Shoe4Africa opens fourth sports school to nurture young talent

**Training** Academy in Elgeyo Marakwet County named after former world record holder Moses Kiptanui

It has produced some of the country’s finest athletes and Elgeyo Marakwet County is set to produce even more following the setting up of a special facility to train runners.

Last week, the Shs8 million Marakwet-based Shoe4Africa Moses Kiptanui School opened its doors to thousands of potential athletes who hope to leave a mark in the global scene.

The project, which took six months to be completed, is designed to identify young athletes talent and to offer the athletes scholarship to study at the institution while nurturing their sporting ability.

Project founder and director of Shoe4Africa Foundation, Toby Tanser, said it has been his drive to grow athletes talent in Kenya and that the school would help mould future stars.

He said he would like to name the institution after renowned athlete Moses Kiptanui so that students would emulate him.

“I came to Kenya and lifted the athletics potentiality this country has in and thought of establishing schools with which these children can study and at the same time succeed old runners. We are thinking of establishing a gym in due course,” he said.

“And with the help of the school, teachers can help identify talent more easily as they stay close with them,” he added.

Scholarships

Mr Kiptanui, a former world steeplechase record holder, said he is glad to give back to the community where he grew up, adding he has been dreaming that one day his village would dominate the world of athletics. He said he would team up with Mr Tanser to offer the scholarships for the best performers in class, thus blending sport and education.

“IT is good to excel in athletics but even more so in the fields of education and sport,” said Mr Kiptanui.

So far, the Shoe4Africa Foundation under Tanser has spent about Shs5 million on school projects namely, Shoe4Africa Janeth Jepkosgei Primary school, Shoe4Africa Martin Lebbo in Nandi County and the already completed soon to be launched Shoe4Africa Sally Kipyego also in Elgeyo Marakwet.

The Kiptanui academy will be the fourth one.

Athletics Kenya North Rift chairman Michael Rotich said the school will help boost education and nurture young talent.