

**SPEECH BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR, REAL PEOPLE LIMITED, EAST AFRICA,  
MR. DANIEL OHONDE DURING THE LAUNCH OF GUARDIAN SCHOLARSHIP IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH KENYA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AT THE STANLEY HOTEL  
ON 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

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**Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Education, Research and Technology  
and Woman Representative, Murang'a County;**

**Deputy Director, Ministry of Education Science & Technology;**

**Executive Director, Kenya Institute of Management;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Members of the Press;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Welcome to this auspicious occasion and we are grateful that you found time to join us despite your busy schedules.

Today, we are launching a partnership between Real People and Kenya Institute of Management (KIM) that we hope will change lives of many needy children for the better.

But before I get into the details of the partnership, allow me to indulge you in the business of Real People, briefly.

Real People Limited is a non-deposit taking financial solutions provider for businesses which started operations in Kenya in 2006 and has over the years expanded to Uganda and Tanzania. Currently, we have 10 main branches and seven satellite offices in Kenya, three branches in Uganda and two branches in Tanzania.

We walk with entrepreneurs through their business journey by providing business and asset loans. Our vision is 'Sustainably Improving Lives'. We aim to achieve this through a set of values that we cherish as a corporate citizen. These values include teamwork, customer centred, self-improvement, respect, innovation and partnerships.

And this brings me to the reason why we are here: In this light, Real People will be partnering with Kenya Institute of Management in order to support the community through a Corporate Social Responsibility programme which will see the establishment of a youth entrepreneurship programme under Guardian Scholarship Programme targeted at children leaving children's homes.

The idea was born out of genuine need as indicated by several research findings by various organizations. For instance, according to a UNICEF report published recently, over 10 per cent of newly released orphans after the age of 18 years commit suicide and more than half are recruited to a life of crime or prostitution or life in the streets. 30 per cent become addicted to alcohol and other drugs during their first year of living independently exposing them to risks of STI's and AIDS epidemic coupled with early pregnancies.

The reports further cites that many of these children move in with relatives after the deaths of their parents, are often put to work, denied the opportunity to attend school, and suffer physical abuse. Many run away or are forced out of the house. These children turn to the street or an orphanage for refuge.

That's why Real People, in collaboration with KIM, are stepping in to help in a little way. As a company, we are making a commitment of Ksh5 million that will go towards kicking off the programme with 33 orphaned children. The programme, which will be administered by KIM will target needy children, specifically those currently enrolled at various Children's homes.

The ultimate goal for the programme is individual transformation and for these young people to fulfill their potential and to play a positive and active role in society.

As I conclude, I would like to urge organizations and individuals of like-minds to join hands with us as we embark on a journey of transforming lives of these disadvantaged children.