



SIYANE SPEAKS

The Official Newsletter of Siyane Toastmasters Club

Volume 13 | Issue 1 | December 2020

THE VIRTUOUS LEADER

One step at a time

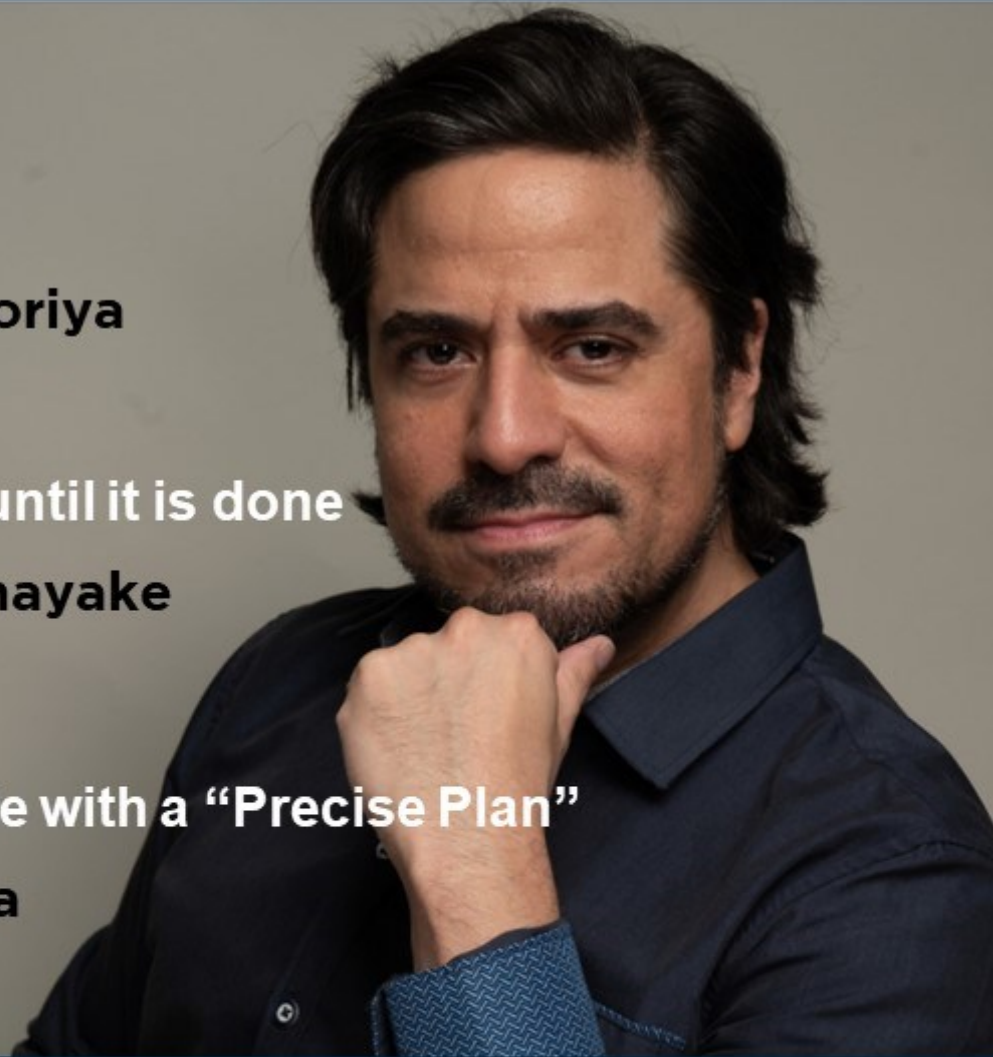
DTM Ruwan Jayasooriya

It seems impossible until it is done

DTM Shehara Dissanayake

Everything is possible with a "Precise Plan"

TM Nilantha Bandara



Where leaders are made

TM Sulakshi Mudannayake

ABOUT SIYANE' TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Siyane Toastmasters Club is affiliated to Toastmasters International. The club was chartered on 27th September 2010. Club number is 1553096 and it belongs to Area 3 of Division F in District 82.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL MISSION

