



# Mweresa, Cherotich bag medals

## Athletics earn Kenya silver, bronze in African Games with more expected

by James Magayi  
@Magayijim

Boniface Mweresa added to Kenya's rare collection of sprints medals in the on going African Games when he clocked 45.01 in Brazzaville, Congo to win silver in the men's 400m final on Tuesday night.

Mweresa's victory closely followed that of Eunice Kadogo who became the first Kenyan to win a sprints medal in the history of the Games, going against all expectations to bag silver in the women's 100m final on Monday night.

Mweresa had led compatriots Alex Sampao and Raymond Ki-

bet into the final which was won by on-form Botswana athlete Isaac Makwala in 44.35 whose compatriot Nkobile Onkabetse claimed bronze in 45.50.

Sampao, a medal prospect going into the finals having passed the qualifying stages in blistering pace, was outclassed to fourth position (45.59) while Kibet finished seventh in 45.79.

Mweresa expressed delight at winning his first international medal saying the performance of Kenyans in China last month inspired him to also work hard.

"I'm so happy I won silver in the 400m race. I've worked very hard and after seeing how Kenyans performed at the world

championships," he said

"I hope this will inspire others to put more emphasis in races we have not been very successful in as a country so that we widen areas of getting medals. I have set myself even bigger targets after this achievement and my focus is to try and make the trip to Rio next year for the Olympic Games," he added.

Former world bronze medalist Assefa Sofia of Ethiopia conspired with compatriot Hiwot Ayalew to deny Kenya gold and silver in the women's 3,000m steeplechase final, clocking 9:51.30 to claim victory while her compatriot finished second in 9:51.94.

The best placed Kenyan, Purity Cherotich could only muster a bronze medal against the inspired Ethiopians. She clocked

9:52.54 for a third-place finish. Magdalene Masai finished just outside the medal bracket with a 9:56.76 performance which earned her fourth place. Joan Chepkemoi clocked 10:04.54 for fifth place.

In the men's 800m, Olympic bronze medallist Timothy Kitum closely followed Botswana's Nijel Amos into the semi-final. Just days after forfeiting his season-long dominance of the two-lap race at the IAAF World Championships last month, the diminutive Amos is on the path of atonement at the African Games.

Pricillah Tabunda of Kenya Defence Forces posted the eighth fastest time in Heptathlon 200m as she kept alive her chase for a medal in the multi-sport discipline.

**Kenya's Purity Cherotich (285) bronze medallist in the women's 3,000m steeplechase in action in Brazzaville on Tuesday evening. Ethiopia's Sofia Assefa (187) won gold ahead of compatriot Hiwot Ayalew (188).** PHOTO: COURTESY

## UoN to revive fledging fortunes of rugby, basketball teams



PHOTO: JAMES MAGAYI

by Timothy Simwa  
@Peoplesport

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has announced plans to revive their rugby and basketball teams in a bid to restore their dwindling fortunes in the two disciplines.

This is following the struggles of their rugby team Mean Machine—once a force in the Kenya Cup—but has been fighting relegation in the past five years as well as their basketball teams Dynamites (women) and Terror (men) who are also finding it tough in the league.

Vice Chancellor Peter Mbithi says the institution is determined to right those wrongs and return the teams to their past glory days.

"As an institution, we accord sports high recognition as part of our curriculum and that is why we saw it necessary to have this new plan that will see basketball teams and rugby get more support in terms of funds and improving the current training facilities," he said.

Mbithi revealed that recruitment programmes will begin immediately, targeting students within the institution and in high school who will earn scholarships to study at the university, an initiative that has brought unprecedented success to Strathmore and United States International University of Africa (USIU-A). Machine captain Rene Inyanga is also optimistic that the team will overcome their current woes and regain their winning touch.

"It has not been easy but we highly welcome this move as it will be a bigger way motivate everyone since we know that the institution shares our interests in sports," said Inyanga.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Stanchart Rift Valley Odyssey attracts nine countries

**CYCLING:** Nine countries are set to take part in this year's Standard Chartered Bank Rift Valley Odyssey (RVO) 2015 from September 23-27 at Elementaita in Naivasha with a contingent of 100 cyclists set to compete in the 450-kilometre route. Speaking during the launch of the event in Nairobi while presenting a Sh 2.5 million sponsorship cheque yesterday, the bank's brand and marketing head in Africa Olga Arara affirmed their commitment in to making the event more prominent by attracting high-profile cyclists and support of their "seeing is believing" initiative. "It is a special fulfillment for us to partner with RVO to reach thousands of people strategically locating eye care camps through our cycling routes. This event will also go a long way in exposing our local talents to international class apart from its objective of reaching children with visual impairment," said Arara. The Kenyan team, led by feted rider Douglas Sidalo, will compete with other cyclist from South Africa, United States, Britain, Netherlands, and Rwanda, among other countries.

-TIMOTHY SIMWA

### Manangoi wants counties to allocate more cash for sports



**ATHLETICS:** World 1,500m silver medallist David Manangoi has called on counties to set aside enough money in their budgets to help in promotion of sports. Manangoi says Kenya is blessed with abundant talent in various sports disciplines but they remain untapped due lack of promotion. "The country has great runners who are yet to be identified. Counties should promote sports through huge budgetary allocations in identifying talented athletes and exposing them to national and international competitions. That is the only way Kenya can beat other competitors in the international meetings," said Manangoi during his home coming ceremony in Ntulele, Narok County on Tuesday. Manangoi said Kenya is an athletics powerhouse as exhibited in last month's World Championship in Beijing, China but great runners are wasting away in villages since there is no avenues to nurture them. "David Rudisha and I feel lonely when we go out there to compete for medals. There are many young people who can do better than us but they have nowhere to train and nobody to expose them," he added.

-PETER LESHAN

## PEOPLESPOORT#TBT

Compiled by David Ndolo



**Name:** Muhammad Hassan  
**DOB:** December 12, 1993  
**AGE:** 23 years

A footballer who plays for Kenya Premier League side Ushuru  
**Started playing football while at Ayany Primary School in Nairobi and later at Buddo Secondary School**

Honed his skills further at Propline Soccer Academy in Uganda before returning to Kenya

**Before joining Ushuru, he had also played for AFC Leopards, Sony Sugar and Kemri FC from Nairobi's Kibra.**

