

Dear Special Guests of mine,

Tonight, you are gathered here to celebrate a very important event of ours – the launching of LCTI – our training institute.

I have a dream – Do not be afraid Well rest assured – I am not going to be Martin Luther King today and the lectures are definitely not for today.

But I indeed want to share certain of my thoughts and feelings with you all tonight. It is said that whenever you seek a higher purpose, you attain everything and precisely, today we are here to celebrate the path towards the attainment of a higher purpose – which is Education!

My sisters and myself have always done our best to inculcate knowledge, to instil in the minds of our students and trainees the secrets of learning. We had previously thought that we can attain our goal of educating each and every one through politics but then we realised at the right moment that this particular goal of ours cannot be so achieved through politics and this is where we started to pave our way towards the setting up of this institution.

If you are here today, know that we want you to be part of this journey which is renewing itself tonight.

Let me tell you: There are two people here who have been the driving force behind my achievements and those of my sisters in the educational field and these are my parents here, Mr. Abdool Amid Choomka and Mrs. Nooresa Bibi Choomka. You know, I still remember how my father will be calling with an echoing voice every

morning at 4 o'clock posing as the alarm clock and holding a stick in his hand to threaten more than to hit – to wake up. Education and prayers have always been the two things that he ensured he inculcated in us since our early young age. My mother, on her side, will be correcting all our homework everyday – she is our human calculator and I guarantee you that she is still the same today!

At 18 hr every night she will impose on us to go to bed to sleep so that we could wake early morning to revise and pray. I remember she will insist that we sleep on our beds asking us to turn our face and see look at the nearby wall so that we focus on nothing and just sleep. That was very effective! Tonight, I will urge all of you to pay them the respect that they deserve by giving them the loudest round of applause that you have ever given. Thank you so much!

16 years ago my friend was the time when I first lectured at the age of 19. It was a group of 40 university law students. I do remember when I stepped in that class as a replacement tutor in the middle of the semester, on becoming aware of my young age, around 10 of the 40 students chose to stand up and to leave the class as they didn't believe that a 19-year-old LLB student will be able to teach them. Well let me tell you that those 10 students returned after a year and did follow my law classes after the success of their fellow friends. Today I am privileged to share with you that my 16 years of lecturing career have produced successful people who are occupying important positions in various sectors such as the regulatory bodies, the police force, the finance industry, etc. etc. It is an honour for me to have been part of your journey.

Now, this event is incomplete if I do not introduce you to our special guest who is here with his beautiful family. Was it not for that person, this project will not have been as it is today.

Mr. Neeshan Khodabux – He is the director of Angels Support Living & Homes Ltd and that of Next Step Support Living Ltd – established companies in the UK providing accommodation & support for people with mental health. He has been indulged in this field for the last 25 years and now he has decided to provide his unflinching support to the mission of LCTI. Ladies and Gentleman, I will again ask you to please give one of your biggest applause to that gentleman and I will call him on stage.

Tonight I have thought of a different and special way to thank Neeshan. I have composed a poem (one of my past time activities for those who know me).

In the world of business, it's rare to find  
A partner who's generous, supportive, and kind  
But you, my dear friend, have been all of these things  
And we're grateful for the support that you bring

Your schedule is packed, your time is in demand  
But you always make time to lend us a hand  
Together we've created a training institution  
And your support has been a vital contribution

Your belief in our vision for education  
Has been a source of endless inspiration  
And we want to thank you, from the bottom of our hearts  
For being a partner who has played that crucial part

Each time you visit us,  
We are blessed with cakes numerous,  
We're grateful for all that you do  
Your support and dedication have been steadfast and true!

Thank you.

I will want Neeshan to come on stage and to accept a gift on behalf of the LCTI team. Thank you Neeshan.

Before Cora proceeds with the next item on the programme,

I must say that you are here tonight.

Either you are family, you are our close friends (best friend, colleagues), or you are one of those beautiful people who have been contributing directly or indirectly in the achievement of this milestone.

Some of you are actually working together with us and some of you will be our collaborators in the very near future. Thank you all for everything. Last but not least thank you to my team and to Cora for the successful event organisation.

Thank you so much and enjoy the rest of the evening! We will be having karaoke for those who have promised me that they will grace us with songs interpreted in their own language. Thank you so much!