

MATHARE YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Giving youth a sporting chance



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Mathare Youth, Diplomats and Diplomacy 1987 - 2010

The Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) was founded in August 1987 by Bob Munro, a former Canadian civil servant and diplomat as well as a senior policy adviser on environment and sustainable development to the United Nations and many African countries, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. Bob started MYSA as a payback and tribute to the volunteer fathers who organized and coached the youth ice hockey and baseball leagues for him and his friends during the 1950s in the small town of St. Catharines. He also started MYSA so the kids in the Mathare slums could have the same chance to learn and benefit from sports as he and his friends had.

MYSA is the worldwide pioneer in linking sport with community service and development activities. From the outset, MYSA has been an innovative development project which uses sport as a starting point for a wide range of community development activities such as clearing the accumulated garbage and blocked drains, preventing the spread of AIDS, stopping drug and alcohol abuse, feeding and freeing jailed kids, training and educating local youth leaders, establishing new slum libraries and study halls and, in addition to sports, providing training in photography, gymnastics, music, dance, drama and puppetry.

The most distinctive feature of MYSA, and the main reason for its success, is the organization is owned and managed by the youth themselves. Today, over 20,000 youth on over 1,600 teams in 16 zones participate in MYSA's self-help youth sports and community service programmes. The largest of the 16 MYSA zones is Kayole with over 2,000 youth on 127 teams. The elected chair of the Kayole Executive Committee is Charity Muthoni. On January 18, 2010, Charity celebrated her 12th birthday. Even FIFA acknowledges she is likely the youngest elected football official in the world.

MYSA leaders and trainers also advise and assist youth in other poor communities in and outside Kenya. For example, MYSA has assisted the Moving the Goalposts Project for girls in Kilifi District and initiated the Kakuma refugee camp project for youth from eight neighbouring countries. MYSA leaders also helped set up similar youth sports and community service projects in Botswana, Tanzania, Uganda and southern Sudan. With the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) Academy, MYSA instructors have led KNVB/MYSA courses in Botswana, Cape Verde, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, southern Sudan, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Over the last two decades, MYSA itself has benefited from the advice and assistance of many experts, diplomats and sports ambassadors from different countries and international organizations. MYSA youth and teams have themselves also served as sports ambassadors for Kenya and in the mid-1990s even helped in the restoration of diplomatic ties with Norway. MYSA also helped inspire the new StreetFootballWorld global network of sport and development NGOs and the new FIFA Football for Hope initiative.

A chronological and annotated summary follows on some highlights on the Mathare youth, diplomats and diplomacy. Some relevant photographs are included in Annex 2.

1987 - Former Canadian Ambassador the first MYSA donor

MYSA started in August 1987 and former Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. David Miller, and his wife, Chantal (a UN interpreter), were the first MYSA donors with a personal contribution of Ksh 10,000.

1988 - UN diplomat gets Aston Villa shirts for Mathare youth

UNEP adviser Robert Lamb, an avid football fan, often went to MYSA youth matches and was surprised to find a team playing in the MYSA Dandora Zone named after his favourite team, Aston Villa. On his return to England, he arranged with Aston Villa Chairman Doug Ellis for a donation to MYSA of a set of Aston Villa shirts. The MYSA U18 boys team proudly wore them in their first big tournament,

the Kenya U18 Youth Tournament in Nakuru in December 1988. They were by far the best dressed team and also won the tournament. That was the first trophy ever won by a MYSA team.

1989 - Denmark/DANIDA the first MYSA aid donor

Denmark/DANIDA became MYSA's first official aid donor with financial support for the MYSA garbage, drainage ditch and environmental cleanups plus donating the MYSA Community Service Cup which is still awarded annually to the MYSA team with the best record on cleanup projects. The key Denmark/DANIDA officer in Kenya was Bo Jensen (who is now the Danish Ambassador to Kenya).

1989 - Former Canadian ambassador helps clear Mathare garbage

In April 1989 former Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. David Miller, and Brigadier Shigoli of the Nairobi City Council helped MYSA youth clear the accumulated garbage and blocked drainage ditches in Mathare Village 1.

1989-90 - Danish Ambassador referees matches in slums

On Saturdays, Danish Ambassador H.E. Erik Fill often drove the two kilometres from his official ambassadorial residence in the nearby Muthaiga suburb to referee MYSA youth matches at the PCEA field in Eastleigh.

1989 - Norwegian Environment Minister supports MYSA slum cleanups

The Norwegian Minister of Environment, the Hon. Sissel Ronbeck, donated funds for MYSA to buy over 100 wheelbarrows plus rakes and shovels for use in the MYSA cleanup projects.

1990 - Norwegian Environment Minister donates first Norway Cup air tickets

In May 1990 the Norwegian Minister of Environment, the Hon. Sissel Ronbeck, in recognition of the innovative MYSA garbage and environmental cleanup projects, donated the air tickets for the first MYSA team (U18 boys) to participate in the Norway Cup, the world's oldest and largest international youth football tournament. Today MYSA is ranked second after Brazilian club Pequininos in the number of gold medals won since the Norway Cup started in 1972.

