

Imbuto Holds Students' Business Competition

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Imbuto Foundation, an initiative under the Office of the First Lady, Friday held a business proposal competition which brought together students from different universities across the country.

The competition, which was the first of its kind, was conceived during the first Imbuto Foundation Youth Forum that took place in April, a forum that was attended by hundreds of university students.

According to Radegonde Ndejuru who represented the First Lady, the competition is among the efforts the foundation embarked on to invest more in the youth for the county's sustainable development.

Three groups of students who presented the best business proposals won an unspecified amount of money which will be presented to them on October 4 during the second youth forum.

The overall winner was Charles Rwomushana with his business proposal of a transport company; the second was a proposal to start up an employment agency which was presented by three girls (Sandra Umutohi, Francine Bizigira and Marie-Claire Muneza).

The third proposal among eleven finalists was one for the production and conservation of mushrooms which was presented by Virginie Mukagatera and Jacques Habyarimana.

"This initiative is mainly aimed at creating a platform where the youth, who are the leaders of tomorrow, will be meeting and discussing the development of our country," said Ndejuru, who is also the Private Secretary to First Lady Jeannette Kagame.

She thanked the On The Frontier (OTF) Group which helped in training the contestants.

"Imbuto Foundation partnered with OTF in developing and carrying out the competition the quality of proposals was sub-standard before the participants got some training two seminars were conducted to outline to the students the aim and nature of the competition," says a statement from the foundation.

The Minister of Youth, Protais Mitali, who was the Guest of Honour, thanked the First Lady for her unwavering efforts in engaging youths in activities that will make them responsible and productive citizens.

"This is in line with the government policy of having youths graduate from universities as prospective employers not employees," underscored Mitali.

He encouraged such initiatives to be regularly held "even across the country."

Also present at the function that took place at Hotel Novotel was the State Minister for Trade, Vincent Karega, who called upon the Centre for Support to Small and Medium Enterprises in Rwanda (CAPMER) to help all the competitors develop their proposals.

The winners, on top of the cash prizes, will be facilitated to join the Private Sector Federation (PSF) business competition.

Meanwhile, all the eleven finalists will receive the OTF-facilitated Academy for Leadership, Competitiveness and prosperity (ALCP) classes slated for next month.