



The Concerned Citizens for Peace is a group, which came into being following the violence that erupted in Kenya after the disputed December 27th 2007 elections. The group embraces the values of peace, justice, inclusiveness, non-discrimination and non-violent action. Through regular meetings, the group seeks to provide a forum where members can generate and harvest ideas to restore peace, truth and justice in Kenya.

The Flower Campaign

by Daisy Tuzo

The fragrance of flowers is intoxicating! it passes through the nose to the brain making our thoughts not just soft and pleasant but peaceful as well!

Flowers and especially roses have special places in our hearts. They have been no doubt one of the most powerful weapon to spread love, peace, joy, cheer, beauty and admiration.

Just like they blossom in the bright sunny mornings, so did the members of Concerned of Citizens for Peace (CCP) led by prominent women in Kenya; Tegla Lorupe, Deca Ebrahim, Saba, Rukia, amongst others walked gracefully from Serena Hotel where they hold their peace deliberations meetings each with beautiful flowers in their hands and hope in their hearts to the Freedom Corner at Uhuru park to Empathize with those who had lost their dear ones in the post-elections skirmishes and call for peace to prevail.



Freedom Corner, Uhuru Park

The mood was quite sombre at the freedom corner, as the members laid their flowers some coupled with peace messages for the departed souls and the country at large.

Some could not hold back their tears, they flowed freely as others prayed, and every heart cried for peace, that for a long time has been taken for granted to prevail. But again the presence of the blooming flowers in all sorts of colors, red, yellow, pink somehow lifted our spirits, and reminded us of just how much life was so fragile and precious. While white symbolized peace, eternity and serenity, yellow conveyed cheerfulness and sunshine, pink gave a feeling of tenderness and red roses really fired the passion love within. Holding hands around the flower monument at the park, we sang the national anthem, recognizing just how important every word in the anthem was. The message was so clear! "We all want PEACE". It was a 'touching' moment... so precious, and we all embraced one another, Luo, Luhya, Kikuyu, Kalenjin, Somali, Muslims, Christians, Hindus,... we were all there.... indeed it was a 'flower power'. How would I forget to mention that even guns carried by the GSU unit at the park were put aside and flowers took their place?

Since time in memorial people have taken the help of flowers to communicate their true feelings of their beloved ones. How can we forget the timeless and romantic style of proposing - by bending on one



Tegla Lorupe laying flowers at Freedom Corner

knee and expressing love with one hand on the bosom and a rose held in the other? Isn't Kenya our one and only true love?

At this time, you may not reach every heart that has been in one way or another been a victim of the skirmishes, but you can still create the same impact with a flower delivery of dew kissed roses at the freedom corner at Uhuru Park.

Lets keep our precious flower Kenya blossoming!

"Do not fight: if you win, you pay with your stock and if you lose, you pay with your life."

Somali proverb from African Wisdom on War and Peace, compiled by Annetta Miller

Finding peace through sports

by Erick Quantai

Finding peace through sports to the youths is a good idea. Sierra Leone is using sports to maintain peace among the youths after coming out of the civil war. They have invited United Nation good will ambassador for peace former England captain of football David Beckham. My suggestion is that we can do like wise by supporting those originations that target youths like Tegla Lorupe peace foundation to bring peace through sports by requesting the United Nation or other organizations to invite these sportsmen and women the united nation good will ambassador for peace in our country and working our athletes. This will make the youths of this nations feel recognize and make them nature their talents. You can tell that many of our youths love sports by the way they support European football clubs like Arsenal, Manchester united and Barcelona by dressing cloths with names of these clubs or players and watching these teams as they play.

This weeks profile

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A blind cyclist, mountain climber and motivation speaker, having survived the 1998 bomb blast at the Former American Embassy. He is believed to be the first blind African to summate to the top of mount Kilimanjaro-Uhuru Peak: 5,895 Meters above sea level.

He is also the President of Kenya Sports Association for the Blind, President Kenya National Paralympic Committee, an umbrella body that oversees sports for disabled; Secretary General of International Blind Sports Federation in Africa and United Nations Habitat Goodwill Ambassador for Safer Cities.

He is a very concerned citizen for peace and has faithfully attended and contributed to the noble ideas aired out during the CCP meetings. His position at the CCP meeting is hardline aganist any forms of human violence, having been a victim himself at the bombing aforementioned.

Compiled by Fraciah Ngamau

HAKUNA MATATA

Yvonne A. Omuor

Nchi yetu ya Kenya, hakuna matata. For the average roaming human being, there is no place quite like Kenya. It has tolerated its paradoxes, proudly humble, humbly proud, blasé about its multicultural, multiethnic texture that ensured that the average roaming human being landing here, felt immediately at home. Seven or is it eight distinct eco-systems in a complacent piece of land with a distinctive shape, delightful climate, diverse cultures that would make Margaret Mead and Stuart Hall howl in ecstasy.

We never felt the need to call ourselves The Anything of Africa, or the Something Nation (not for us Pearl of Africa, the Real Heart of Africa, Where Africa Meets, or even Rainbow Nation). We were all these things and more. It was all so apparent, like all our nonchalant expectations:

Yes. It is natural that our wildebeest would make it to the global miracle books

And we would produce an African woman Nobel peace prize winner

And we are the most optimistic country in the world.