1990 - MYSA youth attend their first diplomatic reception

In early July 1990 the Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Niels Dahl, invited the MYSA leaders and Norway Cup (U18 boys) team to his official residence for a reception. That was the first time any MYSA youth attended a diplomatic reception ... and the first time any MYSA youth had been outside Kenya as the property of embassies and ambassadorial residences are extra-territorial.

1990 - MYSA youth become Kenyan sports ambassadors

On July 18, 1990 the President of Kenya, H.E. Daniel arap Moi, received the MYSA U18 team at State House in Nairobi. He presented the team with a Kenya flag and designated them as "young sports ambassadors for Kenya" when they travel later that month to participate in the Norway Cup in Oslo.

1990-94 - Norwegian diplomat becomes "MYSA Ambassador to Norway"

After the breaking of diplomatic relations between Kenya and Norway, Norway appointed diplomat Arman Aardal as its Charge d'Affaires and UN Representative in Kenya. As his bilateral diplomatic duties and activities in Kenya were limited, he spent a lot of time at MYSA and became an active and informal "MYSA Ambassador to Norway". For example, he helped secure continued Norwegian financial support for MYSA teams for the 1992 and subsequent Norway Cups plus special funding to start the first MYSA girls football leagues and activities.

1992 - Pelé and MYSA youth become UN environment ambassadors

In 1991-92, vigilante groups and police in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil were murdering street kids. At that time, MYSA founder Bob Munro was a senior adviser to UN Under-Secretary-General Maurice Strong, the UN head for the 1992 Earth Summit to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. Munro, already the adopted father of three Kenyan street boys (Waithaka, Kareithi and Maina), proposed to Strong that he appoint Pelé as a special representative for the conference and ask Pelé to first appeal to the Brazilian government to stop the murders of the street kids. Strong also told Pelé about what the streetkids and youth in the Mathare slums were doing to help themselves and their community through their innovative self-help sports and environmental cleanup projects. Pelé then invited and personally promised to pay for the accommodation, food and local transportation for a MYSA U16 boys team to participate in a special Eco-92 youth tournament against different Brazilian youth teams during the UN Earth Summit. The MYSA U16 boys won three of the five matches and stunned Pelé and other Brazilians by outscoring the five different Brazilian youth teams by 26-11 goals. Pelé even invited two top MYSA players to stay and train in Brazil, MYSA striker Maurice

Wambua and midfielder Francis Kimanzi. But both youth decided to return to Kenya to continue their education and football career. A few years later, Wambua became the first Mathare player on the Harambee Stars, then used his football skills to get a US college scholarship and is now a lecturer in mathematics at an American university. In 2008, Kimanzi became the most successful nation coach in Kenya football history, taking Harambee Stars from 120 to 68th in the FIFA world rankings. The goalkeeper of that 1992 team, Peter Karanja, is the present MYSA Executive Director.

1992 - MYSA youth awarded global environment prize at Earth Summit in Brazil

UNEP Executive Director Mustafa Tolba invited a MYSA youth leader to attend the UN Earth Summit in Rio where, at a special session during the conference, he presented MYSA with the Global 500 Prize for environmental innovation and achievement.

1993 - MYSA youth help fight racism in Norway

In the early 1990s the town of Brumunddal had the worst reputation in Norway for neo-Nazi rallies and racism. With the help of the Norwegian Football Association, the Brumunddal U16 boys team came for a visit to MYSA and the Mathare slums in December 1993. After that visit, the Brumunddal team started wearing a playing shirt with this message written on the back: "Turn your back on racism". The Mathare U13 boys team were also invited and lived with host families in Brumunddal for ten days before the 1994 Norway Cup and undertook community service and other activities in the town together with the youth and host parents. MYSA teams have stayed in Brumunddal every year since then. Many families and youth from Brumunddal have also visited MYSA and Mathare in the last 15 years. In 1999 this youth MYSA-Brumunddal youth project and exchange won an award during the Council of Europe's campaign and European Year against Racism.

1995 - MYSA youth facilitate new Norway-Kenya diplomatic ties

Kenyan Minister for Culture and Social Services, the Hon. Nyiva Mwendwa, became the first Kenyan Minister to make an official visit to Norway since diplomatic relations were broken in 1990. The Minister was at the World Athletic Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden at the same time as the 1995 Norway Cup and promised the MYSA youth she would come to Oslo if they succeeded in qualifying for the championship final.

They did, so on the Friday before the final the MYSA leaders contacted the office of Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland who confirmed and facilitated the visit of the Kenyan Minister who also had meetings while there with other Norwegian Ministers and key government officials (full diplomatic relations were restored between the two countries two years later). The Kenyan Minister attended the Norway Cup finals and also presented the trophy and gold medals to the winners ... the MYSA U13 boys team. Those were the first gold medals won by a MYSA team at the Norway Cup. Today, MYSA is ranked second in gold medals won in the 38-year history of the Norway Cup.

