



Lisha Kenya, Jenga Kenya Sharmaarke Jama (F4)



In light of the current food crisis plaguing our nation, a couple of Form 4 students of 2009 pooled their resources together and came up with a venture to aid the millions of Kenyans facing starvation and imminent death.

The facts are staggering and the situation on the ground was and still is terribly dire. That 10 million Kenyans go for days on end without having a decent meal is grim. One could easily look to a negligent and failed government as a scapegoat; that this is “their” problem and that they have failed to address it. But when faced with a situation where a third of the population is barely hanging on, it calls for bigness of heart and tremendous generosity on the part of the citizens. So it was with this in mind that the ‘Lisha Kenya Jenga Kenya’ campaign took off, a Strathmore School’s students’ initiative™. It ran from the 18th of May to the 2nd of June and the response was absolutely phenomenal to say the least. Students of all walks of life contributed generously to the cause, exhibiting truly the spirit that is Strathmore. The response was prompt and unparalleled as bales of Unga, sugar and other non-perishable foodstuffs

found their way to the school. Indeed, some students of the lower primary were seen carrying loads equal to their weight, a gesture that showed that it is the size of heart, and not body, which counts. In total, we managed to amass 7 tonnes of foodstuffs and Ksh. 300,000 in cash. We came up short of our target of Ksh. 500,000 worth of donations, but improved on the mark set by the ‘Unga-Na Campaign’ last year. The climax of this worthwhile

cause played itself out on two occasions, both of which earned some airplay on several NTV news bulletins:

First, when Nation Media Group, Save-A-Life Fund and Standard Chartered visited the school on Tuesday 9th June. The cheque of Ksh. 300,000 was presented to the Fund on behalf of Strathmore by the Principal, Mr. Rafael Gortazar, Eric Muli (F4) and Mr. Joseph Fernandes (Si). In attendance were Kathleen Openda and two other representatives of NMG. The occasion was marked by speeches from the Principal, Eric Muli (F4), Ian Karimi (F4), Patrick Murigi (F4) and NMG representatives and a vote of thanks from Sharmaarke Jama (F4).

Second, on Friday the 19th of June when a couple of Strathmore students together with NMG staff visited the Kibera slums to donate the foodstuffs collected. First stop was a home for elderly women where the foodstuffs were distributed. Next was Siloam School, in the heart of Kibera, where the cheque of Ksh. 300,000 was handed over to aid in the amelioration of the school and finally, to Mother Teresa children’s home in Langata where the remaining foodstuffs were donated. On a different note, it fails to escape our attention that this is only a temporary solution to a really catastrophic problem. For years we have grappled with abject poverty and we need a long lasting remedy. For there to be any ‘building of the nation’, the wananchi have to be able; not dying of nunger. Therefore, to realise any visions, to “Jenga” the country etc, we first have to “Lisha”, and to do this we need to revise aspects of society and governance, it starts here, now and with us!

We as the committee of the campaign take this opportunity to thank all the parents, students, teachers and well wishers who contributed to the cause and to NMG for being there to highlight our endeavours. Finally, to the school administration, for facilitating the whole process and ensuring its smooth sail.



Talent Show, Stompie Seipei (F2)

The day started off well as all spirits were lifted when no trace of rain could be seen in the skies. On that fateful Friday, everyone's effort would be clearly noticed from the clueless Form 1's to the always psyched from 4s.

All roads led to the swimming pool as the participants gave in to panic and frantically did their last minute preparation.

It began on a very high note with dances and raps from the form 3s, which blew the crowd away. Form 2s, although having less performances, did not disappoint, much to everyone's surprise, Form 1s had quite a number of performances lined up for the school. The Form 4 dances and comedies were also hilarious.

New to the Talent Show picture was the stand-up comedy performance done by a form 3 which, due to a number of comments, was a great addition to the Talent Show tradition.

Due to the numerous entries this year, it is quite certain that our Strathmore students have a lot to offer in terms of skills, be it acting, dancing and poem recitation. Let us see what the upcoming year will bring to the table. Check out the screenshots below.



From clockwise:
the Form 3 play during the Talent Show
A band performance by the Form 1 students
One of the many plays by the Form 4s
Dance performance by the Form 4s
The concluding scene to a Form 3 play
Nicholas Musoba (F2) performing his poetry skit

“KNOWLEDGE IS KNOWING A TOMATO IS A FRUIT; WISDOM IS KNOWING NOT TO PUT IT IN A FRUIT SALAD.”

1st Holy Communion, Stompie Seipei (F2)

This was yet another year where the young children in Strathmore had reached the age of discernment made a commitment to our lord by receiving the sacrament of the holy Eucharist. Tears of joy trickled freely from the faces of some of the parents whose children were making the commitment, whereas other parents had to suppress their joy with wide grins.

The first Holy Communion mass which was led by father Joe Barendier went on smoothly as expected although some the young recipients had nervous looks and were not very sure of what they were supposed to do. However, they needed not to worry for they were instructors to assist them to assist them and give them courage.

Afterwards, the procession led to the courtyard outside the common room after the mass ended. The recipients took photographs as they received their certificates and also as they posed with their cake, now that they felt less tense. Finally, the whole event ended as Fr Joe handed out a free snack for all as a gift to the young recipients.



COOL SNAP



Random primary moments!