

*“All the synergy in the making of the WSF Nairobi 2007 is crucial but futile without the spirits and struggles of the social movements who are self organising their own activities and creating processes beyond this event”.*

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## A Freedom Song

During the WSF 2005 held in Porto Allegre, the Senegalese artist Coumba Toure sang a song telling the story of a cage imprisoning birds that should be destroyed rather than buying a single bird's freedom for 50 cents, as people seeking luck do in the streets of Dakar.

This beautiful moment, as Trevor Ngwane recalls in one of his essays on the WSF, was possible due to the resources of NGOs and funding organizations, promoting their own visions but also seeking to create a platform for the struggles of social movements and other mass organisations.

The African Social Forum's founding principles indeed

recognise the primacy of social movements over NGOs in the struggle against neo-liberalism as mentioned by Ngwane in his essay.



Within these principles, the Secretariat of the Organising Committee of the WSF Nairobi 2007 is committed to facilitate an open space for the world social movements and their struggles.

NGOs, individuals and the

funding community converge freely, and not exclusively, in this Organising Committee in Nairobi only to play a supportive role in bringing the WSF to this continent.

All the synergy in the making of the WSF Nairobi 2007 is crucial but futile without the spirits and struggles of the social movements who are self organising their own activities and creating processes beyond this event.

As Ngwane correctly affirms, “our vision for the WSF in Africa [should be] to destroy the capitalist cage which imprisons Africans and all of humanity's social, economic, political and cultural development”. Every note within this global process should bring meaningful colors to this global song for freedom.

## The spirit of those early hours

*from Mathare to the World*

**By Joseph Arthur Ong'injo**

Despite the many problems bedeviling the inhabitant of my community, at no time will you find the roads empty. In Mathare, as early as 4am, you will find people in groups discussing political issues, cracking jokes or passing time.

Specially in those early hours of the day, people exercise the art of speaking loudly even if it's a confidential ma-

ter or message case, this is when freedom of speech is fully practiced.

As I left my community one of those mornings, to attend a youth consultation meeting in preparation of WSF Nairobi 2007, I asked myself, is it another Washington Gala event?

After spending a few days in the company of young peo-

ple like me from Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe and many other African Countries, I discovered that same early spirit of my community.

To me the WSF is beginning to be and will be a deeply emotional experience. It's emotional because we have been working very hard to make this day happen without even knowing that is not

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about organising a 5 day event but rather being part of a global and ongoing process.

To me this is a grand celebration where we can bring our everyday living alternatives and efforts for freeing ourselves from bondage of racism poverty, human rights abuses, discrimination and unfair trade.

This gathering is to pronounce good bye to the era of financial apartheid, it is about setting the stage to unleash the human creativity and endeavors of the poor.

This forum is to guarantee every poor person the chance to undertake responsibility to establish his or her own human dignity.

I hope to bring to this

event the early spirit of struggle from my people, from Mathare, and celebrate the success of millions of determined men and women who have fought hard to transform, every day, the image of the world.

*Joseph Arthur Ong'injo is a member of Shantit, a CBO from Mathare, in the outskirts of Nairobi.*

You can contact him at [arthurjoe2010@yahoo.com](mailto:arthurjoe2010@yahoo.com)

**CULTURE COMMISSION.**  
Organising Committee of WSF Nairobi 2007

*“The Nairobi event , that will take place between 20 - 25 January 2007, therefore presents us with a great opportunity to challenge imperialism with the same language they understand – cultural force”.*

## Culture: a language of resistance

### By Njuguna Mutahi

The World Social Forum comes to Kenya and to Africa at a very critical time in the world. It's a time when our cultures are facing a vicious onslaught from the neo-liberal forces of globalisation in an attempt to control our minds and more so our resources.

The upcoming Nairobi event, that will take place between 20 - 25 January 2007, therefore presents us with a great opportunity to challenge imperialism with the same language they understand – cultural force.

