

ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TEENAGE GIRL CHILD SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (TGCSDI) DURING THE SEMINAR ON THE RELEVANCE OF ENTREPRENURSHIP AND SKILL ACQUISITION TO TEENAGE SCHOOL GIRLS HELD ON 20TH AUGUST 2018

It is indeed a great honour to be here today and I feel so pleased to spend my day with all of you. I do not want to sound combative, I do not want to be prejudice or seemingly biased and I do not want to sound so sentimental. But I stand here today as a human being, as a woman and a mother to four beautiful girls who will soon begin to approach their teen ages; I stand before these wonderful girls, so I think it's pretty fine to be a little sentimental.

You are the bedrock, the makers and the builder of the society and it is your decision to take; if you will make or destroy the society, the decision is yours.

Beautiful girls, I want you to know that:

You are not just girls but you are guides!

You are not just pretty faces but you are influencers!!

You are not just beautiful but you are powerful!!!

When I talk about power, I do not mean the power of money, because that may go; not the power of beauty, because beauty fades; not the power of physical strength, because that's no guarantee. When I talk about power, I simply refer to the power of **personality**.

The kind of power that fuels the soul. That is power that has hope and prays.

That's the kind of power that you possess but if only you let it out.

I don't care about your name or who you are, I don't care about your background, I don't care who your parents are; how rich or poor. What I care about is that power that you possess-the kind that nobody can take away from you. The power of **personality!!!**

You never can know how much you can if you don't make an attempt.

Some weeks ago, I was invited to give a TED talk during the end of session ceremony of a high school and after my talk, a young girl of about 16 came to me and in her precise words "can I ever be like you? You're so bold and confident" I looked at her straight in the eyes and said to her "you can do anything you want if you're truly determined to".

Life is not easy, it never was and it's never going to be but our inabilities and limitations are those we set for ourselves.

Don't be afraid to fail. Remember failures and obstacles are prerequisite to success so, if you must succeed get ready to fail and face obstacles because they will certainly come but what you do after will determine if you really want to succeed or not. Winners and losers are one and the same people but what differentiates them is how they react to failures. For winners, failure inspires them but for losers, failure defeats them. Winners, when faced with failure, they remain firm, try again, never give up and eventually, they succeed but losers, they give up, quit and walk away so, unfortunately, they never achieve success.

Show me a successful person and I will show you a person who has experience numerous failures, a person who has stumbled so many times but stood firm and refused to fall because they know and believe that "a stumble is not a fall".

Today, I want you to know and take this message to your sisters, friends, neighbours and the billions of powerful girls out there that; the sun of uncertainty and self-discrimination, the sun of immorality, indecision and in efficiency, the sun of "the world that is" has just set and a new sun of strength and self-discovery, the sun of rectitude, determination and effectiveness, the sun of "the world that should be" is about to rise but that can only come to be if you are willing to work hard for it and determined never to give up.

As you make up your minds to take up this responsibility, I want you to know that the road isn't going to be easy you will have so many rivers to cross, so many mountains to climb, so many crooked path to walk through. You will face failures and obstacles. Sometimes, you may have to walk alone and the road may seem so dark, but remember that the darkest time of the night is just before dawn and believe me when I say that there will be light at the end of the tunnel. There is no success without a story and no victory without a history, so I believe with you, the society will be sane once again.

If you ever need somebody to talk to, just remember that TGCSDI is only a phone call away.

Remember, together we can make it easier.

Thank you and God bless you.