

BASKETBALL

It must be remembered that Bomu has the only Basketball court in this area. Our teams the Coastal Kings and the Coastal Queens have been very active. The two have made good use of the court. Moi Girls Kadzongo now also uses the court for practice. It has also offered several of our girls chance. National secondary schools basketball champions Shimba Hills has also taken some of our girls. The Coastal Kings playing under the name Bomu estate were runner up in the inter Estates Basketball Championship. Girls like Lavina, Esther Samba and Damaris Achila have now landed Education sponsorship with UNICEF. This shows how sports can transform lives

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MY SECOND CHANCE

Talent Academy youth appeal to Unicef to sponsor them back to class as they nurture skills

By OSCAR PUPU

It is 10am and several youth, some still in school and others out of school, are training at the serene Shimba Hills High School under National Youth Talent Academy (NYTA) initiative.

Joy is written all over their faces as they sharpen their skills in basketball and netball, which are the sports covered at the centre of excellence under sponsorship of the United Nations Children's Education Fund (Unicef).

Lavina Masuya, a 15-year-old basketball player, appears enthusiastic as she trains with the rest of the team under coach Phillip Omanga.

But a closer look at her background reveals a disadvantaged child struggling to survive. Masuya dropped out of school after sitting for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education at Bomu in Matungu, Kwana, last year due to lack of school fees.

Now she hopes to use her talent in basketball to gain academic sponsorship.

RECRUITMENT

The 16th-year Masuya was among youth who qualified to join NYTA following a nationwide recruitment drive that admitted 600 out-of-school talented children.

She said, "I thank Unicef for giving me this opportunity to develop my talents and my passionate appeal to them is to help the out-of-school group."

But Masuya admits she is not academically gifted, saying school poverty affected her performance in Kenya Certificate of Primary Examinations.

"I attained 207 marks in a mock examination, and I could have improved to KCPE, but I dropped when the real test came and dropped to 107 points," she said.

Omanga told *FourFiveSix* Masuya's case is not the only one at the centre. He said, "Most of the youth who are here under the out-of-school programme are those who were forced out of school due to circumstances, ranging from lack of fees and domestic issues."

DROPPED OUT

Other members of the academy who dropped out of school and are based at Shimba Hills centre, but are seeking to return to school through sports include Linet Juma, who left Nyamogo Secondary in Nyamira after Form One, Beryl Aloah and K'Opoto (both Class Eight pupils), Rosemary Akua (Form Two student at Tigoi).

Others are Winnie Kalemwa (Form One student at Aleny Secondary) and Winnie Arunga (Form One student at Othman Secondary).

Kalemwa, 18, says she is ready to return to school if an opportunity arises.

"I have benefited a lot in basketball for the three weeks I have stayed at the centre (Shimba Hills). My wish is to go back to school and appeal to Unicef to sponsor disadvantaged youth under their NYTA Programme to pursue education and talent development," said Kalemwa.

Each one of the eight talent centres in the country houses 25 talented in-school youths, who train in various sports disciplines and performing arts.

Unicef sponsors each one of the in-school children to the tune of Sh50,000 in school fees per term for the whole duration they remain under NYTA. There are 226 out-of-school youths, with each one of the eight centres housing 72.



Lavina Masuya trains at Shimba Hills, one of the centres for the National Youth Talent Academy. (PHOTO: OSCAR PUPU/STANDARD)



Arnold Grol with the trophy which was won by the Coastal Kings Basket Ball Club.



ACHIEVEMENTS

We have been able to develop the game of basketball in Bomu. Now the community has a different game to watch and enjoy while the youth have an alternative sport to venture into.

We have been able to build relationship with several secondary school heads.

Girls now get a chance of joining secondary school despite their low marks at the final primary exams. Once in secondary, they pull up on their grades and do well.

DISAPPOINTMENTS

Girls dropping out of the team due to several reasons.

Tough school time tables that can not allow children to come out and play (girls).

Only one court to share among the girls and boys.

Luck of proper sporting equipments like balls and boots.

Luck of funds to organize more games.

Not being able to find a ladies coach so as to have a proper ladies team.

NEXT PLANS

Look for funds so as to engage a full time ladies team.

Source for funds to organize a basketball championship in Bomu so as to promote the game among the youth hence make good use of the court.

TAE KWON DO



The Havana tae kwon do club has been very active the year round. Under Coach Peter Ndicho the boys and girls have done quite well wining several championships. Despite having very little equipment's the team have always made impact in all the championships they attend.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Both the boys and girls have won several awards.

They have won the overall team trophy in the provincial championship.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Just as their boxing counterparts, the team lucks a proper training venue.

The team has very limited training facilities

NEXT PLANS

Organize more games via the local tae kwon do association.

Find more training kit for the team.

Find a proper training venue for them just like the boxing team.



Street boy Alex Githenji
we assisted to get a hand
cart by Glad's House at a cost
of Ksh. 10,000. (£65)

*He uses it to now earn his
living.*



A.J, a volunteer from England assisted Wilson and his mother to get a good house in the streets of Mombasa. Wilson's mother (above) is sickly.





Camilla & Jenifer, volunteers from Denmark assisted Bosco get off the streets by starting him a Glad's House Cobblers & shoe shine shade.