

Education

Maruge's school receives Sh380,000 equipment

Shoe for Africa donates sports equipment and laptops during Maruge's second memorial anniversary

By TITUS TOO

The second memorial anniversary for the oldest pupil Kimani Nga'ng'a Maruge was held at his former Kapkenduiwo Primary School in Eldoret.

Celebrations were marked in style as pupils engaged in sports activities with children from an orphanage in Nakuru to promote peace and reconciliation.

Patrick Chege Memorial Orphanage pupils from Nakuru joined pupils at Kapkenduiwo to play fun ball games to honour Maruge.

The two institutions also benefited from a donation of Sh380,000 (US\$ 4,000) worth of sports equipment and computers from Shoe for Africa.

The donations included laptops, footballs, sports shoes, socks among others to promote learning and sports in honour of the octogenarian who defied all odds to enroll in the school.

Shoe for Africa founder and Chief Executive Officer Toby Tanser described Maruge as 'a hero' who enrolled in school despite his advanced age.

"Our assistance is to promote education for peace and co-existence. In 2007/2008, there was confusion in Kenya because of violence. With edu-

cation, there would be no fights," said Mr Tanser. He said orphans should not be marginalised, but should be assisted to access quality education.

PROMOTE PEACE

"Sports will bring cohesion and togetherness among Kenyan communities," he said.

Tanser said Shoe for Africa targeted

Kapkenduiwo Primary School because Maruge was an inspiration in education.

Three times world 3,000 steeplechase champion Mr Moses Kiptanui, Commonwealth Marathon Champion Mr John Kelai and Chege Orphans founder Siandia Chege, attended the function.

Tanser said Shoe for Africa is work-

ing with international athletes to promote health and education facilities in the region.

Chege said exchange programmes between pupils from different parts of the country would promote integration, peace and reconciliation.

Maruge made history when he became the world's oldest student after he joined school in 2003 follow-

ing introduction of free primary education by the Government.

He travelled to the United Nations in New York in 2005 with the global campaign for education and urged leaders to ensure free education for all.

Maruge died on August 14, 2009 when he was about to complete primary education.

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