



Pristina, Kosovo

30 December 2007

Re: **2008 Yale World Fellows Programme - Dr. Nicholas Ngwanyam, MD**

My name is Simon de Saint-Claire. I am a United Nations Officer and hold a doctorate in International Relations. This letter, however, is not about me but rather **Dr. Nicholas Yufenyui Ngwanyam, MD.**, the man whom I have the privilege to recommend for the **2008 Yale World Fellows Programme.**

To view the professional career and achievements of Dr Ngwanyam is a most humbling experience. His story can be likened to the "Phoenix from the Ashes".

Some 14 years ago, at great personal and professional risk, he fought government tyranny and corruption by exposing a case of "torture resulting in death". The repercussions were swift, with Dr Ngwanyam spending life as a virtual refugee in his own country. Several years later when the persecution had finally ceased, although a former Chief Surgeon, he was unable to find a position in any state run hospital.

Not a stranger to adversity, or shy of a challenge, he started practising from a small rented garage. As most of his patients didn't have the money to pay fees, Dr Ngwanyam provided his service by contra-deal or barter. This arrangement sowed the seeds towards the founding of the St. Louis Clinic - a small general care hospital and out-patient service - and his "people-orientated" philosophy.

Under the firm guidance of Dr Ngwanyam, the enterprise expanded to become the St. Louis Group, covering all aspects of general health care, later diversifying into formal tertiary education with the establishment of the St. Louis Higher Institute of Health (University of Nursing, including the sole paramedic training facility in the entire region).

Dr Ngwanyam has always been community focused, providing means for others to help themselves. Through a series of self-initiated community development programmes, he is currently tackling such issues as low-cost housing, vocational training, job creation schemes, and the implementation of minor infrastructure (irrigation, drainage, solar power etc.).

Having widely travelled, he has established a network of business and professional contacts throughout the United States and the European Union. Consequently the St. Louis 'entities' now enjoy support from numerous international government and NGO bodies.

From a personal and professional perspective, I have never seen such a proactive, creative force of energy nor intellect. Dr Ngwanyam sees opportunities where others see obstacles. He is a medical doctor, academic, leader, businessman, fundraiser, project manager, lobbyist, publicist, and humanitarian.

Based on what I have written, I am genuinely and truly honoured to be able to recommend Dr Nicholas Ngwanyam for this opportunity to work with his peers and develop his professional skills, which will ultimately lead to the betterment and enrichment of his community, as well as enabling stronger links with the United States and International Community.


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