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KenGen



KenGen Foundation

October 2019

## 65 Students Awarded KenGen Education Scholarships 2019

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> Scholars Impressed by School Based Tree Planting Competition



## The **G**er

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The KenGen Foundation was established in the year 2012 to upscale and take charge of KenGen's Corporate Social Investment programs

Since its establishment, the Foundation has been involved in various activities. These include afforestation programs; expansion of the education program to include mentorship; and the establishment of partnerships and other fundraising activities.

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Cover image: Ms. Janet Muhoro, KenGen PLC Events & Protocols Manager during the 2019 Education Scholarships Awards.

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#### Word from the Editor



*The KenGen Managing Trustee with Simon and Sophie Mbevi of Transform Nations, and Mr. Waithaka of Starehe Boys Center. With them are Foundation staff Ernest Nyamasyo, Dorcas Arama and Lydia Mbaka.* 

elcome to the October issue of the Giver Magazine!

In this issue we highlight the success of the KenGen Foundation Annual Mentorship at Starehe Boys Center. This year's symposium expanded to include new students from KenGen PLC staff. The mentorship also included students sponsored by the company from Olkaria RAPLAND.

Our cover this month features KenGen PLC's Events & Protocal Manager Ms. Janet Muhoro. Ms. Muhoro, a passionate Giver, represented the CEO and Managing Director during this year's KenGen Education Awards Ceremony.

We also unveil the new KenGen Mentors. The mentors are KenGen employees who are mostly engaged full time in the various company's departments, and play a huge role in the success of the scholarship students. This month, the Giver also reflects on new partnerships forged during the Annual Mentorship. The Foundation collaborates with other like-minded organizations in environmental conservation, education, and water and sanitation projects. We engage industry professionals, with the necessary experience and expertise, to ensure the implementation of sustainable projects in reflection of the Sustainable Development Goal 17 on partnerships.

Meanwhile, our projects, especially the Schools Green Initiative Challenge, have evolved to become increasingly agile and unlock further value. Find out how the GIC has impressed local and foreign university dons.

Enjoy the issue!

Ernest Nyamasyo, Editor.

### New Partnerships Forged during KenGen Foundation's 6th Annual Mentorship

free eye screening camp was one of the benefits for the secondary school and university students attending this year's KenGen Foundation Annual Mentorship. The medical check up, conducted by Jambo Eye Care, saw over 140 of the participants evaluated for common eye ailments and disorders.

During the session, the team led by Dr. Swati Patel, identified 72 patients who needed further review. The medics pledged to further carry out comprehensive tests and dispense spectacles and medication where required.

Separately, Transform Nations, a nonprofit organization with a wealth of experience in transformational leadership training and life skills coaching, guided this year's mentorship symposium. The facilitators incorporated new ideas that capture the rapidly changing digital environment of the millennials during the 3-day program.

26 KenGen staff mentors were also trained on the goals of mentorship and addressing challenges along the way, basic counseling skills, the pros and cons of mentorship among others. Their trainers committed to monitoring and reporting on the mentees and mentors progress over a period of one year.

This year's symposium also introduced new staff speakers. Ms. Beatrice Kandie, KenGen's Performance and Training Manager, Joseph Gitati, KenGen's Accountant, and Patrick Gikunju, KenGen's Chief Engineer – Safety, gave talks aimed at encouraging the students to focus and work hard in their studies.

The mentorship partnerships reflect the Foundation's approach to KenGen's overall Corporate Social Investment activities (CSI) and illustrate the steps that the company is taking to ensure that it is, and remains, a good corporate citizen.

"The KenGen Foundation strives to assist the students under the KenGen Education Scholarships realize their potential and



Jambo eye care staff conducting an eye checkup during this years Annual Mentorship.

Now more than ever, organizations are seeking partners with different expertise and innovation, and not just in philanthropy, to address issues and fill in the gaps.

become better citizens and major players in the realization of the country's social and economic goals," said Anthony Igecha, the Foundation's Managing Trustee. "We value our new partnerships and look forward to expanding our collaborations to drive innovation and learning among our beneficiaries," he added.

KenGen's role in supporting education and mentorship makes a valuable contribution to the continuing development of a learning society.

Apart from partnering in the implementation of education initiatives, the Foundation has collaborated with other like-minded organizations in *Continues on pg. 6* 

### 6th East Africa Philanthropy Conference

he KenGen Foundation joined other East Africa organizations in exploring the changing environment of philanthropy and the opportunities available during the 6th East Africa Philanthropy Conference held at Arusha, Tanzania 25 – 26 September.

