

Refugee

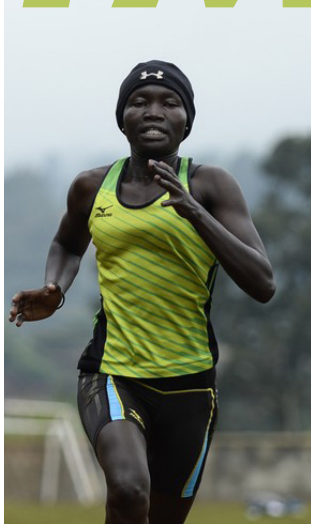
Issue 11 Kakuma Edition

Magazine



KAKUMA JOINS THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING RIO 2016

REFUGEE OLYMPIANS





Editorial

I know by now you all are aware that Kakuma's best athletes competed with the world's best at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Yes, you read that well. For the first time in history refugees have been represented in the Olympic games. The 10 refugees from around the world participated in the Olympics under the International Olympics Committee flag as they do not belong to any state. 5 out of the 10 refugees selected worldwide are from the Kakuma Refugee Camp. We share with you some of their stories and also what their families, relatives and close friends feel about their historic achievement.

This month has also seen FilmAid International partner with International Olympic Committee, Amnesty International, Globecast, and UNHCR to screen the 2016 Rio Olympic Games live from Brazil to thousands of refugees living in the Kakuma Refugee Camp. The screening locations located at Kakuma 1 Sanitation and Kakuma 4 near Hope Primary School have attracted thousands of refugees some of whom are watching the Olympics for the first time. We share some of the funniest and best quotes from refugees who brave the cold night to support their own.

In our fashion column this month, we take a look at designers and designs that are trending in various communities or areas across the camp. Find out what you need to have in your wardrobe this season.

Finally, in the spirit of the Olympic Games, we share stories of different sports men and women who might not have made it to the 2016 Rio Olympic games, but have a promising future ahead. With this and much more, please join Kakuma residents in celebrating the various achievements made over the years in sports and other talents.

Mary Aluel and Dhieu Lual

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RISING AGAINST TIDES

By Michael Watmon

I met her one day as she was on her way home from school dressed in her white short sleeved shirt and a naive-blue blue skirt school uniform for Kakuma Refugee Secondary School and a bag on her shoulders. The look on her face was just enough to tell how determined she was with her studies despite the many challenges I imagined she was facing. This made me want to know more of about her life.

Christine Abalo as she is called began her educational journey back in the early 1980s in her home country Sudan as it was known then before its cessation in 2011 making it the youngest state in Africa. Due to the hostile circumstances in the country, she and her family were forced to flee to the neighboring Uganda in 1989 where she continued with primary school education but later dropped out in standard seven due to unbearable circumstances.

Her hope of completing school was as she thought shut down when she got married at an early age due to the problems her father had with paying her school fees. "I had many siblings who my parents had to take care of and paying my school fees became a burden to the family," she said sadly in a low tone. Unluckily, her marriage she said didn't last long. For her children's father left her and her 3 children for an unknown place and without informing her.

The 31 years old and a mother of three (aged 14, 9 and 6) crossed the Kenyan-Ugandan border in 2005. "I was told by a friend of mine that there was a protection camp in Kenya where I could get help and basic services for me and my children," says Agnes. Her arrival in the kakuma refugee camp was followed by hard life challenges such as lack of support as she used to get from her friends, relatives and parents "I had no way of getting finance to change diet but to depend on little food offered by

World Food Programme (WFP) for I had no skills to start my own business in the new environment or any document to work for any NGO'S operating in the camp," she narrates.

To battle out such challenges, Christine decided to grab available learning opportunities within the camp. She understood the opportunities that could be unlocked if she was educated. With this, Christine joined a dressmaking course that was offered by LWF in 2007 for a year and later a tailoring course at Don Bosco for another one year.

After completing her courses, she took a loan which she used to purchase her own sewing machine which she uses to practice her skills as well as a source of income. "I sew torn clothes at 50Ksh and dresses of different styles at 1500Ksh depending on styles," she says.

