

Name: Mathenge Waweru

Age: 18

Email address: [mathenge2waweru@gmail.com](mailto:mathenge2waweru@gmail.com)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Mentoring Future Leaders – Mentorship Day**

It's very common for people to ask why, why me, why should do this or do that, why should I take initiative and why should I be the one to suffer. Even after previous talks by various speakers, who talked about taking initiative in my society, I had not grasped the idea until I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mentorship day organized by AKAD at the Ministry of Works Sports Club. We were requested to ask a new question, "Why not?" This was uttered repeatedly by the speaker, Dr. Angela Gichaga, as we listened keenly to what she had to say.



Dr. Angela Gichaga giving her story

I arrived at the venue and the first thing I noticed was the surprisingly large number of young people. The event started by the speakers of the day introducing themselves and we were asked to do the same. Dr. Angela Gichaga came forth and we knew things were going to get interesting. She spoke of her childhood and her spark of leadership as a little girl. She later elaborated further, to her teen years, where she was elected captain throughout high school. She was also elected the CMF official from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> in university as she did her degree in Medicine. Since then, she

knew she was destined to be a leader. She later attended the Australia Leadership Awards for Africa which ignited her passion to motivate women to take up more leadership roles in our male-dominated society. It also taught her very valuable skills to excel not only in Kenya or Africa but globally. By 34 years old, she was mentoring young women in university and in careers and she was internationally accredited as an executive coach to young women. Even though she had "big" titles to her name, she was humble enough to learn from others. She proudly mentioned that she was happy to be authentic.

The next speaker was a young man by the name of Dennis Kageni whose talk was mainly about Minerva. The idea of Minerva really struck me and it can be explained in one word, flexibility. He passionately explained what the school was all about and we asked many questions, I included. Dennis told us that one could construct their own course and jaws were instantly sent dropping. It was the dream

undergraduate course, to study what you want to become what you want. To make things even juicier, the course would be done in 4 years in 7 different countries, from the US to Argentina. However, he mentioned that there were only five slots for students coming from the AKAD Education group. There was silence as people processed the weight of the situation. The competition, the pressure, it seemed too much to bear.



Dennis Kageni explaining the logistics of Minerva



After-event talk with Dr. Weche

Dr. Weche, the CEO of the AKAD Education group, came up next and told us more about his organization and its vision and mission. He informed us that the goal of these meetings was to encourage young people to socialize, and to make it better, over a cup of tea. Without wasting time, we acquired our cups of tea and headed to socialize as instructed. As the day came to a close, people left for home knowing they had forged life-long friends.