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young nation



Nurturing the next generation of tycoons

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You are never too young to be an entrepreneur.

At 15 years old, Juwaira Lota has started a business, made a loss and also learnt valuable entrepreneurship lessons.

During the 10th annual Zawadi Bazaar held at the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, the teenager together with a group of

classmates sold customized pencil cases, toiletry bags and tote bags, making a total of Sh23,500.

But it was almost a loss, she says. "We made about 23,500 shillings, but had to pay a loan and 30 per cent tax, after which we were left with little profit," said the Aga Khan Academy student.

As part of the Year 9 and Year 10 curriculum, students at AKA Mombasa learn

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Pupils learn how to run businesses

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about entrepreneurship and the various aspects of owning a business.

The Bazaar was created to put the curriculum into action by creating and managing their own stalls either selling items or hosting interactive activities.

Students from all year levels are also welcome to put up their stalls at Zawadi Bazaar, along with staff members.

In addition, vendors from around Mombasa are invited to sell their products and services, which allows the students to network with local businesses and learn more about entrepreneurship.

To make items for sale, Juwaira purchased fabric, zips, paints, and paid a tailor to stitch them.

"However, because these bags were customised, we took orders from school and other people. Each individual had a unique design, and it was fun to express my artistic side," she said.

However, despite the near loss, she learnt business is not rosy and it takes a lot of effort to make money.

"This project wasn't really about making money.



Vendors such as Kericho Gold at the 10th annual Zawadi Bazaar at the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa.

PHOTO EUNICE MURATHE

It was about having fun and expressing myself. When preparing for Zawadi Bazaar, we were meeting weekly, discussing marketing strategies and methods of research to be able to sell a product effectively and earn the most profit," she said.

The students also learnt the different factors that you need to ponder before starting a new business. They include knowing what the product is, who are the target audience/customers, how much are people willing to spend and how to advertise it effectively.

Working with many people meant there were differing opinions which she says taught her collaboration and communication skills.

"I learnt how people can work together and share different roles to create one product. It is a systematic process. It taught me how to be independent as well. Most of the times, I was doing things alone," said the 15-year-old whose career ambition is to become an artiste.

Simran Charaniya, a Year 10 student who had a stall selling kitenge fanny packs with her peers noted the experience builds their skills to actually handle money or a business, as well as marketing and collaboration skills.

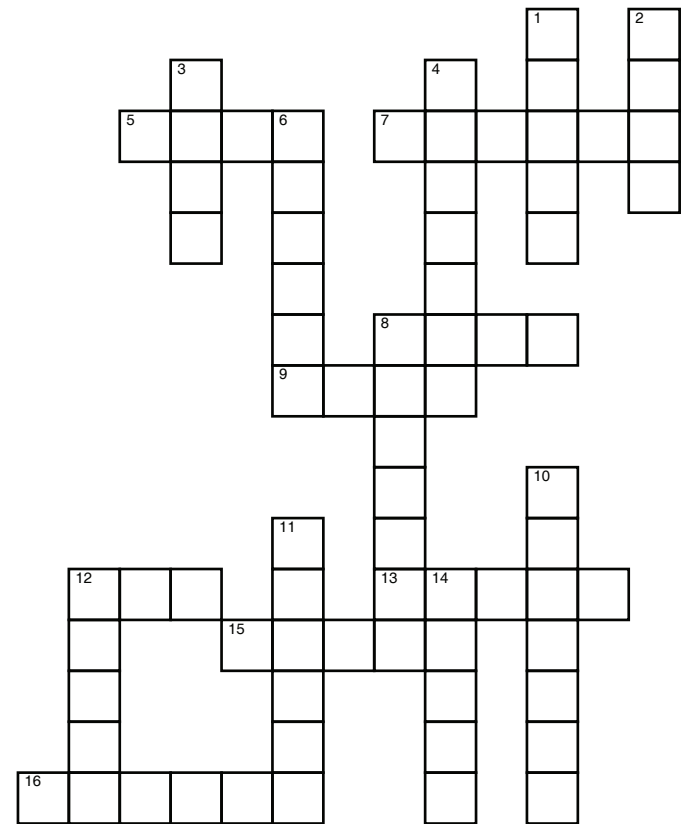
"Although this is part of our curriculum, we were able to build bonds with our team members and the external vendors and sell our product," said

Simran. In addition to teaching students about entrepreneurship, Zawadi Bazaar also contributes to the Academy's Service Learning programme, which involves Academy students from Year 6 to Year 10 working with local schools or organisations on various initiatives, such as literacy programmes, self-confidence workshops and more.

All proceeds collected at Zawadi Bazaar are put into the Academy's Citizenship Fund, which enables students to expand and further develop their Service Learning projects with their community partners.

"Zawadi Bazaar is good for the students. They get to know different ways of entrepreneurship," said

crossword



ACROSS:

- 5. Fizz
- 7. Work out a scheme
- 8. Dabble
- 9. Tempt
- 12. Carry on unit
- 13. Rub
- 15. Elector
- 16. Pick

DOWN:

- 1. Nickname
- 2. Listen to
- 3. Confidently Assertive
- 4. Snake or Crocodile
- 6. Sure to die
- 8. Vamp
- 10. Pig
- 11. Untrouble
- 12. Elector's enclosure
- 12. Monarch

Photo album



Kids having fun at Uhuru Park recreational grounds on Christmas Day. Children flocked to the park over the festive season.

PHOTO DENNIS ONSONGO



ORIGIN OF WORDS



ANACODA

The name of the giant constrictor snake of South America is most likely from the Sinhalese *henakañdayā*, a Sri Lankan name for a whip snake (from 'hena' which means 'lightning' and 'kañda' which means 'stem'). How the name shifted from a snake in South Asia to one used today is the story of a series of errors and misappellations.