AKAD SEMINAR.

I went for the seminar hoping it would turn out well. I had heard of it through my teacher and I decided to try it out. I knew it as a mentorship and leadership seminar and I expected to come out of it a better person and a better leader. Our session for the first day was us saying our expectations then going outside for experiential learning which was all about understanding each other as team mates. Our next two sessions were led by our fellow mentees; Eric Fairweather and Boniface Omina. Eric’s topic was on leadership quotients: Agility quotient, Authenticity quotient, Talent quotient and Sustainability quotient. He explained what they were and how to go about them. He also taught us the 5 WHYS. Which we should use when we have an idea of something. Boniface talked about Leadership Effectiveness where we started with naming the people we admired throughout time and I chose Joan of Arc. Their attributes were divided into two: skills and attitude. He also talked on how to be effective as a leader. My favourite quote from Boniface was “you must use reason and evidence to make a change” which he called Effective Altruism. He also broke down the word BUILD for us. I was challenged by the two of them. That they could stand before us and speak like that meant that I could also do it, maybe even better who knows? We had experiential learning again by Mercy Kamau where we learnt to never lose faith of doing something and to never compare ourselves with others. Rosemary spoke to us next on our responsibilities as mentees which ended up being a breakdown of FAITH. She also broke down the word ATTITUDE. We also had Duncan a fellow mentee talk to us on Leadership Capacity. After that, we called it a day.

On the second day, we started with experiential learning which was all about learning to study others. We also had a second game which was all about understanding something before telling someone else to do it. Our next session was by Dr. Weche where he told us to try read our colleagues just by their dressing. He also told us that our personal image tends to make people have a particular view of us. Our next speaker was Derek Bbanga who immediately captured everyone’s attention when he entered the room. He talked to us about Personal Branding. He told us to define our brand. He also said we should rebrand to fit the occasion and situation. He used the example of Snoop Dogg. My best quote from Derek was “do not fake it till you make it, fake it until you become it”. He also told us to develop a brand story. We were next led by Rosemary who taught us about being in a team which mainly meant knowing yourself, knowing your team mates and knowing your competitors. We then had Financial Literacy by Dr. Weche. He gave us six steps: Budget, Fixed asset purchase, Cash flow, Profit and loss statement, Balance sheet and Planning. It was all about entrepreneurship. We also learnt the four levels of leadership: Passive, Active, Strategic and Innovative. Thus ending our day.

On the final day, Friday, we were learning about self-defence where we started with locating places to hide and how to escape just in case we were attacked. Then a sensei came to teach us. That was where I learnt that in life you just have to keep trying. Most of the exercises were proving to be hard and I tired quickly but I still pushed on. we were learning on how to defend ourselves. Later, we had Rosemary who talked of crisis management. Before lunch, we had a word from our sponsors Management University of Africa. Who gave us gifts and a few flyers and told us anyone could do ICDL course. Then we had Negotiation with Dr. Weche. We first had role plays of a cheating man being caught by his wife who had a sword. It was up to the man to negotiate and save his life. We learnt how to negotiate as leaders by knowing BATNA (Best Alternative to A Negotiation Agreement) and WATNA (Worst Alternative to A Negotiation Agreement) and ZOPA (Zone of Possible Agreement). We then had Monitoring and Evaluation led by me. Where I led the mentees in understanding exactly how their expectations were met. With that, we called it a successful seminar, took photos and we parted ways. Personally I think it is the best leadership seminar I have been to, yet. I learnt how to deal with different people. I was also challenged to be a better person and to evolve my personal brand. I learnt that I had to always know my surroundings in case of an emergency. It helped me to know that there is always someone to believe in my dreams and they will always believe in me.

I plan to start working on my goals by getting a mentor and a friend who have the same interests as me. I also plan on getting to know any Public Relations firm in Nairobi and hopefully getting an internship. The training was very beneficial as I have now learnt how to be a better peer leader.