

EIA'S ELECTION SEASON

CAMPUS NEWS • EMPOWER INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

At Empower International Academy, term 2 is an officially announced political term. The moment the term begins, leadership ambitions are spotted in all corners of the school.

This year's election season officially kicked off with a Leaders Conference, bringing students together who are interested in attaining leadership positions at EIA. Participants were equipped with various communication skills, leadership (Resilience), how to handle loss in the political race and vision building. Looking at the confidence displayed throughout the election process and reading through contestants' motivation letters and manifestos, surely it is only safe to say the lessons did not go to waste.

With motivation letters submitted, candidates approached the stage that has earned a reputation all over EIA of increasing anybody's heart rate no matter the confidence one seems to have; Vetting. Every year students say vetting is difficult. Candidates faced a panel of staff members who examined not only the suitability of a candidate for office but also the contents of the motivation letters they had submitted. It was the kind of experience that could make someone forget information they had personally written a few days earlier. This is the true definition of pressure increasing.

To make matters a bit more interesting, the outgoing President and Vice president joined the process. Whether they made candidates feel slightly more comfortable or simply provided additional witnesses to the pressure remains open for debate.

Once vetting concluded and the successful candidates were announced, EIA became a marketplace of ideas. Manifestos decorated the campus. Persuasive conversations followed students from class to dormitories to the dining hall and the pitch too.

Some positions attracted particular intense competition; President, Vice president, Academic senator, Chapel minister, Entertainment minister girls, Interior minister girls. These were not merely positions anymore, they were discussion topics all over the school because all candidates were able.

Open campaigns soon followed, which came scenario questions powerful enough to make an entire audience inhale collectively before the candidate even began answering.

After each question, the audience would try to murmur and predict some responses. The pressure was evidently red in colour. The audience would also get a chance to put the candidates on a hot stand and fire their questions too.

Thankfully, this year's schedule kept the energy alive. Unlike previous years where attention levels often disappeared shortly after lunch, the program moved efficiently from morning to afternoon. And then came the unofficial highlight, "The dance challenge".

For a few glorious moments, campaign stress disappeared, manifestos forgotten and candidates became entertainers. Combined with the active gossip box, plenty of anonymous funny comments were read and boredom stood no chance at all.

The following day, students cast their votes through votrix. The process was quick and efficient. Everyone had a preferred candidate yet almost no body wanted to admit who it was.

When certain winners were announced, applause arrived in careful quantities. Perhaps students were being respectful. We applaud EIA for demonstrating that leadership is not simply about winning positions. It is about presenting ideas, accepting challenges, respecting different opinions and remaining friends long after the final results have been announced.

The campaigns may be over, but for the newly elected senate, the real campaign promise begins now.

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