We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

CLUB MISSION

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

For information on joining:

siyane.toastmasters.club@gmail.com

Article Submission: roshi83@gmail.com

2020/2021 Executive Committee

President

Pubudu Ginige

Vice President Education

Waruni Perera

Vice President Membership

Chandima Gayan

Vice President Public Relations

Roshini Perera

Secretary

Apsara Ranasinghe

Treasurer

Dilan Perera

Sergeant –At-Arms

Shamin Liyanage

Immediate Past President

Chamin Athauda

We meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at
3.00PM at Esoft, Metro Campus, Gampaha



<https://1553096.toastmastersclubs.org/>

AREA DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It is undoubted that leadership an essential factor for success. It is again a very common issue worldwide that good leaders are less in number and necessity for capable leaders increase day by day.

The comfortable and friendly platform of Toastmasters meetings allows members to share their views and experiences with others whilst providing the opportunity to learn from others. Having the opportunity of playing different roles at a Toastmaster meeting lets the individual learn the best practices of organizing, planning and executing without much effort but implants higher grade of key attributes of a leader in their soul. The art of inspiring people is also a valuable characteristic of a leader.

Moreover, the opportunities are plenty in the fraternity for the potential leaders to groom. I took all the leadership opportunities that came in my way. Facing the challenges and converting the challenges into successes in Toastmasters Club leadership roles, carry hidden management training for EXCO members.

Managing a club with set goals in different aspects for a year is one of the valuable opportunity a person could have. I had that opportunity to serve in EXCO for two years. The confidence I gained from those forums, fueled me to take up the Area Director role this year and serve the area. The opportunity of exposing to Division & District leaders, who are masters in various industries, further energized me to excel my true potential in leadership. I realized that while practicing the same concepts in my professional career.

Finally, I'm quoting Mr John C. Maxwell;

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."

The importance of excellence is crucial for leaders to direct the followers. The basics of Excellency are practiced at Toastmaster meetings. Breaking the glass ceiling in any platform is extraordinary. Such leaders engage not only in personal levels but also in organizational or mass scale.

The current and past leaders of Siyane Toastmasters club set examples in the area and at the international level, proving the true leadership qualities.

Siyane Toastmasters Club is such an extraordinary organization which knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

I wish good luck to Siyane Toastmasters Club to live long to make leaders in the fraternity.

TM Kanchana Lokunarangoda CC, CL
Area Director - Area 3 / Division F

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life forever" - Amy Poehler

It's a great honour to address you all as the 11th President of Siyane Toastmasters Club in the first Newsletter for the year.

The ten leaders who led the club this long have done a remarkable service to bring the club to the current status with the support of other members. We have already taken the baton forward for six months in the current Toastmasters year with some exciting experience with sixty diverse and multi-talented Siyane Family members.

I'm truly privileged to associate with such a great set of individuals and to have worked closely with them over the last five and a half years as a club member. The exposure that I got over the period is truly invaluable.

Siyane is blessed to have members who are always ready to grab chances coming their way.

The recently concluded 11th Installation Ceremony of the club is one of the best examples to prove our members' outstanding leadership qualities. Some of them engaged in such an activity for the first time in their career. But they all showcased their true potentials by actively engaging that mega event.

Siyane is a club that has been functioning for over a decade. She is always ready to go out of her territory to assist the other clubs and the community. It is great to see that the seasoned Toastmasters always take the lead in such activities while others follow their footsteps.

I'm very happy about the progress made over the past six months. The world at large has changed drastically in the last few months with the ongoing pandemic situation. As always, Siyane has been able to adapt and adjust quickly to continue its journey.

With all the positive activities being carried out, I genuinely believe that Siyane and its members are ready to meet our theme for the year "Make an Impact" at the end of the Toastmaster year.

I wish all of you and your families health and safety !!!

