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On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2016, I had the opportunity to attend the AKAD Education Group – Africa's 6<sup>th</sup> Mentorship Conversation which was held at the Ministry of works Sport Club.

Michael Mutie, my big brother, was the one who invited me for this event and I did not know what to expect. Being a product of mentorship, as Michael put it, was enough to keep me thinking about looking for the perfect mentor to mentor me.

"Our past does not determine our future," a very good example from Michael coming from a humble family background but he has been able to achieve quite a lot. That gave me a good start and thought to myself, if he did it, then I can do it better. I learnt that one should be able to come up with solutions to life's problems, no matter how hard the problem may appear. Leaders always think outside the box! This phrase made me realize I should move out of my comfort zone.

Dr. Julius Weche has always inspired me. Before arriving at the meeting place, he had asked Salome Maina, a mentee of AKAD, to state five solutions she had offered back to society. I personally had never thought of such a thing in my life. This challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and I started thinking of ways in which I could create value and give back to society. Dr. Weche also pointed out that being shy does not help in any way and one cannot get connections if they cannot speak for themselves. I almost thought he was speaking directly to me. This moved me to start working on being more outspoken and interactive.

Mr. Nyamawih Charo startled me when he shared that at a very tender age he was able to make his own desk and his classmates' due to a shortage of desks in his school. A normal kid would never have thought of doing such a thing. Mr. Nyamawih saw the solution to the problem by making desks out of the waste that was once a desk. That also encouraged me to always think outside the box and to see solutions to problems in different ways.

"we are all created for a purpose" Mr. Teddy Warria an entrepreneur said that if one is not doing what God created one to do, then one is in the wrong place. I made up my mind to move out of my comfort zone when he finally said, "if the path you are walking on is clean and easy, then that is not your path but someone else's path". One should work on clearing his/her own path, because it is never easy for one to become successful.

My surprise was from Joy Shillu, she had just cleared her high school and already owns her own company and has a full scholarship in the ALA in South Africa. She really gave a challenge and it did really show that I was indeed in a comfort zone. "Flowers blossom in different times", people are different and as a leader, passion is the key to what you do.

Miss Martha Wakise also shared on her experience during her short trip to Matuu in Machakos County and the lesson I got from her is that passion drives you to your destiny. Her passion for children is very motivating. She advised us to be the change we wish to see and make a difference in society.

I would like to thank the AKAD Education Group for serving as a turning point in my life. I'm grateful to Dr. Julius Weche and the mentees for being a blessing to me. I would definitely like to attend more of their seminars in future!