



**THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD - KENYA**

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INTERNATIONAL AWARD**



in Kenya



# THE BULLETIN

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# What's inside

1

Maryhill Girls High School hold President's Award Education Day

2

Mpesa Foundation Academy Award participants support local community with a borehole project

3

New Award leaders training

4

Shikusa Borstal Reintegrating Young Offenders through the Award Programme

5

DEKUT Unveil Her Majesty the Queen's Green Canopy at the Aberdare forest

6

Prince Edward named as the Duke of Edinburgh

7

President's Award-Kenya Covid-19 project giving hope to residents of Timbila location

8

Kapkoiga Girls Excel In The Award Programme Against All Odds.

9

Clicks

## Our Lady Of Mt. Carmel Maryhill Girls' High School Kiambu County Hold President's Award Education Day

President's Award-Kenya (PA-K) participants and Award leaders from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Maryhill Girls' High School Organized President's Award education day for central region in a bid to popularize the Award in the region. PA education day is aimed at bringing together potential participants to share and learn from other experienced Award participants on issues to do with the Award and motivate them to take the path to a productive and prosperous future. PA-K CEO Nellie Munala who was the chief guest commended Maryhill Girls for organizing an event that attracted close to 40 schools from central region and targeted about 2,000 young people to enroll into the Award programme.

"I wish to laud Maryhill Girls High School for hosting PA education day this year and every institution represented today, as it shows your commitment in helping the young people find their purpose, passion and place in the world," she noted. PA-K Education day was initiated last year by Chania Girls High School Award participants who sponsored the event and it attracted 25 institutions and a total of 1,300 young people to the event. Munala appreciated Chania Girls for taking the lead in imparting knowledge about this prestigious Award and popularizing the Award in central region. "I am happy to learn that 50 per cent of the institutions that participated have since joined the programme," she echoed.

The CEO challenged young people participating in the Award not to just tick the boxes but also use the Award as an opportunity to pursue their interests and passion. She reiterated that PA-K is open to young people out of school

It is a programme that helps all young people alongz the path to a productive and prosperous future. As many of our participants would say, "it is life-changing." "Today's young people are at risk of being highly influenced by artificial intelligence with the rise of technology. This makes it even more important that they are deliberately exercising a choice of extra- curricular activities and doing it in a way that requires connecting with other people,



*(L) PA-K CEO Nellie Munala, Mt. Carmel Maryhill Girls' High School Chief Principal Mrs. Jacinta Waweru Ngure and Chairman Board of Management Mr. Anthony Mwaura during the event.*



*(R) CEO Nellie Munala and Senior Programmes and Projects Coordination Officer in charge of Central region Jinnarius Wambugu pose for a photo with Award leaders from central region.*

Maryhill Chief Principal Mrs. Jacinta Waweru Ngure urged the Award participants to be the best they can be while taking part in the programme for the sake of their own development and that of the entire nation. She commended PA-K for its effort and Award objectives of that people equip and impact young with the spirit of excellence and confidence for sustainable livelihoods.

## Mpesa Foundation Academy Gold Level Participants Support Local Community With A Borehole Project Worth 1.2 Million



The President's Award-Kenya (PA-K) Gold Awardees from Mpesa Foundation Academy constructed and handed over a borehole project worth Ksh 1.2M to a local school in Kakamega County. Through the school, 128 students with support from local qualified personnel constructed a borehole at the Friend's School Shitirira Mixed Day Boarding Primary school in Malava, Kakamega County as part of their PA-K Gold Residential project that took place between 23rd and 28th October 2022.

The handover was officiated by the former Mpesa Foundation Academy Executive Head of School Mr. Alan Adlington-Corfield and witnessed by PA-K Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Nellie Munala, Mpesa Foundation Academy Director of Student Life Ms. Beatrice Bwali, Friends Shitirira Primary School Headteacher Ms. Sarah Taabu, Board of Management, local administration and pupils.

PA-K CEO Munala noted that the President's Award programme enables young people to discover their passion, place and purpose and compliments formal education. She requested young people between the ages of 14 – 24 to join the programme so that they can sharpen their leadership skills, build their resilience and adaptability in challenging and changing times as well as equip them to contribute to development solutions. d celebrated.