1997 - MYSA youth addresses UNEP Governing Council

In recognition of the pioneering work of MYSA youth in linking sport with environmental cleanups, MYSA Director Maurice Njoroge was invited to address the 19th Session of the UNEP Governing Council at the UN Headquarters at Gigiri on February 5, 1997. His remarks included:

"A major threat to our lives is one of UNEP's top concerns - clean water. The Mathare river is badly polluted and dangerous. We can't use it without getting sick. We must buy our clean water. For that water we pay 3 to 4 times more than the Ambassadors and big businessmen living in the elite Muthaiga area next door. When water is scarce, we get less and pay even more. Then during the rainy seasons we're surrounded for weeks by too much water which is contaminated by piles of uncollected garbage. Then even more kids get sick and die, especially from diarrhoea. *When it rains, our younger brothers and sisters die of dehydration.*

That is the hardest thing to understand or accept. How can anyone possibly justify that we, the poor, pay more than the rich for water? The real cost isn't only in money. We, the poor, also pay more in lost health and lost lives for the lack of clean water. Land is also a key issue. Our families are crammed into small plots and shelters, most owned by others. We live on borrowed time and land. But for land, like water and too many other resources, there would be enough to meet everyone's need if we eliminated greed ...

There are many other youth initiatives to protect and improve the local environment around the world. Instead of only "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally", we also need to act globally the way many community and youth groups are acting locally.

When you were young, did you dream that some day you would be sitting here representing

your country and deciding on the future of the planet? I and my friends, we dream that we might get that chance someday. But we also dream that we might get a better chance to improve our lives today *and* to influence your decisions that will affect our lives tomorrow.

The motto of our organization is "Give youth a sporting chance". I want to extend that a bit and ask you all to apply it in the decisions you make here and at home. Please make sure in *every* decision that you give the poor majority, the environment and us - the youth and future generations - a fair and 'sporting chance' for a healthier, longer and productive life."

1997 - MYSA approach influences aid policies and inspires other NGOs

When MYSA started in 1987, most aid donors did not regard sport as a development activity. Only Denmark and Norway provided early financial support to MYSA. However, in the early 1990s as MYSA expanded its activities linking sport with community service and development activities and gradually became better known in and outside Kenya, more aid donors started taking notice and began adding sport and development activities in their aid policies and programmes. Also, by the mid-1990s more sports and community-based organizations adopted or adapted the MYSA approach. Today there are over 100 sports and development projects and organizations worldwide.

One prominent example of MYSA's influence is the statement by Lord Newby on international development policy in the UK House of Lords on November 10, 1997. Excerpts from his statement follow:

"Those who attended the Commonwealth Sports Conference a few weeks ago were privileged to hear about the Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) which is based in the huge poverty-stricken shanty town on the outskirts of Nairobi. That association not only runs footballing activities but also contributes to every aspect of the development process. For example, before anyone is allowed to play football, they must help to collect garbage or unblock the perpetually blocked drainage ditches. Each has to receive AIDS counselling and stop taking drugs.

Furthermore, the footballing heroes tell them to stay at school and by and large they do so. The association encourages girls to participate in sports activities and in decision-making. The association runs itself, encouraging the concepts of good governance and accountability among its largely teenage members. They are also extremely ... and worryingly ... good footballers.

The imagination, maturity and success of those who run the Mathare project challenge the perception of many people about the ability of the poor and the young in the most unpromising circumstances to help themselves. It also demonstrates that sport is not simply a frivolous adjunct to real life but can be a very powerful force for personal and community development.

The White Paper should make it easier for the Government to support the type of project that I have described this afternoon. In doing so, it offers the prospect of empowering some of the world's poorest individuals and communities to haul themselves out of poverty on a sustainable basis. Therefore, it deserves our strong support."

1997 - MYSA highlighted in UN report on AIDS

"MYSA demonstrates how, through a judicious combination of sporting and educational activities, young men and women can overcome traditional gender biases and relate to one another with mutual respect and understanding." Glen Williams, Lucy Ndanga and John Ngugi, UNAIDS Strategies for Hope, November 1997

1998 - Former Canadian Ambassador helps Mathare United rise to Kenyan Premier League

Since starting in 1994, Mathare United climbed rapidly through the lower leagues and won promotion to the 1997 National Super League. The team eagerly took to the field but were soon dismayed to find it was impossible to win away matches due to biased and corrupt referees. That year the team lost a lot of points in away matches yet only missed promotion to the Premier League by one point.

For the 1998 season, former Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. David Miller, kindly donated a video camera to the team. It wasn't one of the small and light modern models but a huge and clunky camera with a shoulder bag for the heavy battery pack. That year our Team Manager, Maurice Njoroge, became really fit. During all our away matches Maurice ran up and down the sidelines with the camera constantly pointed straight at the referees.

Not used to being movie stars, the referees became far more cautious and correct. But the team had a dark secret. What the referees didn't know and never discovered was that the camera was broken and the team did not have enough money to fix it.

That camera never worked but the technique did. In 1998 Mathare United earned more points from

away matches and won promotion to the Premier League.

