

**SPEECH FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (NYCOM) AT THE CAPACITY BUILDING  
WORKSHOP FOR AFRICAN YOUTH COMMISSION NATIONAL CONSORTIUM MEMBERS ON  
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

The Chairperson, African Youth Consortium, Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane

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The Director of Ceremonies, Sillah Kawsu

Workshop Facilitators and Presenters

Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to be here today representing National Youth Council as well as the Malawi Government. It gives me so much pleasure to be given the opportunity to give these welcoming remarks at this important capacity building workshop on strengthening the Capacities of consortiums in Project Development and Resource Mobilization.

It is no secret that governments are operating in a world that is becoming increasingly complex and uncertain. They face challenges brought about by globalization, unprecedented natural and man-made disasters, while at the same time aiming to achieve the promise of achieving internationally agreed development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in a timely fashion. This cannot be achieved without harnessing the demographic dividend.

The role that Young people play in a nation's development agenda cannot be overemphasized. They are Africa's greatest treasure and a secret weapon to achieving its developmental dream. While the power that lies in the youth is undeniable, it is important for youth organizations to recognize and maintain existing structures, order and follow procedures. Such good efforts should not be thwarted or derailed by some self-serving individuals masquerading as youth advocates, who use such platforms to advance personal agendas. If the youth sector is to make impact, they have to work in unity like you have done by forming this consortium.

Partnerships and Working in consortiums is one way of promoting youth that are well coordinated and well equipped for optimal performance in these complicated and dynamic environments; therefore, close attention must be paid to equipping our young people with appropriate knowledge and skills to ensure that they are citizen-centric, action oriented, adaptive, communicative, and innovative, through teamwork and management of modern information and communications

technology (ICTs) to introduce greater levels of efficiency and responsiveness in their work environments.

Developing such competencies and capacities is a task that has to be done collectively, and today we are here to benefit from such initiatives as AYC National Consortium members will benefit in the following:

Project Development

Budget preparation or costing of the projects

Fundraising

Monitoring and evaluation

Advocacy, communication and networking.

I need not reiterate the importance of these things. The continent is marred with issues of corruption, poorly implemented projects, lack of holistic reporting as well as communication, I would say, they are the foundation for sustainable development. If we are to excel in making a difference now, today and for the next generation we need to deal with these inefficiencies.

We need a generation that resolute to be the change agent, for if we do not bring the change, we have failed the next generation. There is a Native American proverb, that says "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children" whatever we do today, we are defining what kind of Africa our children will live. When we mess up, we are gambling with our children's future, the future we merely borrowed.

I therefore urge the participants to take this workshop with the seriousness it deserves. To those presenting today, we are eager to hear and learn from you. I do hope that your good work and the outputs from the discussions of our workshop will become valuable inputs to bringing solutions to young people's challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen, without further ado, I welcome you to this workshop, and I welcome you to Malawi. I hope you are enjoying our hospitality. Let me ask you not go back without visiting Lake Malawi. In fact, you haven't been to Malawi unless and until you have been to our beautiful Lake.

Thank you all for your attention. Enjoy your time in Malawi and have a transforming workshop.