



Participating in the Optimist African Championship was a truly transformative experience- both as a competitive sailor and as a young individual growing through sport. From the moment I arrived, I could feel the energy and passion of everyone involved. It wasn't just a sailing competition; it was a gathering of talented youth from across the continent, united by a shared love for the sport and a spirit of excellence.

Competing at such a high level challenged me in ways I hadn't experienced before. The conditions were demanding, the level of competition was intense, and every race pushed me to think, adapt, and perform at my best. Over the course of the championship, I noticed significant improvements in my technique, strategy, and mental toughness. I became more confident in reading the wind, making quicker decisions, and staying composed under pressure. These are skills that I will carry with me into future regattas and beyond.

But beyond the racing itself, one of the most valuable aspects of the championship was the opportunity to connect with sailors from different countries and cultures. Through team events, shared meals, and downtime between races, I formed new friendships that I will cherish for a long time. We exchanged stories, laughed over shared experiences, and learned from one another, not just about sailing, but about life in different parts of Africa.

The cultural exchange was eye-opening. It reminded me of the diversity that exists within our continent, and how sport can bridge differences and bring people together in a meaningful way. Whether it was trying new foods, learning a few words in a new language, or simply hearing about someone's hometown, every interaction added to the richness of the experience.

Overall, the Optimist African Championship helped me grow- not just as a sailor, but as a person. It reinforced the importance of hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship. It also reminded me that sailing, at its heart, is about connection- with the wind, the water, and with people from all over the world.

I return home with new skills, wonderful memories, and friendships that stretch across borders. I'm proud of how far I've come, and even more excited about where this journey will take me next.

Dominic Esparon- Sailor

The championship itself was great, having more contestants than ever before. I got to meet so many people from many different cultures united under a common interest.

Although I may not have reached my goal of being in the top 30-40, it was still a great success to me. I was surrounded by people whom which I could observe and learn from to be a better sailor. Despite not reaching my goal, I'm still happy to have improved.

It was nice to see some old friends as well as make new ones. At the end of the week, we exchanged t-shirt as a "see you next year" as apposed to "goodbye"

Melchior Constance- Sailor

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for your generous sponsorship of the Optimist African Championships 2025 that held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 🇹🇿. Your support has been helping me improve my skills and make a positive impact in sailing 🛥️. I truly thankful for your belief in our mission. I incredibly grateful for your belief in the power of cultural exchange and thank you for being a vital part of the journey.

Elisha Moustache- Sailor

