

EDUCATION

It's what bright futures are made of

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Two secondary school scientists win educational trip to Ireland



BY HARRIETH MANDARI

YOUNG scientists in secondary schools need to be creative, have higher expectations in their future by ensuring they not only study hard, but have also in doing researches.

Last week, two Form Six students from Mwanbe Secondary School in Morogoro, John Method and Edmund Logosio, flew to Ireland following after winning last year's Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) exhibition competition held in Dar es Salaam. They emerged overall winners after presenting their project titled 'The effect of using plastic bags in Tanzania and how to reduce the same'.

Edmund told The African that in order for Tanzania to become a well developed economy, there must be preparation of young scientist from

secondary school level so that when they reach higher learning levels they become competent and thus increase the number of experts, qualified in different fields.

"Since I was at Ordinary level, I used to aim higher - and when this kind of opportunity occurred, it made my dream come true as through that trip, my knowledge will expand and gain more experience - and that is what others need to be, since without having self-motivation and creativity, they will not achieve much," he said.

He called upon Tanzania education stakeholders to support students, especially when it comes to doing research which will not only help them academically, but also create more scientists in Tanzania.

The two students received a trip to Ireland to attend the 33rd BT Young Scientists and Technology Education. The winners also received a trophy, cash prizes and third level

scholarships from Karimjee Jivangee Foundation.

On his part the Co-Founder and Executive Director of YST said for any science students to achieve best results they must be trained both orally and with much a practice.

"It is through this kind of research programs, exhibitions that our children are able to expose their researches and also share experience with experienced scientists and for those who are lucky to attend exhibitions in foreign countries like Ireland, it is a big opportunity in their life," he said.

However, he said through such researches that students gain experience and expertise while still at school and when they complete higher learning institutions they will be self-employed.

He insisted on the Government to attend the exhibitions so that they can work together in different

they gain experience and become better scientists in future.

Among them, was Grace Dogan, a Form Four student at Ngwilo Secondary School in Shinyanga region, who told The African exhibition, that young scientists were able to show innovative and scientific investigations.

"It is through investigations and scientific researches that we as young scientists can find solutions and recommend the results to the Government for it to take measures. For example, for me I realized the problem of the brutal killings of people with Albinism is a major problem in the society which, if not eradicated, the peace of the country would be at danger," she said.

Grace added that after doing research on the subject, at Edungu special centre for people with disability, they came to the conclusion that the level of awareness on the said group and the effects of the killings in the society, led to stigmatisation of the said group.

She called upon the Government to provide proper education to people with albinism and society at large, on the effects of the killings.

The exhibition was sponsored by Irish Aid and BG Tanzania, whereby it involved 240 students and 120 teachers from all regions in the country. The projects showcased included chemical, physical, mathematical, sciences, biological and ecological sciences, social and behavioural sciences and technology.

Young Scientists Tanzania is a programme sponsored primarily by Irish Aid and BG Tanzania. Other donors include Karimjee Foundation (KJF) and Tanga Crescent. It provides a platform for young people from across Tanzania to demonstrate their innovation and showcase their scientific talents.

YST also helps to popularise science amongst young people and encourage them to seek practical solutions to the problems they face in everyday life. This year the exhibition will take place in August.

The Karimjee Jivangee Foundation (KJF) provides financial assistance to organisations and schools that provide essential services to education. KJF has been sponsor of YST programme in technology category since 2011 and providing scholarships to the winners of YST annual awards.

However KJF has spent about 100/- on education last year whereby this year it have set aside about 1500/-. The Foundation, which is funded by donations from Toyota Tanzania, is a subsidiary company of the Karimjee family.

About seven schools have benefited from sponsorship from KJF since 2012. They included Kiboko (Kilimanjaro), Igosio (Singida), Fidel Castro (Pembaja), Lumumba (Zanzibar), Ngwilo (Lindi), Mwanbe (Morogoro), and Nasa (Simiyu) secondary schools.

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projects and so able to develop different sectors in the country.

During the last year exhibition, some participants suggested that researchers should participate in such exhibitions more often, so that