1998 - Norway Environment Minister donates garbage trucks/tractors to MYSA

In 1996 the Norwegian Environment Minister, the Hon. Thorbjorn Berntsen, took time off from a UNEP Governing Council meeting in Nairobi to visit his friends in MYSA and the Mathare slums. Overwhelmed by the awful living conditions in the slums but moved by the friendliness and determination of the youth he met, he asked what he could do. He was surprised when the answer was "help us get some garbage trucks and tractors to clear the garbage better and faster. He did. On May 23, 1998 his successor as the Norwegian Environment Minister, the Hon. Guro Fjellanger, came to MYSA and handed over two tipper garbage trucks plus two tractors, each with a front-loading shovel and a ditch digger at the back.

1999 - MYSA youth become peacemakers to help UN restore peace in refugee camp

In late 1999, after hearing on their radios that SPLA soldiers from Ekitoria region had reportedly raided their home area, the Dinka and other smaller Sudanese communities in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwest Kenya retaliated by burning and looting the thatched homes of refugees from Ekitoria. Armed with guns and other crude weapons, that outburst of inter-ethnic violence left six dead and over 30 injured.

The Kakuma refugee camp was established in 1992 under the management of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in cooperation with the World Lutheran Federation (WLF). By 1999 the camp was home to over 70,000 refugees. Nearly 70% of the refugees were from southern Sudan. The remaining 30% were from seven other countries: Somalia, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Eritrea..

At the request of the UNHCR and WLF and with the financial support of the Dutch government through the Netherlands National Olympic Committee/National Sports Federation and Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB), in early 1999 some MYSA youth leaders and two Dutch volunteers went to the camp to help start new self-help youth sports and community development programmes similar to those pioneered by MYSA over the previous decade in the Mathare slums.

The first major challenge and key aim of the new Kakuma sports programme was to break through the ethnic barriers which divided the camp and dominated the previous sports activities. A second major challenge was to break through the gender barriers as there was initially a lot of cultural resistance to allowing girls to participate in sports activities. A third major challenge was breaking through the dependency syndrome which is easy to adopt when you have spent a decade or more of your life as a dependent refugee living in a camp in a foreign country. A fourth challenge, as in the Mathare slums, was to link the sports activities to social and health risks facing the young refugees and especially to new initiatives on reproductive health issues such as family planning plus AIDS awareness and prevention. A fifth challenge was to integrate youth with physical and mental disabilities into the sports activities as they had been neglected and largely ignored previously.

In only 18 months, the new self-help youth sport and community development programme in the Kakuma refugee camp and town succeeded in breaking down barriers and prejudices between the different nationalities and ethnic groups, between boys and girls, between the disabled and non-disabled youth and between the refugees and Kenyan youth in the nearby town.

An evaluation report in mid-2000 concluded that the new programme "played a role in changing the mentality of society members. According to many people, including the UNHCR head of sub-office, the community leaders and police officers, the project has a very positive influence on the Kakuma society, especially on the young people in the camp and in Kakuma town. Sport keeps the youth busy so they are less bored and have less time for wantonness ... It is obvious there are less tensions since the programme started. And if problems occur, they will be solved in a less violent way. People know each other from the sports field and, secondly, they have learned to respect each other and to solve problems other than by fighting ... as people are brought together and get familiar, there is more understanding for each others problems."

The evaluation also reported that the UNHCR head of the Kakuma refugee camp "stated that he considers the programme as the most cost-effective project in the camp. With a relatively modest budget the impact is enormous in the sense that there is less violence and destruction, this less protection and restoration is needed. The programme makes people aware of their responsibilities and opportunities. The community service done by sports volunteers such as the cleaning of living areas and tree planting would otherwise be very costly or not done. There is also some income generating for the population as part of the sports materials are locally produced."

A later and separate evaluation concluded that "multi-tribal and multi-national teams are competing in the Kakuma Sports Association leagues. Before teams were competing on tribal and national lines. Sport has helped to reduce crowd and opponent violence during matches. It has provided a unifying forum. The Kakuma all-star team is also a multi-national team. The local Turkana Community and the refugees also now interact freely. The supreme Sports Council is multi-national with members elected from all the nationalities living in Kakuma The stepping up of sports activities in the camp has kept a lot of youths very active helping to reduce the tension in the camp. Given stable conditions, sports has gone a long way in promoting peace and harmony in the camp."

Many of those who benefited and excelled in the sport and community development training programmes in the Kakuma camp were refugees from southern Sudan. As an extension of that programme in the camp, it was agreed that when they returned home, they would provide a nucleus and network of trained expertise for starting similar self-help youth sports and community development projects in southern Sudan. It was also agreed that MYSA would try to help them get the funding needed to start and expand such projects when they returned home.

In 2005, after the successful peace talks and signing of eight protocols earlier that year, MYSA started a pilot project in the town of Rumbek in southern Sudan which was then the administrative capital. Some of the key youth leaders involved in the Kakuma sport and development programme were from Rumbek and they as well as SPLM leaders wanted to test the MYSA approach in a pilot project which could then be adapted and expanded to other communities in southern Sudan.