TM Pubudu Ginige CC, CL
President
Siyane Toastmasters Club

Inside this issue:

►	Leaders Made in the Installation — <i>TM Janaka Weerasuriya</i>	06
►	Installation 2020/2021 Highlights	08
►	It Seems Impossible Until it is Done — <i>DTM Shehara Dissanayake</i>	10
►	Amplify to Empower — <i>TM Eranga Dilhan</i>	11
►	Contest Season Highlights	12
►	One Step at a Time — <i>DTM Ruwan Jayasooriya</i>	13
►	Educational Meeting Highlights — Halloween/ Joint Meeting3	14
►	Where Leaders are Made — <i>TM Sulakshi Mudannayake</i>	15
►	Everything is Possible with a “Precise Plan” — <i>TM Nilantha Bandara</i>	16
►	The Sri Lankan Century – A wake-up-call for Sri Lankans <i>Event report by TM Jesmine Zain</i>	17

Leaders Made in the Installation

by TM Janaka Weerasuriya



As a team, Siyane Toastmasters club has been able to conclude the most glamorous installation ceremony in September 2020. I was lucky enough to be behind the screen as the installation chair of that ceremony. Key pillars of the success of the event were everyone's unity, commitment and attitude towards working for a common goal.

After I was assigned the role, I started to learn and study what this event was about and what were the objectives behind that. I discussed with past leaders who had handled the same role and understood where success was and where it could have been improved.

The strategic approach of running the event was to divide key tasks into small groups and assign leaders for each to work with their members. Almost all members, especially who confirmed their participation, were assigned to one of the groups. Some of the members voluntarily joined several groups.

Eradicating all barriers for communication always maintained transparency among members. There were ten groups, and all leaders were assigned to a separate group. Each group created chat groups, and it was an excellent method when quick and easy communication is required.

Event management, finance, registration, public relations, decoration, masters of ceremonies, entertainment, awards, installation and visitor management were the groups who executed the master plan. Each group had an action plan, and those were reviewed weekly.

The master plan was finalized after getting inputs from the members, leaders of each group and executive committee members. Group leaders came with proposals and action plans for each task. Those were wonderful ideas. When required, necessary changes were made after discussing with the team members because we only had a few weeks for preparations and the budget was a critical factor for expenditures.

Every team member dedicated their time and resources and had been preparing and doing rehearsals to get the maximum output to succeed in the event. Each group leader worked tirelessly.

The ceremony was coloured by the chief guest, DTM Nisal Weerakoon, the club growth director - District 82, the keynote speaker DTM Balraj Arunasalam, the past president of Toastmasters International, and many more distinguished guests. All participants shared their good thoughts on Siyane Toastmasters Club in every aspect. We celebrated the 10 years of journey of the Siyane Toastmasters club in the latter part of the ceremony. Everyone danced, sang and enjoyed together at the end.

As per the theme of the event, we were able to **“Make an Impact”** on everyone's life.

TM Janaka Weerasuriya

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

PROUDLY ANNOUNCES

100%

61
members*

PATHWAYS ENROLMENT

THANK YOU SIYANE MEMBERS!!

LET'S GO FORWARD, TOGETHER!!!

We achieved

**Smedley Award
8-80 Award**

INSTALLATION 2020/2021 AND 10th CLUB ANNIVERSARY





It seems impossible until it is done

by DTM Shehara Dissanayake



When I was attending the District Officer Training Program (DOTP) as an Area Director in June 2016, the training was mostly coordinated by the Administrative Manager at that time, Srianthi Salgado, DTM. Being in the audience, I wondered what a critical and important responsibility it must be to be holding that position and manage everything to precision. I remember asking myself whether I would ever have what it takes to hold that position and perform those duties. She communicated all the important information of the District throughout the year to the district officers.

Four years down the line, here I am holding that position. The question I had in my mind in 2016 was long gone when I received the call from the incoming district leadership in April 2020.

It has been six months as Administrative Manager of District 82 and it has been a very enjoyable journey so far. What I saw the Administrative Manager do in 2016 at the DOTP, I did it!! Organizing and being the host of the event was a new and exciting experience. Yes, I joined Toastmasters to overcome my fear of public speaking, but never did I think that I would have the nerve to speak to the district leaders the way I did and still do. Ever since I took up a leadership position as Secretary of the club in 2013 up to date, each leadership position that has led me to the current position has taught me new skills. The Administrative Manager position is yet another learning to me.

Looking at the scope in an overall sense, the District Administrative Manager position is similar to the club Secretary role.

Keeping and publishing accurate records of district meetings, and organizing and coordinating district meetings are the main responsibilities of the office.

