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Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

Project proposal from the 4 Kasese Humanist Schools:

Promoting Humanism, Science, Reason, Compassion and Critical Thinking



Robert Bwambale with girls from Kasese Humanist School

Target Beneficiaries: Students, teachers, non-teaching staff, parents and the communities surrounding Kasese Humanist Schools.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Kasese Humanist Schools are committed to providing education grounded in science, reason, critical thinking, compassion, human dignity and respect for others. Through education, the schools aim to empower learners to become responsible citizens who can think independently, make informed decisions and contribute positively to society. Kasese Humanist School Club proposes two complementary activities to strengthen the practical expression of these values within the school environment.

The first is the establishment of a **Talking Compound**, featuring attractive signposts, wall charts and educational displays carrying secular, humanist and scientific messages.

The second is the organization of a **Humanist Values Day**, an on-campus event where students and teachers will discuss, demonstrate and celebrate the values that guide the school community.

These activities will make the school compound an educational space where learners encounter positive messages daily while providing opportunities for discussion, creativity, leadership and active participation.

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to:

1. Promote humanist values, including compassion, honesty, equality, responsibility, tolerance and respect for human dignity.
2. Encourage scientific thinking, evidence-based reasoning, curiosity and independent thought among learners.
3. Create opportunities for students to discuss humanism, ethics, science and responsible citizenship.
4. Strengthen the role of the Kasese Humanist School Club in promoting positive behaviour and a supportive school culture.
5. Encourage learners to apply humanist values in their daily lives, relationships and communities.

3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Establishing a Talking Compound

The Talking Compound will transform selected areas of the school into an open-air learning environment through the installation of signposts, message boards, wall charts and murals carrying educational messages.

Proposed activities include:

1. Designing and installing colourful signposts at strategic points around the school compound.
2. Painting selected walls with educational messages promoting science, reason, compassion and human dignity.
3. Displaying charts encouraging critical thinking, gender equality, environmental responsibility, peaceful coexistence and respect for human rights.
4. Establishing a Humanist Values Corner where students can read, reflect and share ideas. Involving students in designing messages, creating artwork and maintaining the displays.

Examples of messages for the Talking Compound:

- With Science, We Can Progress.
- Think Critically.
- Ask Questions.
- Seek Evidence.
- Humanity Comes First.
- Be Kind,
- Be Honest,
- Be Responsible.
- Respect Everyone Regardless of Their Beliefs.
- Goodness Requires No Religious Belief.
- Evidence Is Better Than Assumptions.
- Education Empowers Us to Change Our World.
- Our Shared Humanity Unites Us.
- We Are Responsible for Making the World Better.
- Question Ideas Respectfully and Follow the Evidence.
- Human Rights and Human Dignity Belong to Everyone.
- Protect Nature Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow.

The displays will promote secular ethics and humanist principles while respecting freedom of thought, conscience and belief.

Activity 2: Organizing a Humanist Values Day

Kasese Humanist School Club will organize a special on-campus event bringing together students, teachers, school administrators and invited guests to explore the meaning and importance of humanist values. Proposed programme:

1. Opening remarks: Introduction to the purpose of the event and the importance of humanism in education.

2. Humanist values talk: A presentation on compassion, reason, equality, human dignity and responsibility.
3. Student debates: Topics such as "Can people be good without religion?" and "Why should schools encourage critical thinking?"
4. Poetry, drama and music: Student performances promoting humanity, peace, equality and scientific thinking.
5. Poster and chart exhibition: Display of student-created messages about secular ethics, science and human rights.
6. Science and reason session: Demonstrations and discussions showing how evidence and critical thinking help solve everyday problems.
7. Humanist pledge: Students voluntarily commit to honesty, kindness, fairness, respect and responsible action.
8. Recognition and closing remarks: Appreciation of participating students and a call to practise humanist values every day. The event will be inclusive, educational and participatory, encouraging respectful dialogue among people with different backgrounds and beliefs.

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Kasese Humanist School Club will coordinate the project under the guidance of school administration and supportive teachers.

Students will participate in planning, message development, artwork and event organization.

The school will maintain the signposts and displays, while club members will regularly review the messages and organize discussions and awareness activities.

Humanist values will be integrated into club meetings, assemblies, debates and other school activities. This approach will ensure that the project continues to benefit learners beyond the initial implementation period.

5. CONCLUSION AND REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

The proposed Talking Compound and Humanist Values Day offer a practical and affordable way to strengthen the humanist foundation of Kasese Humanist Schools. By combining visible educational messages with student-centred activities, the project will encourage learners to think independently, act compassionately, respect others and use science and reason to address challenges in their communities.

PROPOSED BUDGET ESTIMATE

Printing and laminating humanist messages 30,000 shs

Paints, brushes and painting materials 70,000 shs

Wooden boards 100,000 shs to fix on messages

Refreshments during Humanist Values Day Event 100,000 shs

Educational charts on science, reason and human rights 50,000 sh

Labour to be provided by best artist students at Kasese Humanist School.

Total amount requested: 350,000 × 4 schools = 1,400,000 shillings (£280)

Prepared by: Kasese Humanist School Club Institution with branch members from the 4 Kasese Humanist Schools:

- Rukoki Primary
- Municipal High School
- Kahendero Primary
- Muhokya Primary