Opening Remarks

By

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Refresher Training on Leadership Skills and Governance

Monday 11th May, 2015
Program Manager, Community Empowerment and Institution Support Project, Mrs. Fresia Kamau;

Director, Regional Centre for Capacity Building, Dr. Felicita Njuguna;

Training Facilitators;

Training Participants;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning.

I am happy to be with you as you commence the two day refresher training on Leadership Skills and Governance. It is good news to know you are back to participate in this follow up refresher course in relation to the training you had in 2013 and 2014.

I begin by welcoming you back to Kenyatta University. Make yourself comfortable and feel at home as you enjoy our hospitality.

Ladies, it not every time one gets a second chance for whatever purpose and therefore you are in a favored position to find yourself
having one this morning. For this reason I applaud the Ministry of Devolution and Planning for collaborating with us to ensure women leaders are able to refresh the knowledge they acquired a fortnight ago. During the two days, this will be an important forum for these women leaders to do a peer review of their leadership skills and performance. I believe from this the participants with leave KU with better understanding on how they need to move ahead.

I would like you to note that knowledge does not end and therefore the more opportunities you get the better. There are a lot of talents that need to be both nurtured and shared for the benefit of the society. If this happens regularly, then I believe we would be a better position to transform our communities faster. Therefore, allow me to say your coming back here is not an accident and do not treat it as so. Do not waste this opportunity, instead make sure you utilize it to the maximum. The change everyone is talking about will begin by you collecting knowledge from such forums as this and using it positively. It is said practice makes perfect. Ensure you do not sit on the information you carry from this place.
Ladies, the achievement of the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals is dependent on ensuring quality leadership and governance. Hence, women in positions of responsibility must rise up to the occasion to play a role in the achievement of these important tenets. If you have to convince the world of your ability in transformational leadership, then you have to bring a paradigm shift in the management of affairs, especially in the public sector. It cannot be business as usual while expecting different results. Excellent results call for excellent management. Am glad to note the old thinking is slowly changing, but there is need to put more effort to ensure greater results.

Where good governance is embraced, participation contributes to the effectiveness and sustainability of development outcomes by encouraging information-driven efficiency, ownership, transparency and accountability, and constructive partnerships. This enhances social good that deepens democracy. By giving citizens opportunities to participate in issues, they shape governance and exercise power, complementing the system of electoral competition that may fail to meet the needs of citizens.
It is important to note the concept of open governance has gained prominence in developing countries and has been embraced as part of the values of good governance. I challenge you to be proactive about this by ensuring these principles of good governance are espoused and encouraged in the organizations and communities you lead. Let me say in the contemporary world, it is difficult for economies in the world to survive without good governance and accountability.

Therefore, ladies, I call upon all of you to embrace discipline as a virtue. There is need to focus your attention on the set targets. You cannot achieve anything meaningful without devoting your attention to your goals. Let nothing distract you from it. Ensure you are equipped with the necessary skills to achieve your objectives. Hence I challenge you to take initiate to privately enhance personal development for this purpose.

One secret to ensure women leaders have an undeniable impact in the society is to ensure they act with integrity, strength, independence and resolve. People need to see leaders with a sense of vision that energies their desire for achievement and the resolve that demands for a price. It is true, women face numerous challenges, but our society will remember you if can lead and possess a different set of character,
experiences and competences that make you unique, able to offer a different meaning to leadership.

Women in leadership must demonstrate a change in approach to problem solving that will enable them create more opportunities for others. We can easily have more women in leadership through the example of those already in the various positions. The challenge is thus on us who are already in positions to ensure our legacy inspires more women leadership. After one year or two of acquiring Leadership Skills through training, what have you done differently so that the communities you come from would notice the difference you have made? What effect has your leadership brought to that group you are leading? What benefits is that village enjoying from your efforts as a leader? These and more questions should form a basis of self-appraisal for you as leaders if you will be able to positively impact our society and leave a legacy.

Finally, I wish to thank the Community Empowerment and Institution Support Project and the Ministry of Devolution and Planning for sponsoring you and more so for coming back to Kenyatta University for this refresher training.
I wish to thank all of you for coming for this follow up training, once again for leaving your families and other engagements to be here. It is an opportunity you could not have afforded to miss. You will be able to refresh your memory on what you learnt last time and also review your performance by comparing views with fellow women leaders. From this exercise you will be able to know if you are doing the right thing with the knowledge you got or there is need to rethink your strategies. Make use of the time to learn even more.

I also thank Dr. Njuguna and her team at KU-Regional Centre for Capacity Development for working hard preparing for this training and continue with the good work.

I wish you all a fruitful refresher training and enjoyable stay at Kenyatta University!

With these remarks it is my pleasure to declare the training officially open!

*Thank you and God bless you all.*