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Quarterly Newsletter: January 2015



Vocational Education and Training Authority
skilled labour force the future of Tanzania

The Vocational Education and Training Authority runs a series of courses designed to prepare Tanzanian teenagers for the world of work. Over the last eight years, the Banana Tree Project has sponsored many young people through VETA courses to help them off the streets, out of the orphanages and into sustainable careers and lives.

Yakobo (right) completed his mechanics course in 2009

and has been working as a fully qualified mechanic at a Mwanza garage since then. His ambition is to move on within the company to drive tourist



safari expeditions into the Serengeti. With Yakobo as an excellent role model to inspire them, six other young people with similar backgrounds are being sponsored through their VETA mechanics courses in Mwanza.

Edward (right) has passed his Level Two exams and is

now studying the Level Three course while working part-time as an apprentice at a garage in Mwanza. He has taken driving lessons and hopes to specialise as an electrical mechanic for which there is much demand in Mwanza. The other five students are working towards a mechanics qualification that includes modules in Maths, English and Science.



Brail (left) struggled with academic courses at a Mwanza government school and had not been able to pass the national exams. Having been taken on by the Banana Tree Project, however, he has found his forte as a mechanic and has received very positive reports from his college. Godfrey and Severino (right), likewise, had found the

written subjects and timed exams too difficult but have taken to the far more practical challenges of life as a mechanic. They have passed their first year exams and are making good progress in their final year. With specialisms in the right areas, the boys stand an excellent chance of gaining good jobs with the opportunity to look after themselves.



Getting ready for big decisions

Steven Chacha sat his national Form II exams in November and now awaits his results, due to be published at the end of January. He hopes to continue into Form III at his current school in Mwanza. His mock tests suggest that he should perform well. Stephen, Julius, Ngusa and Sadicki also face a nervous wait for their national Form IV results, due out in February. The results decide where they go from here. If they get the grades then they will be eligible for Form V (Sixth Form) studies at Lake Secondary and can follow in the footsteps of Marco, Mazera and Yuseph. Alternatively, they may choose to focus on a vocational course in teaching (Witness has consistently been graded towards the top of her year on her teaching course), Hotel Management (as Eliya), Wildlife Management (as Maduhu) or Mechanics (as many others). Options also exist in a wide range of other careers. Each of the boys has demonstrated a determined work ethic and the ability to seize the opportunities available to them and their futures now look bright.

Thank you

The opportunities that the young people are seizing are made available by the generosity of many donors in the UK, Australia, the US and beyond. Donations by Redbourn Infants and Nursery School have been very gratefully received while many Year 7 students in the UK have run, rowed, swum and baked their way to raising funds. A recent rugby raffle was generously supported and many individuals continue to make individual donations that together enable the BTP children to go to school and college and ensure that they have the same opportunities that many others take for granted. On behalf of the BTP children, thank you for your generous support.

Ed Beavington

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