BANJIKA Secondary School in Karatu District, Arusha Region, has made great strides in training students on new technology, says the Founding Executive Director, Ms Janice Lathen. In this exclusive interview that she granted to Our Staff Writer Jaffar Masiri, she explains that since June 2009, the establishment has conducted seven Technology Tent training sessions and has trained 255 students at Banjika. In their next session, the Banjika Secondary School, the company (Ensol), came to Karatu District. They give Powering Potential’s Course at Technology Tent training for Form Four leavers from Karatu District. Also, these students who go to Form Five have an opportunity to train as a new computer savvy and it helps them to go to college or university to get a degree. It also helps the Banjika students who can only be computer literate in their studies.

Banjika makes headway in technology

JANICE shares in a memorable photo with some students of Banjika Secondary School in Karatu District, Arusha Region.

Ma Janice Lathen.

INTERVIEW/FEATURE

QUESTION: Give brief account of the activities that are undertaken by your organization?

A: Powering Potential is a technology company which is working to provide computer and science education to children in rural Tanzania. We support the government's strategy to equip every school and to train teachers on how to use technology to improve their education and stimulate their imaginations.

Q: How do you involve the students in your organization?

A: We started working on the satellite internet project in May 2009 and the satellite dish was installed in November 2009 and five more computers were installed in 2010.

Q: What is the time frame for this project?

A: Our upcoming project is to install more computers at Banjika secondary school, and the project will be complete in December.

Q: How viable is this project in terms of maintainability and transfer of technology?

A: It is very viable. The headmaster at Banjika, Mr. Joseph Mathias, has initiated this effort for the school to pay for the technology and our company will pay for the project.

Q: What do you mean by computer literacy?

A: We mean that the students are able to use technology to enhance their education and stimulate their imaginations.

Q: Why did you decide to start the Technology Tent project?

A: Yes, we have plans to install solar-powered modem computer labs at two Karatu district schools in September. We will also provide technology training jobs to Form Four leavers who have graduated from the Technology Tent training program.

Q: What is the reaction of the students in appreciating the technology?

A: The students are very happy about this training, they are very happy about the Internet, they are very happy to use computers and they are very satisfied with the technology.

Q: What approach are you using in helping the students to acquire computer technology skills?

A: The students have benefited from the technology with their whole hearts and are learning quickly.

B: The students learn more quickly through this technology with their whole hearts and are learning quickly.

Q: What is the reaction of the students in appreciating the technology?

A: The students are very happy about this training, they are very happy about the Internet, they are very happy to use computers and they are very satisfied with the technology.