And we are on our way to being the best.

Yes, there were probably more nationalities per capita here than anywhere else on three continents.

Yes there were some months of 2007 when there were more foreigners applying for Kenya passports than Kenyans were.

Yes, humankind was born here and we are custodians of that space.

That where world athletics is concerned, we ask, which of the Kenyans have taken first, second and third place? While glancing at our watches to time the 7 O'clock news that would confirm the listings.

We are Kenya. We didn't trumpet it. We were Kenya and therefore we were special. Being Kenyan we did not need to proclaim it. Sometimes, though the specialness became a song;

Jambo, Jambo Bwana, habari gain, mzuri sana.

Wageni wakaribishwa, Kenya yetu, hakuna matata.

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Outstanding information of the week

CCP has come up with a structural framework of what it constitutes and how it could incooperate different aspects of an organization structure to suit its needs. An example of this is the provision of channel of funds i.e. having an organ that will look into the funds when they begin to flow in to CCP to fund the various activities raised and supported by the CCP member body.

Acknowledgements

The 'balozzi wa amani' group which constitutes of representatives of ghetto youth voiced out their activities, outlining their commitment to Economic Empowerment of the youth at the grassroots. They stated that they harbour skills and talents e.g craftsmanship, music artists, acrobats etc.

They can be reached on - smallaxe.mag@gmail.com or +254 725 263856

Upcoming Events and Highlights from *amani sasa* daily

February 7th – 10th 2008

Blood donation-Blood supplies are running low in the country and persons are therefore urged to kindly donate blood between the 7th and 10th February. In Nairobi go to Kenyatta National Hospital, Bomb blast site, Mama Ngina Street and Kencom bus stop. In Mombasa, Kisumu, Embu, Nakuru and Eldoret, go to all national blood transfusion centres next to provincial general hospitals.

February 9th 2008

Concerned youth for Peace is hosting leaders from poor urban settlements together with media practitioners at a meeting to discuss various activities being undertaken in the poor urban settlements and how these can be publicised. The meeting will be at the KEPESA boardroom, shelter Afrique House (Mamlaka road), 2nd Floor between 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday 9th February.

February 12th 2008

The Leadership Institute of Kenya Kirichwa Road near Masaba Hospital is organising a meeting at their offices on an intellectual approach to harmonising tribes, clans and races in Kenya and to develop materials for schools and colleges on

Tuesday 12th February 2008 at 5.00 p.m. Persons from various cultures and backgrounds in Kenya are invited.

February 14th 2008

Paul Achar-Citizens Assembly Council Member invites the Concerned Citizens for Peace to a discussion forum on Active Non-Violence as an alternative to destructive expressions and behaviour from 8.30am to 1.00PM. at KICC Main Hall

CASAM- Come and See a Man would like to partner with other organisations and volunteers in the valentines peace march at Gatundu on the 14th February 2008. CASAM would like to appeal for flowers and logistical assistance towards this event. Kindly contact Joyce Kariuki on 0723-111083 and Benjamin Wagudi on 0721-281693.

One stop Youth initiative in conjunction with the concerned youth for peace will visit the Mathare Chief's camp on the 14th of February 2008 at 9 am. The CYP has agreed to supply 1,000 roses, which will be distributed to the IDP's at the camp. All are welcome to attend the event.

February 15th 2008

The Redeemed Gospel church of Eldoret has organised a meeting on the 15th February 2008 to discuss relations between the Kalenjin and Kikuyu communities in the area.

February 16th 2008

There will be a Youth talk show with the theme of 'Post election violence: The underlying issues' on the 16th of February 2008 at 11am, at the One stop youth centre located at Kenya Railways Traffic Superintendent Building on Haile Selassie Avenue, Next to Uchumi Railways of Easy Coach Bus Services. The youth are appealing for media coverage for the above-mentioned event. All are welcome to join us.

Compiled by Linda Bore

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Like God, Kenyan specialness was a self-evident truth. Its own thing, the oasis of reasonableness when all nations around it were impaling themselves on the politics of fat cats and broad egos. Kenya citizens and its residents were smug and impatient while accommodating other nations' fugitives:

"They must get their act together."

"What's so hard about democracy?"

"They should learn from Kenya."

And they did, many set up study institutes to imitate the successful template of a model African nation speeding on its way to economic lion hood. We sent military gentlemen to trouble-spots all over the world so that with their Kenya reasonableness, they would help them Sort Their Problems Out.

Before December 30, 2007.

I am now hovering between two paths, one heading homeward, the other pointing to the cordoned off park. Furious and frustrated by a still-born march for my country.

Craving banal things;

I want our smugness and shopping trips back. The loud, loud laughter of Aggie who is at Burma market fish. Dashing bodaboda bicycle men. I want our struggling aspirations and the certainty of God's favour. I want our multinational hopes, the sense of being alchemists capable of transforming rubble into gold.

"We are a blessed nation." We used to say. I want my country back so I can wear the look of pious haughtiness. I want to freeze the feeling of Kenyaness, when we jumped up and down and sang badly in kitourist kiswahili, Nchji yetu ya Kenya, hakuna matata.

You know the time; it was that moment before December 30, 2007.

END