Listening skills, conflict resolution, ability to filter information, ability to choose what to say and what not to say, ability to speak up when it is required, maintaining a positive attitude at all times, importance of giving prompt and professional feedback, ability to absorb negative feedback, taking ownership for mistakes made and ability to draw the line between what I should be doing and what I should let others do are some of the skills that I am experiencing with this leadership position. These skills and the skills I have gained in my leadership journey as a Toastmaster are vital to me. Vital not only in my Toastmasters journey, but they have moulded me to be successful in handling different types of situations personally and professionally as well.

The main learning in my 8-year journey in Toastmasters is that “it always seems impossible until it’s done”. In 2016 I thought it was impossible. In 2020 here I am making it possible. All thanks to Toastmasters.

DTM Shehara Dissanayake

Amplify to Empower

by TM Eranga Dilhan



When I was about to complete my tenure as the President of my loving club in 2019, I was invited to take a district role as the Area Director for Area F3 in the following year. I thought of grabbing this opportunity although I was not quite clear what was expected of me. It was a great challenge for me to ensure that Area F3 maintains the same spirit and performance of the previous year.

However, there are inspirational leaders in the fraternity who know the art of unleashing their teams' true potential through empowerment and building confidence. I was so blessed to have such a great personality as the Division Director - DTM Ganga Fernando. The first discussion that I had with her inspired me to start the journey with the faith within me that I could move mountains. This brought about the theme "Amplify" to empower all members of Area F3 with the following ambitious goals as we began the year 2019/2020 whilst adhering to core values of Toastmasters:

1. Amplify the **quality** of club proceedings.
2. Amplify the **membership strength**.
3. Amplify the **exposure and opportunities** for the members.

To make this a reality, we set an annual plan for the area and respective clubs to ensure that they invest time towards planning at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, the following factors strengthened me as a leader as well as the area to be successful:

1. The commitment of the leaders of each club and perseverance shown despite challenges.
2. Frequent engagement with the clubs through participation in educational and EXCO meetings.
3. Providing equal opportunities to members from all the clubs at events in the area and division.
4. Confidence that we had in each club's leadership and members whilst creating a supportive environment.
5. Support of the senior Toastmasters in my club and in the area in all forms of engagement
6. Outstanding contribution from my supporting team in the area (Ruwanthi, Chiranthi, Nuwan and Kanchana).
7. Visionary leadership with empathy from the Division Director.

It was an incredible journey full of accomplishments, challenges, ups and downs. The experience I gained was exceptional as a leader. Whilst I am delighted with what we achieved surpassing objectives and goals we set at the beginning of the year, the utmost satisfaction is that no one in the area gave up the mission despite all the challenges we came across. **Endurance that held us together throughout as a team made us amplify the impact.**

TM Eranga Dilhan

Humorous Speech and Evaluation Speech Contest

CLUB

★ CONGRATULATIONS! ★

Humorous Speech Contest Winners	Evaluation Speech Contest Winners
 TM Kemiya Kodithuwakku	 TM Chamin Athuda
 TM Ruwanthi Perera	 TM Kemiya Kodithuwakku
 TM Sithmi Ambegoda	 TM Manjula Dias

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS!
We are so proud of you!

WINNERS	
 TM Ruwanthi Perera WINNER	 TM Kemiya Kodithuwakku 1 st RUNNER UP




Humorous Speech Contest 2020
Area F3

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

AREA

DIVISION

CONGRATULATIONS!!
We are so proud of you!

 DTM P. Kamburawala	 TM Ruwanthi Perera First Runner Up	 TM Kemiya Kodithuwakku
--	--	--

HUMOROUS SPEECH
DIVISION CONTEST 2020
D82 | Division F

SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

MC—TM Ishani Mirihagalla

Timer—TM Isuru Ehelepola

One Step at a Time

by DTM Ruwan Jayasooriya



Benefits I reap being a Toastmaster are numerous. Out of many, the leadership opportunities I received are on the top of the list. I was very fortunate to be appointed as the Sergeant-at-Arms just after one month of my arrival to Siyane. Since then, I have not spent a single year in my Toastmasters journey without playing a leadership role. I served in the Club's Executive Committee as a Sergeant-at-Arms, Treasurer, Vice President Education. I became the 7th President of Siyane Toastmasters Club in 2016. These roles taught me a plethora of leadership lessons which I had never experienced before. How to deal with people, be multitasking, extensive follow-up, and keep the team's focus and value of perseverance are some of them. These helped me to find the competitive edge in my profession as well.