In 2013, Christine Abalo went back to primary school for she had a dream, a dream which she say is to become a nurse. She completed her Kenya Certificate for Primary Education (KCPE) with a remarkable 279 marks out of the possible 500 in the year 2015. "This marks gave me hope that I can still achieve my dreams and so I proceeded to secondary school," she says remarkably.

Christine runs her tailoring business during the weekend so as to give her enough time to study during weekdays. Her day starts at 5.00am. She prepared her three children for school, makes breakfast and lunch before heading to school. She admits that being a student and a single parent at the same time is challenging. She is sometimes forced to skip classes to take care of her children when they fall ill. "I urge both women and men who thinks that school doesn't suit them with their ages to up their chances and fulfill their dreams," she concluded.

TWO IN ONE SCHOOL

VISION HIGH SCHOOL IS PERHAPS THE NEWEST SCHOOL IN KAKUMA REFUGE CAMP. BEHIND THE NEATLY BUILT CLASSROOMS ARE TWO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS, VISION A AND VISION B. BY RACHAEL NYANDENG.

The title ‘Two in one’ evokes different questions to different people. Ever thought of a Two in One school? Vision high school is one of its own kind operating on the Two in One school system in Kakuma Four.

In 2015 over 4000 candidates sat for the Kenya Certificate for Primary Education (KCPE) with only four secondary schools to cater for this vast population. This situation led to the ‘birth’ of Vision High School which was officially opened on 25th January 2016 with the admission of Form 2 students. “Vision High School is the first Secondary school to be established in Kakuma 4 mainly to ensure that many more students get access to secondary education,” says Mr. George Nandi, Vision High School principal.

Vision High School, since its official opening, has admitted over a thousand students increasing access to post primary education level. However, this came at a price. The large population has forced the administration to turn the school into a two in one school. This system comprises of School A and School B, each with uniquely different uniform.

School B comprises of girls and the younger boys. This group is given an opportunity to attend school in the morning so that the girls especially get an opportunity to go back home in the afternoon to perform their household chores. “This encourages girls to come to school as they can ‘kill two birds with one stone’ since their lessons begin at 6:30am and end at 12:20pm,” explains Mr. Nandi.

As school B wind’s up their lessons, School A reports to school and take their lunch before going to class. Afterwards school B goes for lunch and school A takes over the now empty classes. Their lessons begin at 12:20pm and runs till 6:10pm. School A comprises of older boys who attend to their families in the morning before reporting to school at noon.

The school has a total of 39, 6 guards, 4 cooks and a store keeper. The Principal heads the two schools with the help of

two Deputy Principals and 3 Heads of Departments.

The Principal explains that the school was divided into 2 so as to manage the large population with ease and also to ensure that the facilities are enough for the students. “The contradiction of school B having lessons in the morning and school A in the afternoon is to bring out a unique concept that ensures that all students have access to the little resources at hand,” says Mr. Nandi smiling broadly.

Like in every society where challenges are part and parcel, Vision High School has its own ups and downs. Among the challenges Vision faces is lack of a means of passing information to the two schools as they can’t host the same assembly together. Another setback is long distance covered by the students from Kakuma 1. However, both parents and the students have welcomed the system as it provides equal access to quality education.

“VISION HIGH SCHOOL IS THE FIRST SECONDARY SCHOOL ESTABLISHED IN KAKUMA 4 MAINLY TO ENSURE THAT MANY STUDENTS GET ACCESS TO SECONDARY EDUCATION,”



One on One with

DIRECTOR REY BULAMBO

By Mudadi Saidi

Where your Rey name came from?

The name Rey came from REYEGIDE BULAMBO. Most people call me Edige but I prefer Rey or the Director. My friends compare me with REY, an Tanzanian actor known as Vincent KIGOZI who's real name also is also Rey.

Have you ever acted or directed a movie?

Yes, I have acted and directed a couple of movies. The first film I wrote and directed was when I was back in Congo titled "DUNIAN NI KAMA IVI" (this is the world). Since then I have shot my own film in Kakuma while I was a Film Student at FilmAid International. I have also acted in Kakuma's first series 'SandStorm' season 1 and currently acting in Season 2.

Why film-making?

