

# Musimire is DStv Eutelsat award winner

IMMACULATE WANYENZE

It is said words can get you far. And the adage fell on fertile ground for 18-year-old Martha Musimire, now in senior six at Gayaza High School. Musimire, who is self-confidence personified, wrote the winning essay to land the premier edition of the DStv Eutelsat awards last September. For her efforts the winning essay "Looking to the sky for answers" got her a trip to France to witness a rocket launch, early this month.

Her essay beat off stiff competition of other high school students including Michael Yeboah of Ghana, Shanen Ganapathee of Mauritius and Tofunmi Olagoke from South Africa. Other finalists include Chukwuka Ekweani (Nigeria), Sandile Dube (Swaziland), Kidanemariam Belew (Ethiopia), Vitumbiko Chingwere (Malawi), Rebecca Nalwanga (Uganda) and Oluwaseyi Oloyede.

As a science club vice president at Gayaza, Musimire says she needed to create awareness about the space industry through her essay and hopes her work on a robotics project at school will see her into a

bright future with space.

"My prayer is that someday in the future, an African should look at the sky and see beyond the stars; may he see cities growing, industries developing and the environment being reborn; the children being fed. May he see satellites further developing Africa", she says.

Musimire says the trip helped her establish contacts that will help her get more involved in satellite and research about the space industry, during her senior six vacation, next year.

The last born in a family of three also wants to study Telecommunication Engineering or Petroleum and Gas at university, next year.

According to Tina Wamala the Communications manager DStv, the DStv Eutelsat Star awards are aimed at stimulating interest in science and satellite technology in young people across Africa.

"Students are required to be innovative about satellite technology and its possible uses, to develop and improve Africa", she emphasizes.

Professor George Smoot, who was one of the judges, commended

Musimire for showing passion and good understanding of satellites.

"There was accurate detail of how satellites can be used in her work, from managing climate change and natural resources to their uses in urban planning. We liked Mary's out-of-the-box thinking and creative expression," commended Smoot.

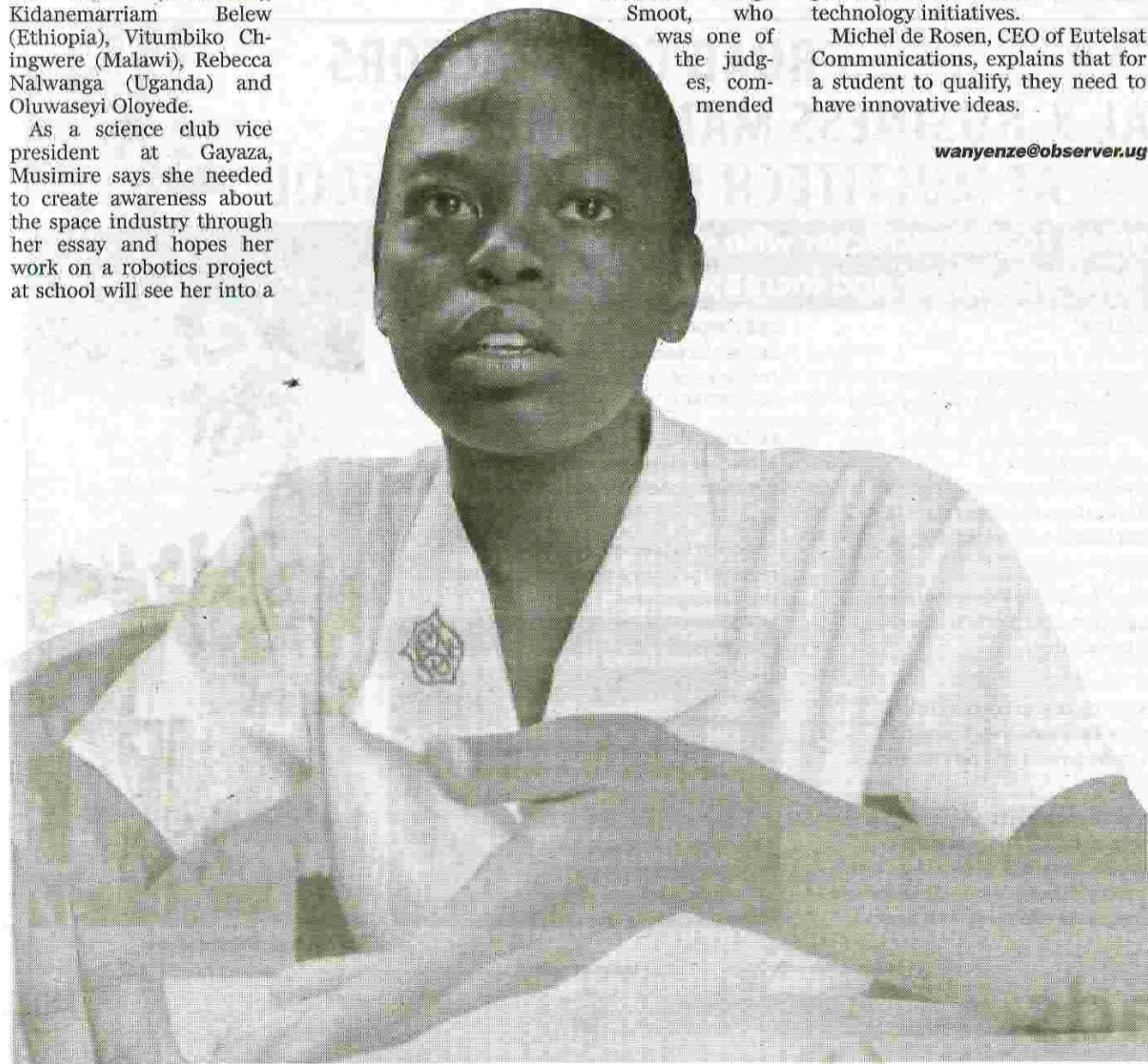
Meanwhile, Collins Khumalo, the President MultiChoice Africa, believes through these awards, MultiChoice is addressing the challenges faced by African countries in terms of access to ICTs and the development of science and technology.

