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AKAD'S SUCCESS APRIL SEMINAR

It is with great honor that I was selected to be the lead peer mentor for AKAD'S 30th Success Seminar that would take place from 9th -11th April 2019 in MOW Sports Club, South C. On 12th April 2019, I was also highly privileged to lead AKAD's mentees through a tour at East Africa's leading water solutions company called Davis & Shirliff. Our moderator and organizer was our highly respected mentor, Rev.Dr. Julius Weche who was able to bring along great people such as Madam Mukami Makau, a great teacher in Dubai and Daniel Muholo of Conventry University. During this seminar we would be taught more about critical thinking, negotiation skills, leadership and social influence for success.

During this seminar I was greatly challenged to build and maintain a long concentration span during the ice breakers sessions. I was required to focus on how best I could comply accordingly to the instructions Martin Omondi and Collins Ireri would give my team and collaboratively work with my team mates towards achieving the set targets. I sincerely feel that this is a great way of developing one's focus drive which can be used in class and in sports. It was



Icebreakers session being led by Collins Ireri

also a platform to showcase a variety of talents within the attendees. It was such a great feeling to see people such as Lauryn Wanja unleash her talent in singing. This was also an opportunity for all of us to develop more confidence to stand out. We all got to network with each other and this was a jumpstart into confidence building. It was intriguing to see people beginning to become more outspoken during the event making the experience more lively.

I got to learn more deeply about critical thinking after Arthur Muiru took us through his presentation. Critical thinking is disciplined thinking that is clear, rational, open minded and informed by evidence. Being able to exercise critical thinking as a daily exercise will save us

ESSAY

from very many untruthful, vague and unnecessary barriers that are almost inevitable not to come across. I learnt to always identify other person's position, arguments and conclusions then always reflect about it. Nevertheless, I learnt that I can overcome assumptions by breaking them down through questioning. I can also overcome biases by practicing conscious compensation. Following the words from Atticus Finch, I quote, " You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." With this, one can overcome all forthcoming prejudices. Finally, I learnt how to overcome fallacies by always practicing logical thinking.

Mark Eric Fairweather, also took us through the situational leadership model and I was privileged to know how it works following four phases; the directory phase, supportive phase, coaching phase and finally the delegatory phase. Rev. Dr. Julius Weche impacted me with a life skill to battle procrastination to its knees. He gave us a five second model whereby once you ought to do something you just count five seconds and get to work before the voice of procrastination kicks in and makes you fail to deliver on time. It was also a good opportunity to sit in for the second negotiation session by Rev. Dr. Julius Weche after having my first encounter with the negotiation framework in CITAM Embakasi in December 2018. This has reemphasized my ability and potential to have successful negotiations with people especially in the entrepreneurial field.

Leading a tour at Davis & Shirliff was also a great ordeal. I got to learn deeply about water solutions and how different kinds of machinery work such as water sprinklers. Considering that I am the lead pioneer of the borehole renovation project in Kawangware Primary School, I have developed an urge to invest in information regarding water filtration. It is crystal clear that many people in poverty stricken areas in Kenya and Africa at large fail to have enough provisions of quality drinking water. I am in a quest to partner with Lauryn Wanja who developed a project receiving global recognition to maximize social impact by introducing an idea to Davis & Shirliff and having them invest in it and bring great services to the people.

Finally, I was given an opportunity to speak about my testimony as an AKAD Associate. It has been a journey of ultimate growth and transformation and I look forward to include more information when I'm asked to give it again. This seminar has been a life changing experience full of learning and I look forward to impact many people with what I have learnt. I want to apply skills such as critical thinking and negotiation in all my future endeavors because I feel deeply that these



Sharing my testimony with the attendees

soft skills will open doors for me in the future to experience ultimate success. I want to thank AKAD for making this seminar to become a success.