



# SAAS

SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

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## Director Gina Visits Kenya

We were excited to host Director Gina and her guest from Australia, Mr. Robert Barnajee, who arrived in the country on July 29.

It had been over three years since Director Gina travelled to Kenya due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, bringing about travel restrictions worldwide. Director Gina's visit brought a lot of zeal and enthusiasm as SAAS continues serving the community.



*Director Gina, Mr. Rob, Sylvia and Maria pose for a photo at the SAAS office in Mombasa.*

As an office, we were glad she could finally visit Kenya, tagging along a new donor to see the good transformative

work SAAS is doing to impact knowledge to children in Kenya. We say Karibuni Tena!

## SAAS office gets a facelift

The office is currently undergoing renovation work to give it a new outlook. Engineers and other staff have been on site since the beginning of August, working daily to ensure that SAAS's

new face takes shape. The renovation will entail fixing the compound and garden, electrical and plumbing works, installing new doors and windows, repairing washrooms and

constructing two new toilets. Other works include fixing the roof and ceiling, welding and fabrication works.

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## Fred weds Purity

Our new staff at the office, Fredrick Onyango, tied the knot to his long-time fiancé Purity in a colourful wedding ceremony held at the St. Martins De Porres Catholic Church in Mombasa on April 22. Fred is the new SAAS Communication Officer as of January 2023. We wish the couple a happy marriage life.



## AVOLON donates 8 laptops for computer classes

Our computer training program received a significant boost by purchasing eight refurbished laptops funded by Avolon. The benevolent gesture by Avolon will go a long way in enhancing our efforts to ensure that we impact more people in the community to gain Digital and ICT skills in this digital era. The computer program run by SAAS youth with support from the office and board has impacted over 3,000 students since its inception in 2010.



*Computers Purchased by Avolon for SAAS*

**The** program focuses on bridging the digital skills gap encountered by many children from the slum areas in Mombasa. SAAS values the continued sup-

port we have received from Avolon for the past three years. As an office, we note that Avolon supported 21 students in 2021 and funded us to purchase some office furniture. In 2022, the company continued supporting the 21 students and assisted the office in purchasing a generator to help in cases of power blackout. Avolon continues to support the 21 students and has extended their support to the computer program by purchasing eight laptops. We say, Asante Sana.

## Kenya marks 60th Madaraka Day Celebrations

On June 1, Kenya commemorated 60 years of independence from the British Colonial rule to mark its 60th Madaraka Day. SAAS joined the rest of the world in wishing Kenya a happy 60th Madaraka Day celebration. Madaraka is derived from a Swahili word and translates to self-rule or self-governance.



Madaraka Day is a significant public holiday for Kenya as it

commemorates an important milestone in Kenya's history. It is the day that Kenya attained self-internal rule from British colonial rule in 1963. It is the day that Kenya's founding father and first president, the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, hoisted the Kenyan flag, signalling the end of the British colonial era.

## New SAAS office outlook

The renovation works will also entail interior and exterior painting, purchasing of new furniture and installation of canopy shades.

The new office outlook will ensure we serve our students, parents and guests in a more conducive working environment.



*Engineers lay new tarmac for the compound*

The works are expected to be completed by the end of September.

We appreciate the board for the approval to undertake the works to better our service delivery.

## Mombasa Hosts World Kiswahili Day

**On** July 7, 2023, Kenya joined the rest of the world in commemorating the second World Kiswahili Language Day.

Kiswahili is the native language of the Swahili people found primarily in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized Kiswahili as one of the ten most spoken languages in the world. About 200 million people in the world speak Kiswahili.

On September 23, 2001, UNESCO declared July 7 the World Kiswahili Language Day. UNESCO declared this during the 41st session of



*Kenyan Minister for Tourism Peninnah Malonza joins Mijikenda dancers to mark World Kiswahili Day*

member states in Paris, France. UNESCO settled for July 7, which is a day that the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), under the leadership of the first president of Tanzania, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, adopted Kiswahili as a unifying language for independence struggles.

