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ESSAY ON THE SEMINAR AT THE KPLC COLLEGE ON THE 25TH, 26TH AND 27TH OF APRIL 2016

First of all, I appreciate Dr. Weche for giving me the opportunity to attend the seminar for I got to learn a lot from it. The main things I got to learn were: self branding, how to get scholarships and qualities I should have so as to get a scholarship, various quotes, a bit of self-defense, software engineering, electrical engineering, nuclear engineering and lastly soft skills.

On the first day, the first speaker was Mercy Kamau. She was an AKAD associate and works with the Angaza team. For the three days, Mercy and her colleague Gitonga helped us in teambuilding activities and what I got to learn from them was to be the change. This I got to learn on the second day during the afternoon when we were discussing why many Kenyans want to go abroad so as to improve their personality. While most of us quarreled that it is because the education system in Kenya only considers a person to be of importance when he has passed in his exams and is in university, she said that we could be the change for we do not need a white man to make us change if we can handle it ourselves as Kenyans. From the team building activities, I got confidence and I was also able to network and socialize with the other people present at the seminar.

The second speaker on the first day was Esther who works with Story Moja and does psychometrics. She said that people are grouped into six career groups, which are: hand skilled people, investigators, artistic people, social people, enterprising people, and convesionals. From this I narrowed down the number of careers I wanted to do and I got to categorize myself easily.

The third person to speak was Francis who talked about how AKAD has helped him in different ways. He said that AKAD has helped build his confidence, improve in his personal grooming and lastly think globally while thinking of solutions to problems. The other thing he talked about was personal branding which he actually majored on. He said personal branding is simply the way I market myself or rather how I want people to know me. He said that for proper branding, I should be myself, I should speak up, I should write thought articles and participate in interviews, I should build my online presets and lastly I should be a student of my own industry. From all that he taught us, I challenged myself to buy some suits just in case I attend meetings with honorable and well known personalities in the near future.

The next person to speak that day was Ernest Ochieng who is an alumina of Alliance High School and has been offered scholarship at the Harvard University where he is going to study mechanical engineering. The first thing I learnt from Ernest was how to write my profile for he was quite experienced. Moreover, he is also skilled in writing. He also talked about how he got a scholarship at Harvard. He started by telling us that the first scholarship he applied was at Stanford but was denied the scholarship due to a small mistake which turned out to be a big problem. From this, I learnt that I should put into consideration everything that I write in my application for scholarships. Furthermore, I learnt that I should never give up when I fail in one thing or another and that I should work even harder. He said that the first thing a person does after applying for a scholarship is to do the SAT exams. These are tests that are done so that the people sponsoring you can get to know your attitude compared to the rest of the students applying for the scholarship. The second thing is that one has to write a profile of himself so that those sponsoring you can

get to know who you are, your qualities and whether you will give back to the community once you are offered scholarship.

Lastly, you must give recommendation from your high school teachers so that the sponsors can get to know whom you are in the eyes of the community. After I got to know this, I can now prepare myself for the future through AKAD's exposure in various events. Apart from how to get a scholarship, he told us that we can do it and that we have to believe in ourselves. We should also be inquisitive. Moreover, we should invest our time in worthwhile hobbies. For us to be successful, we should have mentors who can guide us in what we should do in various fields. From Ernest, I got to learn a lot and I got to challenge myself to invest my time in worthwhile hobbies and also to give back to the community. From the challenge I got to decide that I will change my hobbies and start investing my time in something that is worthwhile and reduce the time that I spend on my phone.

On the second day, the first speaker was Chief Andrew who is a telecom engineer. He told us that if I want to do any job once we have cleared from university, we should prepare ourselves in the various stages of life.

The first stage is when we are in primary school. In primary school we should be diligent in that, we should be careful in everything that we do such that when a person looks for a mistake in anything that we do he lacks a single mistake. Secondly, we should also be very hardworking.

The second stage is when we are in secondary school. This is the foundational stage where one should be hardworking, learn how to make decisions, remain focused and be disciplined. Before he talked about the next stage he quoted that, if you know **'how'** you will always get a job but if you know **'why'** you will always be the boss.

