

Magongo News

A monthly update of events in Magongo, Mombasa, Kenya

Issue No 1

Magongo

Magongo is an outlying township some 10km northwest of Mombasa Island. This fringe community lacks any effective electricity, water or sewer systems, through a general lack of infrastructure. Poverty, lack of sanitation, and unemployment continue to be the greatest issues for the township, which have ensured low health and safety standards for its residents. Poor, lower class housing is widespread, ranging from simple stone, single storey structures to mud and earth homes fitted with corrugated iron roofs.



Street Children

is a term used to refer to children who live on the streets. They are deprived of family care and protection. Most children on the streets are between the ages of about 5 and 18 years old. Street children are those that are not taken care of by parents or other protective guardians. Street children live in abandoned buildings, cardboard boxes, parks or on the street itself. Some still sleep in a house but often with 'unsuitable' adults. One assumption might be that the children in question are to blame for their own situation; that their own misbehavior has caused them to live in the streets. This is seldom the case.



Children without homes belong to all of us.

Papasa

by Fredrick 'Bokey' Achola MOYO

We now have a Freelance Wednesday and an 100/= Friday. Two ladies from Denmark have started a program called 100/= to the children. This program has given MOYO 58 000 shillings enough to cover 16 papasa outings. We have therefore planned to have two papasa activities in a week as from this week.

Last week, only 17 boys came for papasa. They had been a street sloop by the police and the municipal askaries and over 60 boys were netted. The boys were taken to court and were charged with loitering on the streets. For those who agreed to the changes we given a sentence of two months while others were repatriated back to their rural homes.

Nicholas Karani is about 13 years old and looks so little. He has been on the streets for the last 6 years and is always on glue. The judge ordered that he should be taken back home and to school. He was given a government social worker to take him back home. Off they went but on reaching Nairobi, he was able to shake off the trained social worker.

Together with a friend called Kitiliti took a bigger risk than walking the streets of Bahgdada. They slipped under the Coast bus and traveled the over 540 kilometers from Nairobi to Mombasa holding onto the chases next to the exhaust pipe and near the rear wheels. They were back in Mombasa before the court officer.

Karani came straight to papasa, full of dust, hungry and sleepy. He played soccer, had a meal larger than the rest and was happy to be on the streets of Mombasa rather than be with his mother in Meru who always have different men every-night, sells changa and Miraa (drugs) and beats him so much.

This week, a total of 37 boys turned up.

Editors Note: In Swahili papasa means "hold gently" - Each week 'street children' come to Magongo for a morning of football. We supply clean water all day, and at lunchtime we pay for them to eat at a local kiosk, (café) they then rest/sleep and later we pay local buses (matatus) to take them back to the city. This weekly event is now being sponsored by Freelance World.

Nicholas Karani after his bus ride.



Papasa United from our August 2008 'Football Extravaganza'.



The boys in their new strip

You can see the Soccer AM programmes "Rocket in Africa" at www.GladsHouse.com/events.asp