

HOW MOVIE TICKETS BROUGHT WATER TO THE VILLAGE



When nine students heard that water, a commodity they took for granted in Nairobi, was the most scarce daily need in a village in Ukambani, they burrowed into books to see how they could help.

Last week, the Aga Khan Academy students helped construct one of the biggest sand dams in at Isivuni river, in Masii location.

The dam comprises a steel reinforced concrete wall built across the seasonal sandy riverbed. During the rainy season, heavy sand accumulates behind the dam, storing up to 40 million litres of water and provide a year-round supply of water for up to 1,000 people.

“It’s a culture in our school where the finalists in every year are engaged in a school project called ‘The leadership Programme’. In it the students are required to embark on a community and service project and for our case we chose doing a sand dam,” says the students team leader Dhruv Shah.

They sought help from APA Insurance company, which linked them with Utooni Development Organisation, famously known for constructing sand dams.

The students raised Sh1.6 million in various activities including a movie night for the Aventures 2 at the Sarit Centre.

APA Insurance also chipped in with Sh200, 000 for the construction of a shallow well at about 50 metres from the dam, while Utooni organisation provided the expertise. Area MP Vincent Musyoka and a group named Ngwate Ngukilye, joined the villagers in the construction.

“I am hopeful that the dam will go a long way in improving livelihoods in especially Masii location which is one of the biggest locations in the constituency,” Musyoka said.

APA chief executive officer Michael Oduor brought some of his staff to participate in the construction last week.

He said the company allocates about Sh15 million each year to construct about 20 sand dams in Kenya.

