Kiisi Foundation launches ICT awareness training in Ogoni

By Ignatius Chukwu

THE Kiisi Foundation has launched a scheme to help senior secondary school students in Ogo- ni areas of Rivers State, south-south Nigeria, con- fort university and their post-secondary school en- trance examinations with confidence. This is to be achieved by training and exposing them in computer and information technol- ogy (ICT).

The training would equip them to face com- puter-based tests (CBTs). The delegation had to come after a study which revealed that rural based students often face specific difficulties in coping with these CBTs. It was aimed at helping students to deal with these difficulties in coping with CBTs.

Kiisi Foundation has kickstarted a scheme that is currently being implemented at the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University, and Rivers Polytechnic Bori.

The ICT training programme will be evaluated in Ogoni to the fore. The survey said.

THE Kiisi Foundation Trust Foundation (KTF) has chosen to step in and help the students know how to cope with CBTs.

Kiisi Trust Foundation was established from the fund that accrued to the Kiisi Foundation from the activities in 1984 by the San Salacab regime. The families donated $5m out of the $15.5m they won in the case to reach the soul of Ogoni areas through a well applied method devoid of waste, fraud or acrimony, according to Kiisi officials.

Kiisi has so far executed various schemes including scholarships. Ogoni Bacha Academy (OBA) in Gokana (which sends Ogoni graduates to industrial training to gain upper hand in the industry), power supply project at the General Hospital Bori, etc. Now, the ICT seems to hit at the core of a big burden for most students, especially those from rural-based families and rural communities.

The first leg of the ICT training, the Gokana Edition, has successfully held in Gokana. It will go round to all the local councils in Ogoni including Khana, Tai, and Eleme. The officials said this was to bring the training closer to the grassroots people at low transport cost.

A background of the scheme indicates that it sought to fill the widening digital gap between schools in the rural and urban areas in Nigeria and the developing world. It is obvious that there has been an increase in ICT literacy in private schools, but those in rural areas have not benefitted much in this area.

The situation mentioned above is said to be true in Ogoniland, a place believed to be very rural, mired in poverty and which has just come out of conflict with attendant issues of insecurity. Intelligence before Kiisi shows that the lack of ICT facilities, the prohibitive cost of these facilities and the lack of stable power makes it almost impossible for children of secondary school age in Ogoni land at no cost to the beneficiaries.

The Board approved that the implementation of this project should not just aim at empowering a few (as the demand is great) but serve to bring to poor state of ICT penetration in Ogoni to the fore.

The Board hopes that the programme will be evaluated upon completion with an intention to ramp-up support for the programme and/or collaborate with partners in the future.

“Giving key considerations, the background study mentioned secured the ICT of the training hardware as a key implementation consideration,” the survey said.

Officials say this programme is intended to bring the very basics of ICT awareness and awareness to children of secondary school age in Ogoni land at no cost to the beneficiaries.

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NEW books are written every day, but where are readers! Truth is, people still read, if the book is interesting, or if it solves problems.

That must be the trick Michael Achiang who works at Indorama used in his latest book titled: ‘Managing people to achieve goals: A manager’s manual’.

First, he must have realized that know people are hungry for success or ‘to blow’; and next, people want to have a manual, not volumes, to guide them in whatever they do. That must be why cooking manual adorns kitchens these days. Probably with these two ideas in his mind, the expert on value-addition, the fellow of the Institute of Man- agers (IoM) and a certi- fied integrated manager, put along the plot of his academic book.

The book reviewer, equally a sound scholar, professional manager, and man- ager, who works in the Indorama-Nigeria as head of corporate communica- tions, looked at it in five ways. He nodded in admir- ation, saying the cover covers the essence of the book. Giving the summary of the book, he said it has 15 chapters in 190 pages, and that it addresses chal- lenges of managing people.

He described people as the worst factor of produc- tion to manage. “Manage- ment is the use of concepts, principles, and processes. The book proffered solu- tions to problems it iden- tified. Principle must be well understood. It says, to manage others, first, learn to manage yourself.”

Nkwocha warmed the key learning in the book, being that when one is in a management hole, he should endeavour to understand his functions, get the skills needed, and must understand those he manages especially their weaknesses.

A manager will need to hire from time to time. Just as Barack Obama warned Donald Trump to be mindful of the task- ing job of having to hire at least 4000 persons. Achiang advised: “Hire the person, not the CV (curriculum vitae). Under- stand the structure of an organization, and making the right decisions.”

The book review showed that the manager must understand the place of motivation which is critical to the workforce. “Discipline is key to hold an organization.” The book showed challenges but equally proffered solu- tions. “Work ethics, man- aging by example, are all attributes of leadership.”

The book, according to the reviewer, used case study of how the CEO of In- dorama, Manish Mundra, has managed the company to drought levels.”

Nkwocha dedicated a huge portion of the review to look at Achiang as a young professional and career person.

Earlier, the professor, University Orator, and head of Management Sci- ences of the RSU, Isaaczek Oboji in his lecture, said the book is a revelation to a personality.

He said people follow a leader, who will do their goals, and that suc- cess will lie where the leaders must be carefully handled.

Eccentricism is about the use of unrelated sources to form a piece, he tried to show how leadership thrives in this principle. “Leadership survives by providing needs, but whose needs, that of the leader or the followers? Manager must mind the impact of his actions on his followers.”

He thrilled the select audience with one of his self-invented metaphors of leadership, the Tortoise Metaphor. He showed how tortoise stretched his leg of palm wine he was to drink up in one moment into 12 months. He did this by inviting his kinsmen to have a sip each. With this, Obiji explained what happened next.

“The tortoise had a keg of palm wine meant to last it for only a month or less, but stretched it over 12 months. It caused eleven of the friends to have sips from its drink and for the next eleven months went to these friends to lay calm to their palm wine when it was each one’s turn to have a keg of palm wine.

“Realization of this to a people manager is that a leader must manage to encourage a sense of team and community for the mutual benefit of the individuals, groups and the organiza- tion.”

Me: When net someone offers you a sip, be careful, lest you pay with a keg.