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RE: 12TH MENTORSHIP CONVERSATIONS HELD ON SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2016

This day made it into my record books as the most memorable day in my life yet. It was an event held by AKAD educational group and the chief guest was Michael Mutuku but during the forum we were addressed by other equally impressive individuals who am now very happy to be associated with.



The day started off with an interactive session or rather a warm up session that also served as quite a creative way for the attendees to socialize and get to know each other. This session was facilitated by Boniface Omina who is quite an interesting individual. He came up with very interesting games such as the popular charades, tangle and untangle and rock, paper scissors. This proved to be quite the perfect way for guys to familiarize themselves with each other and this made going on to the other session quite comfortable for we all got to know of each other. He also gave me as a new member a good first impression of how the people at AKAD are and that is; friendly, warm, and intelligent.

We moved on to the next session which was facilitated by Michael Mutuku whom I was familiar to prior to the event and who invited me to the event. The session was started of by Julius Weche who gave a general introduction to the event and what it was all about and also gave all the attendees a chance to introduce themselves and this made us familiar to each other more. Michael started off by introducing



himself and gave a brief history of how he came to be part of AKAD and how that opened up a whole lot more opportunities for him. He told us how he came to get a 100% scholarship to the African Leadership University based in Mauritius and this included him having to drop out of his course in Daystar University. Michael then went into telling us about the African Leadership University in its entirety from its founding and being part of Glasgow Caledonian University and how they became the pioneer class in the university to the University's core values.

Michael gave us an overview of the University's curriculum and how they have set themselves apart from other universities and what makes the university better suited to offer the skills and training they promise to all scholars who join the university. He gave us a mental picture of the student life in Mauritius and this was quite a tease because it made one wish they could also be part of it. He informed us of the opening of a new branch of the University in Rwanda and how they were accepting applications for admissions. One thing I particularly loved about the university and I have to say stood out most for me was the fact that by the time you complete your four-year course you have one year working experience and this was due to the fact that their curriculum was set in such a way that you have eight months learning and four months internship as early as the first year and to make matters better internships are in world-renowned companies making the internship more credible.

Michael then gave us the important skills that the university as well as AKAD wishes to instill and he labelled them as the 7 meta skills which included; leading others, leading self, entrepreneurial thinking, quantitative reasoning, communication for impact and managing complex tasks.

We then went into a session of question and answer and during this Mr. Weche came back and during this session he brought to our attention the achievements of some of the attendees the first one being;



Christine Weche whom we learned of the power of wanting change and actually going after it from her challenging story of from when she was still in class four having transferred from a school with a variety of extracurricular activities to a school with hardly any extracurricular activities and she saw this as a problem and decided to find a solution to this problem and so she decided to constantly write letters to her principal urging them to introduce more extracurricular and through bravery, patience and persistence the principal eventually conceded to her request.



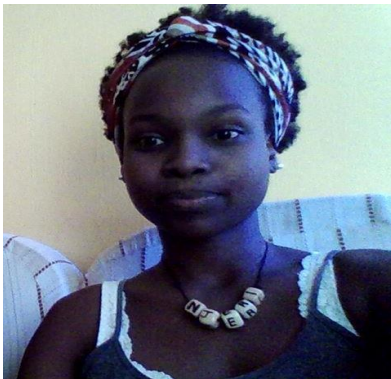
We also heard from Shawn whose impressive achievement is having worked at Silicon Valley for six weeks but more interesting was his approach to solving the problems he noted in his society majorly being energy related and this prompted him to building a model that enabled energy generation and through some of his models failed he didn't give up but persisted and eventually he built a model that finally worked



We then heard from Josphat who was a former school captain at Lenana High School and who even before clearing high school had authored his own Chemistry book and had a passion for writing and helping others. This passion and his good performance academically gave him a chance to perform in international forums addressing energy issues and this gave him the opportunity to rub shoulders with the high and mighty such as former President Bill Clinton and various ambassadors. This proved to be quite the opportunity because it led to one of the ambassadors requesting to be his

mentor.

We then broke for lunch and after serving guys were allowed to freely socialize and network and after lunch Mr. Weche set the ball rolling for the second half of the forum.



We then heard from Catherine Njeri who is a school mate of Michael. Her story was quite inspiring because it reminded me that we don't have to look for far-fetched problems to look for solutions to. Her story began from her telling us how she was ashamed of bringing her friends over to her home because she was actually ashamed since it was filled with garbage and trenches filled with sewer water and this prompted her to start an initiative known as 'Safisha South C' which started off with her close friends and family who gathered and took matters into their own hands and

clean their neighbourhood but by the end of it all most of her neighbours had joined and what had started off as a small thing actually turned out to be quite big and brought about quite the difference in her neighbourhood.



We then heard from Eric who is one year out of campus having completed his actuarial science studies. He has been shortlisted twice both last year and this year for the prestigious ROPE award which is a scholarship awarded to only a limited number of individuals. Despite not having been selected both times he is still persistent and says he will still apply for it the next time but in the meantime he wants to sit for the GMAT exams and see the opportunities that arise from it. Eric was truly a motivation showing the importance of patience

and perseverance.



The next session was from Dennis who is a representative and soon to be student of Minerva which is a school offering various courses and where learning takes place in various cities over the full duration of the selected course. Dennis was quite in a hurry

since he was also needed to be somewhere else but he managed to tell us quite a lot about the school and also why it stands out amongst other institutions. Dennis then initiated a question and answer session during which two people were given a chance to pitch their ideas and if he bought in to their ideas we would make the effort to ensure they are given a scholarship to Minerva during which two people did pitch their ideas.



Ending the forum was the final session presided over by Mr. Julius Weche who was talking about the GMAT exams which is the Global Management Admission Test which is an admission exam to schools in the U.S. He explained the importance of the exam and also gave the chance to get to know more about it by getting our contacts and at a later time he will send us more information about it thus opening a door for the interested attendees to take the exam. He then adjourned the forum and urged us to network some more before leaving and as others waited for tea.

The entire day was quite insightful and a day filled with learning opportunities I learned a thing or two amongst them being;

1. One is never too young to make a change in society
2. Opportunities are all around us we just have to reach out.
3. We should always be mentoring others so as to pass on skills we have acquired.
4. We should always challenge our thinking and think outside the box.
5. In the process of learning and making changes in society we will lose some friends but gain much better ones
6. We should never be complacent and constantly challenge ourselves to do and accomplish more.
7. We should invest in ourselves and in our future and not be afraid to pay the cost e.g paying for the event which in the end proved to be quite a life changing experience

I can't wait until the next AKAD forum for I identified it to be the perfect platform for me to grow and in the process help others grow along with me through mentorship and I am very grateful to the entire AKAD fraternity.