Similarly, the East African Community (EAC) was re-established in 2000 to rekindle

the spirit of cooperation and integration among East African people who speak the Kiswahili language.

Kenya marked World Kiswahili Day with pomp and colour as locals and tourists from all walks of life converged at the main entrance of Fort Jesus, a UNESCO heritage site where the celebrations were held.

## August computer classes graduation ceremony



*Computer students pose for a group photo after graduating*

**Our** computer class for the May intake graduated on August 5 after completing their three-month course. Fifty-three students from a list of 60 picked at the beginning of May completed the program and received their certificates.

Mr Robert Banerjee, our visiting guest

from Australia, was the chief guest alongside SAAS office Mombasa staff led by Maria and Sylvia.

Rob implored the graduates to use the skills they had gained from the program as he appreciated the excellent work done by

the youth supported by the office and board.

We had a similar graduation ceremony for the January intake in April, where 62 students graduated after finishing the course.

SAAS wishes all the graduates the best as they endeavour to put the skills they gained to good use to better their lives.



## Rob visits Kenyan children and schools

**R**obert Banerjee is a retired Nurse residing in Australia and is one of the SAAS donors who recently visited the Mombasa office in Kenya.

Rob has a passion for making finger-licking Indian curries, and through his fantastic cooking skills, he fundraised for SAAS.

From the proceeds of the curry he sold to friends, colleagues

and family members, he managed to support 30 students to school by offering them term two bursaries.

While in Kenya, he visited schools with SAAS-sponsored students and met some students who benefited from his bursaries.

He also met and greeted students at their homesteads to see how they lived and donated food packages to their families.

As the saying goes, all work

without play makes Jack a dull boy. Rob took some time off to enjoy the beauty of the coastal city of Mombasa and the flora and fauna that Kenya has to offer.

He went on a magical safari to Tsavo East National Park and visited Haller Park and the historical Fort Jesus, a UNESCO world heritage site built by the Portuguese in 1593.

SAAS extends its gratitude to Rob for his contribution towards the education of needy children in Mombasa.



*Rob is excited to meet Moses and Deborah at Maweni Secondary*



*Rob meets Gabriel, Melisa, Ian and Cynthia at Kongowea Secondary School*



*Marths, a student at St. Francis Secondary School receives a gift from Rob*



*Rob visits Yusuf at home*



*Yusuf receives a laptop from Rob*



*Rob tours Fort Jesus in Mombasa*



## SAAS in Pictures

**G**ina visits school children in Mombasa after honouring an invitation by Fr. Eric at his local church.

Fr. Eric is a former SAAS student who studied for a Diploma in Law before joining the priesthood.



**O**ngoing construction works at the office to give it a new outlook. Contractors have been working round the clock to finish the work by the end of September 2023.

BEFORE



AFTER



## Term 1 and 2 School Holiday

Schools in Kenya opened on January 23 for term 1 of the 2023 academic year. The students had a short three-day half-term break from March 23 to 26.

Students proceeded for a two-week Easter holiday break from April 22 to May 7, signalling the end of term 1.

Term 2 officially began on May 9 before the students proceeded for a short midterm break from June 29 to July 2.

Term 2 officially ended on August 12, when the students will be home for two weeks before return-

ing to school.

As has been the norm, the office organizes a student holiday revision program. Unfortunately, we couldn't host the program this August holiday due to ongoing renovation work at the office.

Term 3 for the 2023 academic year will officially kick off on August 29 and end in November to pave the way for students in their final year in secondary school to sit their national exams, the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE).



*Students pick their school fees at the office before heading to school for term 3*

## Ireland marks a Centenary celebrating St. Patrick's Day 2023

Ireland marked a centenary (100 years of existence) as the nation led the world in celebrating this year's Saint Patrick's Day. Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick, is a religious and cultural holiday held on March 17, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland. Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th century and is observed annually across the globe.

The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland as it also fuses

celebrating the heritage and culture of Irish people.

The day entails different funfair activities, including public pa-



rades and festivals with participants wearing shamrocks or green attires. We at SAAS wish all our Irish people a happy St. Patrick's Day and congratulate Ireland for marking its centenary.