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ADMISSIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME.

On the 14th of January, at the MOW sports club, various mentors who are still mentees at AKAD were brought to tell us their journey on how they made it to top tier universities in the world. Boniface Omina, Yuri Coret, Martin Okoth, Joan Nekoye and Eric Ndoria explained to us their journey of 1000 miles and how they got to these universities. It then became a realisation that everyone always sees the success but never the journey and the many failures occurred. There was also a session with Eric Fairweather, Michael Mutie and Josphat Lowoi. Exploring the advantages of technology, we got to talk to each of them as they were abroad in their prestigious universities.

On this Tuesday, I learnt that getting good grades in your KCSE examination is not all that is needed to be accepted to the university of your dreams. There is so much more to joining a prestigious university. Most universities look at your leadership potential, your academics and also what you have given to the community. Community service is one thing most people take for granted, including me. I always expect so much from the community and forget to give. I learnt that it's important to give back because charity begins at home. As we were on a video call with Michael Mutie, he told us that we grow/do more by giving. He also said that it's important to show your passions through

your actions. Even as we try to solve problems in our society, we must ask ourselves what exactly we are offering to the society.

I also learnt that even as I apply for a scholarship, it's important that I don't think only of the end result (scholarship) but also the process of getting there. Yuri Coret touched on the importance of emotional intelligence. I never realised how important EI was until it was broken down. Emotional Intelligence is important especially for those going to study abroad. It helps one to control any emotions in certain situations, for example meeting people around the world with totally different personalities and cultures. It also helps one face reality when their expectations are nothing compared to reality. EI enables one to stay positive, make better decisions and generate positive emotions in yourself and in others. In fact, those who lack emotional intelligence will self destruct long before success is able to flourish.

As I sat down in my chair quietly listening to the mentors speak, I realized there is more to life than studying in the country north of Tanzania and west of Somalia. I realized I needed to bust out of my comfort zone and get moving. It was no longer the day or the time to watch Netflix in bed until 12 noon. I knew I had to do something with myself and make the change everyone is waiting to see in this world. I am ready to challenge myself and stop being one of those people who just talk but never commit to their words. I am ready for the journey with AKAD in this gap year, however tough. I am ready to risk whatever it is and even if I fail, as learnt, I will fail forward. This programme has most definitely taught me that there is more to a high school graduate than just graduating high school and having tonnes of fun with your

friends. It's a high time I am part of the people who changed the world. Even as I begin this journey, I pray that soon I will be one of the people invited to talk to the AKAD mentees about my journey of 1000 miles. I also hope to break my shell and speak out.