

Saifan Aswani: The Road To Success: Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa

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August 28,
2017

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS.....

The road to success is not straight. There is a curb called failure, a loop called **Confusion**, speed bumps called **Friends**, red light called **Enemies**; caution lights called **Family**.



Saifan Aswani, 15 years old, is a student at the Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa, a place he calls home. He began his studies in Kinshasa, Congo, but with no interest in studies, getting below average marks, and a curriculum which he felt didn't test his knowledge but rather his memory. He says "3 years back I remember my life taking a 360-degree turn; I could see my dreams becoming true, when I was accepted to the Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa". He had been working on an innovation to de-salinize water to improve the growth of plants in Mombasa soils; the targeted plants were agricultural crops and flowers used in landscaped gardens..

This innovation was entered in the Golden Climate Olympiad Competition 2017 held in Nairobi sponsored by NEMA in which more than 21 countries were represented. Saifan and some of his colleagues were chosen to represent Kenya and the Academy. Saifan, the youngest participant, presented his project to 5 professors, explaining how his innovation will improve the

environment. He received the gold medal and \$150 . Saifan says "The Academy has given me opportunities, I am so proud and thankful to Allah for all His blessings. Being a winner showed me that winners are not people who never fail but people who never quit".



The Eco-friendly desalinizer unit