She commended Mpesa Foundation Academy for identifying a community need and addressing the need by providing clean water to the school community and society in general. "It has been a rewarding journey collaborating with Mpesa Foundation Academy since 2016, the school has been producing the highest number of Award participants in a single Award Center and that is commendable," said

She noted that other than the participation numbers, Mpesa Foundation Academy has also been able to demonstrate that young people can solve community problems in communities away from their homes. "These young people have displayed incredible resilience and commitment to complete a project that would give access to clean water for the pupils, staff and the community around the Friend's School, Shitirira," she said.

Munala commended the management of Mpesa Foundation Academy for allowing the young people to go through the Award programme and demonstrate that they are solution seekers and they can address some of the challenges faced in the communities. PA-K works with young people between the ages of fourteen (14) to twenty-four (24) years and take them through processes that make them ready for life.

The main aim is to equip young people for life by encouraging them to acquire universal skills to help them thrive. The universal skills are achieved through engagement in activities that include getting physically active, volunteering within their communities, and discovering a sense of adventure outside the classroom.

She explained that the aim of the Gold Award Residential section is to inspire participants through to connect with people they do not know, who are often from different backgrounds, and bring alternative views to the challenges they will face.

"The Gold Residential section broadens their experiences by empowering them to make a difference in a team-based residential setting which gives them an opportunity to interact with the locals, students and staff with an aim of getting a better understanding of the area's social, cultural and economic background information," she expounded.

The Award believes that not all learning happens in the classroom and therefore PA-K guides institutions on how they can structure their free time such that as much as learning happens in the classroom, the learning that happens outside the classroom is intentional.

Munala challenged all the young people participating in the Award not just to tick the boxes but also use the Award as an opportunity to pursue their interests and passion. At the same time, she urged young people not in the Award programme to join and experience the award journey.

Former Mpesa Foundation Academy Executive Head of School Mr. Alan Adlington-Corfield said the award programme is a start of a relationship between two institutions that share common values. He urged the students to grab every opportunity that comes their way and dedicate their time in supporting their communities. "You must not neglect what we are in terms of character and value. When you become leaders and successful, do not forget communities where you have come from," he reiterated.



# New Award Leaders Training To Expand The Programme

Training of New Award Leaders is a key role and mandate of the President's Award- Kenya (PA-K). This is because PA-K as a National Award Operator franchises the Award to schools and other learning institutions.

The school/Institutions with the young people aged between 14–24-year-old upon signing up the Award, nominate Award Leaders who are trained to run the day-to-day management and recruitment of the Award. Over 200 new Award Leaders have been trained so far support young people throughout the programme.

Their competence, self-confidence and leadership skills are crucial factors in fulfilling the promise of nurturing the young people to their full potential. While addressing new Award leaders training comprised from teachers from Rift Valley region.

PA-K CEO Nellie Munala said since the Award works closely with schools, adult teachers make a larger part of adult helpers in the programme. "What you are doing with young people is exactly what PA-K does with young people," she said.

Munala urged the Award Leaders to work collectively with PA-K to address the challenge of creating awareness about the Award and the effect it has on young people. "My appeal to you is that after the training, become Award champions within your institutions, communities, families and friends and speak to as many as can listen about the programme so that we can provide young people with this life changing opportunity .

She explained that there is a pool of adult helpers comprising of volunteers which are largely represented by teachers, volunteers mentors and assessors.

Munala further said currently there are about 122,000 young people participating in the Award an estimated 1% of the target audience.

Munala indicated that PA-K targets to reach 10 per cent of young into the programme in the next 5 years.

She noted that in most Award centres, the number of students vis a vis the number of Award participants is very low. "Where we are delivering the Award programme, at individual institution level, let us get as many young people as possible joining the Award programme," she urged.



*Award leaders from Central region*

PA-K targets to reach at least

**10%**

of the youth target population



*Award leaders from coast region*



The CEO expressed that the Award programme should not be viewed as being in competition with any core-curricular activity that institutions are running. What the programme does, is that it sharpens the experiences, in a more structured way and that a young person can progressively monitor their growth.

She highlighted key results areas that PA-K would like focus on in the next five years. "We would like to address the issue of access to break barriers that can limit the young people from getting the award. Reach, we would like to get to as many different categories of young people as possible, work with institutions in the education sector, youth sector and any other sectors that can help us get as many young people.

***Award leaders from Western and Nyanza region***

Impact aproduct that can solve development challenges and transform lives and their communities". huge challenge that this young people are taking because as they go through this process. "We are building their leadership skills, making them adoptable to the changing times at the end of it we recognize what they do and we celebrate them," she said.

