



## KISUMU PEACE FESTIVAL

2014

*"Celebrating diversity in unity"*

The Planning Committee  
Kisumu Peace Festival

Kisumu, 19 June 2014

Dear friends of the Kisumu Peace Festival!

### Re: Cancellation of KPF 2014

It is with great regret that we, the planning team of the Kisumu Peace Festival, have to inform you that we step down from all our positions with immediate effect.

As some of you may be well aware, the KPF has suffered from various attacks from the very beginning of its existence in 2011. These attacks have been as a result of our strong stand for transparency, professionalism and financial accountability in conducting operations of the KPF. It is unfortunate that an event which was invented to bring peace, unity and harmony among the people of Kisumu has been continuously threatened by people with purely selfish interests, which jeopardise the integrity of the KPF.

We are proud that with your support, we delivered three festivals to the people of Kisumu. We engaged politicians, policy makers, administrators, religious leaders, artists, youth leaders and tens of thousands of Kisumu residents in promoting peaceful co-existence in Kisumu and Kenya. We helped promote cultural understanding and tolerance through songs, different forms of art, dances and food. And lastly, we brought together youths from political hotspots in Kisumu around the table with the police and facilitated them to play against each other in a symbolic football match watched by thousands of locals. But we believe that there is still much more to be done to guarantee peace in our beautiful city of Kisumu

The festival has also provided an opportunity for upcoming artists to grow artistically. Many local businessmen and women have also benefitted from the huge sales from festival attendees and supplies to the festival. In summary, the festival has boosted the local economy tremendously every August during the past three years.

It is very unfortunate that the attacks on this team have become so personal and insulting that this team is not willing to continue. We feel that those who are behind these vilifications



should now come to the fore and demonstrate their ability in innovative and transparent leadership and contribute constructively to peace and unity in Kisumu.

We wish to express once more our deep regret that it has come to this and apologise to all those who have already put a lot of effort in the planning and organisation of this year's KPF.

May God bless the people of Kisumu and may peace prevail in this our city and our country.

The planning committee of KPF



Kenneth Otieno



Kevin Obware



Serge de la Rey



Department of Culture