I recall DTM Sudash Liyanage's advice: "Never stay away from leadership. It is the force which will keep you growing".

After the club level leadership journey, I embraced two district leadership opportunities: as the Club Extension Chair of Sri Lanka, and an Area Director in the consecutive years. The exposure I gained from those leadership roles was at a different magnitude. Identifying active and impactful players of the teams, the art of pursuing without pushing, inspiring large groups, and changing strategies to deliver results under any circumstance were some of the valuable lessons I learnt during these two years.

The real self-reflection of my leadership traits was possible when I played the untitled leadership role last year. The High-Performance Leadership project completed with four giants of the fraternity was the period I enjoyed the most in my leadership journey. Workshops conducted for undergraduates in different universities and higher education institutes gave the real satisfaction of practicing the core value, Service. Learning to adjust our strategies to cater to the young generation's requirement was the key benefit we gained.

The request to be the Assistant Chief Judge of District 82 is the best opportunity I've got to serve the fraternity while being in the field I'm passionate most about: Training. Working closely with a Toastmaster like DTM Zameen M Saleem is exploring new areas of knowledge. Understanding the importance of proper referencing, using experience in decision making, and critical thinking to solve problems are some of the personal benefits I receive.

I am looking forward to the second half of my tenure.

Every time I commit to serve in a leadership role, I acquire a different set of skills and knowledge. That is the real payback for the commitment and efforts. Toastmasters is the best nurturing ground for anyone who would like to travel the leadership journey in life. Be ready. The next opportunity will be yours.

DTM Ruwan Jayasooriya

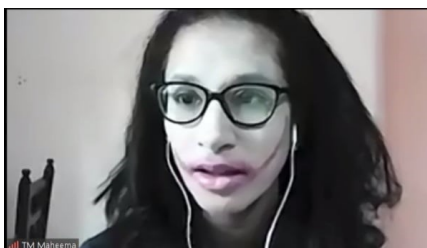
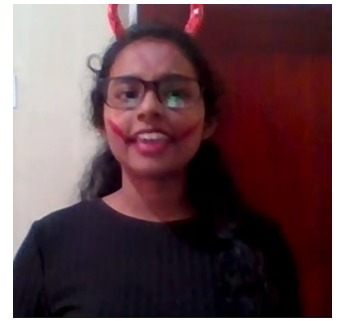
HALLOWEEN IN STYLE

FEAR CUTS DEEPER THAN SWORDS

MEETING NO. 263 (JOINT MEETING)



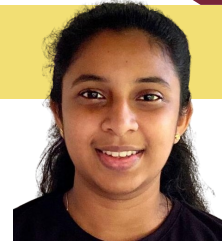
SIYANE TOASTMASTERS CLUB/ VOICE OF COLOMBO TOASTMASTERS CLUB



Joint Meeting with Voice of Colombo Toastmasters Club

Where Leaders are Made

by **TM Sulakshi Mudannayake**



My first leadership experience at Toastmasters was as a Sub Committee leader at the installation ceremony. This role resulted in personal growth and confidence that I now see as transformative, in my leadership progression.

The first person you should lead is yourself. You earn the right to lead others when they see you lead your own life well. Elizabeth McCormick once said “True leadership mastery begins when you FLY. First Lead Yourself”. By being a Sub Committee leader, I acquired the knowledge of leading myself by seeing the giant pillars of Siyane do it themselves. I planned the entire event several weeks prior to the long-awaited day. Jotting down a ‘To-Do List’ and prioritizing the work were the tasks I carried out first. Next, I organized and managed my activities for the remaining days to achieve the planned activities. I focused on getting the decorations ready as early as possible, since last-minute preparations might be risky. I led myself.

Being in the decoration team made me realize, the more the suggestions, the better the decorations would be. Suggestions of my teammates were precious. The collective decision-making made it possible for us to come up with an elegant design for the entrance, and creative table decorations. I learnt to listen to and respect the ideas of my teammates.