The role that you play in a young person's life is very significant and that is why we always say, we cannot get better Award leaders than the teachers and we assure you that you play a critical part in getting as many young people enjoy the programme.

Munala was accompanied by Board of Trustee Member Anne Cheruiyot, The trainings are designed to ensure that Award Leaders feel competent, confident and happy to offer the Award to as many young people from as diverse backgrounds as possibly can.

The Award leaders were introduced to the components of the Award which includes the knowledge, skills, behaviours and tools which are useful for delivering the Award. It also provides in-depth guidance on the requirements of the Adventurous Journey section and the requirements of the Gold Award level. The training facilitate the understanding of the Award Leaders, Award management and their role as mentors/Coaches and supervisors of the Award, as well as insight on how to balance the Award activities and academics activities bearing in mind that not all learning happens in the classroom.



***Senior Programmes and Projects Coordination Officer Wangari Kaburi making a presentation to new Award leaders from Rift Valley region***

# Shikusa Borstal Reintegrating Young Offenders Into Society Through The Award Programme

Shikusa Borstal Institution was established to help young offenders in crime prevention, community safety and social reintegration through various programs. The idea of having a Borstal institution in Kenya was borrowed from a village called Borstal in England where young people who had broken the law were isolated and rehabilitated. Shikusa registered its first offender in 1963.

Measures are needed to protect children who are already in conflict with the law, in order to deter them from reoffending and to promote their rehabilitation and smooth their reintegration back into society.

According to Evans Atito the Award leader at Shikusa Borstal, as part of coming up with measures to re-integrate the young offenders into the society, three officers were trained as Award leaders by the President's Award-Kenya in 2011. The Award programme became effective 2012 and registered 80 participants.

The boys are involved in social responsibility by engaging in volunteer activities to help build communities; this is done to encourage contact with the outside world and also to encourage good discipline while in the institution.

"We notice that boys who are involved in the President's Award (PA) Programme are more engaged in both community and church activities and report significantly less serious delinquencies as well as social problems; they seem to minimize risky behaviours at home or in school," noted Atito.

The program has helped deter felony by reducing unstructured time, providing incentive to conform and creating avenues for attachment to pro-social peers and adults. "Most of the time available is focused on school programs and President's Award participants transition rate to secondary and tertiary institutions is higher than non-PA participants. He noted that the Institution has been recruiting participants yearly and have continuously enrolled Gold participants too. "Currently, we have 13 Gold Awardees, who have already done their adventurous journey in Homa hills, in Homabay county.



*CEO Nellie Munala and S/Sgt inspecting seedlings prepared by Award participants from Shikusa Borstal*

In 2022, they were 17 and 2021, 20 Gold Awardees," remarked Atito. Generally, what is unique in our institution is that we get tremendous support from the office of the Superintendent In-Charge and we have a conducive environment to execute the programme. Our first bronze expedition was at Kakamega crying stone on your way to Kisumu.

This expedition being the first attracted 50 officers against 80 participants to provide security. however, we informed the boys that in order for them to be registered in the programme, they must be disciplined therefore, they did not give us a hard time the second day of the expedition, the officers were all in civilian clothes to allow the participants feel less intimidated, Atito cited registration fees as one of the challenges they are facing in the programme and the reason why the participation rate is going down. "We have had to request the parents and the office to contribute for the registration into the programme,"

"This expedition being the first attracted

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Institution is excelling in the Award is because of the passion that he has as an Award leader, officers providing security during the expeditions and the participants. "Whenever we have limited resources, we undertake our activities locally, however during the adventurous journey, we get a lot of support from the office," Atito confirmed. He said most of the participants are in the school programme alongside the vocational training where they get to practice their skills in their free time. In terms of physical recreation, it is mandatory to engage in physical fitness every morning before breakfast, and every Wednesday they take part in field activities. The participants deliver form of service by giving back to their community at the nearby health center and Church. If there's need, they will visit a children's home.



*Evans Atito at the tree nursery area explaining a point.*

Atito also confirmed that the participants have a tree nursery with more than **10,000** seedlings that will be transplanted in an area that has already been identified within the institution. Superintendent J.K Njuguna was quick to appreciate Atito for his passion with the Award programme. "Atito delivers information timely and he has the passion and we have hope in him that the boys will be brought back to the institution after any outdoor activity," he said.