The 2-day event brought together philanthropy leaders, practitioners, government and businesses and academia from within and outside of East Africa to explore local and global perspectives of practices and innovations in philanthropy, learn and network. The Managing Trustee, Anthony Igecha, together with Foundation board members Shadrack Munyalo and Alfred Oseko represented the Foundation and KenGen during the symposium whose theme was "Opportunities in Emerging Trends & Practices".

"The conference was an eye opener on emerging corporate philanthropy trends", said Anthony on his experience during the conference. "It was also

Continues on pg. 6

a great occasion for networking and comparing notes with other like minded organizations on new opportunities and shared values", he added.

The conference focused on new innovations that require breaking from existing paradigms of organizations and funding, and working in newer non-hierarchal and collaborative ways to foster the type of creative thinking necessary to reimagine the mundane.

It also addressed the need for program teams to use a data-informed, evidencebased approach to design, and called for pilot projects and models and frequent iterations to continuously improve and refine the mode of operations.

KenGen PLC's unique Employee Giver Initiative was highlighted during a breakaway session presented by Mr. Igecha titled Cultivating Individual Giving through Corporate Engagements.

Established in 2003, the East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN)



Participants during the 6th East Africa Philanthropy Conference 2019, Arusha Tanzania.

PLC

ourposefully

Environment

formerly the East Africa Association of Grantmakers (EAAG), is a voluntary membership Association that brings together Trusts and Foundations in the East Africa region with the aim of promoting philanthropy. The EAPN membership is drawn from

Family Trusts, Community Foundations, Corporate Foundations and other types of Grantmaking and non-grantmaking organizations interested in promoting local philanthropy in East Africa.

#### New Partnerships Forged during KenGen Foundation's 6th Annual Mentorship



Through project models that are replicable and scalable the Foundation has been able to engage industry professionals, with the projects in reflection of the Sustainable

Though such partnerships are not new, the approach to this model of philanthropy has shifted. Non-profit organizations come to the table realizing that they can't solve all the problems by themselves. Now

Conservation, and within a model of partnerships that add value to the company's CSR activities.

Apart from administering the company's bursary fund for secondary and university scholars, the Education Scholarships program has grown to now include The provision of water and sanitation has



The CSI activities are directly linked to the company's business strategy and raise the profile of KenGen as a responsible corporate citizen.

society at the same time.

Partnering is key to the Foundation's CSI strategies, and this grounded in mutually building up people, who in turn build up their community.

ixty five students were awarded full-paid education scholarships courtesy of KenGen PLC in a colorful ceremony at Starehe Boys Centre Nairobi on 14 August. This is the 14th batch of students the Company is sponsoring.

Hosted by the KenGen Foundation, the event was graced by KenGen's Chairman Mr. Joshua Choge; Janet Muhoro, KenGen's Events and Protocols Manager – representing KenGen's MD & CEO; Anthony Igecha, Managing Trustee KenGen Foundation; and Josphat Mwaura, Director Starehe Boys Centre.

Also present were KenGen's Regulatory Affairs Manager Alfred Oseko, and Assistant Finance Manager Shadrack Munyalo representing the Foundation's Board of Trustees, and former Managing Trustee Mike Njeru.

Speaking during the award ceremony of the 26 secondary students and 39 university lucky

students, Mr. Choge reiterated the value of hard work to the scholarship recipients adding that KenGen has already shown its commitment to the success of the students.

"As KenGen, we have, and will continue to undertake the expansion of access to education by availing the resources that we possibly can. We shall continue raising



Popular comedian MC Jessy with students during the event. He was the guest MC.

### 65 STUDENTS AWARDED KENGEN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2019

the bar of Kenyan education by assisting in improving structures that enhance the learning institutions as well as seek to increase the number of scholarships slots in all areas that we offer", he said.

On her part, Ms. Muhoro applauded the students for the scholarships, noting that they deserved the awards through their commitment, strength and determination to academic success.

"Receiving the KenGen scholarship is also a responsibility – a responsibility towards your own community. You are now in a position that allows you to give back. You will be the ones who will be able to support those in need and to be actors of change", she said.



who aspire for lifechanging education reach their potential. This will be your ticket to new professional opportunities and to new and exciting life journeys", she added. The Education Scholarships Awards comes after three days of the KenGen Foundation Annual Mentorship, now in its 6th year. 197 sponsored students attended the three-day symposium, including staff students and beneficiaries under the

"The KenGen Education

Scholarships is here

to help you and those

KenGen PLC Chairman Joshua Choge with Starehe Boys Center Director Josphat Mwaura during the event.

