

## **The Journey of Amani: The Young Eco Hero from Athi River**

In the sun-kissed town of Athi River, a 17-year-old girl named Amani walked barefoot across the cracked earth near her home.

The rivers were drying. The air felt heavy. But her spirit was light.

She remembered how lush her grandmother's stories made the land sound how rivers danced, trees sang with birds, and children played under canopies of green. But now, smoke filled the skies, and plastic choked the soil.

One evening, Amani stood at the edge of the dry riverbed and whispered a promise:

I will bring life back.

She began small one tree, one classmate, one cleanup. Her hands blistered, but her eyes sparkled.

Slowly, other youths joined. Together, they turned trash into art, walls into murals of hope, and their voices into powerful chants: Green is life. Youth are the roots.

One day, an elder said to her,

The Earth listens when young hearts rise.

By the time the rains returned, so had the trees. So had the bees. And so had the belief that one spark can light up a whole forest.

And Amani? She was no longer just a girl from Athi River. She was a guardian of tomorrow.