I have always been fascinated with films; acting, shooting, directing and editing. Back in Congo we didn't have an opportunity to get these skills. So when I came to the Kakuma Refugee Camp, I heard about FilmAid's Filmmaker Training Programme and decided to enroll. I am happy I did as I am now living my dream.

I want to be someone like STEVEN KANUMBA. He inspires me a lot in everything I do. I would have loved to meet him and show him what I can do, which I am sure will impress him. I want to be a renowned filmmaker/director some day.

What is your biggest achievement?

I was lucky to have acted in the SandStorm series season 1. I had not thought of acting in it because I wanted to be part of the crew. The director June Ndinya saw me and insisted that I had a character she was looking for and persuaded me to act. I did not resist and decided to try it only later on to be named by her as the best actor. This really opened my eyes to a talent I felt I had but wasn't so sure. I now have a group called Young African For Better Generation (YAFBG), which works towards nurturing youth who have talent in acting and other arts as well as are involved in film production and videography.

What are you working on at the moment?

I am currently working on set with FilmAid's production crew as a trainee director where I am learning on set how to direct professionally. It is a tough job that requires you to be keen and be able to command everyone on set. We are shooting SandStorm series season 2. It is exciting to work

with a different crew in season two and learn a lot from them as they have different ideas that sums up a different experience for me. The production equipment has also greatly improved.

What message do you have to your fans?

I want to ask the youth to be their own bosses. The youth and any other person has the power to choose their destiny and be what they want to be. Use the available training and mentor-ship opportunities in the camp to give you a better foundation for a better future and above all do not give up. I also want to thank all my fans for believing in me and for supporting everything that I do. Without the fans, nothing is worth trying. The fans give me the courage and will to better my skills so I thank them from deep down inside.

Photo: Rey Bulambo directing SandStorm season 2 series at Burundi community in Kakuma 1





LAZZOH DEE

By Lual Manyang

Kakuma Refugee Camp is the second largest camp in Kenya and it is home to over 180,000 refugees. The youth make up majority of the population, filled with dreams and ambition but cramped up in a place where chances and opportunities are limited. These youth who have been victims of untold miseries due to civil wars back in their home countries are determined to turn their scars into stars. Lazzoh Dee, a 22-year old South Sudanese, is one of the youth using his voice and talent to make a name for himself.

Lazarus Kuer Deng, better known as Lazzoh Dee, was born in war torn South Sudan. Together with his family, Lazzoh escaped to seek refuge in Kenya in 1999. Life in the camp has not been a walk in the park for this self spoken hip-hop artist. "Kakuma was different from home. We had to put up with the harsh conditions of this place, but it was better than where we came from," he said smiling.

Young Kuer has been working tirelessly to better his future through his talents and education. In 2014 Kuer graduated from Anestar High School with a mean grade of (B+) in KCSE. He has been trying different scholarships to further his higher education, but they proved futile. He then decided to dedicate his life to serving other youth and inspiring them to do great things in the society. "I am a teacher in Kakuma Refugee Secondary School" he said

"It was the year 1994, that I was born second to my mum's voice was a gunshot.....," these are the lyric to Lazzoh's hit song THANK YOU UN which is on You-tube. The song is a narration of the untold miseries that every refugee child faces and how the United

"MOM HAD OPENLY BEEN AGAINST MY MUSIC BUT SHE HAS COME TO APPRECIATE WHAT I DO WITH TIME."

Nation has given hope and promise of better to the refugee community. This song serves to remind every refugee how tirelessly the UN has worked to give a future that they never dreamt of. The rapper also praises various humanitarian agencies such as FilmAid international, Windle Trust Kenya, the Lutheran World Federation and many more.

Kuer has been singing and rapping since primary school, but recorded his first song while in high school. He uses his music to preach peace in the world and especially in his home country South Sudan. "Music is a language that everyone understands, we can use this powerful weapon to unite and preach for a peaceful South Sudan," he said.

There are a few recording studios in Kakuma. Some parents do not support the idea of their kids joining music. "Mom has been openly against my music, but she has come to appreciate what I do with time."

Kuer looks up to the legendary rapper Tupac Shakur. "I love that guy. His music is full of social messages and his style of delivery is out of this world," he said full of admiration for the deceased legendary rapper. Lazzoh has bigger dreams for the future and he is currently working on his next project.