The KenGen Foundation

RAPLAND project.

Annual Mentorship aims at guiding the scholarships beneficiaries into becoming academic giants, while at the same time encouraging the discovery of talents and nurturing of life skills to provide for a balanced approach in achieving transformational leadership.

This year, Transforms Nations facilitated the Annual Mentorship, with KenGen Mentors taking over the responsibility of mentoring the students beyond the symposium.

The Foundation's Managing Trustee congratulated the scholarships recipients, expressing his conviction on their future academic achievements.

"You are among the top cream in your respective counties, and I am confident that the level of support and academic guidance that you as KenGen sponsored scholars will receive in each of the institutions that you will be attending will be fulfilling and enriching", he said.

While calling upon other corporate organization and well wishers to contribute to the expansion of the scholarships, Anthony further urged the students graduating from university this year to also contribute to the KenGen



KenGen PLC Events & Protocal Manager Ms. Janet Muhoro presents a scholarship during the ceremony.

Foundation in whatever way they can.

Guest artist MC Jessy, of Churchill Raw fame, gave a humorous recollection of his early life in school, encouraging the students to work even harder to achieve their dreams.

The KenGen Education Scholarship program offers learning opportunities for bright needy secondary and university students selected from the communities living near the Company's power installations.

The scholarships offer the beneficiaries

opportunities to achieve academic excellence while at the same time opening doors to great careers and better futures. Currently the program has 106 university students, and 101 secondary students in various high schools and universities.

Eight of the secondary school beneficiaries are sponsored by contributions from the KenGen Employee Giver Initiative, and eight others from the Schools Green Initiative Challenge tree planting project.



KenGen Foundation Education Scholarship Awardees during the ceremony held at Starehe Boys Center, Nairobi.

### KenGen Foundation Annual Mentorship 2019

















### KenGen Foundation Annual Mentorship 2019

















### and Capacity Building Sets Stage for Final

KenGen Foundation;s Dorcas Arama with Celestine P Kemoi & Abednego Fwoi

he KenGen Foundation, in partnership with Better Globe Forestry and Bamburi Cement Ltd., conducted the second and final workshop to review the progress of the Schools Green Initiative Challenge Phase V at various centers in Embu, Kitui and Machakos counties.

165 'green' teachers, including head teachers, from the schools participating in the tree-planting competition attended the capacity building sessions held from September 17 - 20.

Speaking during the 4-day symposium, Chief Environment Officer, Eastern Region, Hussein Sommow, emphasized on various emerging issues and challenges in environmental conservation ranging from; pollution, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, deadly diseases like cancer, poor farming methods among others.

Echoing the words of Nobel Prize Winner Professor Wangari Maathai, Hussein said that the environment does not shout but it is very revengeful, and reaffirmed the Company's commitment and support in ensuring that Phase V of the GIC is a success.

During the workshop, participants were taken through the benefits of planting *Senna siamea*, *Terminalia brownii*, and *Melia volkensii*, as a way of mitigating climate change, providing wood fuel, and alternative income opportunities in the timber industry. The team, comprising of KenGen Foundation's Dorcas Arama, Ernest Nyamasyo and Mary Kimani, conducted the sessions with the project's M&E Officers January Muthoka, Daniel Ndolo, Samuel Kariuki and new officers for GIC Turkana Abednego Ewoi, and Celestine P'Kemoi from GIC West Pokot.

The Monitoring and Evaluation officers advised the participants on how to identify and handle tree diseases, while the KenGen Foundation team demonstrated to the participants the monetary value of planting the trees. Better Globe Forestry's Ambrose Musango encouraged the teachers to embrace the project in their individual households. The GIC is a 10-year project funded by the partners at a cost of Ksh. 120 million and is an upscale of the successful Phase I pilot project that initially involved 81 schools within the counties of Embu and Machakos.

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Green Teachers and head teachers from Kitui County during the capacity building session.

### Scholars Impressed by School Based Tree Planting Competition

he Schools Green Initiative Challenge impressed participants attending a workshop on dry-land agroforestry organized by the Foundation's project partner Better Globe Forestry at the University of Nairobi - Kabete campus on 16 August.

The event was graced by the Ambassador of Belgium to Kenya His Excellency Mr. Nicolas Nihon, the Managing Director of Better Globe Forestry Mr. Jean-Paul Deprins, the KenGen Foundation Manaaging Trustee Mr. Anthony Igecha and representatives from the University of Ghent (Belgium), University of Nairobi, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, International Center for Research in Agroforestry/ World Agroforestry Centre, and Kenya Forest Service among others.

