NGO empowers students with climate education

From HECKTON CHUWA in Kilimanjaro

AS climate change continues to pose serious environmental and socio-economic threats across the globe, the Netherlands-based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Green Manjaro Foundation, has intensified efforts to equip young people with climate change knowledge and awareness through educational programmes targeting students, including those in secondary schools.

The organisation said its mission is to nurture a new generation that will remain actively engaged in addressing climate change challenges and championing sustainable solutions for the betterment of the world in the future.

Green Manjaro's Project Leader (Waste Management and Plastic Recycling), Mr Nurdin Ally said during the launching of the Boma Green House at Boma Secondary School located in Hai district, in Kilimanjaro region that climate change is a global challenge that requires a significant and long-term commitment to address.

He said in order to make the commitments sustainable, it is important that current students, who are tomorrow's leaders, are prepared early so that they grow up with an understanding of how to address this challenge", he noted.

He added: "It is encouraging to see that many young people are interested in participating in this training, as well as the cooperation we receive from their teachers; this was evidenced by the large number of students, who showed up when we arrived at their schools to explain these plans".

Commenting on the launch of the building, a project the NGO implemented in collaboration with the Moshi-based Jane Goodall Institute (JDI) and Roots and Shoots, in Kilimanjaro region, Mr Ally said the building will be a centre for teaching children the importance of caring for the environment and how to combat the effects of climate change when they become adults.

"The climate science education they will get here, will enable them to develop skills on how to address environmental and climate change challenges; this will also encourage them to tackle environmental problems and reduce the impact of the climate crisis in the future", he said.

He continued by saying that through the Boma Green House, students will also receive education on recycling processes, how to cultivate vegetable gardens, how to establish and preserve tree seedlings, which he said will later be used to plant trees so as to restore natural vegetation and enhance the environment in general.

For her part, Green Manjaro Chairperson, Marjolein Praaning said environmental and climate change related education is very important for future of the world and that's why the two organisations are involved in environmental programmes in schools.

"Children do have chances to contribute in environmental and climate change related issues, that is why we saw that it was very important for them to learn about these issues when they are young and still at school", she said.

Project coordinator, Dismas Mlaki from the Roots and Shoots organisation, said in particular, the recycling education is very important for students at school due to the fact that it encourages them to get involved in eco-friendly practices.

"Students will be taught on how to segregate waste at the source and create vermicomposting for school gardens, as well as making toys and crafts out of waste materials; all in all, they will get the knowledge on the potential of using the waste in producing other valuable items", he said.

Parents urged to prioritise early cancer screening for children

From DAILY NEWS Reporter in Kilimanjaro

PARENTS and guardians have been urged to make regular health check-ups for their children a priority to enable early detection and treatment of cancer, a disease that experts say is highly curable when diagnosed at an early stage.

The call was made by the Director of the Moshi-based KCMC Zonal Referral Hospital (KCMC ZRH), Professor Gileard Masenga, during a charity walk organised by

even cured completely if diagnosed early and treatment begins immediately," Prof Masenga said.

Speaking on the growing burden of the disease, Prof Masenga noted that recent statistics from the hospital indicate a rising number of children diagnosed with cancer, underscoring the need for greater public awareness and timely medical screening.

"At KCMC we receive approximately 1,500 new cancer patients per year, of which 40 per cent of them

ing the health status of their children especially when they have illnesses that even if they are treated, tend to recur".

Prof Masenga continued by saying that there are children who are treated for illnesses such as malaria and severe fever, after a while the illnesses recur.

"After a thorough examination, these children are found to have signs of cancer but by that time it has already progressed; the important thing here is to develop the

the burden on parents and guardians due to the high costs of treating the disease.

"The government is focused on ensuring that it improves the health sector and we have decided to provide free cancer treatment services to support the government's efforts", he said.

He said that apart from treatment, children who stay for a long time at the hospital for treatment are also provided with accommodation, food and even education services for those who are already in school.

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