



Team Aether from Mt St Mary's College Namagunga shined bright at the cultural night of the tournament. PHOTOS/PATRICK SSENTONGO

# Ugandan students shine at Global science tournament

The Ugandan team in Greece included 30 students from Namagunga, Gayaza, Namugongo and Luzira Secondary School. Together, they showed talent and discipline.

BY PATRICK SSENTONGO.

When people talk about school stars, many think of sports trophies, prom nights or viral TikTok moments. But this time, Ugandan teenagers are making headlines for something different — science.

A team of brilliant students from Uganda has just made the country proud after finishing 4th out of 30 countries at the 2026 International Young Naturalists' Tournament (IYNT) in Greece, one of the world's biggest science competitions for young people.

Even better? Two Ugandan school teams reached the semifinals, proving that local students can compete with

the best minds on the planet.

Leading the charge was Team Aether from Mt St Mary's College Namagunga, who finished an impressive 4th globally, just one step away from the final. Team Calyx from Uganda Martyrs SS Namugongo also had an amazing run, finishing 7th overall.

And the wins did not stop there. Doris Niwahereza from Luzira Secondary School was named Best Reviewer, while Nakato Maria Mugagga from Namagunga earned the title of Best Opponent — meaning they stood out for sharp thinking, confidence and debating scientific ideas under pressure.

Meanwhile, Gayaza High School proved they are not just book-smart after winning the Experimental Race, a challenge that tests speed, teamwork and creativity in solving practical science tasks.

Before reaching Greece, these students first had to survive Uganda's own National Science Olympiad, a months-long competition that identifies the country's brightest young scientific minds. Here, students are tested on creativity, teamwork and how fast they can think.

The team during their science fight round in the tournament.



The Aethers' were crowned 4th overall at the tournament.



The excursion night at the Eleftherios Venizelos statue.



Excited Gayaza team displays their medals and certificates.