The workshop was convened to discuss the challenges, benefits and way forward of cultivating *Melia volkensii*, the tree species used in the Schools Green Initiative Challenge (GIC), for farmers living in semi-arid regions.

In his presentation, the Foundation's Managing Trustee Officer Anthony Igecha exhibited the schools tree growing model of the GIC project, highlighting the project's contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration, the control soil erosion by increasing topsoil infiltration and reducing runoff, and ultimately grooming the next generation of environmental ambassadors.

"It was honor to get recognition from our efforts after starting the pilot project at the semi-arid counties of Embu and Machakos with 81 schools in 2013", said Mr. Igecha. "Currently, we have 200 schools involved in phase IV and V of the afforestation competition. We will be adding 100 more in 2020 so as to be able to achieve our ultimate objective of greening more than 460 acres with *Melia volkensii*, locally known as Mukau, and other dryland tree species at schools within the two counties, including Kitui<sup>°</sup>.

Mukau, including Muveshi (S. siamea) and Terminalia brownii, are the choice trees for the Schools Green Initiative Challenge, a unique project implemented by KenGen Foundation in partnership with Better Globe Forestry and Bamburi Cement Ltd. The project's main objective is the greening of over 460 acres in the semi-arid counties of Embu, Kitui and Machakos as a way of mitigating climate change and providing wood fuel and alternative income opportunities for the local communities. *Melia Volkensii* (Mukau) is a tree species that is indigenous to East Africa. In Kenya, the species grows naturally in Mbeere, Tharaka, Kitui, Mutomo, Mwingi, Makueni and Taita Taveta counties. The tree can grow to heights of up to 15m high and a diameter of 50cm over a period of 20 years. Mukau is drought resistant and can grow with an annual average rainfall of 400-1000mm. As a hardwood, it produces good quality timber, which makes it quite marketable and is also useful as fodder, bee keeping, and biopesticide manufacturing.

So far over 150,000 tree seedlings have been planted through the GIC, with 40,000 more to be distributed to the new schools next year.



KenGen Foundation Managing Trustee Anthony Igecha with Better Globe MD Jean-Paul Deprins, Better Globe CEO Jan Vandenabeele & Foundation's Ernest Nyamasyo and Mary Kimani.

#### cont'd from pg. 10

The project is designed as a challenge to participating schools, mainly due to the dry weather conditions in the areas. Prizes are awarded based on the highest survival rate of seedlings and use of innovation in growing the trees. The GIC targets to reach 140,000 school children by 2018, with the schools being used as channels to reach out to the wider community members and encourage tree planting and nurturing.

Partners from Kenya Forest Service,

Teachers service Commission and Sub county Education offices were also in attendance.

## Education Scholarships Program Welcomes 26 KenGen Mentors

fter being awarded the KenGen Education Scholarship last year for his secondary school education, Joel Mutiso thought that all he needed to do was to study hard and pass his exams.

Even though he had a rough idea on what career to pursue after school, he is still in Form One, and university seemed years away. He figured he still had enough time to decide on his future.

However, it was during this year's Annual Mentorship that Joel realized that it was important to explore future career choices early so as to be able to focus his study efforts with a defined goal.

From 11 – 14 August, Joel and his peers engaged with industry experts in group lectures, interactive meetings, and team building exercises. They were also guided through in-depth confidence training exercises aimed at encouraging peer relationships, networking, and the exchange of ideas and experiences.

At the end of the 3-day symposium, Joel

and the rest of the students were paired up with KenGen mentors, individuals who have volunteered their time to guide the students in discovering their potentials and talents during and after their school days.

Currently numbering 26, the mentors are KenGen employees who are mostly engaged full time in the various company's departments, and play a huge role in the success of the scholarship students.

"Education is a broad topic that goes beyond classroom interaction", says Anthony Igecha, the Managing Trustee of the KenGen Foundation.

"While some students have known what they wanted to pursue in life, especially those in universities, others are still trying to figure it out. The KenGen Foundation's Annual Mentorship gives these students a chance to learn through other people's experiences and gain insight on different career paths", he adds.

Mentorship is the guidance provided by a mentor who is in most cases an



Education is one the most powerful positively means of transforming young lives to resourceful adults. As a responsible corporate citizen, KenGen PLC actively supports education of youth at secondary schools and university levels as one of its key Corporate Social Investments by providing fully paid scholarship to select students from areas neighboring the company's installations, which in most cases are marginalized.

experienced person. It basically involves a relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced or less knowledgeable person.