Photo credit: UNHCR

2016 RIO OLYMPICS

WORLD'S FIRST REFUGEE OLYMPIANS

SPOTLIT SHINES ON KAKUMA AS THE WORLD CELEBRATES THE FIRST EVER REFUGEE OLYMPIC TEAM WITH 5 OF THE 10 REFUGEE OLYMPIANS COMING FROM KAKUMA

It is believed that most people who have never been to war, have never experienced famine, nor been displaced have a weird idea of what a refugee camp is. That is if they know that there are refugee camps across the world. Take an example of my friend Otis, he is a 30 year old Kenyan living in Nairobi. We met while I was visiting a relative in Nairobi and I can still remember the look on his clueless face when I first told him I reside in a refugee camp. Months later he confirmed my story to be true after Westgate Mall terror attack in which different media houses ran different features and investigative pieces about Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee camps which were alleged to have hosted the extremists before the attack. This year, the refugee camps came to light once again after the Kenyan government announced the closure of once the world's largest refugee camp, the Dadaab Refugee camp.

Probably you are thinking that you are yet to read the worst from this piece or maybe you are optimistic and hoping that this will have a happy ending. Well, 2016 has brought a different light to refugee camps and also made history as the world celebrates the first ever refugees to take part in the Olympic games. In 2016, 10 refugees have been given a chance to compete in different games at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Five of them are from Kakuma Refugee camp. The Olympic Refugee Team (#OlympicRefugeeTeam) will be participating under the International Olympic Committee flag as they are currently stateless.

Kakuma Refugee camp is home to close to 192,000 refugees most of whom are from Africa's youngest state, South Sudan. The camp is home to other refugees from different countries in Africa including the neighbouring Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo among others. With such a population and very minimal social facilities and employment opportunities, many youths have had to remain with their talents well hidden in themselves. There are however many humanitarian agencies that are working towards nurturing different talents in the camp which include but not limited to arts and sports.

This year, the UNHCR, International Olympic Committee (IOC), and Tegla Lorupe Foundation partnered to give a chance to talented athletes in Kakuma Refugee Camp a chance to compete in the prestigious Olympic games. Trial marathon was held in Kakuma refugee camp in early 2016 where hundreds of youths drawn from the different sections of the camp competed for the once in a lifetime chance to take part in the Olympics. The Trial Marathon saw the best of the athletes taken to Nairobi for training in preparation for the world renowned games.



Photo credit: aljazeera.com



Yiech Pur Biel

Category: Men's 800m

Time: 1.54.67

Rank 54

Eleven years ago, Yiech Pur Biel fled Sudan to escape a fierce civil war. After living in a refugee camp for 10 years, he started running competitively just over a year ago. This August, the 21-year-old will compete in the 800m at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. "I can show to my fellow refugees that they have a chance and a hope in life," said Biel, who was one of 10 athletes selected for the first Olympic Refugee team. According to his aunt Nyangony, Pur started running back in South Sudan when he was herding his parents livestock. Yiech Pur Biel knew early on that if he wanted to make it in life, he would have to do so on his own. Forced to flee the fighting in southern Sudan in 2005, he ended up on his own in a refugee camp in northern Kenya. He started playing football there, but grew frustrated at having to rely so much on his teammates. With running he felt greater control over his own destiny.

"Most of us face a lot of challenges," says Yiech. "In the refugee camp, we have no facilities – even shoes we don't have. There is no gym. Even the weather does not favour training because from morning up to the evening it is so hot and sunny."

Yet he stayed motivated. "I focused on my country, South Sudan, because we young people are the people who can change it," he says. "And secondly, I focused on my parents. I need to change the life they are living."

Competing in the 800 metres at Rio, Yiech says, could help him to become an ambassador for refugees everywhere. "I can show to my fellow refugees that they have a chance and a hope in life. Through education, but also in running, you can change the world."

