



Why Coast produced champions in exam

Story by: AMINA KIBIRIGE

Publication Date: 3/2/2008

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) partly contributed to the success of candidates and schools from Coast Province in last year's Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations, an official of a teachers' lobby has said.

Mr Enos Mwaruka, the chairman of the Kenya Schools Head teachers Association, Coast branch, said many needy students benefited from CDF money thereby ensuring they attended school without a hitch.

"When the students are retained in classes, their performance generally improves culminating to excellent results in the final exams," said Mr Mwaruka, adding that cases of student unrest had also reduced.

He also commended parents for their role by providing basic learning requirements and ensuring their children attended school regularly and did not break school rules.

The coast provincial director of education, Ms Connie Mogaka, said the fact that the province produced the best performing district school nationally was an indication that there was marked improvement.

"Allidina Visram had not featured anywhere in the top 10 district schools last year but came out tops this year in the top 100 category, followed by St. Charles Lwanga " she said.

Ms Mogaka also praised seven provincial schools that were ranked among the top 100 nationally.

They include Shimo la Tewa, Bura Girls Secondary School, Ribe Boys Secondary School, St Mary's Lushangoni Boys Secondary School, Malindi High School, Ribe Girls Secondary School, and Mama Ngina Girls Secondary School.

The education official said she was particularly impressed by the performance of Shimo la Tewa, which made a comeback to the top league.

Eight private schools from the province — Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Secondary School, Abuhureira Academy, Light Academy, Brainsworth School Mombasa, Malindi Progressive Academy, Memon high School, **Lulu High School**, and SilverSands Academy in Malindi — were also ranked among the country's best in the examination.

Mr Ahaya Juma Ahaya, Mombasa's Kenya National Union of Teachers secretary, also congratulated schools in the region but said the welfare of students ions leaving in camps for the internally displaced should be addressed.

"Many students are currently leaving in camps for the internally displaced and their study conditions are not similar to those in schools," he said.

He called on the examination Council to take quick actions to curb cases of examination cheating so as to lessen the tense atmosphere most candidates had to deal with for fear of being penalised.

He further urged girls to work harder to regain their leading position as was the case in the 2006 examination.