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## **The Laibon Society**

*Established 1966*

[www.laibonsociety.org](http://www.laibonsociety.org)

Dear Laibon/Old Yorkist,

27/09/19

Greetings from Nairobi to wherever you are in the world.

Tragedy befell our community at Precious Talent Academy on the 23rd of September leading to the death of 8 children and injuries to numerous others. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families.

This tragedy was followed by statements from various civic and national leaders indicating a desire to establish a primary school to serve the community within the perimeter of Lenana School. Since then, a lot of information has been circulating in social and traditional media space eliciting passionate debate among the community.

Allow me as Chairman of Laibon to share with you the current facts;

1. During the Board of Management (BOM) meeting held on the 26th of September 2019, the Board resolved unanimously in agreement with the Laibon Societies position that there should not be any annexation, excision or subdivision of Lenana School land.
2. The Ministry of Education representative at the Board meeting reiterated that the Government's position still is and shall remain that there are no plans to hive off any Lenana School land, which is also in line with the CS's and PS's earlier communication while visiting the school.
3. The Board appealed to the Ministry of Education to invest in the rehabilitation of the neighbouring Ngong Forest Primary School to immediately accommodate the affected students and serve the community of Ngandu. The Board confirmed its assistance to the ministry and community where necessary specific to this process.
4. The board approved undertaking a feasibility study on the establishment of a Junior Academy as a Centre of Excellence in consultation with all stakeholders. This proposed Academy will be in line with the School's Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2030 which may potentially include a Centre for tertiary education within the current ICT roadmap. The engagement of an alumni team in the ICT sector has enabled partnerships with

Safaricom foundation and Huawei the establishment of modern computer laboratories as part of the first phase of this roadmap.

Beyond the Board meeting, please allow me to share with you a snapshot of the school;

### **The integrity of school land**

The title to the school land is in the custody of the Board of Management of the School. The Survey of Kenya Department has been invited by the School Management to undertake survey work to re-establish all the official boundary beacons. This will help identify any encroachment on the original boundaries and facilitate restorative action. The Laibon Society as an interested party is supporting this process and will update members of the outcome once complete. We believe having full visibility of Lenana School assets and official documentation will go a long way in securing the interest of the school now and in the future.

### **Board of Management Representation**

There are five members on the School Board for the period 2019-2022 namely Martin Mogwanja, Dr Songa (co-opted), Gikonyo Gitonga (co-opted), Kimani Ruhanga and Frank Mutua. This is an improvement from four on the previous Board. In alignment with our mandate to support the school, we have representation in all Key-Board committees through co-option namely;

- Executive committee - Martin Mogwanja
- Audit- Frank Mutua
- Finance - Kimani Ruhanga
- Infrastructure - Eng. Anthony Mwaniki (co-opted)
- Disciplinary and Student Welfare - Dr Songa (co-opted)
- Strategic plan - Gikonyo Gitonga (co-opted), Marvin Sisse (co-opted) and Martin Mogwanja
- Endowment fund - George Ooko (co-opted) and Cliff Mukulu (co-opted)
- Sanatorium Quality Improvement - Dr Riro Mwita (co-opted)

### **School Enrolment**

The student population stands at 1604 boarding students. There are 82 teaching staff members (69 TSC, 13 BOM). The non-teaching staff is 119. These comprise 69 permanent and 50 part-time/seasonal staff.

### **Infrastructure**

The construction of six new classrooms is on track and will address the current pressure on class size. These classes are scheduled to be ready in the first term of 2020.

The World Bank-funded school dam project under NAMSIP (Nairobi Metropolitan Service Improvement Project) will move the dam embankment downstream and increase the height of the dam by 2 metres so that the dam holds 163,000 cu.m of water for the school farm use.

The construction of the new 18 hole golf course is well advanced. The project team expects to complete the course and the clubhouse in the coming months. This will host the National Junior Golf Academy.

The School has received a commitment for support in the construction of a boundary wall as part of the effort to secure the school. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior are supporting this initiative under the supervision of the Board.

The School Sanatorium is now officially registered by the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council as a Level Two medical clinic. The process of accreditation by NHIF is ongoing and is expected to be completed by the end of October 2019. This has been possible through the efforts of the alumni team represented by Dr Riro Mwita. Whilst the Sanatorium remains steadfastly a student facility, it will now be a great community outreach facility too.

The work to replace the old and leaking asbestos roof at the Carey Francis house is scheduled to be completed over the December school recess.

I would like to conclude by saying that the state of Lenana's alumni, board and community is strong. In these times of tragedy and uncertainty, the focus and resolve of the Laibon Society is to make sure the voice of the alumni is represented.

I want to thank the Laibons), in the board, alumni, government, teachers, students and the community for the strong support and engagement we have seen this week. I pray that this is the start of recommitment to a collective engagement in the other avenues we have for the Lenana School namely participation in the alumni association, Networking, the mentorship program, bursary programs, infrastructure projects, strategic planning and many other volunteer initiatives.

I welcome you to be a part of the movement.

Nihil Praetor Optimum,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Frank Mutua', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Mutua (CF 1994-1997)  
Chairman

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