"I FOCUSED ON MY COUNTRY, SOUTH SUDAN, BECAUSE WE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO CAN CHANGE IT,"

Photo credit: rio2016.com





James Nyang

Category: Men's 400m

Time: 52.89

Rank 50

At age 13, James Nyang Chiengjiek fled his home in what was then southern Sudan to avoid being kidnapped by rebels who were forcibly recruiting child soldiers. As a refugee in neighbouring Kenya, he attended school in a highland town known for its runners and joined a group of older boys training for long-distance events. "That's when I realized I could make it as a runner – and if God gives you a talent, you have to use it," he says.

At first, he did not have proper running shoes. Sometimes he borrowed footwear from others, but he won no matter what he wore on his feet. "We all of us got a lot of injuries because of the wrong shoes we had," he says. "Then we were sharing. If maybe you have two pairs of shoes, then you help the one that has none."

When he goes to Rio, James aims to inspire others. "By running well, I am doing something good to help others – especially refugees," he says. "Maybe among them are athletes with talent, but who did not yet get any opportunities. We are refugees like that, and some of us have been given this opportunity to go to Rio. We have to look back and see where our brothers and sisters are, so if one of them also has talent, we can bring them to train with us and also make their lives better."

“THAT’S WHEN I REALIZED I COULD MAKE IT AS A RUNNER – AND IF GOD GIVES YOU A TALENT, YOU HAVE TO USE IT,”

Photo credit: qz.com





Anjelina Nadai

Category: Women's 1500m

Time: 4.47.38

Rank 40

Anjelina Nadai Lohalith has not seen or spoken to her parents since she was six years old and was forced to flee her home in southern Sudan. As war closed in on her village, “everything was destroyed,” she says. Anjelina has heard that they are still alive, although “last year the hunger was very tough.” Helping her parents is her main motivation as she steps up her training ahead of competing in the 1,500-metre event in Rio.

She knew she was good at athletics after winning school competitions at the refugee camp where she now lives in northern Kenya. But it was only when professional coaches came to select athletes for a special training camp that she realized just how fast she was. “It was a surprise,” she says.

Now she wants to run well in Rio de Janeiro, and then earn places at major international races with significant prize money. “If you have money, then your life can change and you will not remain the way you have been,” Anjelina says. The first thing she would do with a big win? “Build my father a better house.”

**“IF YOU HAVE
MONEY, THEN YOUR
LIFE CAN CHANGE
AND YOU WILL NOT
REMAIN THE WAY
YOU HAVE BEEN,”**



“BEFORE I CAME HERE
I DID NOT EVEN HAVE
TRAINING SHOES,”

Photo credit: iocnews



Paulo Amotun

Category: Men's 1500m

Time: 4.03.96

Rank 39

Just a few short years ago, Paulo Amotun Lokoro was a young herder guarding his family's few cattle on the plains of what is now South Sudan. He says he "knew nothing" of the world except his own homeland, which had been at war for almost all his life. The effects of that conflict pushed him to flee to neighbouring Kenya, where he has developed new, grand ambitions: "I want to be world champion," he says.

Living in a refugee camp, Paulo excelled in school sports, ultimately gaining a spot on the refugee squad now training near Nairobi under the guidance of Tegla Loroupe, the renowned Kenyan runner who holds several world records. "Before I came here I did not even have training shoes," he says. "Now we have trained and trained, until we see ourselves at a good level, and now we know fully how to be athletes."

The effort paid off: Paulo is going to Rio. "I am so happy," he says. "I know I am racing on behalf of refugees. I was one of those refugees there in the camp, and now I have reached somewhere special. I will meet so many people. My people will see me on the television, on Facebook." Still, his aim is simple: "If I perform well, I will use that to help support my family, and my people."

"I KNOW I AM RACING ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES. I WAS ONE OF THOSE REFUGEES THERE IN THE CAMP, AND NOW I HAVE REACHED SOMEWHERE SPECIAL. I WILL MEET SO MANY PEOPLE. MY PEOPLE WILL SEE ME ON THE TELEVISION, ON FACEBOOK."

Photo credit: newsfirst.lk





Rose Nathike

Category: Women's 800m

Time: 2.16.64

Rank 61

Until a year ago, Rose Nathike Lokonyen barely knew the talent she had. She had never competed, even as an amateur, after fleeing war in South Sudan when she was 10 years old. Then, during a school competition in the refugee camp in northern Kenya where she lives, a teacher suggested that she run a 10-kilometre race. "I had not been training. It was the first time for me to run, and I came number two," she says, smiling. "I was very surprised!"

