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### **AKAD GROUP'S ADMISSIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SESSION**

“Luck is when opportunity meets preparedness.” This is a fact that was clearly articulated by one of the speakers of the day, Dr. Angela and something whose practicability was exercised in the room, when each of us was asked to give a one minute pitch about why we deserved the 15 million shilling worth scholarship from Minerva and only those who were well prepared and confident enough were able to give a powerful pitch and stand a chance of landing the scholarship.

The first speaker of the day was Dr. Angela Gichaga, who started her talk by dividing us into six groups and giving us three questions to discuss and later on present. The questions included the reason each of us was there, the problems each of us wanted to solve in the society and the obstacles we had so far encountered in the process of solving those problems. The main purpose of this was to help us effectively work in teams within a specified period of time and enhance our presentation skills.



She went on to give us some important keys on life with reference to her life experiences. The most notable segment for me was things she wished she knew when she was 20, where the main

thing was to relax and just let things unfold themselves. She sensitized on the importance of being happy at your work place and not looking stuck and the only way to achieve this is if your passion, mission and purpose intersect with your profession. She concluded her talk with the Ikigai concept, which is of Japanese origin and is used to help one find his or her life purpose.



The next speaker was Dennis Kageni, a representative of Minerva, who was here to enlighten us more about the Minerva Schools and answer some of our questions about the rigorous application process and the scholarship requirements. He also took this time to inspire us with his life story as he had dropped out a couple of times even from the prestigious African Leadership University, he had not always been the smartest kid in the block but despite all that here he was, awaiting to join Minerva. He taught me challenges are meant to make someone stronger and better and that one should not be afraid to make a bold step no matter how crazy it seems if he or she believes it's the best thing for him or her.

Dr. Julius Weche was next up to answer on the criteria that would be used to get the right candidates for the Minerva scholarships and also gave us a brief description of what AKAD really does and brought to our attention that they were working on a website where we could be able to interact with the mentors and be able to create a growing network of inspired youth with a goal to drive the world. He also made it clear that it won't be free and that we'll have to pay. He then gave his closing remarks and we were invited for a cup of tea as people networked and exchanged contacts.

One thing I took home from that afternoon is that I really don't need to have everything figured out right now, but as long as I have the will and drive to succeed and I'm ready to put in the work everything will eventually work out. Uncertainties, fears and obstacles will surely be there but the key is to start and have faith in your abilities. I have set out to ensure Young Savers which is a start-up that aims at inculcating a saving mentality among the youth succeeds despite the challenges faced. I am really looking forward to being part of AKAD and attending many such sessions.