

News

Mohau Nei is an engineering student who is determined to bring about change

By Estie Powell



↑ A delighted Mohau Nei



↑ Mohau believes that we can all transform lives

Mohau Nei was raised in Lesotho, and after she enrolled for a BEng (Electrical Engineering) degree, she worked hard consistently to achieve academic success.

‘During the last four years at the University of Pretoria, I have come to realise that academic achievement is not enough. In order to be the best engineer, I needed to know my role in society. Since then, I have made it my mission to be active and engaged in organisations that seek to improve the state of South African communities.

One such space of growth I found was at the Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender (CSA&G). During the two years that I have been a member, I have grown immensely from its leadership programme known as the Just Leaders. Their engaged practices in social justice movements have made me critically conscious of my environment as a future engineer, as well as the role I need to play in order to bring about change.

I believe that many of the problems encountered by most African countries stem from the lack of structures that can sustain lives, allow for the creation of jobs, and improve the economy. As a result, people are faced with challenges such as poor health and diseases, unemployment and poverty, which all lead to the high crime and death rates.

Having worked with young people who suffer from some of these challenges, I have realised that my role as an engineer is more than just to build inverters or light bulbs, I am tasked with ensuring that my knowledge and skills help bridge the huge inequality gap on our continent and especially in developing African countries.

I am also tasked with advocating for a co-creative university environment that is responsive and transformed by just leaders. It is my responsibility to know and learn what my community's needs are in order to be able to design and implement systems that will benefit them and improve their lives. I believe that leadership involves activism and community-based development engagement.’

Mohau was one of twelve students selected to represent the University of Pretoria at the Southern Africa Regional Students and Youth Conference (SARSYC), which was held in Zambia from 10 to 13 July 2019. The theme of the conference was ‘Bring Southern Africa together to plan, to prioritise and to prevent’. Mohau wants to leave us with her favourite quote, which is: ‘Whatever you value, act it out constantly.’

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↑ Delegates at SARSYC



↑ Passionate young people from all over the world forge new friendships.