

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT BIDCO AFRICA ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018

**By: Neema Shiramba**

Cold but Beautiful day it was on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at Bidco Kenya; we arrived early at 8:00am and immediately began the day with team build games and exercises. The games mentally woke us up from our mid-morning sleep and prepared us to learn.



We entered the hall and the first person who spoke to us was Nyawira Kuria a professional psychologist and lecturer from United States international university, she taught about how we can develop emotional intelligence. She said that before we react to situations we must first recognize it, analyze it and then react. After she had finished we took a short break where we got to interact and fill our bellies for the next session.

After the break, we had Josphat Lowoi from Africa Leadership Academy; joining Duke University in a months' time; shared with us his motivational story of how he started from humble beginning and how he got to where he is right now. He shared his experiences in AKAD and how they helped him grow as well as all the achievements he had over the years.



Although he is not currently in business he gave us useful business advice, stating that in the process of coming up with a product we should:

- Understand your product (how does it solve the pain?)
- Create a model
- Do research
- Believe in yourself



The statement he made that stuck with me was “Education is meant to help you acquire skills to identify problems in the society.” We had a question and answer session then had Ernest Omondi a student at Harvard University. Ernest was chosen by both Harvard and Duke University but chose to go to Harvard because of its diversity, its financial aid and its ranking in Africa.

He showed us how to apply for top universities and advised us to be persistent, embrace failure and learn from mistakes, use opportunities presented to you and that failing to plan is planning to fail.

Next we had a panel with Rosemary, Ernest Omondi, TRM, Dr. Weche and Dr. Vimal and had an interactive question and answer session where we discussed about business in Bidco and Dr. Weche’s hospital in Botswana. Some of the things we learnt from this session are:

- Do what you love to stay young-Dr. Vimal
- Create a legacy-TRM
- Attitude changes with priorities-Rosemary



We had launch and had a great time practicing pitches and networking, when we got back Dr.Vimal spoke about what he would be looking for when hiring someone and mention the following:

- The person should know themselves
- They have to have spark in their eyes; excitement for the job
- Appearance
- They should have long term goals

He then gave his inspiring story about how he founded Bidco, we then had questions and answers session and handed over to scholar.

Scholar is a lawyer, she spoke about entrepreneurship and shared with us Luke 14:28-30 and handed the mike to her teacher who humored us with his wise words.

Boniface Omina taught us about the different types of branding and the step to take when branding and types of brands names.