Another reason for focusing on Rumbek was that it was "at the centre of the Child Soldiers Demobilisation Programme in 2001 that saw over 3,000 children demobilized and placed in a child care centre in Rumbek for orientation and reintegration into civil society. The child soldiers underwent a programme aimed at reintegrating them into civil society through education, psycho-social support and vocational training." Those youth were part of defending their communities in southern Sudan and deserved the chance to help re-build them. That project in Rumbek is still continuing.

2001- MYSA highlighted in book on "Unlikely Heroes" in Africa

"MYSA is different to other aid organizations as its 'core business' is sports. Inside there are no sociologists walking around, only young people in tracksuits MYSA is the largest young people's organization of its kind in Africa. The unusual thing about MYSA is that it is run by the young people." Marc Broere, "Unlikely Heroes: The Dynamics of African Sports", 2001.

2002 - MYSA highlighted as a pioneer in UN report

"MYSA has been a pioneer in many respects. It has been on the forefront in defining the links between youth development and environmental issues in sub-Saharan Africa and it has been one of the only youth sports organizations in Africa that has encouraged girls' participation." Martha Brady and Arjmand Banu Khan, "Letting Girls Play", Population Council, 2002.

2003 - Mathare United named as model CECAFA Club

"Kids from the Mathare Valley begin life with the odds stacked against them and the road from slum boy to superstar is tough to say the least. But those who begin their sporting careers with MYSA have shown that the combined ingredients of competition, discipline, community service, successful role models and a desire to succeed, can produce the best in the business." Hilary Atkins, "A Model CECAFA Club", Council of East and Central African Football Associations Bulletin, January 2003

2006 - MYSA praised as international role models by UN-HABITAT Executive Director

"The young people who run MYSA demonstrate a high degree of professionalism, combining competitive sports, discipline and community service. They successfully act as role models for their peers. By looking up to their older brothers and sisters, the children of Mathare can start life with greater hope and confidence even though the road ahead is fraught with difficulty. It is a message of hope that we all need to heed and learn from." UN-HABITAT Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka, "Image-in the MDGs", June 2006.

2006 - French Captain Marcel Desailly on MYSA and power of sport

"The story of these kids here is so harsh yet they are being offered hope through sport. I have seen where these young kids come from and it is a credit to themselves and MYSA that many of them are able to turn their lives around. Going through Mathare was a nightmare. But sport can give them pride and help build self-esteem. This is a clear example of how sport can make a difference to the lives of so many young people." Former French national team Captain Marcel Desailly, Daily Telegraph, UK, November 1, 2006

2006 - Olympic champion Michael Johnson cites MYSA youth as role models

"While athletes and celebrities are repeatedly touted as heroes and role models, it is the everyday person - who has pulled themselves out of a difficult or hopeless situation and who shares that story and the lessons they've learned with others to help them to do the same - who are the real heroes and the real role models. That is precisely what I found in the program directors and coaches of the MYSA project, true role models." Olympic Champion Michael Johnson, Daily Telegraph, UK, Saturday, November 18, 2006

2007 - Sir Bobby Charlton on the "most remarkable football club in the world"

BBC: "There is a quote in your book on "the most remarkable football club in the world ..." And it's *not* Manchester United. It's the Mathare football club In Nairobi. What makes you say that?"

Sir Bobby Charlton: "I am a member of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation which is a worldwide body. What they do is they fund projects which we go into. I first went to Kenya to one of the first projects we had. And there was this young lad in the slums of Nairobi, Peter was his name. I met him and we went and had a look at the slums, one of the second worst and largest slums in Africa. They started organizing their own football teams in little leagues on any little bit of spare ground. What they did was they gave two points for a win, a point for a draw and a point if you went in to clean up the slums on a Saturday. And everyone came and wanted to play for this team. It was a magical idea. Eventually they won the league, won the championship and represented them in the African Champions League and were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize."

Interview with Sir Bobby Charlton by Chris Mitchell, BBC World Service, September 8, 2007

2008 - Mathare youth: Football heals in Kenya after post-election violence

Drawn from different tribes, the [MYSA] children have also put Kenya on the international football map when they won the first FIFA StreetFootballWorld Cup in Germany in 2006. It is against this background of being society builders that the children of Mathare survived the trauma of the inter-tribal clashes between the Luos and Kikuyus in late December ... Some of the children and their families sought protection at the Mathare police station where officers decided to allow matches at a nearby pitch and, more importantly, provide security during the games. *AGENCE FRANCE PRESS, "Football heals in Kenya", February 10, 2008*

2010 - Made-in-Mathare juala ball in Olympic Museum

"A very special football, made by children in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, found a new home at The Olympic Museum on Wednesday as a symbol of the inspirational power of sport and the close cooperation between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations. IOC President Jacques Rogge accepted the makeshift football from HRH Princess Haya Al Hussein, an IOC member and a UN Messenger of Peace, and Wilfried Lemke, the UN's special adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, at a brief ceremony at The Museum.

