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From the 5th of December to the 7th of December 2017, I got an opportunity to attend the 4th Mentoring Future Engineers With Kenya Power at the Kenya Power Training School in Ruaraka. This opportunity was handed to me by the AKAD Education Group Africa. From this event, I got to learn soft, social and corporate skills that have now shaped how I view the various opportunities that the world has.

The seminars always began with team building activities. One of the mentees would take up the leadership role of coming up with an activity that would require us to use our critical thinking and at the end of it all, learn a lesson from it. I was lucky enough to be among those who took up these leadership roles. Some of the lessons that I learnt were: teamwork is very important in every aspect of life, everyone's opinion is valid and that we need to be good at critical thinking. That aside, the question was, what am I going to do with this knowledge? I am going to use these skills to build my teams in the various projects that I am going to be part of.



The mentees in a teambuilding activity.

During some of the sessions, we were privileged to have important guests who would come to share their experiences and how they got to where they are today. For instance, on Tuesday we had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Julie Gichuru who was able to advise us on a number of issues including telling the boys to guard their honour and dignity. On Thursday, we met Eng. Albert Mugo, former CEO of KenGen, who gave us a brief history of where he had come from together with touching on issues to deal with being able to fit accordingly in different

contexts. With this knowledge, I am going to be able to be a respectable person in society and also be able to respond appropriately to the contexts in society.



A photo with MTS Julie Gichuru after her session.

We also had sessions with Dr. Julius Weche where he was able to touch on various issues. This included negotiation skill, writing a profile, writing correct essays and how one should portray himself\herself on social media. I really have to thank Dr. Julius Weche for the priceless work he did in teaching us the crucial skills in the art of negotiation. Not only did he teach us theoretically but also took us through a practical mock session where mentees were supposed to buy or sell mobile phones from each other. On profile writing, he gave a few people the opportunity to take the stage and present their profiles. I was among those who had the opportunity. While on the stage, one could be guided through the mistakes that he or she had made. How am I going to use this knowledge? I am going to use the negotiation skills to convince the networks that I have to chip into the projects that I am working on. I am also going to set my social media sites in a way that portrays the responsible adult that I am. Furthermore, I am going to build a profile that is not only eye catching but also one that portrays the very aspects of my life.



Trying to buy a phone from Michael Gift in the mock negotiation session.

During the afternoons, we got the chance to visit some of the Kenya Power training School facilities. For instance, on Tuesday we visited the mechanical and electrical departments at the centre. On Thursday, we visited the substation at the centre. Through these tours, I got to learn how different electronic machines work and the dangers of electricity. With these knowledge, I am going to be extra careful when handling electronic machines.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone, especially Dr. Julius Weche, who was able to sacrifice his time and provide the education to ensure that we the future leaders are prepared for the various roles that we would take in the near future. I look forward to attending more of AKAD mentorship programmes especially the gap year program.