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### MY PERSPECTIVE

The world as we know it isn't all sunshine and smiley faces. The human population, especially those living in the African continent, is faced with a lot of challenges. Poverty, poor and inadequate housing, environmental pollution, diseases and epidemics, inadequate clean water, just but to mention a few. The Akad Program reminded me that I could as well be part of the solution to some of these problems. The Akad Program has been an eye opener, an inspiration. It has showed me what there is beyond my country's borders; what splendid things one could achieve; what I, as a citizen, could do for this nation to make it a better place for the present and coming generation.

The Akad Program has broadened my dreams, aspirations and visions. It has brought back to life previously forgotten desires. The desire of ever getting a scholarship to study in Australia, for example. Through some of those who have, from a while back been members of the Akad Mentorship Program, I have come to have an insight of the steps to follow while applying for scholarships and admission to overseas schools. From their inspirational stories of their walk with Akad, I have gathered up much confidence to follow that same path. Trusting that doors will open.

The Akad Mentorship Program has created a platform for networking. It has given individuals, including myself, an opportunity of meeting, interacting and even sitting next to individuals high up the cooperate ladder, Professor Mugendi for example. Such people have spoken to us, shared to us their experiences in life and eventually encouraged us to become the best we could possibly be. Other than that, we have gotten a chance to interact with people of the same age group with great potential and breath-taking ambitions. These are people, who in future, will be very instrumental both in our lives as friends and to everyone else in the community. I look forward to meeting those attending these programmes in various international platforms, changing and inspiring lives.

From what I have gathered so far, the African nations still have a long way to go. It is up to us as the millennials to pull up our socks and change the situation, from our homes, communities, countries and eventually the entire continent. The future is in our hands, your hands. It is us who will determine whether we will have any advancements or we will just mark-time at a single spot. It is time we stopped being couch potatoes and screen addicts; television and cell phones and step out of our comfort zones. Face your fears and be part of the solution, the best permanent solution. Do not just watch others make a difference, be the author of positive change. Take the challenge and be inspired to build the nations. I for one will not take kindly to laziness, inactive brains and lack of motivation.

Those ahead of us did their part and that is why daily struggles are lessening by the day. Bottom line is, take the initiative to better the society, for progression's sake at the very least.

As much as one has the biggest dreams in the universe, they have to put their dreams to a halt and finally make them a reality. Billionaires are born in such a manner, such an undertaking. Entrepreneurs for one, after deep thought, careful consideration and accurate analysis, are an example of those people in the society who stopped dreaming and took the first steps to realizing their dreams. One does not necessarily need to come up with a billion dollar business idea at the first trial, from the few cents that one can acquire from a small business plan, one can wind up building an empire.

In the same spirit of making money, one can make a tonne of good money from problem solving. Businessmen and woman encourage young entrepreneurs to open up their eyes and ears wide to see and listen to people's problems just in their surroundings. From the need to move from one country to another or from one continent to another with much ease and without consuming so much time on the sea for example, air travel came up. From our day to day challenges, we could definitely come up with money generating solutions. An old adage, NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF ALL INVENTION, clearly summarizes this thought.

The fear of failure and disappointments drive a number of individuals into shying away from trying out new activities, exploring new dreams or undertaking projects that they once thought would enable them generate a lot of income. Fear could also simply make a young student doubt his or her abilities and wind up not applying for that scholarship they had hoped would open up opportunities for them. Fear, only means that we are human, it should not dictate whatever we do or do not do. So be brave, shake all the anxiety and worry off your shoulders and march straight on, with your head held high to that which you hope to achieve.

All in all, life is full of opportunities. It is up to us to embrace whatever comes our way in good faith hoping for the very best. Be of great courage, strong character, much belief and a great motivation, for one requires that and much more to conquer it all. As you go your way, making your dreams come true, take a sister and a brother with you. What use is it to own the whole world but have no one to celebrate the glory with? What I'm saying is, a candle loses nothing by lighting another. Therefore, go encouraging and motivating individuals, someone out there might just need some of it. Like how Akad reminded me of how life really is, competitive and challenging and for that I am more than grateful.



**Photo 1 Njoki at the mentees workshop**



**Photo 2 Participants keenly following the sessions**



**Photo 3 Enjoying lunch with other mentees**