Having identified the potentials and skills of each member, I allocated tasks accordingly.

No matter how good you plan, things can still go wrong. Six out of ten bulbs for the table decorations were in fragments just the day before the Installation Ceremony. However, quick decisions and with the help of my father and many others, I was able to face such unexpected challenges. Now, I do not let difficulties and hardships become opposing forces that create barriers, but I challenge myself to think better, to do better and to be better.

Adding colour to the installation ceremony was not easy if not for the five team members TM Kishani, TM Ishani, TM Sithmi, TM Heshani and TM Sathindri, not forgetting the assistance, suggestions and guidance of the Event Chair - TM Janaka, the President - TM Pubudu, Vice President Public Relations - TM Roshini and TM Praweena.

I believe that I have gained experience and confidence to play more leadership roles. Now I try to step up as a leader whenever possible, because it allows me to develop skills in communication, delegation, and managing multiple tasks and meeting deadlines.

TM Sulakshi Mudannayake

Everything is Possible with a “Precise Plan”

by **TM Nilantha Bandara**



There were just two months remaining to complete the Toastmaster year 2019/20, when I was assigned as the club coach of Minuwangoda Toastmasters club. We had to turn the club “Upside down” to achieve “Distinguished status” within just 60 days, and it became more challenging since I was working in a different country, India. My instincts said, “Nilantha, Your master plan needs to be executed precisely to cross this milestone”.

Turn Adversity to an Opportunity

Although we were experiencing a pandemic situation due to COVID 19, it was a blessing for us since the meetings were supposed to be conducted through an online platform. I could easily connect to regular meetings while staying at home quarantine. The knowledge enhancement on the meeting procedures was practised effectively during educational meetings to bring members back on track.

Groom Executive Committee members

Most of the leading team members of the club were relatively new to Toastmasters fraternity except the President. So guiding them in the right direction had been a key attribute in the journey. One strategy was to assign experienced members from Siyane Toastmasters club, those who were in the same leadership capacity. This mentor-mentee relationship played a major role in terms of shifting their mindset to be more responsible leaders in the club.

Inspiration

There were many obstacles due to inadequate membership and commitment from existing members; therefore, club leadership could have given up the challenge easily. Frequent communications were done through veteran Toastmasters in Siyane family, which would assist them to stay in touch without giving up the challenge. We had to wait patiently by providing frequent advice to members of Minuwangoda Toastmasters club, believing “There will be a light at the end of the tunnel”.

Peer Support

The journey towards excellence would not have been a reality without the extreme support from Siyane family members. They were behind me from the day this seed was planted until it became a plant, nurturing it all the way through.

I always believe that precise planning will resolve 80% of the problem, which will lead to a smooth execution to conquer the journey to reach any dream destination. There will be obstacles, but those will be wiped out if you have “courage” and “Never give up” attitude! “Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success.” – Pablo Picasso

TM Nilantha Bandara

The Sri Lankan Century: *A wake-up-call for Sri Lankans*

“The best way to build our nation is to assess facts and live by the truth,” being the gist of the addressing, on December 16, 2020, we were privileged to witness the speech titled “**The Sri Lankan Century: Opportunity, Adversity, Philosophy**,” conducted by one of the best entrepreneurial professionals Sri Lanka has ever got, Executive Group Director, Capital Maharaja Group - **Mr Chevaan Daniel**, who has acquired numerous accomplishments to his name.

The special session, organized by the Executive Committee of Siyane Toastmasters’ Club, was partaken by the District Director Noorul Munawwara, DTM, the District Chief Judge Zameen M., Saleem, DTM, and the current Division Director Shazuli Raheem, DTM.

The spokesperson revealed the specks of his ordinary to extraordinary journey to rise as a powerful influencer. Whilst emphasizing the invincible civilization Sri Lanka once had as a country, what his powerful words flaunted was pure ingenuity itself. Those words could influence even the most oblivious person to excavate history and apply those lessons. He stressed that if we stand undivided as a nation, we can resolve the critical economic state we currently face. No sooner he concluded the speech than the questions began pouring in, and he was generous enough to answer a few of those as well.

TM Jesmine Zain

Follow us on



<https://siyane.toastmastersclubs.org/>