

RAFIKI YA MAISHA
Amis Pour la Vie
Lifetime Friends

Présidente : Claire MATHIJSEN
Secrétaire Général : Christian ROTH
Trésorier : Marino PULLIERO

**MINUTES OF
RAFIKI YA MAISHA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 31, 2007**

December 31, 2007
8:00 pm

The General Assembly was called by the President in order to discuss the following:

1. Report of the President
2. Report of the Treasurer
3. Perspectives for 2008

1. Report of the President

The activity of the association, founded in 2004, found it's momentum during the year of 2007. The following activities can be noted:

December 29, 2006: 320 kg of donations were shipped to Eldoret

February 2007: Visit of the President to Chepkanga, 15 km outside of Eldoret.
Evaluation of the impact of Rafiki Ya Maisha at Saint Elisabeth College as well as at the two new centers in Chembullet and Kuinet
Meeting with the village elders

April 2007: The new website www.rafikiyamaisha.com goes live
First mailing of the new brochure, and membership campaign

May 2007: Donation of 300 € from the "Association of American Wives of Europeans" (AAWE)

- June 2007: Contact with the Mayor of Paris and practical support from the Mayor's head Office of International Affairs
Departure of three volunteers, first year university students (Anne François-Poncet, June 2007; Alia Bisos, July 2007; Laura Litvine, August, 2007) to Eldoret
- July 2007: Ministry of Finances grants the tax deductibility status
- July 31, 2007: 360 kg of donations shipped to Eldoret
- August 31, 2007: 390 kg of donations including a hairdressing salon shipped to Eldoret
- December 1, 2007: 450 kg of donations shipped to Eldoret
- December 13, 2007: Rafiki Christmas Cocktail Party, held by the Fairbank, Debost and Roth-Mathijssen families, whose children will be going to Chepkanga in 2008 as volunteers. Sale of Kenyan souvenirs (600 € worth) and presentation of the goals and activities of the association

Significant events took place this year, beginning with the first trip of the President to Chepkanga in February. A meeting took place with the members, elders and leaders of the community. Elisabeth Tunoi presented the goals and objectives of the College and Claire Mathijssen explained how Rafiki Ya Maisha was created to sponsor it. This meeting galvanized the community into action.

The idea of a pilot project for Chepkanga was formed. A Community-based Organization (CBO) was registered four months later in July in Eldoret under the name of Rafiki Ya Maisha ! We now have a true partnership between the French and the Kenyan chapters of Rafiki Ya Maisha .

Rafiki Ya Maisha / Kenya embarked upon a new project: the construction of a larger School, the future Sirgoek Technical Training Center.

With this in mind, our volunteers Anne François-Poncet and Alia Bizos participated in a fundraising event (Harambee) that took place in the Kokwet Cultural Heritage Centre in Chepkanga in July. It was a family day, where the youth put on a sketch demonstrating the importance of computer technology. Our two volunteers surprised everyone when they sang a favourite song in Kalenjin, the local native language. Everyone loved it!
A plot for the construction of the new school was selected – and later fenced-, across from the primary school in town. The building is being designed in a contemporary architectural style.

2. Report of the Treasurer

Donations and membership fees: 6755,79 €

Expenses: 5028,77 €

Refund of advanced payments (disbursed in 2005 and 2006): 2315 €

Partial refund of advanced payment (for 2007): 2455, 08 €

Bank balance: 1771 €

3. Prospects for 2008

Throughout 2007, preparatory meetings took place to train the new volunteers.

This year's group of volunteers is younger, 16 – 17 years, and one of its members is a recently disabled young girl. These volunteers face the double challenge of working together as a group with special needs and engaging in the development projects of the community in Chepkanga. They will be accompanied by Victoria Roth, who is in her senior year at University.

New shipments of computers and sewing machines are planned. We wish to thank the City Hall of Le Plan de la Tour (Var) for the donation of tennis nets and posts which will find a proper place in the village of Chepkanga.

The goals of the association are to increase the donations of sports equipment and to improve the quality of the technological donations. We are also planning to equip the music workshop with more instruments such as guitars, etc.

4. In conclusion

We are happy to end the year, by thanking our 60 new members for their financial support and generosity. Without them we would not have been able to send the donations which provide life skills to unemployed young people and women in distress. Sixty new members! A real show of confidence that boosts us tremendously!

Hillary Tunoi, the computer science teacher, recently sent us news from Saint Elisabeth College. He writes the following:

“First I would like to thank you very much for all the troubles you have taken to ensure the well being of the youth of this area of Sergoit by your continuing assistance to improve our skills.

Currently the school is doing well and things are getting better. Right now we have five students who have been doing their computer studies for the last three months and are due to sit for their final exams before the 8th December 2007.

Thanks for the computers you send to us recently, it has given students courage despite the hardship of changing the language from French to English version, it is costly, but we manage to prepare ourselves well.”

Hillary mentions the Rafiki Football Club team that is forming and the competitions they will hold in the future. He also thanks the youth Rafiki Club (at the Ecole Active Bilingue Jeannine Manuel) for their donations.

He finishes his report by asking me to “pass our regards to all Rafiki members and we hope to see them coming next year”.”

We are thrilled by the development of Rafiki Ya Maisha this year. Our project of solidarity has allowed the community of Chepkanga to empower itself, to develop projects and actions in order to increase the standard of living of its’ members in a sustainable environment.

There were no further questions. The President called the meeting to a close at 9.30pm.

Paris, December 31, 2007

The President:

Claire MATHIJSEN-ROTH

The Secretary General:

Christian ROTH

The Treasurer:

Marino PULLIERO