



Northern Magic Fund for
International Development

Kenya Update

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year 2008 to you all!

Perhaps it was not so much of one to the nation of Kenya as the New Year knocked on the doors of many households here. Quite a novel way of ushering in such a 'big day', you would say! Well, Kenya did it. And it was great news fodder that fed the eyes and ears of the world for more than one week – but that's another story for some latter space in this update.

Student sponsorship program

The program, perhaps the main one representing the really face of change in many a student lives here, since the Northern Magic Fund came into being, has continued to grow in leaps and bounds. Its impact, even in its infancy years, has been matched by very few organizations here – many of them giants in their own right in the world of charity and community work.

As we enter into the fifth year since the registration of Northern Magic Fund, close to three hundred students in Kenya have benefitted from your generosity. Last year your kindness and generosity ensured that 150 students stayed in school and college uninterrupted. One student– George Ouma – who graduated with a diploma in clinical medicine in 2006, started his degree course in the same discipline last October. Another top student from Chumani secondary school – Franklin Kai - joined the ranks of University students to benefit from you. Apart from these two brilliant students, a good number of others qualified to join university and other colleges. The top girl – Rose Masika Kalume – who finished in the year 2006, attained a **B+**, and is looking forward to joining university, too. These are just but a few

prominent examples of the fruits of your generosity. We are hoping that many others will soon join their ranks when the next examination results are announced.

Last December we started giving out application forms to students and hope to take about 50 new students who will be joining Form one (the first grade in high school) this year.

Mtawali Saniti, a.k.a. Vinani, and the only primary school student being sponsored by one of you in a boarding primary school, has been performing averagely but has generally registered an improvement on his last grades.

Renovation projects

Early last year, we finished renovating Fumbini primary school which we had started in the year 2006. This was done in partnership with the Rotary Club of Calgary South and Wild Rose Foundation.

In July last year, the Rotary Club of Calgary South and Wild Rose Foundation again agreed to fund the renovation of Chumani primary school. We are about to finish renovating the third block in this school and hope to get more funds to do more.

We have also received an expression of willingness to fund the renovation of one primary school by one of you. We are looking forward to a confirmation of his commitment as soon as he is ready.

Needless to mention, these renovations have gone a long way in creating a conducive learning environment for the students and we all hope that the momentum will be sustained.

A summer visitor in Kenya

Last October, Mr. Herbert Stuemmer, the Northern Magic Fund president, was in Kilifi, Kenya for a 12 day visit. He arrived on the 13th and left on the 25th October 2008. During his stay, we were able to visit most of the schools where the students you sponsor go. He was also able to visit the schools we have renovated to date. During his visit, we were able to streamline most operational systems here, especially on communication. Finally, I was able to have internet in the house. Before that, I used to have to go to the cyber cafes.

Politics

Well, well, well! Here we go again. Apart from Pakistan, I believe Kenya was the greatest news maker around the world these past two weeks. Georgia was eclipsed. Yet both had elections. Georgia didn't have violence. Kenya had it in the aftermath of the elections. Unlike Pakistan, where the opposition leader had been assassinated, in Kenya, the opposition leader was alive and kicking. Only one entity bigger than him had been assassinated – Democracy! And the people were angry, very angry.

Kenya traditionally and constitutionally holds her elections after every five years. The last time – apart from 27th December 2007 – she had held her elections was in 2002, when the then president Daniel Arap Moi was constitutionally not allowed to run for another term. In his bid to perpetuate his hold on power through proxy, he imposed a neophyte in politics in his party to run for president. His name was Uhuru Kenyatta – a son of the first president of Kenya. Since he had not allowed competition in the party, some members who had also wanted to run for the presidency, bolted out together with their supporters. Outside the party, they met Mr. Mwai Kibaki who had defected earlier. Together, they formed what came to be known as the National Rainbow Coalition (Narc), a conglomeration of parties that came together in unity to oust the then ruling party of Daniel Moi. Unknown to the people, the leaders in this opposition outfit had entered into a gentleman's 'Memorandum of Understanding' on how to share power and effect change after winning the elections. Mr. Raila Odinga, the leader of the group that had bolted out of the ruling party, then gave his all in terms of support to Kibaki to be the president even when he was in a London hospital in the belief that Kibaki would honor their memorandum of understanding. When Kibaki became president, he did not honor the agreement and so cold internal wars started in Narc. In 2005, when Kibaki crafted an unpopular constitution to be voted for in a referendum, Raila Odinga led an opposition to it and Kibaki was soundly defeated. Kibaki then sacked Raila Odinga and group from the cabinet. Raila and group formed the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM). They were then to be the opposition to Kibaki until the recent elections. After the referendum, Raila declared that he would run for the presidency and duly kept his word. Raila ran a successful campaign that resonated with the people's aspirations, with all pollsters putting him ahead of the pack in the run-up to the elections. Kibaki ran for the presidency on a hurriedly put together outfit named Party of National Unity (PNU).