"This ball was made from discarded material, but it represents something priceless. Sport changes people's lives, whether they live in a mansion or a refugee camp. This simple football symbolizes the cooperation between the IOC and the UN to bring the uplifting power of sport to those in need. It is a welcome addition to a museum that showcases and celebrates the Olympic values and athletic achievement," Rogge said.

The ball, fashioned from plastic bags, newspaper and string, took a circuitous path to Lausanne. It was given to the UN Special Adviser as a present by a young man from community sports project in one of the Nairobi slums. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon initially delivered the football to the IOC at the opening of the XIII Olympic Congress on 3 October 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark. After being signed by Rogge and the Secretary-General, it went to Dubai, where it was auctioned at a charity event hosted by Princess Haya and Lemke.

The football fetched USD 205,000 (Ksh 15m) on a night that raised more than USD 848,000 for sports programmes for children and youth in Palestine. The donor returned the football to allow its installation in The Olympic Museum. The ball was presented to The Olympic Museum three months after the UN General Assembly gave the IOC official UN Observer status. This solidifies the institutional bonds between the two organizations and gives the IOC the right to participate in UN debates". See "Special football finds a home in The Olympic Museum", January 20, 2010, www.olympic.org

ANNEX 1 MYSA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

1992 UNEP Global 500 Award for environmental innovation and achievement (Rio de Janeiro)
1999 Global Help for Self-Help Prize by the Strømme Foundation (Oslo)
1999 MYSA/Brumunddal project cited as a model for the European Year against Racism (Strasbourg)
2000 First Project of the World Sports Academy/Laureus Sport for Good Foundation (Monaco)
2001 First CAF African Youth Development Award (Johannesburg)
2002 Named CECAFA Model Club for East and Central Africa (Kigale)
2003 Prince Claus Award for cultural achievement (Amsterdam)
2003 MYSA nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize (Oslo)
2004 World Sports Academy/Laureus Sport for Good Award (Lisbon)
2004 MYSA re-nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize (Oslo)
2004 International Fair Play Prize (Athens)
2008 Score4Africa Award for best and most innovative environmentally sustainable project (London)
2010 Common Ground Award for community and peace building achievements (Washington)

ANNEX 2 SOME RELEVANT MYSA PHOTOS

1989 #1



Danish Ambassador H.E. Erik Fiil presents the new MYSA Community Service Cup to MYSA Executive Council Chairman Calvin Mbugua and MYSA Sports Council Chairman Betty Wetaya at the PCEA field in March 1989.

1989 #2

Youths clean up Mathare



Brig. Shigoli (right), Mr David Miller of the President's Office, area Chief Mr Charles Nyambisa and Mr Bob Munro of MYSA (in a cap) taking part in yesterday's clean-up at Mathare.

— Picture by Jacob Waweru.

SUNDAY STANDARD April 23, 1989

NAIROBI City Commission's Special Director of Civil Operations, Brigadier Wilson Shigoli, yesterday led a team of Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) and City Commission staff in a clean-up operation of Nairobi's Mathare Valley.

Brigadier Shigoli said the commission had the responsibility of making the lives of all residents comfortable irrespective of their physical nature or social status.

The clean-up which was organised by the MYSA will continue up to November 20.

Yesterday's exercise started at Mugumoini between Mathare villages one and two and will include Huruma, Eastleigh, Kariobangi, Dandora and Ngomongo.

Brig. Shigoli commended the MYSA for joining hands with the Commission to make the city clean. He urged local wananchi to join the campaign. Others in the campaign were Mr David Milla from the Office of President, Mr Charles Nambisa, the area Chief, and Assistant Chief, Mr Banido Matoya.

The MYSA was established in August 1987 to create opportunities for self and community development for and by youth in Mathare and neighbouring areas.

City Commission's Director of Civil Operations, Brigadier Wilson Shigoli, yesterday appealed to members of the public to emulate Mathare Youth Sports Association by cleaning their residential areas.

Mr Shigoli was addressing a team of Nairobi City Commission cleansing staff and over 1,000 youth from Mathare and neighbouring estates who turned up to clean the Mathare slum area.

The youth and a team of cleansing department staff cleared blocked drainage and swept away litter from the narrow streets of Mathare Estate.

Mr Shigoli commended the youth who participated in the clean-up. The Mathare youth chairman Mr Fred Chege told *Sunday Times* that his association had grouped youth into Pumwani, Mathare, Kariobangi and Dandora zones.

Meanwhile, Mr Shigoli has assured Nairobi residents that the City Commission had acquired enough dustbins for their use.

Mr Shigoli asked those without dustbins to collect them from the various collection centres in the city by presenting the water bills.



The Mathare Youth Sports Association members cleaning up the Mathare Valley when they were visited by the Nairobi City Commission director of civic operations, Brigadier Shigoli and other guests. The association was formed in August 1987.

— Picture by JEREMIAH KAMAU

SUNDAY TIMES April 23, 1989

Former Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. David Miller, and Brigadier Shigoli of the Nairobi City Council help MYSA youth clear garbage in Mathare Village 1 in April 1989. Photo: *Sunday Standard*, April 23, 1989.