"The high level of participation and the quality of the entries in the first edition is encouraging and motivates us to pursue initiatives that can stimulate young African minds to think about new technologies that will drive economic and social progress," Khumalo added.

The awards were launched last year in South Africa by MultiChoice Africa and Eutelsat in collaboration with Mindset Learn to engage governments in enhancing the youth participation in various science and technology initiatives.

Michel de Rosen, CEO of Eutelsat Communications, explains that for a student to qualify, they need to have innovative ideas.

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Martha Musimire. PHOTO/IMMACULATE WANYENZE



## ANANSI'S ADVENTURES

OMWANA W'OMUZLINGU

### Anansi's father is not dad

Bella weeps at the window. Her tears prevent her from clearly seeing her mother's car drive away. Bella toddles from sitting room to kitchen and back again, seeking Mama.

Mama is not there. Bella does not understand why. Bella's smiling dad offers supper. Dad makes Bella feel safe and loved while Mama is away.

Adrianna weeps at the window of the train. Her tears help her clearly see her father, as the train pulls her home. Her dad passed away this morning. It's time for Adrianna to return to her husband.

Adrianna loved her dad through old age and illness. Her dad peered through yellowed eyes at her smiling face by his bedside. He tried to give words to his appreciation. Adrianna's eyes are the last Dad saw on this side of forever.

Walter shares the same name as his father. When Walter looks into his dad's eyes, he sees the strong man who stood above the little boy. As Walter grew, he carefully placed his feet into his father's footsteps.

Now, Walter's father struggles to breathe. Walter walks for Dad when the distance is too far. Walter and his dad don't say much. But they each know what the other wants to say.

Walter shared his father's name with his own son. Walter's son struggles to grow. The boy pretends at being a man. He exerts his will, brashly and rashly.

Walter guides and protects him, disciplines and prepares him. Wal-

ter and his son don't say much. But they each know what the other hopes to say.

Dingo Pingo sees his father on Saturdays. His dad drives a lorry all the hours of every day. Dingo Pingo grows his hair into the same braids that adorn his dad's head.

Around his wrist, Dingo Pingo wraps a bracelet woven in Arua. Dingo Pingo weaves himself into the homeland that gave birth to Dad.

Taylor's bright chocolate eyes scan the sky below the aeroplane. She seeks the island in the sea. Taylor's father waits at the airport. George searches for her in the disembarking crowd.

Taylor blooms and blossoms each time she stays away. Dad ever waits on that island, watching to see who his Taylor is becoming.

Anansi's head snaps up from the puddle of cool water. A passing dog catches Anansi's attention. The dog is shiny black all over, just like Anansi. White hairs grow around the eyes and nose of the older dog.

As the old dog hurries by, Anansi's eyes briefly meet his. Their eyes show no recognition of their mutual resemblance. Their eyes reflect no memory of meeting before.

In fact, they have never met. Neither could know that this old dog is actually the father of Anansi.

Before that old dog disappears into the bush across the road, Anansi's tongue returns to the cool puddle. Anansi's father is not Dad.

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