

## **Ms. Claire Nasike Akello wins the third Wangari Maathai Scholarship Award.**



***Prof. S.G. Kiama, Ms. Wanjira Maathai, Dr. Isaac Kalua, Ms. Claire Nasike and other guests.***

Ms. Claire Nasike Akello's love for the environment can be traced back at her tender age of eight years in her flood prone village of Port Victoria in Budalangi. Her late grandmother, as she puts it, was her biggest influence as she grew up while following in her footsteps for caring for the environment. Claire is currently leading a project dubbed "Return to Sisterhood", a project that seeks to empower school children to regain control of their environment. She has so far reached out to more than 400 girls in various schools within her community.

Ms Claire was the third recipient of the Wangari Maathai Scholarship that was awarded on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in a colorful event hosted by the Green Belt Movement at Kilimani. The Wangari Maathai Scholarship Fund is an environmental innovations fund set up in memory of Prof. Wangari Maathai that is aimed at developing action-oriented young people with strong values and commitment to the conservation of the physical and social environment in Kenya.

The event was presided over by Dr. Isaac Kalua, Foundation Chairperson, Green Africa Foundation. Others who spoke during the event included, Ms. Janet Mawiyoo the CEO of Kenya Development Foundation, Ms Mwhaki Muraguri the Associate Director, Rockefeller Foundation, Ms Wanjira Maathai the Chair of the Green Belt Movement and Prof. Kiama Gitahi, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute.

Prof. S.G. Kiama underscored the value of the scholarship which is named after Prof. Wangari Maathai. He emphasized that a scholarship normally reflects the value of the donor or the person it is named after. In this case, it is named after Professor Maathai who epitomized the value of sacrifice, volunteerism, passion and commitment to whatever she undertook. Prof. Kiama wished Clare all success in her studies and community work and encouraged her to continue being a good example to her community and all other people she relates with.