"more than  
**10,000**  
seedlings will be grown within the institution "

PA-K CEO Nellie Munala commended the institution for the encouraging job they are doing with the young people helping them become responsible members of the society. "I can see the dedication to the programme and I wish to encourage you to continue uplifting the lives of these young boys to enable them develop their life skills and smoothly re-integrate into the society," she said.



*CEO Nellie Munala having a word with Shikusa Borstal Award leader Evans Atito*

# Dedan Kimathi University Of Technology (DEKUT) Unveil Her Majesty The Queen's Green Canopy At The Aberdare Forest

The President's Award-Kenya (PA-K) together with Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DEKUT) unveiled Her Majesty the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) at the Aberdare forest that was created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Through the service section of the Award, DEKUT a Centre of Excellence under PA-K took up the responsibility of nurturing 100 trees planted during the visit by HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex at the Aberdare forest.

45 Award Participants from DEKUT supervised by an award coordinator and four assessors organized a Gold Residential Project themed environmental conservation which is one of the seven impact areas addressed by the Award and an element of climate change which was one of the areas covered during HRH Prince Edward's visit.

During the residential project, the Award participants installed a plaque that was prepared by The President's Award-Kenya next to HR tree to mark the Queen's platinum Jubilee.

The participants then proceeded on the with Gold expedition for 4 days and 3 nights which was their final activity for the Award of Gold certificate.

QGC is an initiative that began in May 2021 in the United Kingdom in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II in 2022. It was a unique tree planting initiative to increase and protect the native tree cover and create a special for the Queen, to mark her 70 years on the throne.

Munala commended DEKUT Award participants for their passion in environmental conservation that enhances the environment and the landscape for generations to come.

"I am impressed by the amazing things young people can do and learn outside the boundaries of formal education, the Award empowers them to discover hidden talents, develop untapped leadership potential and make a difference in their community," commented Munala.

The CEO urged the participants to continue seizing opportunities that come their way to make a difference in the world emphasizing that not all learning happens in the classroom. "What you have done today shows what you are made of.



*DEKUT DVC Prof. Peter Ng'ang'a Planting a tree at the Aberdare forest during the ceremony*

As you are getting ready to complete your Gold level, I am hoping that this journey has built your character and self- skills to be able to contribute to your community and society at large," she said.

Munala urged other institutions to take advantage and learn from DEKUT as a center of excellence to share the experience that they have with other institutions and other young people so that the young people can behave in a similar way as DEKUT students. She challenged DEKUT undertake the Award programme.

"We want to grow tthe numbers, and we want more students from DEKUT to undertake the Award programme. I wish to encourage you to continue developing skills in yourself because what we see in you is agents of socio economic change in our society," She appreciated both Dedan Kimathi University and Kenya Forest Service for the continued support and committed partnership that makes the Award programme succeed.



*Participants listening to speeches at the Aberdare forest*

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"With the conservation effort, you are being sent out as ambassadors to educate others to do anything that can conserve the environment an impact the society positively,"  
**DEKUT Deputy Vice Chancellor**

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Global Operations Director Mr. Edwin Kimani requested the participants to appreciate the opportunity of participating in the Award and being able to play a part in conservation of the forest.

He told them that they have been given the opportunity to reverse the notion of using innovation ; in appropriate of cutting down trees to make nice timber or building a beautiful dream home.

Mr. Kimani commended adult helpers saying they are the backbone of the Award programme. It is the adult helpers that give the young people the opportunity to get a feel of what it is to be an adult. He noted that the Award helps the young people to transition from being young to adulthood and prepare then to think about what they are likely to do in the future.

He pointed out that the global office has been keen on getting universities into the programme to have students sharpen their life skills saying the job market today, is all about creativity, and character development and that is what the Award is all about.

DEKUT Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Muchiri Ng'ang'a was delighted to learn that PA participants had chosen to adopt the forest since climate action is one of the impact areas on environmental conservation. He commended the PA team for taking up the initiative.

"We are in Aberdares and it is the lifeline of the country because it feeds the whole environment with water, you cannot imagine life of Kenya without Aberdares," He said the current generation should be encouraged to do more and do something that they can to be remembered with. Through global citizenship education, every person must be aware of what is happening in the world and what an individual can do to impact the world in a positive way. "With the conservation effort, you are being sent out as ambassadors to educate others to do anything that can conserve the environment an impact the society positively," he said.

