

BY CORRESPONDENT

On 16th March, members of the Mombasa community gathered to share ideas and be inspired by a curated line-up of inspiring speakers and performers of different ages and backgrounds at the Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa.

Students at the Academy organised the school's third official TEDx event, building on the tremendous success of the events of the past two years.

The theme of this year's event was 'One in a Billion: A Piece of the Puzzle,' referring to the African population that has grown to over a billion.

The wide range of topics covered by the students included talks on youth managing personal finances, the notion of individuality in identity and even sustainable farming practices in local communities.

Joining seven student speakers from the

Academy, was a student from Jeffery Academy, alongside seven guest speakers from around Kenya and one from India.

One of the guest speakers, Michael Wamagaya, a ballet instructor in Kisumu and Mathare, who was also recently awarded as a Top 10 Finalist for the Global Teacher Prize in 2017, spoke about the power of creative activities to instill values in children.

The other guest speakers ranged from a tech industry pioneer, to a spoken word artist and a member of County Government. According to the event licensee, Ryan Herman, "TEDx is passionate work. Having been a patron for the Academy's event for the past two years has taught me that time and again. Our students come from a range of backgrounds and cultures, complexing experiences and ideas that our school system teaches them to further question, expand, and re-interpret. However, platforms and respect for ideas that push the envelope

are few and far between at the Coast. As a patron, not only do I see the labour that students put into perfecting a talk that is so close to their hearts, but the passion that drives our students towards wanting to improve their home community, be it sharing ideas or creating a stage for them to be heard."

TEDx events are intended to spark interest and debate in the audience, cause a shift in thinking and inspire them to make a positive change. Having such an event in Mombasa provides a platform for exposure to new ideas and builds connections between young people of diverse backgrounds based on their shared ideas and passions. Furthermore, the goal is to redefine Mombasa as a centre of knowledge creation, as opposed to a passive recipient.

Captured below are some moments from the third TEDx event.

