



THE KENYA SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

Scout Online

The diary of Scouting in Kenya...

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Partnerships for peace-Dignity for All

“If we do not teach our children peace, someone else will teach them war”, is the message sent out to the world by Mr. Nelson Opanyi, former National Youth representative Kenya Scouts Association; during this year's International Day of Peace celebrations held on September 21st at the Nyayo National Stadium.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly which declared the 21st of September as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The theme of this year's commemoration was “Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All” which aims to highlight the importance of all segments of society to work together to strive for peace.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Francis Ole Kaparo Chief Scout Kenya Scouts Association and Chair National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) urged all nations to make the dialogue for peace a daily one stating that it is the responsibility of every citizen to protect the peace experience in their countries.

He appreciated the young people at the gathering saying it made him proud to see crowds of young men and women taking up the responsibility to secure their future by advocating for peaceful coexistence in the country.

He further urged the youth of this nation to join Scouting and join the over 1 million Scouts carrying the banner of peace around the country as become ambassadors of peace.

The guest of Cabinet Secretary Hon. Dr. Hassan Wario Arero made a call to young people to reflect the on the important and ideals of peace and asked stakeholders to engage the youth in the dialogue for peace. “70% of Africa is made up of young men and women and no meaningful agenda can be realized if we do not engage the youth”, he said.

Rukia Abdulahi, the president of the children government in the country urged all stakeholders to spread the message of peace to the children of today and not tomorrow stating that they are the leaders of today and they



Peace Procession

determine the destiny of their generation and generations to come.

The celebrations culminated with the official launch of Amani Clubs by NCIC in learning institutions in Kenya. The club has over 200 members in various counties in the country and aims at targeting young people in schools and equipping them with the right values and virtues to mold their character before they exit in the larger community. This will enable the students have a sense of national cohesion, tolerance and integration.

Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamed, the NCIC Commission Secretary addressing the gathering said that Amani clubs enable students gain basic mediation skills to enable them mediate between themselves, their teachers and those neighboring their schools in case of conflicts. He added that the clubs will also be used as an avenue of changing the various narrative inherited by the children from their parents stating that children provide an avenue for societal change if empowered with the right skills.

Other activities that the Scouts were involved in to celebrate this important day included volunteering and Community Service Day on Friday 18th September, 2015 at Maina Wanjigi High School in Eastleigh; Peace Symposium for Students on Saturday 19th September, 2015 at Sarakasi Trust Dome Ngara; Sports for Peace Tournament on Sunday 20th September, 2015 at Olympic Secondary grounds Kibera and a peace procession starting at Uhuru Park from to Nyayo National Stadium.

Scouts as messengers of peace

The Scout Movement, has since inception in 1907, continued to play a critical role in educating young people to play a constructive role in society.

Through our global flagship Messengers of Peace initiative, Scouts from over 162 countries and territories are creating and implementing innovative solutions to local pressing issues that undermine peace – in the areas of skills development, environmental protection, conflict resolution, poverty reduction and creation of opportunities for the less fortunate among others. Interreligious and intercultural dialogue training is a core component of the initiative that reinforces our values of diversity and inclusion for all.

All across Africa and the world, National Scout Organizations have continuously worked with different stakeholders in preaching peace across their countries.

Here in Kenya, the recent partnership signed between Kenya Scouts Association and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) is enabling the over one million Scouts to become a force for fighting negative ethnicity, religious intolerance, conflicts, inequality and radicalization of young people among many other vices. Scouts are Messengers of Peace working towards creating a better world for all. They are uniting Kenyans by promoting peace, national cohesion and integration.

There is no group better placed to realize the dream of a peaceful world than the young people. As young peace-builders, we have a collective responsibility to demand and to create space for lasting peace and a more just world. With greater support young people can make massive contributions.

The movement calls upon all partners who share a goal for peace to work together in ending the many cases of deadly violence and destabilizing conflicts that we see in our world today.

