

## **MENTORSHIP-A ROUTE TO GOOD TRAJECTORY IN LIFE**

“You cannot Become What you cannot see”

Literally having had an opportunity to watch Dr.Hlagala Bernice articulate her work, listening to her sound wealth of wisdom and meeting her diverse and mind-blowing of social network compromising of State delegates elevated my vision, perspective and goals in life .She literally transformed and challenged my ideology of mentorship as “giving advice from your own experience to provide some perspective “ to a new revolution of mentorship in the millennial generation as “being integrated into a mentor’s life and having a practical first-hand experience of how is it that they do excel in various aspects in life. It means bringing your mentee with you to board meetings, having lunch with mentees and getting into in-depth life of each other.” There is so much power in SEEING than in HEARING an aspect Dr. Hlagala Bernice revealed to me. This is the kind of mentorship experience I have had.

It’s been a 5 months journey of growth both intrinsic growth and extrinsic growth based on my relationship with Dr. R .Hlagala Bernice that has really elevated my perspective towards life; enhanced my thinking capacity especially my problem solving skills and nurtured my value system.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

**MENTOR:** Who is DR. R.HLAGALA BERNICE ?

Dr. Hlagala Bernice a South African, is a strategic thinker with strong work ethic, Dr R.Bernice Hlagala is the Director responsible for Youth Development in the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in South Africa. She obtained PhD at the University of Pretoria; Masters in Social Work at Howard University (USA); BA in Social Work at the University of South Africa; National Diploma in Public Relations at the University of South Africa; Certificate in Management Technikon South Africa. She worked as a Chief Social Worker; Lecturer in Youth Development; Senior Quality Assurance Manager; and a Senior Policy Analyst in Social and Youth Development. Dr.R. Hlagala made invaluable contribution to the development legislation, policies and strategies at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. She is the 1999 recipient of All Amerca scholar award; 2014 recipient of Africa Region Commonwealth Award; and the overall winner of the Pan-Commonwealth Youth Worker Award. Dr R.Bernice Hlagala is the third born in a family of eight and a single mother of three daughters aged 26, 12 & 3'

**MENTEE:** Ms Winnie Chepkemai Mutai?

Her Mentee Ms, Winnie Chepkemai Mutai a Kenyan, is the female and Kenyan awardee of DAAD–German in Country/In-Region Full Scholarship 2017/2018 of Masters in Research and Public Policy at Egerton University, Kenya. She happens to be the first female from Kenya to

participate in the six months (July-December 2017) pilot of the Commonwealth Women's Mentorship Scheme 2017 .She is really passionate in Social research and Social Public Policy having an experience as a researcher in various sectors; Health, Education, Agriculture and recently the European Union Observer Mission to Kenya. She is a young intelligent, dynamic, enthusiastic, social and God fearing 24 year old Lady.

## **MENTORSHIP HOURS**

We have 3 sessions every week where we have open candid conversations where we talk about challenges I am experiencing in my physical, social, spiritual and academic life. The great moment of this sessions is the discovery that, “there is nothing new under the sun” meaning there is nothing new that I am experiencing that Dr. Bernice has not experienced and how she would ensure to be candid yet offer broad sense of wisdom on how I could navigate through every situation and make sound and right decision.

Th most valuable lesson I have picked so far is: “We all need mentors in this journey. They come with a huge sense of wisdom and hope and they become your guardian angel to ensure that you thrive and bloom in whatever you do, and you do life right.”

My highlight with Dr. R .Hlagala Bernice was the opportunity to meet her in Kenya when she came on September 2017 for a week as an Advisor to the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation-Under Ministry of Devolution and Planning in Kenya on Matters pertaining to youth Programmes in Kenya. That one week under her arms “felt like a toddler being taught baby steps in safe hands of her mother.”She introduced me to her social network of diverse background, literally practical experience of work she does and how she does it. That was the peak moment of my mentorship journey; she really invested much time, and energy to ensure I had a good guidance.

## **PARTING SHOT**

Key lessons I grasped from my mentorship experience:

Good mentorship develops your Problem-solving capacity, enhancing and elevating your perspective towards life. It builds you internally a lot. Mentorship is not an emotional venting out session.

Ensure as the mentee you are the one driving the mentorship sessions, you are the one learning and in need of guidance. Be precise about who you are, what you passionate about, where you are headed in life and what challenges you are experiencing. It is only this way there will be an impactful relationship.

It is key to establish a clear structure, timing and boundaries in your mentorship sessions. This creates a healthy yet respectable relationship that is sustainable.

Mentorship gives a good sense and clear assurance of a good life end. It ensures you do life in right way.

I am eternally grateful for Commonwealth granting me this opportunity and I would urge any young lady in her 20s to take hold of this opportunity, it will elevate your perspective and shape a great trajectory for you in life.