



African Gifted Academy Set For Take Off

25 gifted African students selected to study Space Science

Twenty five gifted young African students attended the African Gifted Foundation's first ever Academy session in Kampala, Uganda in January 2011 to study subjects ranging from space science and satellites, computer encryption and the mathematics of financial trading in a unique programme in partnership with Makerere University and sponsored by Guaranty Trust Bank plc, a leading African bank, and Miles Morland, Chairman of Blakeney Management, one of Africa's largest investors.

The 25 secondary school students, aged 14-16, from Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda were hosted by the prestigious Mathematics Department of Makerere University with tutors flown in from the Space Academy in the UK, Bletchley Park, the birthplace of modern computing and Cass Business School, London, one of the UK's top business schools.

The students experienced a chess master class led by Harold Wanyama, the East African chess champion and visited the Mara Foundation to hear about Ashish Thakkar upcoming trip as a space traveller aboard Virgin Galactic. They were also hosted by Kakira Sugar Factory and Nile Breweries to see large scale, world class operations in action and a visit to the Uganda Securities Exchange, hosted by the Chief Executive, rounded off an in depth study of financial markets.

Tom Ilube, Founder and Chairman of African Gifted Foundation, said "Africa's true natural resource resides in the brilliance of our young minds. African Gifted Foundation's mission is to seek out and unleash these gifted students to the benefit of the whole continent."

Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Vice Chancellor of Makerere University commented "Just recently, on 12th December 2010, the President of Uganda, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, challenged us as to why we in Africa were not engaging in advanced studies such as space exploration whilst other nations forge ahead. I am delighted to report that through this partnership with African Gifted Foundation, Makerere University has responded to the President's call. This very week 25 exceptionally gifted young African students from across the continent have been studying space science and satellites right here at Makerere University."

According to Tayo Aderinokun, CEO of Guaranty Trust Bank "Child Education is a focal part of our Social Responsibility activities and we are delighted to be founding sponsors of the African Gifted Foundation because the future of this continent depends to a large extent on the visions of our children. African societies, Governments and top indigenous businesses like ours, have a moral obligation to mould this vision and guarantee a bright African future. We must all invest in nurturing African talent and Guaranty Trust Bank is excited to be taking the lead by partnering with the African Gifted Foundation."

Miles Morland, Chairman of Blakeney Management and founding sponsor of African Gifted Foundation said "I have been investing in Africa for over twenty years so I know the depth of talent that exists across the continent. Over the next few years thousands of young people will be engaged in and inspired by African Gifted Foundation's programmes. Who knows, somewhere amongst them might be a future Nobel Prize winner!"

African Gifted Foundation's Academy ran from 6th to 14th January, 2011 and was hosted by the Department of Mathematics, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. Dr John Mango, Deputy Dean, Science and Chair of the local organising committee commented "it has been a delight to host the African Gifted Foundation for this unique programme as part of our commitment to outreach and fostering excellence at Makerere University." The training was conducted in the outstanding facilities of Makerere University's Faculty of Computing and Information Technology.

African Gifted Foundation is supported by

- The Ilube Family
- Guaranty Trust Bank, a leading African bank with headquarters in Nigeria
- Miles Morland, Chairman of Blakeney Management, a major investor in African

In addition, African Gifted Foundation has received active support for its Academy programme from

- the Mara Foundation, the Ugandan based non-profit part of the Mara Group of companies
- Cass Business School, London, a leading UK business school
- Bletchley Park, UK based birthplace of modern computing and home of the WW2 codebreakers
- Space Academy, Leicester the educational arm of the UK's National Space Centre
- Uganda securities Exchange
- Kakira Sugar, Jinja, Uganda, part of the Madvhani Group
- Niles Breweries, Jinja, Uganda part of the SABMiller Group

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