



Northern Magic Fund for
International Development

Kenya Update

31st March 2008

Dear Friends,

We have come to the end of the third month of the year and a lot of water has passed under the bridge over this month here. It is my sincere hope that you had the best of Easter holiday.

Sponsorship program

As you may be already aware, a number of students reported late in their respective schools. Similarly, quite a number of them came to us late to re-apply for their continued sponsorship. A number of reasons contributed to this state of affairs, but top on the list was the chaos that was the aftermath of the contested election results here. As a result, our processing of the same has taken a bit more of time. Another reason is because we are trying to make the process more rigorous and strict in an effort to make sure only the deserving cases end up benefitting from your generosity. Unfortunately, in doing this, more time has got to be expended. We just finished making the list of the successful students and will be informing the beneficiaries within the shortest possible time.

Renovation projects

Our very loyal and committed partners in this area – the Calgary South Rotary Club and Wild Rose Foundation had put us on hold until it calmed down here.

Well, it has, and we will be following up to see if our partners will be able to undertake the remaining phase in the last school that we renovated.

School Calendar

The first school term here is likely to be extended by two to three weeks to compensate for the lost time in January this year. This is because of the delay in opening of the schools when there was election violence and accompanying transport problems.

Summer Visitor

One of the Board members – Diane King - and husband, were here for a week. They arrived on 15th March and left on 22nd March 2008. They were here on holiday. Nevertheless, they managed to mix business with leisure by visiting some of the sponsored students in their schools. They also visited two of the schools we have so far renovated – Majaoni and Chumani primary schools. They were also able to visit our village and the beach where the Stuemers met Boniface and Hamisi. It is my hope that a lot more will come out from the horse's mouth, now that they are back in Canada.

Politics

Well, the two political “principals”, as they have been lately referred to here – Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga are locked in a near deadlock once again on the formation of the “Grand Coalition” government. The new face of the cabinet is yet to be seen by Kenyans as the two do not seem to agree on what “real power sharing” meant in the accord that they signed. The incumbent appears hell-bent on retaining all power at all costs through the retention of all the powerful ministries in the government. Raila, on the other side, will not hear of it. The

agreement, according to Raila's party – and of course it is what the world, through Dr. Kofi Annan, witnessed – power had to be shared on a 50 -50 basis and reflect a portfolio balance. It is obvious that the other side is less enthusiastic about honoring that part of the agreement. And this is where the rain starts beating us! The country is caught in suspense – waiting for the formation of the new government. It remains to be seen what will become of this long wait.

Thank you very much for your continued support. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Andrew Thuva.