He said DEKUT takes areas of conservation very seriously. Areas of conservation is one of the areas that can impact the world in a big way. "DEKUT is the only university in the whole country that has a conservancy within the university. We are not starting with this initiative, it is something that has been entrenched in the culture of the university and going forward we can promote through our students," he stated.

DEKUT Award Leader Dr. Paul Tanui said the participants value the project saying they have adopted Aberdare forest as one of the places where PA DEKUT chapter will be running the award programme even for subsequent groups. "When this group graduates, we are setting up another group. We had a large group that was interested in participating in the Award after a few years of not delivering the programme. He said the team has enjoyed their stay at the Aberdare forest, they have bonded and shared experiences and contributed to making the adopted area look good. "It has been six days two of which were spent on the residential project and we are grateful that we have accomplished our mission, the plaque looks good," he reiterated. He commended the Assesors for doing an incredible job in supporting the participants and ensuring completion of the project.

Assistant Regional Forest Conservator Eric Abunga commended the PA participants noting that what they have done as per Kenya Forest mandate is to protect, conserve and manage the forest in a sustainable manner so that the needs of the future generation are not compromised. He said Kenya Service will enhance the protection of the trees planted. "We have to collaborate in ensuring the protection of the forest cover. Unless we partner to ensure that the trees planted is protected then we all are doing zero work," Head of PA DEKUT Festus Ndege said the team adopted the forest to help the youth and other center that participates in the Award to acknowledge that the youth can always make a difference.

"We do not have to start big, but we have to start. Our focus as members of PA is on working around climate action; environmental conservation," said Festus. Participants in the Award have planted more than **100,000** trees across Kenya in the past year as part of their efforts to contribute to climate change. He urged his fellow participants that as they undertook the adventurous journey, they should show the community that it is possible to make the world a better place. His Royal Highness (HRH) Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex visited the Aberdare forest on 16th March 2022 and planted a tree to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and subsequently visited DEKUT.

PA-K adopted the forest where the trees were planted by the HRH Prince Edward activities and Award participants from different universities in Kenya. PA-K, remains committed to facilitating such activities. "I wish to reiterate our commitment to enabling young people reach their infinite potential as part of our corporate vision to "Reach all young people in Kenya and equip them with life skills to succeed.



*DEKUT Award participants pose for a photo with CEO Nellie Munala and other invited guests at the Queen's Canopy*

## Prince Edward Named As The New Duke Of Edinburgh, Buckingham Palace Has Announced.

His Majesty The King has been pleased to confer the Dukedom of Edinburgh upon The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Forfar, on the occasion of His Royal Highness's 59th birthday. The title will be held by Prince Edward for His Royal Highness's lifetime. The Dukedom was last created for Prince Philip in 1947, upon his marriage to Princess Elizabeth, who held the title of Duchess of Edinburgh before acceding to the throne in 1952. Buckingham Palace said in a statement: .

"The new Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh are proud to continue Prince Philip's legacy of promoting opportunities for young people of all backgrounds to reach their full potential." The Award would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to His Royal Highness, our Chairman of The Board of Trustees, as he continues his late father's legacy. His Royal Highness is especially passionate about organisations and causes which provide opportunities to young people around the world. A Gold Award holder himself, The Duke takes on the patronages previously held by his father, Prince Philip, who founded the Award in 1956.

The Duke has been a passionate supporter of the International Award and DofE UK for decades, achieving his own Gold Award in 1986. The Duke has been a Trustee of the DofE since 1988 and of the International Award since 2006. He became Chairman of Trustees for The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation in 2015.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh said: "Some say The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is in my DNA; it's certainly been a major part of my life for a very long time. Being asked to take on the role of Patron after my father is a particular honour and quite a responsibility. Sustaining and enhancing what is arguably his greatest legacy around the world matters a great deal to me, as does pursuing The Award's long-term ambition of universal access so that every eligible young person has the opportunity to participate. Above all, I hope to ensure the Award to which my father gave his title, those that achieve it, and those who deliver it continue to enjoy the recognition they so richly deserve." Under his patronage, the International Award will continue its work to give as many young people as possible the life-changing chance to do their Award – expanding its reach across internationally into the most deprived areas, and working to remove barriers for marginalized young people, including those with special educational needs and disabilities and those in prison and young offender institutions.