The last stage is the growth stage which is a student's life in campus. He said that hard work is still required and that at the end of the second year we should have known the course we want to undertake. In the third year and fourth year we should familiarize ourselves with the working environments of the places we want to work at through seminars, internships and attachments. In the final year, we should be fine tuning myself for the final examinations.

The second person to talk that day was Dr. Kipkemoi Kibias who is the county business manager of Kiambu County. He started by telling us the history between Kenya and South Korea saying that after South Korea was defeated by Japan in battle, Kenya gave them a loan from which they developed to the superpower they are today. On saying this, he said that he has been wondering why Kenya is not as developed as South Korea if it had given it a loan. It is because it utilizes clean energy and technology. From this, he has been planning to start nuclear firms in Kenya so that we can reduce the use of coal.

The third person to speak was Zebedee Nyambonga who is a technology consultant at Oracle. He started telling us a quote by Charles Darwin which states that it is not the strongest species that survives nor the most intelligent but the most responsive to change. He then taught us about digital disruptions which are the things that usually take most people's time in modern life and they are: social media, mobile, big data, cloud and lastly internet of things. He said that technical skills are not the only skills required for one to be employed and that the other skills are: competency, communication, presentation, analytical skills, marketing skills, being innovative and lastly entrepreneurship. To acquire these skills, we should focus on our studies at the moment, focus beyond the lecture theatre, and be competent which is keeping up with the trend. He also stated some of the problems faced by Oracle. There is competition from other companies, lack of innovation and not being the first people to launch an application. He said that in future if at all any of us will want an internship but we should have some qualifications. The qualification is to know all about Java.

On the third day the first speaker was Dr. Weche. He was talking about how we could survive terror attacks. He said that when we enter a room the first thing we should ask ourselves is to know where we can exit from when a terrorist enters the room. He said that there are three defense mechanisms in case of a terror attack and they are: running, hiding and finally attacking. After that 'sansen' taught us some basic Karate skills which really helped me. The next person to speak was Erick Kimonyi and he talked about personal branding. He said that when greeting a person we should have a good handshake. A good handshake involves a web to web handshake and eye contact. He said that we also need a business card and a profile.

The next person to speak was Teddy Warriia, the founder of Africa 2.0. He started by asking us who is a youth. The response was that, a youth is a person aged between eighteen to thirty-five years. He talked about Africa 2.0 saying that it is a platform for students between 18 years and 34 years. It helps the students get scholarships abroad so that by the year 2030 Africa will have skilled people who can help in improving it in every aspect. The next person to speak was Mr. Emmy who talked mainly about negotiation. He said that whenever we are negotiating we should have something to offer if you want to be helped. This in the negotiation, makes the person whom you are negotiating with feel like he requires what you have. While negotiating one has to be result oriented, wise and not smart. Being wise is knowing how to use the knowledge one has, while being smart is having knowledge. Thirdly, I should always put my concerns on the table. The fourth point is that I should always avoid the 'I' statement for it is an implication of being selfish. The last point is to engage body language which implies that I am confident and have manners.

The last speaker was Fatuma Mohammed who has acquired scholarship in Germany to do a masters in power systems engineering. She started by saying that engineering is a term associated with a person's emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence on the other hand, is the cluster of personality traits that characterize one's relationship with other people. These skills include: social graces, communication abilities, language skills, personal habits, cognitive or emotional empathy and leadership traits. She then told us the characteristics of an emotionally intelligent person which include: self-awareness, self-regulation which is being able to put yourself in check, motivation which is having other things that motivate one to do a job apart from the money that is gotten from doing the job, empathy which is being able to put yourself in other people's shoes and lastly one should have social skills. The soft skills are grouped various groups which are: communication skills which are writing and reading, adaptability which is being responsive to change and lastly leadership skills which involves blending and inervation of various skills.

I got to learn a lot from this seminar and I have resolved to be the change in life and to invent the wireless electric conductors, just to mention but a few. At school, I'll work harder and improve on my performance and lastly I will change my habits.