

Press Release:

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NBL scholarship pioneers join university, get shs.15 million

Pioneer students of Nile Breweries Limited (NBL) Equality Scholarship have all gained university entry, and today received partial university sponsorship from the company.

The 10 students, who have been admitted to different Universities in Uganda, each received Shs1.5 million for their first semester costs, as private students.

“We are delighted to give these young people a helping hand in their higher education pursuit,” Onapito-Ekomoloit, the Legal and Corporate Affairs Director, Nile Breweries said.

He was speaking in a ceremony at the company head office in Luzira, Kampala to flag off the students to their universities.

“Each student will receive a stipend per semester for a maximum three years regardless of course duration,” Onapito said.

He explained that the original scholarship agreement covered secondary education only. This was because the students were in schools that sent the bulk to their students to university on government scholarship.

“Unfortunately most our pioneers narrowly fell short of qualification for government scholarships,” Onapito said.

With the average entry cost at the University - fees and other requirements – averaging Shs2.5 million, the pioneers faced the prospect of missing university education, given their family backgrounds.

“This predicament informed our decision to make a contribution towards their private university education going forward,” Onapito said.

Nile Breweries started the Equality Scholarship in 2011 to benefit children from communities that the company buys sorghum and barley to make beer.

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The pioneers were: Claude Odubi, Emmanuel Okello, Daniel Kibet, Moses Godfrey Mucunguzi, Jimmy Muhangi, Peter Emuru, James Odiama, Ivan Subile, John Ochom and Celestine Alianat, from farming communities in Apac, Amuria, Bukwo, Kabale, Kibale, Kabermaido, Kapchorwa, Kumi, Pallisa and Serere respectively.

They were enrolled at Namilyango College, St. Mary's Secondary School Kitende, King's College Budo, Ntare School, Nabisunsa Girls School, Uganda Martyr's Secondary School Namugongo, Seeta High School, St. Mary's College Kisubi and Gayaza High School respectively.

The company has given scholarships to a total of 71 students drawn from poor households across Uganda to study in the same prestigious schools.

Beneficiaries are independently selected using the UNEB computerized system, on the strength of being the best in their districts.

Nile Breweries meets the full costs of their entire secondary education.

The districts with sponsored students are: Budaka, Bukedea, Pallisa, Ngora, Kumi, Serere, Soroti, Kabermaido, Katakwi, Amuria, Dokolo, Lira, Apac, Oyam, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nebbi, Kiryandongo, Hoima, Kabarole, Ntungamo, Buikwe, Bundibugyo, Isingiro, Mbarara, Kamuli, Kanungu, Kisoro, Kween, Mubende, Rakai, Jinja, and Zombo. This makes the scholarship representative of nearly 30% of Ugandan districts.

Nile Breweries Limited injects approximately Shs.265 million annually towards the scholarship.

"This is line with our company "Dream" of "Bringing people together for a better world," Onapito said.

BENEFICIARY TESTIMONY

SUBILE IVAN:

After PLE in 2010, I had forgotten about studies. When the results came out, I was the best in the district but hopeless. The future seemed bleak. I was orphaned at a tender age. My mother could not afford school fees. As luck would have it, my mother received a call from my former head teacher instructing her to take me to Kampala at a hotel called Africana. Apparently I had got a scholarship.

We thought it was a hoax. My former Head Teacher made several calls to confirm. And indeed I had got a scholarship from Nile Breweries Limited. The second dilemma was, we did not have transport fare to Kampala. We mobilized from whoever was willing to help. We raised the fee and boarded an early morning taxi to Kampala.

It was my very first time in Kampala. I was so excited. I had never seen so many cars in my life.

To my shock, the scholarship was accompanied with all school necessities. It was too much for me. My mother cried hysterically. I had been admitted to Seeta High School, all dues covered, with pocket money and all necessities.

My first day at school was more shocking from the English other students spoke to the way they walked and dressed. I was a huge cultural shock but fortunately I fit in quite well because I also had nice things.

I studied with kids coming from prominent families. A boy from Kibuku is now best friends with a Minister's son.

My pledge to Nile Breweries was to maintain a great academic record which I have done quite well. The rest is history.

Subile completed primary school from Tirinyi Primary School in Kibuku District. He is joining Makerere University for a Bachelors of Sports Science.