(Article courtesy of The Duke of Edinburgh International Award)



# President's Award-Kenya Covid-19 Project A Ray Hope To Young Girls From Timbila Location.

" I am a teacher who retired in 2019 but prior to that I have been involved with President's Award (PA) from when it was a scheme back in 1981 until now." These are the words of Mr. Cornelius Mnene from Timbila location Taita Taveta county a retired Principal of Gongoni Secondary School in Kilifi county, President's Award-Kenya alumni and now managing President's Award-Kenya Covid-19 project in Taita Taveta.

When I retired in 2019, I thought I would be out of PA, however the fact that I made it very prominent in the county I was serving; Kilifi County. President's Award-Kenya requested me to be in charge of a project that was to start in Taita Taveta county. The PA-K Covid-19 project in response to particularly women who may have been affected by the effects of Covid-19. The project targeted 47 countries and Kenya was one of them.

In consultation with PA-K, we developed a project framework. Some of the ideas we devised were making sanitary towels, masks and soap out of readily available materials.



*Senior Programmes and Projects Coordination Officer in charge of Coast region Christine Chacha having a chat with the young women at the Centre.*



*Beneficiaries during a tailoring session*

Mr. Mnene consulted the local administration to discuss further on the project. This project framework indeed started from there. "I am very grateful to Ms. Rosemary because she mobilized local authorities to spread the word, inviting the girls for the forum. Christine managed to attend the meeting and engaged with the girls to get their preferred project ideas, remarked Mnene" The girls therefore came up with the ideas of tailoring, hairdressing and baking to start off the project. The suggestions were adopted there and then.

The next dilemma was the venue to host the girls. "remember this was the period of Covid-19 therefore, there was no school that was going to play host," I proposed that we incubate the project at Timbila Catholic Church. I met the former Parish Priest at St. Mukasa Catholic Church Fr. Francis Njua to allow for the project to run in the church which was not in full use at that time. He accepted and the project commenced. Luckily Mount Kenya University PA students had a community service programme and through Christine, the participants painted the hall; giving us a suitable place to start.

"The next thing was to get instructors, we had a hall and students, in fact the first meeting at the Chief's office, we had 46 girls some with their babies on their backs," reiterated Mnene.

After that meeting, I had to ask for assistance from Ms. Beatrice Wasai a former instructor at Njoro Vocational Training Centre who was in charge of tailoring by that time. I invited her at the centre and she helped us interview applicants for tailoring and we managed to get two. Using the same process, I managed to get starters for hairdressing. Catering became a challenge because not very many people from Timbila location have that background. Luckily, I approached Tsavo West School of Hospitality and the Director there helped us get Ruth Mumba who is highly skilled in catering. "With an instructor in tailoring, hairdressing and catering, available venue and students, it was all systems go,"

We started officially in July 2020. The only challenge we had was remuneration, since there was no formal engagement at that time, there was no way of paying the instructors so I had to use my own resources to keep them, and that went through until we got a Human Resources officer in March 2022 who conducted interviews to the instructors, found them suitable for their positions and they were engaged on the given terms by PA-K.

"We have since moved on, we started with no tools at all, where there were no materials, the girls improvised. The ladies used cartons or papers to practice making clothes, the passion to learn was burning," Three months later, the project received some sewing machines from PA-K and other equipment. Now we moved from handwork to learning using machines, and I was happy to see mothers who had no idea on how to thread a needle able to thread machines.

During the second visit by PA-K, the ladies received two other sewing machines, an overlock machine and materials for sewing. They also received items to be used in the catering and hairdressing side."That made the center to realize a rebirth. More and more participants have since been coming and they are joining continuously.

A good number of form 4 leavers who completed exams joined the programme as they waited to join the university. They left having acquired some skills. "This project gives me a lot of satisfaction because it has given the girls the opportunity to utilize their time well. They would probably be in the villages idle or becoming young mothers at tender ages. It has also become a blessing to the adults. I do not turn them away when they come because they are equally very eager to learn new skills," said Mnene.



*Mr. Cornelius Mnene interacting with the girls*

At the close of 2021, there were **79** girls who had gone through the programme and **120** by the end of **2022**

We are very grateful for this programme because it has opened my eyes to see that this region was in dire need of such a programme going by the kind of response we have received. Our ambition and prayer is to have our own place.

