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Message from the CEO

Vision 2030 is a critical blueprint for economic growth and development focused on ensuring that Kenya becomes globally competitive and prosperous with a high quality of life by the year 2030. The plan is anchored on three main pillars namely: (i) Economic Pillar, aimed at having the country maintain a sustained economic growth of 10% per annum over the next 25 years, (ii) Social Pillar, to ensure that the nation evolves into a truly just and cohesive society enjoying equitable social development in a clean and secure environment and (iii) Political Pillar, which is

expected to ensure that our politics is issue-based, people-centred, result-oriented, accountable, and democratic.

From the onset therefore, it is explicable that Omega Foundation has a far-reaching and indeed cross-cutting role in the implementation of vital policy initiatives geared towards realisation of the objectives of Vision 2030. Principally, OF's new Vision of Healthy Communities with opportunities for Development cannot be divorced from the pillars of the Vision 2030.

Omega Foundation's Strategic Plan (2013 - 2017) is premised

on the five key perspectives of the Balance Scorecard: Our mandate which is to support communities in achieving sustainable livelihoods; Financial sustainability; Enhancement of partnership with beneficiaries and stakeholders; Improvement of internal organisational processes for quality service delivery and Strengthening and modernising institutional capacity to ensure among other objectives, happy and motivated workforce and partners.

WILFRED OWUOR,
C.E.O.

OF attracts international media attention

Omega Foundation (OF) has been a long time partner of Comic Relief, a UK-based charity working towards changing situations of most vulnerable populations through innovative approaches.

In a bid to raise public awareness on situations and issues affecting populations where its assistance permeates, Comic Relief works with partners like OF to gather evidence on such issues to aid advocacy and push governments and individuals to act.

As a result of this partnership, OF was recently host to BBC World interested in filming its programmes. The visit was aimed at establishing possible stories that will be filmed later in the year. OF attracted the international broadcaster because of the work it is involved in, especially in communities most affected by HIV and poverty.

The two-day visit saw the team visit Bondo, Nyando and Nyakach districts where issues of few and ill-equipped healthcare facilities, high prevalence of tropical diseases such as malaria and pneumonia, high infant mortality rate and increased incidences of HIV were eminent.

The team visited the Bondo District Hospital, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, Ahero Health Centre as well as families supported by OF and its affiliates.



BBC's Iain Thompson interviews staff at Bondo Hosp.

BBC which was represented by producer Iain Thompson has been working with Comic Relief since 1985 filming stories in Africa and showing them in the UK with the aim of fundraising for projects directed towards alleviating poverty, disease and ignorance through organised events such as the Red Nose Day. Comic relief was represented by Katy Riflin also a producer. OF has hosted BBC World for several years to take the story of its beneficiaries, its work, the challenges facing parts of population in Kenya to the Diaspora. OF has previously played host to UK celebrities including footballer Allan Shearer and comedian Jack Dee.

NGO board converges in Kisumu

The NGO Co-ordination Board recently held a guidance workshop for NGOs in Western Kenya region. Aimed at sensitising the NGOs of their presence in these regions.

The one-day workshop which was attended by a myriad of NGOs was also an opportunity for the board to familiarise itself with them.

Speaking at the workshop, NGO Co-ordination Board Corporate Affairs Manager Sekoh Nyadiero said the problems newly registered NGOs

face in fundraising is international funders reluctance to fund new initiatives because of a perception of lack of accountability, credibility and references.

He also cautioned NGOs in the region against giving up once a proposal does not fall through, but to review the reason it was rejected and use the information to improve future bids.

On annual returns by NGOs, NGO Board's Sammy Kimunguyi said filing nil returns does not augur well for the organisa-

tion since this implies that it is dormant and thus forming a basis for reviewing the organisation's registration.

Giving the closing remarks, the Board's Executive Director Dr. Hezron Mc'Obewa urged NGOs in the region to access services at the board's office in Kisumu. "The NGO Co-ordination Board has an office here in Kisumu that will serve you just like the one at the headquarters in Nairobi" he said. Legal and regulatory framework for NGOs as well as taxation were also discussed.

OF spreads its wings

Omega Foundation has stepped in to help strengthen the institutional capacity of Badilika Wings of Hope Group that runs Kobala Future People Nursery School in Rachuonyo District.

OF which has not ventured into Southern Nyanza before was approached by Kenya Orphans Fund and Uganda Programme (KOFUP), UK-based charity organisation to assist in funds management and integration of other programmatic interventions including health into the educational support, an approach that has a strong basis on FANIKISHA Institutional Strengthening Project.

The 89 vulnerable pupils on roll are comparably fortunate to access the ECD grounding because without this, they would struggle to cope in primary school .

Since the school opened in 2007, 103 children have transited to primary school and all are reported to be doing well having got the basics at the ECD Centre.

(KOFUP) was initiated by a group of UK nationals as a response to the plight of the many children in Sub-Saharan Africa and has been supporting the Kobala Nursery School since 2007 when it was just a plastic canvas thrown over a few sticks knocked into the ground, said the Florence (the patron). The school building, constructed with KOFUP funds in 2008, has three small classrooms with benches and desks for the top two classes and brightly colored plastic chairs in the baby class.



KOFUP pupils keenly following a lesson

OF in lake cleanup

OF recently took part in a cleanup aimed at eradicating hyacinth from Lake Victoria. The two-week cleanup organised by Agulu Environmental Project (AEP) saw thousands of tones of the weed physically removed by volunteers.



OF staff during the cleanup

In the recent past, hyacinth has spread widely covering a vast area and paralysing fishing which is the major economic activity in the region. The challenge faced was the removal of the hyacinth from the lake shore where the volunteers had deposited them for recycling.

Coffee Break

Boss: You should have been here at 8:00am !!!

John: Why?? What happened at 8:00am??