



Newsletter: November 2014

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Where does the time go! This newsletter was nearly ready to go out in September. Now it's November! Well, here's the latest!

MTWARA
T A N Z A N I A

MaKuYa
2014

Traditional Performing & Cultural Arts Festival
10-12/10/2014
Tamasha la Ngoma za Utamaduni za Asili

Our MaKuYa 2014 Traditional Performing & Cultural Arts Festival was a great success, and most of the credit goes to the MaKuYa team who organized the festival with only my distance contribution. Each member managed various segments to make a wonderful whole:

Tembo Samson – Assistant Director, liason between donors and foreign visitors and MaKuYa, overall assistant and translator.

Dominic Chonde – Performer selection and transportation coordinator. He worked tirelessly traveling between the villages, making sure the groups were ready to perform, expectations were understood, and transport funds were distributed. Chonde was also the event MC where he does his best work.

Saidi Chilumba – Housing coordinator. He professionally managed the accommodation of over 400 performers and artisans, as well as visitors and government officials. In addition he made nightly rounds to check on the performers wellbeing.

Filbert Emanuel – Traditional games and structures coordinator. Filbert arranged the purchase of 250 mats, 2000 bamboo poles and 150 poles for the construction teams (which he supervised) for all the structures needed for the event. Additionally he managed the seven traditional game stations and the manpower to run them.

Kiluku Heneriko – Cultural exhibition coordinator and manager: This year's cultural exhibition had three areas of focus: the images from the German expedition made through Mtwara in 1906, indigenous food, and the traditional techniques for working metal, carving wood and producing bark cloth. He also brought four interns from his Culture and Tourism program in Dar es Salaam. This year's special addition was the invitation of 60+ school children to a pre-festival event.

Douglas McFalls (that's me) – Money manager and fine tuner. At the eleventh hour I realized it was advisable for me to attend the festival, and it is a good thing I did. The MaKuYa team managed very well the big picture, but it was attention to the small details I was able to bring that brought everything together, resulting in possibly our finest festival to date.

The Seven District Cultural Officers of the Mtwara Region: These officers helped to coordinate and communicate with the groups in their districts.

Philipo Lulale – ADEA's former co-director who was available for support and advise.

Traditional Performing & Cultural Arts Festival

When:
Friday, Oct. 10 3 pm - 6 pm
Saturday, Oct. 11 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday, Oct. 12 10 am - 6 pm

Where:
Masasi Boma Stadium
What:
Traditional dance performing troops from the Makonde, Makua and Yao tribes of Mtwara, Tanzania. Also enjoy traditional games and exhibits of local culture.

Tamasha la Ngoma za Utamaduni za Asili

Lini
Ijumaa Okt. 10 Saa 9 mchana - 12 jioni
Jumamosi Okt. 11 Saa 3 asubuhi - 12 jioni
Jumapili Okt. 12 Saa 4 asubuhi - 12 jioni

Wapi
Uwanja wa Boma

Wahusika:
Vikundi vya ngoma kutoka makabila matatu makubwa ya mkoa wa Mtwara yaani: Wamakonde, Wamakua na Wayao. Pia utafurahia michezo ya asili na maonyesho ya vitu vya kale kutoka mikoa ya kusini mwa Tanzania.





This year's festival was held in the town of Masasi, three hours from the town of Mtwara.

Much more central to the region.

Many thanks to the [Finnish Embassy](#) in

Dar es Salaam who has supported MaKuYa generously and faithfully since its beginning.

Also thanks to Wentworth, Odfjell Drilling and the District Government of Maasasi





The Six MaKuYa Festivals (2008 – 2014)



Friday morning was set aside for 60 elementary school children (seated in bleachers).





The students try jumping rope (the Makonde way) & slingshots





The opening horn



Makonde women with tatooed faces as shown in the 100 year old drawing behind them. These women came from Mozambique where traditional practices and lifestyles endured longer than in Tanzania, just across the Ruvuma river.





“Yanatoka Wapi? (Where does it come from? In Swahili)
On the boards, below the fruit images, are maps hidden behind small doors that reveal where various fruits and vegetables that can be found today in Tanzania originated.





The MaKuYa 2014 team – me (Douglas), Kiluku, Filbert, Chilumba and Tembo. (Dominic Chonde is missing from the picture)

Where does MaKuYa go from here?

There are big questions about sustainability. It is costly to bring everyone together, and most visitors don't have enough extra money to pay for entrance. Perhaps large village festivals is an alternative option. Maybe MaKuYa once every four years (as with the Olympics). Some teachers have asked if we can bring the museum information into the classrooms.

I return to Tanzania in December to close the accounts and to hear the ideas and interests of the team for 2015.

2015 Support for Maasai Boma School Teachers

Beginning this month and through 2015 ADEA has committed to paying the monthly wage of the Head Teacher (\$125 a month). Fund allowing we'll subsidize the remaining seven teachers wages \$25 a month so that they can earn the same as other teachers in the region and to encourage them when students who are unable to pay the small tuition, meaning that not enough is collected to cover teach wages.



A selfi with a friend!

And here ends my latest newsletter.

Happy Thanksgiving to many of you! May we be thankful for that which we do have!

I am thankful for your support and friendship.

Next month I'll have more stories about East Africa and I'll tell you about graduate school.

Sincerely, *Douglas, Kupikita, Oloikurrukurr*

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