The church is ready to give us space to construct a center where it can be designed for the programme. I would like to appeal to well wishers to come to the aid of the programme and provide a structure and equipment. At the close of 2021, there were 79 girls who had gone through the programme and 120 by the end of 2022.



*A section of the beneficiaries pose for a photo with Mr. Cornelius Mnene outside the premises.*

# Kapkoiga Girls Participating In The Programme Against All Odds.



*Award participants listening to speeches during the visit*

Kapkoiga Girls High School is a Public, Extra County level, Girls Boarding Secondary School located in Cheptiret town, Uasin Gishu county with a population of 564 students. The school has 79 President's Award participants in the programme who are almost completing Bronze and Silver Award, more are still registering. They are supervised by three Award leaders.

PA-K delegation led by Board of Trustee member Anne Chelangat and CEO Nellie Munala paid a courtesy call on the school to interact with the participants and appreciate the work they have done within the programme. The acting School Principal Ms. Grace Bett informed the delegation that the participants always have a lot of activities to engage in starting from maintaining the general cleanliness of the institution.

Ms. Bett said the programme requires resources especially when undertaking activities but pledged to invite parents to contribute in and support the school in helping the young people enjoy the benefits of the Award.

Deputy Principal Ms. Purity commended the participants saying she has seen the group grow and perform productive activities in the school and its environs. She however noted the absence and challenge of internet access in the school; sometimes even receiving phone calls is a challenge.

One of the Award Leaders Ms. Peninah Keter on the other hand said despite many challenges that delayed the progress of the Award, the students are progressing well. "We are progressing well; our participants are proud to be part of the programme," she said. She confirmed that the participants have registered for Online Record Book (ORB) but expressed that they have challenges of accessing internet to allow the students enter their log activities.



"The students use our phones to log in at alternate times the more reason why we cannot have huge numbers because managing them may also be difficult," she said. Ms. Keter reiterated that the School's main PA project is a primary school which was started in the year 2015 by the then participants with the help of Board of Management. The school started as an Early Childhood Development (ECD) and now is at Grade six with about 110 pupils. "The school and the community have felt the presence of PA.

For some years we provided food and other necessities. At the same time, the participants provide voluntary services as part of the programmes activities and develop their skills. Asked if the community is aware and appreciative of the school, Keter said "the Community is aware of the school project. Their expectation was who will provide everything, but we came to let them know that the Award participants were providing service to the community and would support wherever they could," she said.

The Award leader is happy about the programme saying since they started the programme, the discipline in the girls have improved and they are role models so the non-participants admire them and wish to be part of the



She also commended the participants for managing to have all of them on ORB despite internet challenges. "We have very few schools doing 100 per cent participants on the ORB," she said. The CEO promised to fast track the issue of internet access through the Ministry of ICT to provide a solution so that the school is supported in terms of doing the Award, and general school operations.

She also commended the Award leaders and school management for supporting the programme and allowing the young people to be equipped and empowered to achieve their personal best.

***Kapkoiga Primary school that was constructed by Award participants in 2015.***



***PA-K Board of Trustee Anne Chelangat addressing the participants***



*PA-K participants from Taveta painting classrooms and donating food and other essentials to Taveta Special School for the Visual and Hearing impaired during their Gold Residential project.*



*CEO Nellie Munala addressing staff during the Mid-Year review meeting*

# Partnerships



*Kenya National Innovation Agency CEO Dr. Tonny Omwansa when he paid a courtesy call on the CEO Nellie Munala. With them is Programmes & Projects Coordination officer Wambui Matheri.*



*PA-K and SOS staff during a joint meeting at the SOS Village Nairobi. PA-K and SOS have identified areas of collaboration to strengthen youth development.*



*PA-K staff led by CEO Nellie Munala received AVSI Kenya Country representative Romana Koech at the head office. PA-K and AVSI have identified areas of collaboration in expanding reach of the programme to AVSI supported institutions*

# KESSHA Award Presentation



*CEO Nellie Munala making a presentation during National Schools Principals' conference in mombasa county*