1989 #3

UN diplomat Robert Lamb and his son Gus receive new Aston Villa FC uniforms for MYSA from Aston Villa Chairman Doug Ellis before the Aston Villa vs Tottenham Hot Spurs match at Villa Park.

1989 #4

MYSA U18 team wearing their newly donated Aston Villa uniforms after winning the Kenyan National U18 Youth Tournament in Nakuru in December 1988. That is the first trophy ever won by MYSA.

1990 #1

Kenya President H.E. Daniel arap Moi and former Canadian High Commissioner David Miller with the MYSA U18 team at State House in Nairobi on July 18, 1990 when he presented the team with a Kenya flag and designated them as "young sports ambassadors for Kenya" when they travel later that month to participate in the Norway Cup in Oslo. Photo: *Saturday Standard*, July 21, 1990.

1990 #2

MYSA U18 Captain David Thiru with youth from other countries celebrating their international "Colourful Friendship" at the Norway Cup in Oslo in July 1990. Two years later, David became the first MYSA youth to earn a Certificate in Business Administration. He then worked for Norsk Hydro before re-joining MYSA in 1999. David is now MYSA's Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Executive Director.

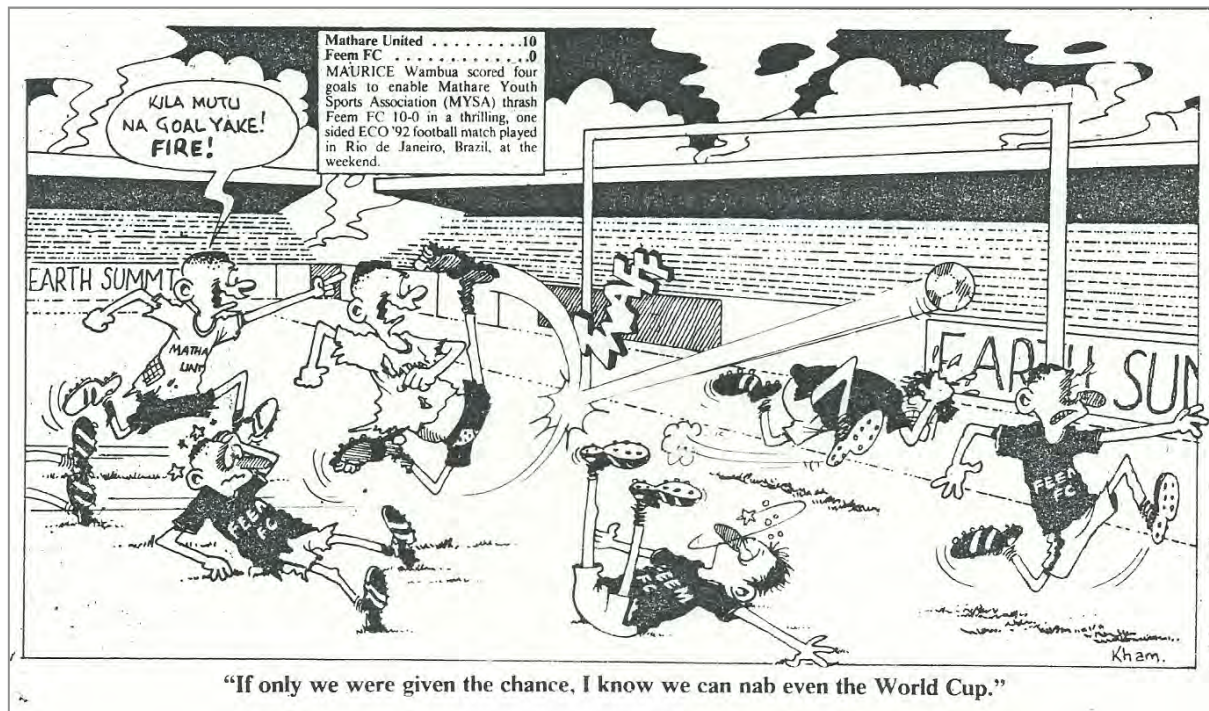
1992 #1

MYSA youth leader John Kabure holds aloft the 1992 UNEP Global 500 Prize awarded to MYSA for its “environmental innovation and achievement” at the 1992 UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992.

