

My mentorship journey

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My year started dull, with low expectations and not much anticipation or excitement. I applied for the Commonwealth Women's Mentorship Scheme in desperate need of some form of guidance to help streamline my life but with little hope that I would have been selected. After several months without any feedback about the programme, I thought it was a lost cause. Upon receiving the email informing that I was selected, my emotions were mixed. Not knowing what to expect and excited to be one out of many to be chosen for such an auspicious programme; the first of its kind that focuses on women in a broad spectrum.

After being assigned my mentor, I was excited to get in touch with her to start the six-month journey. However, her schedule prevented her from being fully committed to the programme. For the first two months, I was unsure if this programme was for me since it took some time to get in contact with my mentor. I was assigned another mentor, who has so far been exceptional. She has a very busy schedule but commits to our agreed time of the meeting and provides the necessary mentoring required for this programme.

I had some challenges determining my goals in ensuring they were specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. With the support of my mentor and her constructive criticism, I was able to set my objectives for the 6-month programme. My mentor ensured I stayed committed to my goals and worked towards achieving them.

I have started to develop several leadership attributes and skills to improve my personality and lifestyle such as being more proactive, interpersonal skills (building positive relations), improved communication skills, and conflict management. I was job searching at the start of the programme and was able to obtain a job that is more within my career path. I've been contracted as the Administrative Officer for a Youth Training project being offered by my government to Hinterland communities. The programme (Hinterland Employment Youth Service Programme) caters for about 2000 youths who may be at-risk, dropped out of school, single parent and are looking for a second chance to have a better future to serve their communities and start a business. I have also been able to have a better relationship with my husband and family and am working to ensure my career plans and family commitments coincide.

This programme has thus far empowered me to work hard and achieve all life as to offer no matter the circumstances. It is my hope to accomplish every objective set for this programme and inspire other her young women just as I am inspired. Was there one piece of golden advice she got from her mentor that she could pass on to blog readers. One of the most valuable advice I received from my mentor is to always work towards achieving my goals. Her exact words to me once were, "Keep at it. To be great is not easy. If it were, everybody would be."