Rose has since moved to a training camp near the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, where she is preparing to run the 800-metre event at the Olympics. "I will be very happy and I will just work hard and prove myself," she says. She sees athletics not only as an avenue to earning prize money and endorsements, but also as a way to inspire others. "I will be representing my people there at Rio, and maybe if I succeed I can come back and conduct a race that can promote peace, and bring people together."

She is still worried about injuries, however. "That is my main challenge," she says. Until recently, she was not training with professional running shoes, and had no professional guidance. She still seems surprised that, in little over a year, she has risen to this point. "I can do running as sport or, now I see, even as a career."

"I WILL BE REPRESENTING MY PEOPLE THERE AT RIO, AND MAYBE IF I SUCCEED I CAN COME BACK AND CONDUCT A RACE THAT CAN PROMOTE PEACE, AND BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER."

CROSSING BOARDERS WITH BASKETBALL

Samuel Agok, 22 year old 7ft tall South Sudanese, is becoming a household name in basketball sport in Kakuma Refugee Camp. He might not have made it to 2016 Rio Olympic games to play but he has his eye set on the next Olympic Games. Aluer Kur spent an evening training session with him.

By Lual Manyang



Photo credit: Otieno Samuel

We grew up in a place where football was a religion, basketball was something unheard of and video halls where live football matches were aired were always crowded with kids more than Sunday school. When Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan were making headlines in the world of basketball, majority of Kakuma's kids were busy idolizing football icons like Ronaldo and Zidan. Currently basketball is taking over in popularity around the camp, and it has not only become a popular sport but it gives hope and a promise of a bright future for the youth in the camp.

When Sebit Samuel Agokk did his KCPE exams in 2011, despite passing very well, he had no hope of ever joining a competitive high school. Sebit a 22-year old South Sudanese, who is almost 2meters tall and a well-build has been playing and practicing basketball since primary school.

Things changed for Sebit when he met the principal of Kapenguria Boys High School who was amazed by his skyscraper height. Sebit and 4 other refugees were offered full scholarships to study and play basketball at Kapenguria Boys High School. He never disappointed and played with zeal to taking his school basketball team to the national level, the highest level of Kenya secondary sports in 2015.

Sebit has been working tirelessly to make a better future out of the little opportunities available to him. He

scored a mean grade of A minus (A-) in the 2015 KCSE examination. Sebit has been offered a World University of Canada Scholarship (WUSC) to go and pursue his higher learning.

When asked what basketball means to him, he simply says, “Basketball is my life. It gave me a future that I never imagined.”

Sebit encourages other refugee youth to continue playing basketball. Basketball is not just a sport, but also a rewarding career. Because of Sebit’s diligence and hard work, Kapenguria Boys High School takes young refugees who are into sports to play for them under scholarship annually.

Sebit is not the only refugee to benefit

from playing basket ball. Majur Mabior sat for his Kenya Certificate of Primary Education in the year 2012. He had no idea what the future had install for him. His well built, 7.2ft tall body got him noticed by a kenyan rap artist Octopizzo on his visit to Kakuma. Acknowledging his height as an asset in basketball, Octopizzo took a photo with him and uploaded it on social media immediately turning Mabior into an overnight internet sensation. This got Mabior noticed quickly earning him a scholarship and a chance to play highschool basketball in Philadelphia.

Most South Sudanese are endowed with the height and physique crucial in playing basketball. Limited resources in terms of the number of courts,

shoes, and balls pose a great challenge to aspiring professional basketball players. Coach Tong, the head coach of Hong Kong Pirates when asked about the future of the sport in South Sudan, he simply puts it “basketball is the future sports in South Sudan. If we can train and nurture these kids well, then the future is bright. These young refugees look up to their icon Lual Deng who plays for Miami Heat in NBA. Basketball gave hope to young Lual and these kids believe they can also take on the same path. The numbers of South Sudanese who plays in the Kenya basketball league is quite amazing. Ramandhan Aru and Lual play for the Kenya Ports Authority while Nicholas Anyang plays for Co-operative bank. These are refugees living a comfortable lifestyle through basketball.’

