



Madhvani has promoted education

The Madhvani Foundation is celebrating 50 years. *Eriosi Nantaba of East African Business Week* talked to *Mr Henry Kyemba*, chairman of the Foundation. Below are Excerpts.

QN: How many students have you sponsored to date and how much has been spent on the programme?

ANS: The foundation has sponsored over 1,200 students since it was started in 1962. It has invested over Ushs 3b in the education of the needy but brilliant students.

QN: Who are some of the prominent beneficiaries of the scholarship programme?

ANS: Some of the prominent Alumnus include former Supreme Court Judge Prof. George Kanyeihamba, Mr Edward Nantamu a senior environmental health specialist in the US, Mr Philly Mpaata a surveyor with and Mr Jonathan Mugwanya a state prosecutor.

QN: What are some of your achievements?

ANS: Over the past 50 years, our major achievement has been the ability to sponsor over 1,000 students because no investment is greater than that made in edu-



pool of human resource to the country.

We also believe that it is an achievement for the foundation to be able to have made it this far despite various challenges it has had to go through which include the dormant period in the Amin regime until the scheme was revived in 2003.

QN: Any plans for the future?

ANS: The Foundation will soon start holding trainings for its beneficiaries and alumnus in various Skills such as entrepreneurship as it identified a need to make the beneficiaries self sus-

There is a need for them to have options, to be job creators instead of job seekers because the jobs these days are scarce.

So the Foundation has found it necessary to equip them with additional skills on top of the university education.

QN: What challenges has the Foundation faced?

ANS: The major challenge the Foundation had to overcome was the era of the Amin dictatorship which undermined the Foundation's ability to continue carrying out its work even after he was overthrown but after the repossession of the assets by the Foundation in 2003, we have been

Our other challenge has been the fact that there are so many needy students out there and many of them are biased about the transparency of our selection system which leads many of them to engage in fraudulent acts in order to acquire the scholarship. The competition is no doubt highly competitive and this makes it necessary to employ strict selection procedures in order to ensure that all applicants are given a fair chance at the scholarship.

Also the economic situation in the country is currently volatile and as such the amount of money we would have spent on sponsoring a larger number of students ends up being insufficient due to inflation resulting in increased tuition fees.

QN: How are the beneficiaries giving back to the community?

ANS: Many of them are employed and taking care of their families by paying school fees for their siblings as well as taking on orphans and supporting them. Other former beneficiaries are serving their communities and country in various capacities related to their field of study; they are doctors, lawyers, agriculturalists, engineers among others.

All former beneficiaries are also united under an Alumni

bring together all former students who have successfully completed their studies. The main purpose of the organisation is to provide networking opportunities and further the goals of the founder of the scholarship scheme Muljibhai Madhvani who firmly believed that the only way to develop Uganda is to invest in the education of its people.

QN: You have existed for the last 50 years and we are certain you have a unique strategy, How have you made it and how can other organizations or companies borrow a leaf from your strategy?

ANS: We have maintained high levels of transparency in the organization and this has helped us maintain unrivalled levels of integrity when it comes to these scholarships.

NEXT WEEK

The Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CIT) Executive Director Mr Hussein Kamote talks to East African Business Week about why local companies need to compete locally and on the international market.