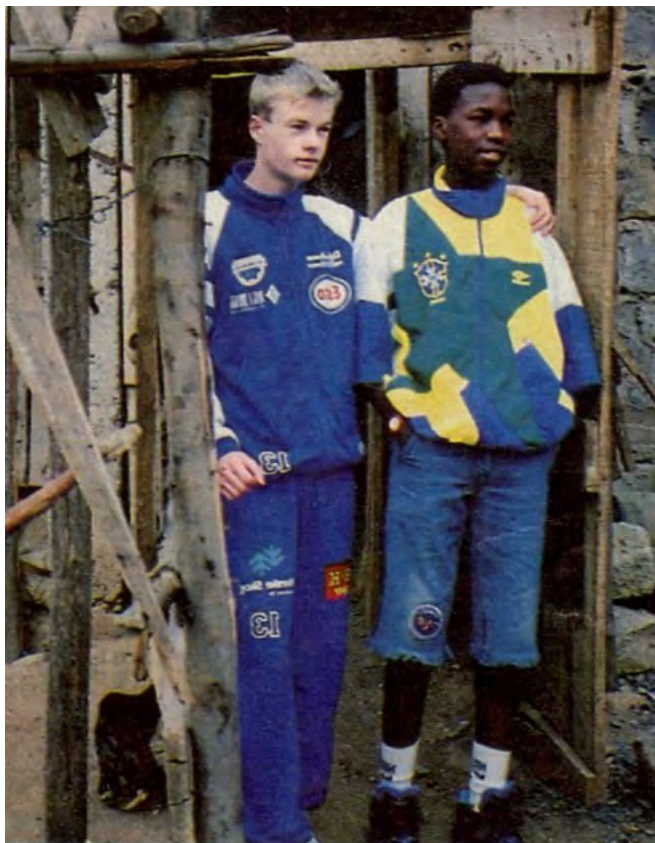
1992 #2

MYSA U16 Captain Maurice Wambua with Pelé at the 1992 Earth Summit and Eco-92 Youth Tournament in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992. A few years later, Wambua became the first Mathare player on the Kenyan national Harambee Stars team, then used his academic and football skills to get a US college scholarship and is now a lecturer in mathematics at an American university.

1992 #3



1993



1994



In July 1994 a Brumunddal youth shows off the new shirts for combating racism in Norway which has "Turn your back on racism" printed on the back. Also in the photo are the Brumunddal Police Chief Roy Hakerud (wearing the Tusker T-shirt) and, in the foreground wearing the Police Chief's hat, MYSA founder Bob Munro's youngest son Maina. Behind him in the white shirt is his middle son, Kareithi.

1995



Kenyan Minister of Culture and Social Services, the Hon. Nyiva Mwendwa, with the MYSA U16 boys team at the 1995 Norway Cup in Oslo in July 1995. Arranged by MYSA and especially founder Bob Munro who also served as a senior policy adviser to Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, this was the first official visit by a Kenyan Minister to Norway since the restoration of Kenya-Norway diplomatic relations only a few months earlier. Also in 1995, the U12 boys became the first MYSA team to win gold medals at the Norway Cup. Today, MYSA is second to a club from Brazil for the most gold medals won at the Norway Cup.

1998

On May 23, 1998 the Norwegian Environment Minister, the Hon. Guro Fjellanger, came to MYSA and handed over two tipper garbage trucks plus two tractors, each with a front-loading shovel and a ditch digger at the back. Photo: *Daily Nation*, June 11, 1998.

2005 #1

Unloading at Rumbek airport in South Sudan of the football uniforms and equipment donated by MYSA for the demobilized child soldiers and other youth in the Rumbek Youth Sports Association (RYSA) project founded and assisted by MYSA with the support of the KNVB/Royal Netherlands Football Association Academy.

2005 #2

MYSA/KNVB training session for new leaders and coaches in the Rumbek Youth Sports Association (RYSA) in South Sudan.

2005 #3

South Sudan's Minister of Sport (in orange dress) with the MYSA Chairman, the MYSA/KNVB instructors and the new leaders and coaches in the Rumbek Youth Sports Association (RYSA).

2009

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon uses a Made-in-Mathare *juala* football to illustrate his opening keynote address on the important contributions which sport can make in promoting both development and peace at the XIII International Olympic Committee (IOC) Congress in Copenhagen on October 3, 2009. He then presented the ball to IOC President Jacques Rogge who in turn presented it to HRH Princess Haya, an IOC member and UN Messenger of Peace.

2010 #1

HRH Princess Haya put the Made-in-Mathare *juala* ball in a charity auction event for Palestinian children which she hosted in Dubai. The *juala* ball was auctioned for USD 205,000 (Ksh 15m), the highest amount in the auction which also included Chelsea FC shirts signed by all the players as well as other items signed by tennis stars Roger Federer and Serena Williams. The donor generously returned the *juala* ball which in January 2010, as shown in the above photo, was presented back to IOC President Jacques Rogge (far left) by HRH Princess Haya (centre) and UN Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, Wilfried Lemke. The *juala* ball was then put on permanent display in the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

2010 #2

UN Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace Wilfried Lemke (with microphone) and UN Special Envoy to Stop TB Jorge Sampaio (in beige hat) address the closing ceremony of a 4-day MYSA tournament with educational workshops for school children aimed at creating more awareness about the fight against TB and HIV/AIDS, two of the biggest killer diseases in Africa. The small girl standing with them is their host, 11-year old Charity Muthoni, the elected Chair of the Zonal Executive Committee in Kayole, the largest of the 16 MYSA zones. FIFA acknowledged Charity as likely the youngest elected football official in the world.

2010 #3

MYSA was one of the first FIFA designated Football for Hope Centres. This photo shows the 5-a-side artificial pitch constructed by FIFA and opened in 2010 at the MYSA Headquarters on Kangundo Road in Komarock. The building on the left is the MYSA Gym and Fitness Centre.