Photo credit: Otieno Samuel

“BASKETBALL IS THE FUTURE SPORTS
IN SOUTH SUDAN. IF WE CAN TRAIN
AND NURTURE THESE KIDS WELL,
THEN THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT”





“SINCE WAR HAS BECOME THE ORDER OF THE OF THE DAY IN THE COUNTRY I CAN’T TAKE TIME TO PLAY FOR MY COUNTRY”

OF PASSION AND WILL TOM NAMILO

By Mary Aluel

We live in a world a world where talent has become the best employer, meet Tom Namilo who is not only a great footballer in Kakuma but also the younger brother to Rose Nathike an athlete based in Kakuma Refugee Camp who took part in 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Tom arrived in Kakuma when he was only 13 years with his aunt and left the rest of his family members in war torn south Sudan, this was due to political unrest in his home country. His arrival in Kakuma led to a great transition in his life whereby he was able to discover his hidden potential in football as a result of the hardship he faced while in the camp.

Tom was enrolled in class 2 at Unity Primary School in the year 2010 shortly after his arrival into the camp. He is now a candidate in the same school. To Tom, Unity Primary School has been the place which has propelled him to greater heights in his talent. His passion for football made him join the school’s football team. This is where his prowess as a footballer was recognized and was seen as one of the great emerging talents in the camp. It was because of his great artistry in football that led to the entire school and his teammates nicknamed him ‘Bhebxzckhy 9’ as an honor to his favorite striking position. Already identified as a great talent, his school coach advised him to join a nearby local team where he could perfect his skills.

In 2010 Bhebxzckhy 9 joined the dreaded ‘Young Himodo

Team’ whose training ground was based near his home. His arrival in this team posed a great danger to nearby teams because beating the Young Himodo was becoming a pipe dream. Tom continued to shine as determination was his sole driving force. The ‘Young Himodo’ whose identity wanted to be recognized far and beyond later changed the team name to FC Kitale in 2014. With great talents like Tom, FC Kitale has been receiving trophy after trophy especially in the inter-community games. Tom whose mentor is a former Barcelona Forward Alexis Sanchez, has been behind the success of FC Kitale because he has stayed in blazing-scoring form since FC Kitale’s inception. Tom has also been selected by a coach called Daddy, LWF trainer for girls in football, to represent the team that was going to play in Kitale. Tom led his team in a glorious 3-1 win against the Invincible Baraka FC of Kitale in early August.

Tom who has already established himself as a great footballer is still not a happy man. His dream to play for his country (South Sudan) is still far from reach. “Since war has become the order of the of the day in the country I can only dream of playing for it one day.” He adds. All hope is not lost as LWF and UNHCR have promised to help start a football academy that will offer professional training for young talents like Tom.

For him and many other talented South Sudanese refugees their patriotic songs still sing in their hearts with the hope that one day their country’s National Anthem will be played in their honour.

“SEEING ANGELINA RUN IS AMAZING EVEN IF SHE DID NOT WIN. IT WAS A GOOD TRIAL CONSIDERING THIS WAS HER FIRST TIME. WE HOPE SHE MAKES IT NEXT TIME,

THOUSANDS GATHER TO WATCH LIVE OLYMPICS

By Istarline Abdi



Every night, hundreds of refugees from Kakuma gather to watch the 2016 Rio Olympic Games on larger than life screens in Kakuma 1 and Kakuma 4. The live screenings which are as a result of partnerships between FilmAid International, International Olympics Committee, the Olympic Broadcast Service, Globecast, Amnesty International, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has given a chance to refugees to not only watch but also to support five of their own as they compete against the world's best athletes. The screenings which run till late has also provided the much needed psychosocial relief to thousands of refugees. Speaking to some refugees and the host community during the screenings, The Refugee Magazine team established that most refugees did not know what the Olympic was. Some

were amazed at the different sports that they never thought existed. “I think these people are getting it all wrong. Are they tired of kicking the ball and why is the referee not giving them a red card for running with the ball in their hands and being so rough?” Says Margaret Nyandeng, 27 year old South Sudanese after watching women's rugby sevens. The live screenings also gave families and relatives of the Refugee Olympic Team a chance to watch their loved ones compete. “

“Seeing Angelina run is amazing even if she did not win. It was a good trial considering this was her first time. We hope she makes it next time,” says Margaret Akiye, sister to Olympic athlete Angelina Nadai after she watched her sister run live at Kakuma 1.





