President of Portugal tours expanding campus of Aga Khan Academy in Maputo

Maputo, Mozambique, 13 January 2020 - While in Mozambique, His Excellency President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa toured the evolving campus of the Aga Khan Academy and spoke with Academy students.

The President took a guided tour around the Academy’s campus and facilities and the construction work that will expand the school. The tour included the junior school library, the residential facilities launched in April 2019, and the international-standard science and sports facilities inaugurated in November 2019.

Writing in the guest book, the President left a message to His Highness the Aga Khan “for this model of excellence, of inclusion, of dialogue, of future”. He went on to laud all of “those who have made it an impressive reality in teaching, education, social and cultural gathering, and a contribution to a more progressive, advanced and developed Mozambique”.

“Interacting with the President of Portugal was a good learning experience for me,” said eighth grade student Oldemiro Juliasse. “I learned that being a President is just not about becoming famous or doesn’t mean living in a big house. It is about managing a country and ensuring that the nation is prospering.”

The President, who was accompanied by Ms Teresa Ribeiro, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Portuguese Government, and Ms Maria Amélia de Paiva, Portugal’s Ambassador to Mozambique, were welcomed by Michael Spencer, Head of Academy at the Aga Khan Academy Maputo; Nazim Ahmad, the Ismaili Imamat’s Diplomatic Representative to Portugal and Mozambique; and Mhamud Charania, Chairman of the Aga Khan Education Services in Mozambique.

“The Aga Khan Academies are dedicated to developing an understanding of leadership,” said Head of Academy, Michael Spencer, “so for our students to meet the President of Portugal was very exciting. His Excellency was so generous with his time and wisdom. He shared real stories of his leadership experiences, which our students found both fascinating and inspiring.”

“It was exciting to meet the President of Portugal and welcome him to our school. My fellow students and I were so proud to show him our amazing new facilities!” said ninth grade student Amisha Lakhani. “We were able to learn about leadership from him, and listen to his experiences of leading a whole country, which was very inspiring.”

NOTE

The Aga Khan Academies is a programme of the Aga Khan Development Network. The Academy Maputo is part of a global network of day/residential schools for exceptional students.
Each Academy is designed to provide an excellent education to exceptional students who possess strong leadership potential to support positive development in their societies. Admission to the Academy is based on merit, and financial aid is available to ensure access for students with demonstrated need. Pluralism is a core value of the educational programme at the Aga Khan Academy, whose student body reflects talented young people from all backgrounds within Mozambique, Africa and across the globe, regardless of their socio-economic background, faith, origin or gender.

The Aga Khan Academy Maputo is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, offering an IB curriculum that is locally rooted and globally relevant. Since its inception, the Academies Network has graduated over 1,000 future leaders who consistently earn places and scholarships at the world’s top universities. In December 2018, the Academies marked 15 years since its founding. For further information on the Academy, visit the website.

For more information:

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