The motive of students being mentored is that such programs connect them with experts who are skilled and knowledgeable about various aspects of life and pass on their ideas, and teachings to the learners about different topics that range from behaviour, hard work, and success, among others. This helps them in making choices that would be helpful now, and in the future.

Isaac Asienwa, the Community Liaison Officer at Kipevu Power Plant and a mentor says, mentorship programs are important for students for different reasons. They promote the culture of collaboration and trust amongst the students, as a mentor is someone who is trusted by the mentees and whose work is successful when they cooperate with their mentees, he says.

He also notes that a strong mentorship program help students develop the confidence, self-esteem and skills they need to be successful in school and in life. Mentoring is widely recognized as contributing to strong and healthy communities.

"Mentorship programs help forge stronger links for students in career and employment programs, where they are able to take full advantage of the working and learning opportunities available in the country," adds Isaac.

Apart from sharing with the mentees information about their own career paths, as well as providing guidance, motivation, emotional support, and role modeling, the mentors are crucial in guiding the students in exploring career paths, setting goals, and identifying resources.

Teresse Nduku, KenGen's Communication Officer and mentor, states that mentoring activities promote literacy skills, selfesteem, and social appropriateness and supports strength-based practices that build resiliency.

Teresse explains that mentorship programs increase performance of students as this can facilitate learning since students don't encounter many problems because they are solved through mentorship.

"Mentorship programs can help in fighting unwanted and early pregnancies and other harmful behavior among students as they are given a chance to open up about different issues they could be facing, this is where mentors find relevant solutions," Teresse says.

A mentor's role is extremely rewarding as they influence the lives of the mentees who in turn influence the lives of others. Mentors have extraordinary influence over mentees so it is important that this is not abused. That foundation of this relationship is by building deep interest, knowledge and trust.



A mentor's role is extremely rewarding as they influence the lives of the mentees who in turn influence the lives of others. Mentors have extraordinary influence over mentees so it is important that this is not abused. That foundation of this relationship is by building deep interest, knowledge and trust.

According to the Managing Trustee of the KenGen Foundation Anthony Igecha, "It's all about building confidence, character, and critical thinking skills. Our students are between the ages of 15 and 23 years, and are either in secondary schools or universities; children who may not have the best home life or the best role models around from whom to learn.

And that's where the KenGen Foundation and KenGen mentors step in. Apart from the Annual Mentorship sessions, we walk with them during their time in school to complete their education journey successfully, and at the same time nurture the skills that they will need later in life".

Education is one of the most powerful means of positively transforming young

lives to resourceful adults. As a responsible corporate citizen, KenGen PLC actively supports education of youth at secondary schools and university levels as one of its key Corporate Social Investments by providing fully paid scholarship to select students from areas neighboring the company's installations, which in most cases are marginalized.

The Annual Mentorship Program is an integral component of the education pillar of KenGen's 'Corporate Social Investment, and is aligned with the Foundation's mission of transforming livelihoods through impactful and sustainable programs. It is designed and modeled towards attracting KenGen's professionals to deliver lectures and workshops.

Mentorship is a noble cause through which KenGen staff contribute back to the Education Scholarship program. It is a great way to help the scholarship beneficiaries make the transition from secondary school to university, or university to work a little easier and smoother. A mentor's sound and timely advice can change a student's life journey; it can help guide and direct the mentee's career path for the better.

While it is KenGen that gives out these scholarships, the actual work towards achieving and realizing the goals set out lie with the individual students such as Joel, who are encouraged to take full advantage of the program to ensure the scholarships are offered to only those who deserve and make use of them.

KenGen The Foundation greatly appreciates the role of the KenGen Staff mentors who are listed as follows: Teresse Nduku, Peninah Mbuthi, Faith Kihara, Florence Mwele, Simon Kisotu, Elizabeth Gachau, Timothy Kimanzi, Peter Ngachuro, Jean wangari, Rose Owiti, James Gitonga, Catherine Munuthi, Muria Ogari, Obed Kariuki, David Walubengo, Dorcas Arama, Betty Ouko, Gilha Chebii, Rebecca Wanyonyi, Peter Otugo, Cecilia Macharia, Cornilius Korir, Isaac Asienwa, Judith Mbogo, Esther Kamaara, and Mary Wangari. 📒

Pictorial on the next page.

### KenGen Staff Mentors 2019

















### KenGen Giver Numbers per Area & Growth







# Our journey so far...



## **Our Partners**



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