

Remarks by CPA Michael Wanjala Makokha

On the occasion of 1st Associates Forum, KCA University, 12th February 2015, Nairobi

Friends, Good morning

I am delighted to be in front of you this morning to share my thoughts on goal setting for 2015. It is always a privilege to speak to young minds and to me it is an honour to have been selected to share with you my thoughts on this key subject of goal setting.

As many will expect my presentation should start with what is a goal or an aim, how do you set goals and what should you do to achieve your goals? That's by all estimation a good expectation but the again being too predictable, being a slave to pattern is a sure way of living an average life. Join me on a journey of self discovery and feel free to object to matters that you do not agree with.

Who are you? Have you come to terms with the person that you are? Are you yourself? Are you on a path of imitating others? There are those who will tell you fake it till you make it, when you see them tell them they are themselves fake. For instance who am I? I formed a habit about 10 years ago of asking myself that question each morning. I am on my way to become that I am capable of; I am however at peace with my current station in life. Do not imitate others, a time comes when you no longer work for better grades because your parents expect of you, a time comes when you work hard at your work place because it is simply the right thing to do. A time comes when amidst all the chaos you find your pattern and rhythm and move with life at your pace.

It is often said that while on a road to nowhere you can't quite get lost, those Christian among us tweak it and say that if you have not met with the devil recently then chances are you are travelling with him in the same direction. Purpose to stand for something. Accept that you will be wrong many many times. The desire be right all the time, the desire to be acceptable to everyone, the desire to fit in in every group and every situation is a bad desire. Be up to something and let those who care to note take note that you have an agenda and that you are driving it.

In this life, I believe we come to learn, live, love and leave a legacy. My presentation then, ladies and gentlemen will revolve around the three themes, learning, living, loving and eventually ensuring that people have some truths to say about you when you eventually exit the scene.

To learn, friends, is to accept that you will never know it all. Learning opportunities are multi-dimensional and they come to us in many forms. Recognize the opportunities pick the best and run. Obviously, there is the formal education, this one of baby class, kindergarten, class one to eight, then form one to form four and there after college. That forms a key plank and foundation on which further and perhaps more relevant education will take place. At some stage in your life, you admire some people, from that admiration you begin to want to be like them. Many of us are accountants today because somewhere in the course of our lives, we emulated someone. That is the far the emulation should go, what type of an accountant you are and you will be is entirely up to you and how you spend your days, the people you interact with, the friends you, your sense of moral compass and above all just how large your ambition is. There could be those among us, who are accountants because our parents wanted us to be so. There is nothing wrong with this, but the key question is have you come to accept that at your stage in life you are mature enough to set the sails alone. A time comes when you cannot in all fairness blame others for the happenings in your life. If accountancy does not persuade you, then the time is now for you to pursue what makes your heart happy. It is never too late, and do not allow humanity to remember you as one of those reluctant accountant. Let it not be said in your funeral that you could have been a better business person, let it not be said that you, could have been this nation's best musician, let you not be remembered as the doctor who never was. In other words my friends, accountancy or indeed any other career should never be the excuse that fills up hours, days, months and years of your life

To love is the first appreciate yourself; find that someone with whom you can spend the days of your life. And when you find them, stop searching and commit yourself to being the best you can be for them. Your prayer will at all times be that they reciprocate and aspire to be the best they can be for you. And by the way, it is never too early to give a clear thought on the persons you will spend the rest of your life with, in any case chances are you will live with them longer than you lived with your parents, you will talk to them more than with anyone else. Take your time to love, for it is said that in the end no one will remember the wonderful career that you have had, no one will remember the greatest empire that you build, it is the character and mould of the family that will carry on your legacy that indeed matters. No one will remember the PowerPoint presentations on their death beds. Your employer will move on, your position will be filled and the company will continue in operation. The people who cannot and will never replace you are your family, take the time to bond.

People who set out to leave a legacy are fraudsters; they use all means to bend the course of history so that they determine how we should remember them. The best way to leave a legacy is to live your life as a human being. Be connected with and be part and parcel of society. Form and maintain cords of true friendship, offer more clemency than it will be ever required of you. Live a life of integrity, search for and

make money to make your life liveable. Cherish happy moments and above all extend a hand to those in need.

In concluding allow me then to spend time sharing with you, some classic quotes, it is my desire that you will reflect on them and internalize them.

1. Clear your mind of negative thoughts about " You". Who said "Why You...Ati I'm too short, old, young, skinny, don't have enough education/experience. You are never a failure until you confess being one.

2. You are your own worst enemy: Why are you planning to do tomorrow what can be done today. Must

3. Courage, Confidence are part of your portion too, every interview starts in a loss, every exam starts at zero, it is what you do in the interview room or until you start imprinting on the answer sheet that you change your fortunes!

4. Honesty, intelligent, friendly, determined, goal-oriented, leader, passionate, organized, entrepreneurial, professional, creative, personable, punctual, industrious. Are words that can be used to describe you, what will you do to make them a badge of honour for you?

5. If you revise your CV before the interview, then iko shida, why are you pretending to be who you are not?

6. Lastly...please stop going to interviews....Stride confidently into the hiring manager's office "I want to come work here is the spirit" If they ask why then you have a fighting chance.

7. This world owes you nothing? You will be robbed, under employed , paid less and taken in rounds, that is only if you allow it. Find your foothold, fight for your space.

In conclusion, friends , always and in each assignment, go beyond the call of duty not for any gain but as a mark of self pride. Make the work you do a mark of your signature and strive to make excellence your lifestyle.

CPA Michael W. Makokha