

Miss Botswana 2024 Anicia Tebogo Gaothusi

Meet Anicia Tebogo Gaothusi, the reigning Miss Botswana 2024 from Tutume who embodies her name's meanings through her actions and outlook on life. "Anicia," meaning 'noble' and 'graceful,' reflects her commitment to carrying herself with dignity and kindness.

The 22-year-old strives to make a positive impact and live with a sense of purpose and integrity. "Tebogo," meaning 'thankful' or 'gratitude' in Setswana, encapsulates her outlook on life, appreciating the little things and expressing gratitude for the people and opportunities that come her way. Her nickname, "Chipo," meaning 'gift' in Kalanga, reflects the belief that life itself is precious and should be cherished.

Born in Molepolole at the Scottish Livingstone Hospital, where her grandmother worked as a dedicated nurse, Anicia's early years were a tapestry of different locales and experiences, she began her educational journey in Tutume, attending preschool and Primary School in Thini. Her life was marked by a series of moves dictated by her grandmother's transfers. She experienced the vibrant community of Bobonong while completing standards 3 and 4, and then the scenic beauty of Kasane for standard 5. After her grandmother's retirement, Anicia moved to Gaborone to live with her mother, finishing her primary education there. Her academic journey continued through Bonnington CJSS for junior school, followed by Ledumang Senior School for her senior years.

Currently, Anicia is pursuing her studies at the esteemed Gaborone University College of Law and Professional Studies. She is dedicated to honing her skills in the field of Procurement and Supply through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply program. However, her aspirations extend far beyond academic excellence. Her journey as Miss Botswana 2024 contestant is marked by her unwavering commitment to championing primary healthcare. Inspired by her grandmother, she launched the initiative "Lights," forging partnerships with various stakeholders including Life Flight Rescue and Kgalalelo Dental Clinic to advocate for accessible and comprehensive primary healthcare services across the nation.

In a country where healthcare disparities persist, Anicia's advocacy is a breath of fresh air, offering hope and tangible solutions to improve the wellbeing of Botswana. With her passion, determination, and the Miss Botswana platform, she aims to spark a nationwide conversation about the importance of prioritising primary healthcare for all.

Beyond the Miss Botswana crown, Anicia stands as a shining example of beauty with substance. Her dedication to making a meaningful impact in the lives of others is not only commendable but also inspiring. As she continues to grace stages and champion causes close to her heart, Anicia remains a true ambassador of unity, compassion, and empowerment.

First Crowned Miss Teen International Botswana

At just 16 years old, Anicia Gaothusi was crowned the first Miss Teen Botswana in April 2019, capturing the hearts of her fellow citizens throughout her reign. Trained by the Diamond Pageantry Academy for the international stage, Anicia was a Form 4 student at Ledumang Senior Secondary School at the time.

Her journey began from a place of shyness and an inability to voice her thoughts, which motivated her to start a project called "Lights." Through this initiative, she blossomed into a confident young lady, gaining the ability to speak out and encourage her peers to find their own light.

Anicia's inspiration came from her grandmother, a nurse who worked near her primary school. After school, Anicia would assist with the patients, bringing joy to their lives and fostering her interactions with more people. This experience helped her find her light and fueled her passion for helping others.

Being Miss Teen Botswana taught Anicia to become a better version of herself, finding her light and striving for greater achievements. Her journey of personal growth and self-discovery highlighted her happiness in helping people.

With the crown on her head, Anicia envisioned growing from this stage to even bigger platforms, such as Miss Universe, to represent her country. She performed exceptionally well on the international stage at Miss Teen International in India, returning home as the Miss Teen International 2nd Princess making her Miss Teen Africa and winning the Miss Multimedia Award.

Her Journey To The Miss Botswana Crown

The dream of becoming Miss Botswana has been a part of Anicia's life for as long as she can remember. As a young girl, she watched the Miss Botswana pageants with admiration, captivated by the elegance, intelligence, and grace of the contestants. Inspired by how they

used their platform to advocate for important causes and bring about change, Anicia began participating in local pageants, learning valuable lessons about confidence, public speaking, and community service. Each step, from winning smaller titles to preparing for the Miss Botswana competition, has been a testament to her dedication and passion for making a positive impact.

The Path In Faith As A Foundation

Anicia's relationship with God is the foundation of her life. Growing up, her family placed a strong emphasis on faith, and attending church was a regular part of their routine. This nurturing environment helped Anicia develop a deep spiritual connection from a young age. Her church has always been a source of support and guidance, providing her with a sense of community and belonging. Throughout her journey, her faith has been a source of strength, helping her navigate challenges and remain grounded. Anicia believes that her spiritual journey is a continuous process of growth, seeking wisdom, and striving to live a life that reflects her values and beliefs. Her relationship with God motivates her to serve others and use her talents for the greater good.

Embracing The Crown

To Anicia, the Miss Botswana crown is much more than a title, it is a symbol of responsibility and opportunity. It represents the chance to be a voice for the voiceless and a catalyst for positive change. With the honour of wearing this crown, Anicia intends to focus on initiatives that uplift and empower communities. She aims to promote health and wellness, particularly focusing on good health awareness, which is often overlooked. Additionally, Anicia wants to support women's empowerment programs that provide skills training and entrepreneurship opportunities. By leveraging the visibility and influence that comes with the Miss Botswana title, she hopes to inspire others to join her in making a meaningful difference.