When the elections day came, Kenyans went out to vote in unprecedented large numbers. And they voted peacefully. Then the results started streaming in as they were announced at the polling centers. Raila was leading in six out of eight provinces, while Kibaki led in two out of the eight provinces. Raila was leading by over a million votes. Then the long wait to release the

results started. Something was terribly going wrong somewhere. Results in 48 constituencies were not being announced. People started getting anxious and impatient. There were reports that the polling officers at the 48 centers could not be traced. Then when the tallying was being done at the Electoral Commission of Kenya headquarters, observers and media members were not allowed to witness. When finally the results were announced from the 48 centers, they were not the same results that had been announced on the ground at the polling stations, some having been inflated by more than 50,000 votes. Evidently, this was an obvious electoral malpractice, but the commission chief went ahead to announce the doctored results and declaring Kibaki the winner without harmonizing the records. That sparked outrage and spontaneous violent protests from Raila's supporters. Those perceived to be Kibaki's supporters invited a lot of resentment and hatred from the opposite camp. Obviously, most of Kibaki's supporters are from his tribe and inevitably had to bear the brunt of many people's wrath. The rest of the other tribes saw this fraud as an attempt by Kibaki's tribe to continue dominating them and maintaining the status quo forever, especially when all the former presidents' families seemed to be supporting Kibaki. What worsened the situation was when the commission chief admitted that there had been malpractices and that he had been forced to announce the wrong results by Kibaki's men.

What followed were violent protests and demonstrations in most major towns, including Kilifi. After a few days, however, calm returned.

The latest development was a diplomatic initiative by the international community headed by the African Union chairman, Ghanaian president, John Kufuor. Kibaki, however, is still intransigent and has displayed less interest in resolving the impasse. For example, an agreement which was generally thought to be fair and amicable to both camps has been greeted with contempt by the Kibaki camp, even denying ever having discussed such a document. I am attaching and pasting a copy of this document which has been published in the papers today. It is for you to judge whether anyone rejecting such a document is genuinely interested in peaceful, just and fair resolution of the political impasse currently prevailing in the country or not.

As the political leaders frantically try to reach a compromise, the situation in the coast region, is generally calm. Life has started going back to normal. Occasionally, some essential items go missing in shops and when available, at high prices. One of the items that has had to disappear intermittently has been gas, but this too, is slowly coming back to the filling stations, even though its price has incredibly gone up.

Schools had earlier been scheduled to re-open on 7th January 2008, but due to the violent demonstrations which were also disrupting travel, the re-opening date had to be pushed forward to 14th January 2008.

To date, I have not heard of any of our students who might have been caught in these disturbances and my safe assumption is that they are all safe wherever they are as almost all of them live within Kilifi district.

As we pray for peace and justice in our country, Kenya, let me also wish you peace and love wherever you are.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

God bless you all.

Andrew Thuva.

ELECTION
AFTERMATH

deadlock on polls impasse talks

The following is the text of an agreement that was to be signed to end election crisis

By NATION Reporter

This is the agreement ODM says its leader Raila Odinga and President Kibaki were to sign to end the political impasse brought about by the disputed presidential election results.

It was to be witnessed by mediator John Kufuor who is the President of Ghana and also the chairman of African Union. British high commissioner Adam Wood, US ambassador Michael Ranneberger, French ambassador Elisabeth Barbier and the local head of the European Union.

However, State House has disowned it saying it was first brought to their attention yesterday afternoon by the Ghanaian delegation.

Principles of agreement

"His Excellency Hon Mwai Kibaki and Hon Raila Amollo Odinga, being committed to the maintenance of the rule of law and to sustenance of democratic governance in the Republic of Kenya.

AND BEING CONCERNED with the violence, the loss of lives and property following the pronouncement of the presidential election results, commit ourselves to a speedy resolution of the unfolding events to ensure that our great nation returns to stability.

Numerous issues have arisen in connection with the conduct of the Electoral Commission of Kenya including the tallying, compilation and declaration of the presidential election result.

Voters on both sides feel aggrieved and concerned.

We confirm our commitment to address all the issues arising from or connected to the presidential elections through a process which:

1. (i) shall be credible, independent and



ODM leaders after a meeting with Ghanaian President John Kufuor at InterContinental Hotel yesterday.

Photo: ZACHARIA CHILISWA

impartial, (ii) shall not be subject to control by either party, and (iii) whose findings and recommendations we agree to be bound by.

2. The issues to be determined through the process shall include:

(i) To inquire into the conduct of the ECK and the role of the observers in the conduct of the presidential elections including the declaration of results.

(ii) The composition of ECK and remedial action which may be undertaken to ensure its independence, impartiality, capacity and effectiveness in discharge of its constitutional and statutory mandate.

(iii) To identify measures that will help to restore and sustain voter confidence in Kenya's electoral process.

(iv) To look into the circumstances leading to the declaration of presidential election results and determine whether it is necessary to carry out a re-run of the presidential elections, and if so, provide the time-frame and modalities of carrying out such elections.

(v) To make recommendation on the structure of government pending the conduct of the presidential re-run or otherwise.

(vi) We agree that a credible process acceptable to all Kenyans will be carried out by a panel of eminent African persons.

The panel will make such recommendations as are necessary to resolve the issues and concerns arising from or connected to all the referred matters.

The panel shall make their findings and recommendations within 30 days of the date of execution of this agreement, which findings and recommendations shall be binding on both parties.

Pending resolution of the outstanding problems, all Kenyans should refrain from acts of violence and maintain law and order and all internal security agencies will be required to act in accordance with the law.

In the interim, there shall be a coalition government whose composition shall be agreed upon on the basis of equal representation both in numbers and portfolio with the prior approval and endorsement by the perspective sides. The strategies and programmes of such government shall be subject to agreement of both sides.

We, the undersigned, solemnly undertake to procure members of Parliament supporting our respective parties to enact such legislation, whether statutory or constitutional, as may be necessary to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations and of above matters and where required.