



4th June, 2019 – Lilongwe, Malawi

Speech of Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane at AYC Capacity building workshop on project development and resource mobilization, 3-5 June 2019

Mr. Moderator,
Mr. Lameck Jatson, IOE Africa Advisor,
Mr. George Khaki, Executive Director, Employer's Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM),
Mr. Dingiswayo Jere, CEO, National Youth Council of Malawi
Our youth participants, partners and friends.

Good afternoon to you all.

Let me start by saying that I am very pleased to be here with all of you to participate in this very important capacity building workshop. Thank you for honoring our invitation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I consider this training very critical in our day to day work. You will agree with me that, the growth and success of any organization lies in the investment of its human capital.

Mr. moderator, before I go further, allow me to inform that, the 10 youth participants in this room are drawn from AYC leadership and national consortiums in The Gambia, Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda – my home country to undergo this intensive 2-days training here at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe, Malawi in parallel with 43rd Annual Conference of IOE members from East, Southern and Central Africa from 3-5 June, 2019.

This youth capacity building session is being organised in the context of AYC-IOE partnership to address employment and skills concerns of African youth. It is a follow-up to our joint side event on "The Future of Work and Jobs in Africa", successfully hosted during 3rd AYC Pan-African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development held in Banjul in March 2019.

At AYC, in line with our Strategic Plan 2018-2020, we are committed to:



- Providing an open and innovative space for young people to gain decent job and entrepreneurship opportunities;
- advocating for improve health services including comprehensive sexuality education in formal and non-formal education,
- Promoting human rights and deliver good governance, accountability and social cohesion at all levels,
- Encouraging inclusion and active participation of youth in the maintenance of peace and security in the country, at regional and continental levels.

Ladies and gentlemen, investing in people (Human Capacity Building) in particular is fundamental to social and economic development. Advocacy or conferences will do little to prepare our youth for the “future of work” or address the “skills gap and mismatch” unless they are matched by efforts to build the capacity of target populations particularly our young men and women to harness the opportunities that the present skills development and future of work offer. Education and skills development are critical components in helping individuals, communities, and even entire countries thrive in the global competitive economy, and therefore should be central elements of any development agenda.

Mr. moderator, indeed, continued capacity building to foster youth economic growth and inclusion in decision making processes are among the key challenges facing many youth organisations including our Network the AYC.

In light of this, through our partnership with IOE we plan to hold a series of capacity building initiatives in different African regions to support our member organisations to acquire hands-on experience skills on how to initiate and effectively implement projects on various national issues such as education and skills development, entrepreneurship and employment, mental health and gender-based violence, youth political inclusion and accountability, peace and security, environment and climate change.

Colleagues, as you maybe aware, the African Youth Commission works through national consortium in member states. Considering the crucial role of the consortiums in domesticating and implementing the AYC programmes and activities at national level, the vision of the AYC cannot be realised without continuous capacity strengthening of these members.



Therefore Mr. moderator, it's our hope that, by the end of the workshop, participants will cover the following areas:

- Project development, management and sustainability,
- Budget preparation or costing of the project,
- Fund raising,
- Monitoring and evaluation,
- Advocacy, communication and networking.

Thanks IOE for the confidence in us and supporting this very important workshop. We hope it's the beginning of something bigger as we look forward to organising many more in the future. Mr. Lameck my dear brother please extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to your office in Geneva for the partnership and continued support. We're indeed grateful and we say a very big thank you!!!

In conclusion Mr. moderator, I would like to encourage the participants to take the training seriously, make best use of the opportunity and share the knowledge gain with your colleagues upon return to your respective countries.

With those few remarks, I declare the training officially open. I thank you for your kind attention and have a productive session!

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