



## What makes a leader (diamond) is character

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How far can we see? Can we see a SAACP and PSSA that is united and stronger? That will drive us, that will motivate us, that will improve us – if we can see that far with our hearts, then a UNITED and STRONGER PSSA and SAACP is possible!

“I think that the greatest gift God ever gave man is not the gift of sight but the gift of vision. Sight is a function of the eyes, but vision is a function of the heart” – Dr Myles Munroe

### Formation of diamonds

The name *diamond* is derived from the ancient Greek term called *adámas*, meaning “proper”, “unalterable”, “unbreakable”, and “untamed” and diamonds are extremely rare.

Natural diamonds were formed under conditions of extreme pressure (45 to 60 kilobars) and heat (900 to 1 300 degrees Celsius). Nowadays, laboratory-grown diamonds are created using either a high-pressure high-temperature process or a chemical vapour deposition process.

Diamonds are eventually cut, but they must be polished and shaped so that they refract and reflect white light. This is what gives them their brilliance.

A perfect diamond is produced following a process that takes time and patience!

### Forming pharmacy diamonds

All pharmacy students, from first to final year, go through tutorials, practicals, tests and examinations. These tutorials, practicals and tests put pressure on them and shape them as pharmacists. The exams generate extreme heat so that they can shine. The continuous repetition of the same process from first to final year polishes them as character is tested through a continuous process. We start as student leaders in student associations like PEPSA, RUPSA or SAPSF.

Pharmacists then join branches and sectors of the PSSA, and some eventually join the national executive committees of SAACP or PSSA.

### Protecting ourselves from falling and failing

When we become leaders in national structures, we have character that protects us from falling and failing.

Character is what makes a person who they are.

Dr Myles Munroe puts it this way...

“Character protects power and vision. Your gift can never protect your character but your character will protect your gift. Character is developed; you can’t pray for it or fast for it. Character is a word that means statue; it means to be set like dried cement. Character is image; you are stable, predictable, and dependable. Character is a dedication to a set of standards without wavering. Character is a constant effort to integrate one’s words, deeds, and actions. Let God chisel character in your life. What makes a leader is character and NOT colour nor cash.”

### Pharmacists as diamonds

We must understand that these challenges presented to us are **opportunities** to be put **under pressure, in extreme heat and then cut and polished into diamonds called leaders in society. I strongly believe that in every pharmacist, there is a leader.**

“The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg. It’s about what you’re made of, not the circumstances” – unknown

Let us promote and protect our profession with passion and participation with the power provided to us and lead our society fearlessly and confidently!