

# Youths empowered on sound setting and light equipment

BY JAMILA SHEMNI

**E**UROPEAN Union (EU) funded project, Fit For Life, is taking a new phase with many new projects introduced to youth for the sake of empowering them to reach better destination in life.

A new workshop dubbed 'Sound and light' in the Fit For Life project under Babawatoto Centre is scheduled for three years to enable youth acquire skills in light and sound to secure better position in life as well as becoming professional artists.

The training began on March 17 this year and reached climax on April 8 this year, and this was in its first year. For the rest of the year, the youth will be performing various presentations aimed at gaining more skills and competence in cleaning, maintaining, handling and setting of sound and light equipment.

The youth will go on with various theatrical performances on stages so that they can learn more about sound and light, and how it is applied in theatrical performances. The workshop involves training of five youth from Babawatoto Centre.

Parapanda Theater Lab Trust (PTLT) being one of the partners of Babawatoto Centre, are the facilitators of the workshop who went abroad to receive training and in turn imparting on the youths at the centre.

During the first week of the workshop, the participants were introduced to sound and light, and how to repair and clean the equipments. In the same week, they were taught various skills of handling and setting of equipments.

The second week was all about practicing what is taught to the youth. They performed three plays on stage where they had to assist the artist in handling and setting of sound and light equipments. The participants also went on to know temporary and permanent stages and perform various presentations which based on both cleanliness and



Sound facilitator Frank Samatwa demonstrating on how sound is gathered and created to the youth of Babawatoto Centre

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professionalism in the third week.

The youth are expected to have capacity building skills in the second year and more practical learning will be conducted. The final year, advance training will be conducted to the participants so that by the end of the workshop, the participants will become professional technicians in sound designing, and light designing.

A participant from Babawatoto Centre, Mkude Kilosa, told THE AFRICAN that the workshop was very beneficial bearing in mind he is now a professional designer in both light and sound.

He said in the coming years, he wants to become the most prominent sound and light designer and also become a powerful artist who is liked by many.

“With the workshop,

we are built with essentials skills which we can use them to secure good future and significantly capable of securing better employment opportunities,” said Kilosa.

On his part, Mohammed Khamis said the training was essential in theatrical performances through directing and in presenting the actual script to the audiences.

“Employment opportunities are very hard to get, but with the training I got, I will be attending to different technical operations to boost my financial status. I rate this as a golden achievement in my life and am hoping to become a professional technician and artists in future,” he said.

The workshop on sound facilitator, Frank Samatwa, said the aim of the workshop was to enable the youth gather and create the

necessary sounds as well as handling and setting the light equipments.

“We want to make the youth become professional sound engineers and designers who will take the sound design and ensure that it can be created in a given space. It will also involve selecting equipment to reproduce the various sound elements required, installing and testing it, and usually running the actual show,” he said.

Meanwhile, the advocacy forum conducted last week was attended by primary teachers, local Government officers, parents and relatives of the children and youngsters involved in the workshops. Parents and teachers appreciated efforts done by Babawatoto Centre in enhancing the community and in empowering the youth.