By SUNDAY NEWS

Mlimani Sumawe Senior Secondary School’s computer lab was recently opened to rapturous applause as excited students, along with administrators and stakeholders, were introduced to the ABCs of using a computer.

“I am overly excited, though I was a little bit nervous before I was able to log into the computer,” thinks 13-year-old Form Two student, Witness, just like several other students at the school, had never used a computer before.

Witness was part of the first batch of 20 students who were selected to access the first of the 23 newly installed solar powered computers at their school located in Karatu District, Arusha Region.

Witness and her colleagues are the latest beneficiaries of SPARC (Solar Powered Access to Remote Computing) donated recently by Potential Enhancement Foundation (PEF) in partnership with Powering Potential Inc (PPI).

The newly installed system will enable students and teachers to access academic materials online without the need for electricity or the internet. It consists of a solar-powered computer, a projector, a digital library, digitised Tanzanian secondary school curriculum and training for students and teachers.

The donation is part of the mission of PEF in partnership with PPI to use technology to enhance education and empower students and teachers, especially in remote areas with limited electricity and internet.

PEF Executive Director, Eng. Alfred Mathias handed over the first batch of 20 computers this year to Mlimani Sumawe Secondary School in Karatu District.

“Gilani, a delighted and grateful in PEF and PPI for the handover ceremony which was a sign of our commitment to ensure all secondary schools in the district are not left behind in a globalised world,” she said, adding that the school should not take the donation for granted as numerous other schools are desperate to have such system installed at their schools but have not been as lucky.

The Executive Director of PEF, Eng. Mathias, hailed PEF and PPI for the donation, noting that the readily available learning materials on the computer can improve academically.

Dr. Barnabas Kapange, the PPI Board Member called upon the entire school community to fully utilise the newly installed systems and protect it to ensure it operates optimally and for the intended purposes.

He pledged that PEF and PPI will continue to mobilise funds from donors and well-wishers to facilitate installation of more SPARC Labs in remote schools in the country.

“To encourage donors and well-wishers to contribute more towards this cause, I urge everyone to set me on the right course to realise my ambition,” said Jenipher John, a Form Four student.

Students and teachers can now be accessed digitally. The Karatu District’s Statistics and Logistics Officer, Ms Brenda Mlay who represented the District Secondary Education Officer at the handing over ceremony acknowledged the contribution of PEF and PPI to transform academically and ensure they can easily access more learning materials in the district in the next three years,” he disclosed.

Eng. Mathias expressed hope that the donor would be properly used and serve its purpose to most students, hence trigger tremendous improvements in their academic performance as the overall performance of the school.

Mr. Samuel Kapinga, the PEF Board Member hailed upon the entire school community to fully utilise the newly installed systems and protect it, as well as the overall performance of the school.

Mr. Kapange said Form Four students should set me on the right course to utilise the donated computers to improve academically.

“I expect to access lots of learning materials, in chemistry and mathemetics especially physics and mathematics,” said Form Four student, Maina Simwabi who is interested in arts subjects, especially History and English.

On the other hand, Mr. Mwanza Mwanza, a teacher at Mlimani Secondary School and PPI for the donation, noting that the equipment for computers to transform the school academically.

“The students will no longer have to rely on our notes and other handouts alone since they can easily access more learning materials digitally,” he observed.

GAME FEATURES

Shot in the arm for Karatu schools

Karatu District’s Mlimani Sumawe Senior Secondary School students using solar powered computers jointly donated recently by Potential Enhancement Foundation and Powering Potential Inc.