



THE AFRICA YOUTH NETWORK



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PRESS RELEASE

Mt. Kilimanjaro - A grueling, challenging and rewarding scaling expedition – 4 out of 19 girls from our community make it to the highest summit, Uhuru Peak.

Kilimanjaro Mountain, located inside the Kilimanjaro National Park in Tanzania; is ranked 4th in the world and is the highest point in Africa with an elevation of 5,895 meters (19,341 feet), above the sea level. The mountain is the only largest free standing mountain in the world. The Kilimanjaro mountain with snow capped top is located just after the y line about 3°75' South of Equator and 37°20' East at the border with Kenya. It is composed of three distinct volcanic cones: Kibo 5,895 m (19,341 ft); Mawenzi 5,149 m (16,893 ft); and Shira 3,962 m (13,000 ft). Uhuru Peak is the highest summit on Kibo's crater rim.

PARK HEADQUARTERS ALTITUDE 1970 M/6400 FT AMSL KILIMANJARO NATIONAL PARK MARANGU ROUTE.			
PLACES.	E.T.A.	ALTITUDE.	VEG.ZONE.
MANDARA	3HRS	2700M	FOREST
HOROMBO	5HRS	3720M	MOORLAND
KIBO	5HRS	4703M	ALPINE DESERT
GILMANS	5HRS	5685M	ALPINE DESERT
UHURU PEAK	1½HRS	5895M	ICE CAP

For the first time ever, Africa Youth Network (AYN) of the Africa Federation ventured into an exciting and thrilling project – the Mt. Kilimanjaro Scaling Expedition.

Nineteen (19) female members of the community from Tanzania and Kenya embraced the challenge to climb the highest peak in Africa with determination and enthusiasm.

The event, which was organized in liaison with the KSI Jamaat of Moshi generated immense publicity and interest in the community.



At the Marungu gate before the hike to Mandara hut



To Horombo from Mandara

As the sun rose on 18th April 2011, it dawned with it huge excitement and anticipation for the contingent - the day had finally come when the actual expedition had to commence. Being the first time having no prior experience of scaling a mountain, they were all inspired and determined to face the challenge; albeit with some anxiety mixed with nervousness. However, under the able guidance of the tour operators – Kermali Tours and Safaris of Moshi, the participants received proper guidance and orientation, they were also informed on the challenges ahead and how to navigate and overcome them physically and mentally.

The trip began amid euphoric scenes and expectations. The first two days were relatively easy to maneuver, although the participants had to adapt to rapidly changing climatic conditions. All participants reached MANDARA (Hut One) and HOROMBO (Hut Two). At HOROMBO, the contingent stayed for an additional day for a tour of the Zebra Rocks, whilst admiring the breathtaking scenery.



Group ready for acclimatization to Zebra Rocks



The journey to the KIBO (Hut Three) was the most difficult and tiring part of the climb. Although, all participants reached this station, a couple of them could not continue any further due to the chilly weather and high altitude conditions. After Magribain prayers and dinner, the participants went for an early night's sleep in preparation for the ascent to the summit.



Towards Kibo



Finally at Kibo

At a few minutes past midnight, the remainder of the enthusiastic and energetic team members prepared for their ascent hiking to the summit. After being given thorough instructions by the experienced tour guides, the contingent began their final climb in groups, each one dispersing and disappearing in the dark. The walk through the Alpine dessert to GILMANS POINT, 5861 meters above sea level, was a challenging five (5) hour journey. However, due to the high altitude mountain sickness, and nausea, only 10 participants managed to reach this penultimate level in time to view the sunrise over Kilimanjaro, magnificent scenery out of this world.

However, the best was still to come – the Uhuru peak was yet to be conquered. A journey through the ice cap to the highest point in Africa was another two (2) hours away and the most challenging of the entire escapade. Out of the ten (10) participants who reached GILMANS POINT, four (4) were determined and resolute mountaineers making a record by reaching the summit; standing tall on the highest point in Africa – the UHURU PEAK – 5896 meters above sea level.



At the UHURU peak



Considering that none of the participants had any previous experience of mountain climbing, the success of these nineteen (19) female participants will certainly be a source of inspiration, motivation and encouragement to the others in our community. These mountaineers have done the community proud – not only did they conquer Mount Kilimanjaro, but in doing so they maintained and preserved their religious values and ethics by offering their daily prayers and also in recitation of Dua-e-Kumail on the Thursday night amidst their adventurous journey.

The zeal and determination of the participants never withered despite the difficult climatic conditions. With some bruises and minor injuries, the proud contingent descended from this exciting expedition with wonderful memories that will remain enshrined for lifetime.



Descend to base camp from Horombo – The climbers relaxing

The Chairman and Office Bearers of the Federation of KSI Jamaats of Africa and the Africa Youth Network of the AFED takes this opportunity to congratulate all the participants for their courage and remarkable achievements.

We wish to convey our sincere appreciation to MOSHI JAMAAT for their untiring support and cooperation in coordinating the event. We also thank Kermali Tours and Safaris for operating the entire expedition with great dedication and taking all the precautions for the safety of the participants.

The Africa Youth Network (AYN) wishes to record its appreciation to AFED for their support and for subsidizing this event making it possible and affordable to the participants.

AYN – Secretariat