

Aga Khan academy named ICT leader

School recognised for using mobile and cloud technology to improve learning

BY NATION REPORTER
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The Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa has been named one of four Microsoft showcase schools in Africa, for its use of technology in education.

This status was given to only 150 schools across 75 countries worldwide. The academy is the only school in eastern Africa and one of three schools in sub-Saharan Africa to be selected.

It was named a showcase school in recognition of its excellence in transforming learning to deliver more personalised experience to students and using mobile and cloud technology to prepare the students for success in the work place.

The academy was also acknowledged for its efforts in

making learning an engaging experience for both students and teachers.

The global director of Aga Khan Academies, Mr Salim Bhatia, told the *Saturday Nation* by telephone from France that while technology did not replace learning, it was a critical factor that allowed teachers to tap into students' differentiated potential.

"It is exciting to see the technological take-up happening in Kenya. A few years ago,

we had only 0.5 megabytes per second in Internet connectivity into the school. Today, we have 20 megabytes per second. Ultimately, investment in infrastructure makes the difference," said Mr Bhatia.

Through the Showcase Schools programme, the academy will be able to share ideas globally and support other schools in Kenya to improve learning and academic performance through technology.

Mr Bhatia said the provision of connected devices in the school allows the students to develop inquiry skills, which are highly necessary in navigating the world's knowledge economy.

He said given the varying backgrounds of students at the academy, the technology also promoted sharing, as those who had extra gadgets were encouraged to assist their schoolmates.

The Academy's headteacher, Mr Simon Otieno, said their being a showcase school will also be of benefit to others at the Kenyan coast that are already using the facilities.

REACTION

14 institutions to benefit from status

Aga Khan Mombasa Academy headteacher, Mr Simon Otieno, said the school's new status will benefit other schools at the Coast.

"We are engaging with 14 schools that get to come to us once a week. We are also working with 119 teachers from the region."