricky Simasiku, and Mr. Uautua Uarije, as well as the KAS staff Mr. Roman Kasino and Mr. Matias Katenda.

Mr Fernandes Wanda joined us via zoom from Angola. He translated and introduced our two Angolan-based scholars, Ms Ivone Tavares and Mr João Bandão, who were not able to attend due to study commitments.

KAS Resident Representative, Mrs Natalie Russmann also joined midway through the event. Mrs Russmann expressed her excitement to be able to engage the KAS scholars and bring them together. She emphasised that this type of engagements are not just about bringing scholars together but also a platform for promoting democracy and rule of law, networking, and an opportunity to establish a KAS scholars' alumni network.

After hearing from those present in person, it was time to hear from our Zambian-based scholar, Mr Cleff Tjiposa. Mr Tjiposa spoke about his intention to go back to his community in (Opuwo, Kunene region) at the completion of his studies and establish a law firm. The mission of his law firm will be to offer affordable legal consultations, translate legal matters into the local languages and offer free consultation for marriage and child rights to education. Additionally, Mr Tjiposa would like to help educate the people of his community on the importance of knowing their and their partner's health statuses before marriage. He vowed to be an ambassador of KAS Namibia-Angola office and be exemplary throughout the duration of his studies.

On his part, Mr. Ricky Simasiku, spoke about African decolonisation. He discussed factors that contributed to African decolonisation such the formation of the League of Nations, WWII, education of Africans and the Great Depression. He further touched on Africans' expectations after independence, such as improved livelihoods and opportunities. However, he highlighted that although expectations were high, the new African leaders developed into new political elite, where issues of nepotisms, patronage, military coup etc., became hindering blocks to inclusion and economic development.

Mr Uautua Uarije thanked KAS for the scholarship which is helpful for him to realise his career dreams. At the completion of his studies, he will work tirelessly in advising his community and civil society organisations on legal issues and contracts. He further wants to promote accountability and freedom of expression in the society. Mr Uarije would like to help support the establishment of a law research centre at KAS, and host workshops and seminar to advise youth on socio-economic challenges.

The event went well and finished within the planned time. The KAS scholars who were present in person then joined the KAS staff for a chit-chat, coffee and light meal.

