

Dear Kenyans,

I salute all of you in the name of God, hoping that you are all doing well even in this recession period.

I am writing to make a final appeal to all Kenyans to save our community from collapse. The last time KCE was active was in November 2008, at a Gala Night to recognize participants of the Youth Camp and elections for a new 2009 Board. Unfortunately, attendance at this event was disappointing and although a small group of people did come forward to express interest in carrying the association forward, full elections were not held.

Therefore I hereby call a Special Annual General Meeting of KCE to be held Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 3:00pm at a venue to be announced soon, with the sole agenda of electing and transitioning to a new Board for 2009. If you are interested in keeping this community alive and well, please mark this date in your calendar and do your utmost to attend this meeting.

The outgoing 2008 Board tried our best, and despite the challenges we faced, the following is a record of our **successes;**

Accomplishments for the Year 2008

- **Press Conference @ University of Alberta International Centre**

KCE held a press conference in early January 2008 condemning the post-election violence in Kenya and expressing our hope and prayers for peace and stability at home.

- **Kenya Be My Valentine @ King's College**

Some members of KCE attended this function held at King's College on February 14, 2008 to reflect on the unrest in Kenya and pray for peace. Other members of KCE held weekly prayer meetings at their homes throughout the period of unrest.

- **Amani Event @ Safari Bar & Grill (Coliseum Inn)**

KCE organized a dinner dance on April 12, 2008 and enjoyed food and fellowship; an event to help unify and promote goodwill. Included fundraising for the Kenyan Red Cross Society to help our fellow Kenyans who were displaced by the post-election violence.

- **Madaraka Day BBQ @ Victoria Park**

Held a very successful and well-attended celebration in the park on a beautiful summer's day June 1, 2008 complete with mbuzi choma and outdoor games.

- **Heritage Festival @ Hawrelak Park**

Kenya's second showing at the annual Edmonton Heritage Festival Aug 2-4, 2008 was a success, with many hundreds of visitors to our pavilion which featured authentic Kenyan food, live entertainment, info on Kenya, and wonderful array of handicrafts on sale.

- **KCE Youth Camp @ Camp Wohelo, Pigeon Lake**

KCE was awarded a project grant from the City of Edmonton's Emerging Immigrant and Refugee Communities Grant Program with the goal to engage our young people in the Kenyan community and their friends to "connect" with Kenyan culture and heritage and become more involved in the community. The pinnacle of this project was a Youth Camp held September 12-14, 2008 with 14 of our youth enjoying a weekend out at the lake and participating in activities such as Kiswahili lessons, campfire, boating, and more!

- **KCE Gala Night @ Hazeldean Community Hall**

KCE held a function on November 8, 2008 to showcase the Youth Camp and other KCE events held this year, celebrate the spirit of our youth and encourage them to continue their involvement in the Kenyan community, as well as hold elections for a new Board.

- **Newcomers Committee**

This year KCE launched a new committee to help welcome new Kenyans arriving in Edmonton and assist them with settling here. This involved coordination of donations of household items, also phoning/meeting with newcomers to make them feel welcome.

- **Membership**

This year KCE raised the membership fee to \$20 annually, and we have struggled with maintaining a large roster of paid-up members, a challenge to be worked on in future.

- **Website**

The KCE website – www.wakenya.org - was maintained and updated last year October and continues to be a useful tool for communicating information to Kenyans in Edmonton and much further away as well – many Kenyans living in other parts of Canada and the world have accessed the website and used it to contact KCE. Also, KCE continues to broadcast relevant communications through regular email fan-outs. Please ensure KCE has your correct email contacts to be included on this list.

Thank you and hope to see you on April 5th

Yours faithfully,

Eric Amulaku

Outgoing KCE Chairman