Dr. K. I. Laibuta

Dr.K. I. Laibuta led a normal childhood but among his childhood peers, he stood out as an academic and sports giant. In everything he undertook, he exceled. He worked hard in school, and when outdoors, he played hard.

His admission to Alliance High School for his O and A levels, a school that was then reputed for accepting only the best students in the country, came as no surprise. As expected, he passed his A levels and was admitted to the University of Nairobi to study commerce. His passion for rugby in high school had preceded him and he was promptly invited to join the University of Nairobi rugby team, the Mean Machine.

His future seemed bright and he was eager to spring forth to live up to the adjectives that the world had been showering upon him. Then he suddenly lost his sight. All his dreams and aspirations seemed to come to nought. He could not continue with his commerce course. Playing rugby was the last thing on his mind. He was standing at time’s big precipice and was very confused. All he could do was look down at the bottom of the ravine with no idea as to what lay ahead in his uncertain life.

At the lowest point in his life, Laibuta was introduced to Kenya Society for the Blind. They showed him how to get over the chasm of blindness and how to continue with his life. They aided in his rehabilitation and gave him hope.

Laibuta went back to the University of Nairobi and took up law. He graduated in 1986 with Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B.). He was later awarded a scholarship to study at the prestigious London School of Economics where he graduated with a Masters Degree in Law in 1990. He now holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Laws and continues to be of service to his country in many capacities. He can no longer play rugby, but in 2007 he was the first blind person to take up the game of golf, the fascinating game that gives him a challenge and helps him enjoy the outdoors as he has always done.

Thirty years after he graduated with his first degree, Laibuta has taken some time out of his busy schedule to raise money for the organisation that showed him that there is life after blindness, the Kenya Society for the Blind. He is going to spearhead a golfing campaign dubbed “1,000 Holes Blind Golf Challenge”, to raise money for Kenya Society for the Blind’s two flagship projects, the construction of the proposed KSB Rehabilitation Center and the eyedrop production facility to boost eyecare and blindness prevention.

Kenya Society for the Blind gave Laibuta and thousands of other beneficiaries hope to continue living a quality life. The Society helped him to scale heights he did not envision even before he lost his sight. In their 60th year of opening new horizons for the blind, Kenya Society for the Blind is now receiving help from one of its alumnus, Dr. K. I. Laibuta.