



Northern Magic Fund for
International Development

Dear Friends,

Yet again, we have come to the end of another month – march 2005. It is also the end of the first quarter of the year. A number of things have happened since my last brief; the schools closed in time for the Easter holidays, the Mtondia renovation project went on undeterred, while the total number of applicants for scholarships hit 657!

Elementary (Primary) school students

The schools closed on the 24th March 2005 for their first end-of-term holidays of the year. They will re-open on the 3rd of May 2005 for the second term of the school calendar.

The total number of Elementary school graduates that applied to the Northern Magic Fund For International Development for scholarships this year is 224 - 98 girls and 126 boys. Considering the limited funds we have at the moment, we were to take less than 50 of them. The rest will have to drop out of school for lack of school fees, indeed out with their life dreams that may never come true.

High school students

The high schools also closed on the 24th March 2005 and will be opening on the same date as the Elementary schools – 3rd May 2005. We received a total of 360 (107 girls and 253 boys) applications from high schools. Again, we were able to take less than 50 from amongst them.

From this scenario, it is evident that we were not able to meet even a quarter of the demand. The implications of this situation are obvious. Many more

students will end up not acquiring secondary school education and, therefore, will not be expected to engage in meaningful income-generating activities in future.

Mtondia Primary School Renovation project

We were not able to complete the project by the end of this month as we envisaged due to unavoidable circumstances. We are behind schedule by at least 2 weeks and are looking forward to completing the work by mid next April.

It is imperative that the work is completed before the schools re-open due the long rains that are expected to start anytime next month.

Please find attached herewith pictures of what has so far been done.

We are in the final phases of the project – working on the last building and making 100 desks for the students. This is expected to ease the congestion and pathetic conditions in which the young students were learning that had been witnessed before you, our friends, decided to come to their aid. Special thanks to the Calgary Rotary Club and the Wild Rose Foundation, who contributed immensely towards this project.

Greg Martin, who has been coordinating this project with me on behalf of the Calgary Rotary Club, will be back to work next month after a, supposedly, good vacation. We take this opportunity to welcome him back.

In my last brief, I mentioned about a possible new partnership with the Computers For Schools Kenya (CFSK). Interestingly, the CFSK had, in the past already made contacts with some of the schools where we have sponsored students. We believe this is going to be a big partnership for the benefit of the Kenyan students.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all of you, without whom, nothing this significant would have been possible. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Andrew