

# DAILY NATION

MONDAY  
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FOOTBALL

## Galaxy of stars light up Kibera



Shoe4Africa All Stars team's Robert Cheryot dribbles past Carolina for Kibera defender Mercy Akinyi as teammate Martin Lel (left) closes in during their celebrity football match, on Saturday.

By CHRIS MUSUMBA Posted Saturday, December 13 2008 at 18:42

### IN SUMMARY

- Multiple champions join celebrated ER actor in Shoe4Africa charity game in slum

An embarrassment of talent was on show at the Kibera Primary School on Saturday with a galaxy of the world's top marathon stars on parade on a sports-for-peace mission.

Interestingly, the multiple champions were not lining up for yet another marathon, but tried their hands, or legs if you like, in a charity football match against a Kibera women's football team under the Shoe4Africa charity initiative.

Former world marathon champion Paul Tergat, two-times London Marathon champion Martin Lel, four-times Boston Marathon winner Robert "Mwafrika" Cheryuot, former Boston Marathon runner-up Christopher Cheboiboch and 1992 Olympic steeplechase gold medallist Mathew Birir were in the team that won the match 3-1.

Also fielded was 1987 world marathon champion Douglas Wakiihuri, American television drama series, ER, actor Anthony Edwards, aka Dr Mark Greene and Shoe4Africa founder Toby Tanser.

The match followed a five-kilometre women's run which saw over 3,000 runners get free T-shirts and running shoes from Shoe4Africa who are on a fund raising mission to raise money to build a Sh1 billion children's hospital in Eldoret.

Athletics Kenya chairman Isaiah Kiplagat and 2007 Mombasa World Cross Country Championships' organising committee chief executive Isaac Kalua graced the occasion.

Lel, who retained his London Marathon title in a fast finish this year, scored twice with Tanser getting the All-Stars' third goal in the exciting match at the Kibera Primary School.

The Kibera women's team was captained by Ruth Muinde who was handed over a T-Shirt specially sent to yesterday's match by Manchester United winger Cristiano Ronaldo, a Shoe4Africa special ambassador.

### Learnt their language

Shoe4Africa, which is also supported by the world half marathon champion and world record holder, Lornah Kiplagat, together with other elite sports personality aims at helping raise funds to build the 250-bed hospital in Eldoret, which will be the largest children's hospital in Africa.

"This is nice being in able to share with them their experience. The few hours I have been here, I have learnt their language (slang) and we are here to show them that we too care. We need to cultivate a spirit of cooperation and make them realise that they too are still important in the society," said Kiplagat at Kibera on Saturday.

Tergat, said them showing up was crucial as it gives the girls of Kibera the hope in life that they too can achieve whatever they want as long as they have the determination and will to do it.

"We also came from poor background under hard conditions yet we have defied the odds to do well in sports. It is never late and each one of them can surely make it to the top," he said.

The charity event also had information sessions on HIV/Aids awareness. Kiplagat said it was crucial to have the children and women know the value of life and be able to keep up society virtues.

"Many have little knowledge of Aids and such events help inform and educate them on how to stay healthy and focus on succeeding in life," she said.

Tanser, had said that running is the most celebrated sport in Kenya, yet there is a lack of knowledge and information surrounding HIV/Aids.