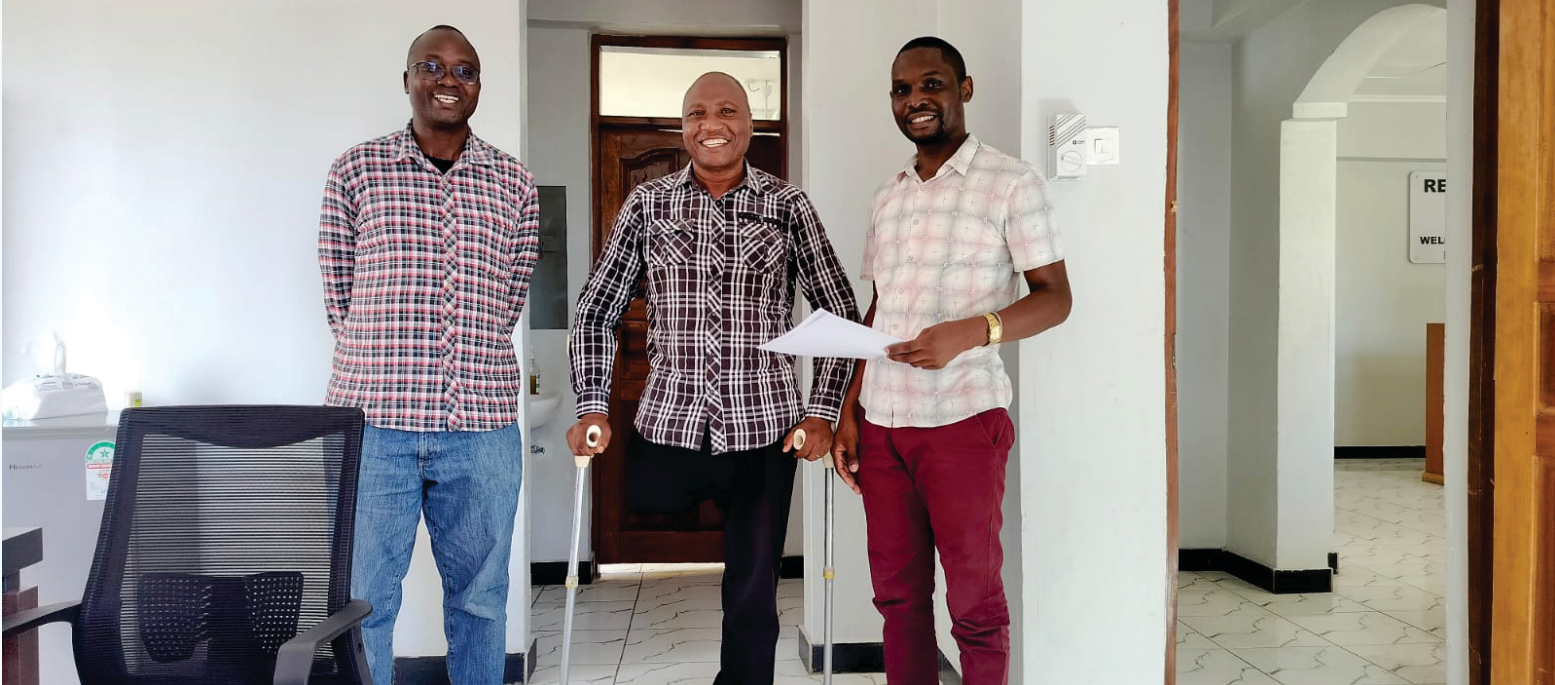
*CEO Nellie Munala posing for a photo with Mary Hill Girls High School Chief Principal Mrs. Jacinta Waweru Ngure and KESSHA National Chairman Mr. Kahi Indimuli during the National Schools Principals' conference*



*From R-Programmes and Projects Coordination Officer Evans Burichani and Principal Programmes and Projects Coordination Officer Joram Otiemo during KESSHA Eastern region presentation in Makeni county*



*Senior Programmes & Projects Coordination Officer Jinnarius Wambugu making a presentation during Kiambu county KESSHA meeting*



*(L) Principal Programmes and Projects Coordination officer Harrat Malenya and Programmes and Projects Coordination officer Evans Burichani pose for a photo with Mombasa Special Secondary School for the Physically Handicapped Deputy Principal Mr. Stephen Mweu*



*PA-K staff led by CEO Nellie Munala with the administration from Garissa School for the deaf.*



*Programmes and Projects Coordination officers Harrat Malenya and Evans Buruchani pose for a photo with management of Sahajanand Special School.*



*Participants from different schools in central region prepare to begin their adventurous journey in Mt. Longonot*

# Get In Touch

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