OUT & ABOUT

WITH MARY ALUEL

Still wondering what kind of dress code to step out in at any event and still look fashionable? Here is how to turn an idea of dream dress code into a stunning African Print Kitenges. These African Prints blend well when they are combine with modern designer clothes to give you that unique look in bold colors. It is a classic swag both for men and women. This month try them out and look fabulous

PHOTOGRAPHY: DHIEU LUAL
ASSISTANT: OTIENO SAMUEL
D.O.P: MARY ALUEL





POETIC FREEDOM

By Adau Akol Yak and Wiyier Lim

WHY ME!!

Refugee

Oh God! Achol! Achol! Where can my child be!

Why did I have to be of a different colour?

Why did my language have to be different?

Why did my religion have to be different?

If it weren't for that, I wouldn't have lost so many dear ones.

I wouldn't be living in a foreign land under harsh conditions.

I wouldn't have run for refuge elsewhere.

But I do see a ray of hope at the end of the tunnel.

Hope brought by God sent angels providing free basic needs and a place far from harm to call a home.

Hope of going back home, back to life once again.

Orphan

I regret that fateful day

Why did a special day in my life have to take a turn for the worst?

All because of a gift, I lost a part of me.

The crash took my parents lives.

My world is now empty, incomplete

without a hand to lead me in the dark.

Life has no meaning anymore and no joy of a family to experience.

Why did I have to lose the two most

important pillars in my life?

I will forever hold and cherish their

memories.

Halted Life

How wonderful it feels to be in this jelly-like surrounding.

Automatically receiving vital things for survival.

I thought I had it all until my world came crumbling down.

I was shocked to see a large vacuum sucking me out.

Everything happened so quickly and soon I was in pieces.

What level of cruelty is that?

Just because someone thought I was a mistake back then, I am now no more.

We will never know, I might have been the next big thing if given the chance.

Racially discriminated

Everywhere I go I have to be cautious.

Careful of how the human race defines

people by the color of their skin.

My skin color is something that is beyond my control, a matter of carbon and blood combining.

Due to that, fingers are always pointing at me, and haughty eyes canalizing my every move.

How wonderful it feels when it drums on all and sundry that what the mirror reflects is just a matter of clay.

But it's by intelligence and being humane that the world will move forward.

DEAR SUFFERERS!!

I am the plasmodium,

The destroyer of all the seven continents,

Africa is my slave,

America knows me well,

I am my own secretary,

Total death is uncountable and unpredictable,

Who wages war against me?

I live in the continent of Africa mostly,

I like Africa because I've got a lot of friends,

My work normally starts at half past six,

I always do my homework in the afternoon,

Who will wage a war against me?

I am the plasmodium,

Beware of me,

I like adults, older kids and young kids the best,

Have you ever seen a mosquito? That's me,

In a hundred years' time every mosquito will carry me,

Now I am in anopheles female mosquito,

Life will be very different, think!!!

Who will wage war against me?

I am the plasmodium, I hide in the mosquito

The mosquito is a critical thinker,

The mosquito is a team player,

The mosquito is my best friend,

The mosquito works under minimal

supervision,

Who will wage war against me?

I am the plasmodium,

Sometimes people feels faint and dizzy,

Hot, backache and headache,

Other symptoms follows,

Soon you will fade and die,

Who will wage war against me?

I am the plasmodium,

In a hundred years' time all our

environment will be full of mosquitoes,

The infection will be awful,

I hate malarial tablets,

Because they are against me,

Doctors will probably be able to cure most

illnesses,

Even mosquitoes will be richer and live

longer,

Who do you think, will wage war against me?

I am the plasmodium,

The mosquito takes me in bushy areas,

I like places with stagnant water,

But I don't like treated nets,

If your home is bushy,

I will come,

If your home area has stagnant water,

I will come,

But do you think you will escape from death?

So, who do you think will wage war against me?



THE STORY OF DETERMINATION

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