

ATHLETICS

14-year-old wins Iten peace race



Runners battle it out during the Shoe4Africa 4km race in Iten, Keiyo District yesterday. Paskalin Kosgei (right and bottom) of Chebonet Primary School, Iten won the race. All participants received sports shoes. Photos/JARED NYATAYA

Chebonet School pupil Kosgei beats all in the annual Shoe4Africa race

By PETER NG'ETICH

Fourteen-year-old Paskalin Kosgei of Chebonet Primary School yesterday won the Shoe4Africa race in Iten. Chelimo Ng'etich, 12, finished second while Gladys Cherop, 12, was placed third in the meet taht was not timed.

The annual race is held in the town, with running shoes from United States donors being given out to young athletes in Keiyo District and the rest of the North Rift.

Shoe4Africa Peace Race is a 4 kilometre competition for junior athletes.

Each participant, mainly primary school pupils, receives running shoes and a T-shirt to encourage them realise their athletics dreams.

All the participants who finish the fun run receive school supplies donated by Shoe4Africa.

Shoe4Africa will donate computers to one of the participating schools.

Close to 700 pupils took part in the race yesterday.

Among the schools present were Chebonet, Kiptabus, Kiptingo, Kamariny among others.

Before the race, in which participants were asked to wave olive branches as a sign of peace, former and current top athletes and school children held a peace walk along the streets of Iten town.

Among those who participated in the walk were former steeplechase champion Moses Kiptanui, former Boston Marathon Moses Tanui, Kenyan-born Dane Lornah Kiplagat and Yobesh Ondiek.

Others were the world 800m champion Janet Chepkosgei alias 'Eldoret Express', marathoner Luke Kibet, Douglas Wakihuri and Daniel Komen.

In a statement from New York, the chairman for Shoe4Africa, Anthony Edwards said: "We are certain the organisation's Run for Peace event will bring positive awareness to Kenya's healing process."

Edwards is a movie star well known for his role as Dr Mark Green in the hospital drama series, ER.

Sports journalist Toby Tanser of the US, who is among the organisers of the New York Marathon, was in Kenya last December, where he met and spoke to a group of children about the ongoing violence.

They asked him to organise an event for them to help take away the gloom.