In this regard, the Commission on Culture which is charged with the WSF cultural programme, working closely with the Content and Methodology Commission, is planning to integrate culture in all the events that will be taking place at the forum – workshops, panels, symposia.

In other words, the forum

will be one great cultural event showcasing our time tested use of culture as a means of resistance. It is our logical response to the economic and political disparities that plague the world.

As part of our preparations, the Commission has been holding regular consultative meetings to develop the program, identify activities, individuals and groups that will complete the montage of our cultural diversity of all those who believe that another world is possible.

We plan to involve music, theatre, dance, poetry, film and all other artistic expressions from all over the world. This will buttress the centrality of expression as the ultimate tool in our struggles to liberate our minds and in the search for alternative solutions.

To achieve this, the Commission on Culture will

collaborate with social movements from the rest of the world to bring in artists, writers, performers in an effort to build solidarity initiatives that will take us to Nairobi and beyond.

As part of this process, the Kenya Social Forum was invited to participate at the India Social Forum being held in New Delhi between November 9<sup>th</sup> - 13 2006. Cultural events were not entertainment but the life of social movements that attended, adding a special dimension to the forum.

As the five-day conclave of anti-globalisation forces in India came to an end, our delegation was honored by being given the space to close the event with the beats of African drums before thousands of activists from South and South East Asia, China and our Continent. For us, this collaboration served as the building block for future African-Asian collaboration.

You can contact him at [nmutahi2001@yahoo.com](mailto:nmutahi2001@yahoo.com)

## How can you Register Activities for the WSF 2007?

### Welcome to the World Social Forum Common Space

Activity registration is done in the World Social Forum Common Space at

[www.wsfprocess.net](http://www.wsfprocess.net)

If your organization want to register activities to the Nairobi event you are not familiar with the internet, you can download the activity registration form from

<http://www.wsf2007.org/register>.

This form must be e-mailed to [registration@wsf2007.org](mailto:registration@wsf2007.org)

After Registering yourself in the WSF Common Space you will have to register your organisation, or simply ask to be included if you're already registered as such. Then you may register your activity for the WSF Nairobi 2007 event. You can browse or search for other organisations or groups

of organisations. In those groups, participants cooperate in the name of their respective organizations and may collectively submit proposals for social change or register activities, either specific to the WSF Nairobi 2007 event, or of a general scope.

You can join existing groups by cooperation or register new ones. You can contact participants of any organisation or group by using the contact participants form in the workspace of the organisation or group.

You can work collaboratively on documents with the rest of your organisation/group members. You can make them visible to all site participants or keep them restricted to mem-

bers of your organisation/group. Documents, images, links and other files may exist under your organisation's/group's workspace or they can be specific to a registered activity or proposal and reside under it. Browse the activities, proposals and public documents that have been submitted by other organisations or groups.

The Secretariat in Nairobi is making efforts to establish a team of "internet mediators" that will link the organizations without internet and those in the workspace.

If you are interested in supporting these efforts to help groups and organisation without Internet access, please send a message to:

[registration@wsf2007.org](mailto:registration@wsf2007.org)

### ATTENTION:

**deadline to register**

**activities for**

**Nairobi is**

**November 30th,**

**2006.**

**Activities registered**

**after this deadline**

**will not be included**

**on Nairobi**

**program.**

## Call for youth participation at the WSF Nairobi 2007!!

The energies, visions and creativity of young people have been intrinsic to the struggles against neo liberalism. From the streets of Prague, Genoa and Seattle in the dynamic expressions of resistance, a young generation of activists has continued to be part of growing movements of alternatives that now form the World Social Forum.

The World Social Forum since its inception has always encouraged an autonomous, but connected space for young people under the auspices of the **International Youth Camp (IYC)**.

Its methodologies and activities have been organized according to the vision, capacities and dynamism of local youth organizing groups. The IYC conforms to the Charter of Principles

of the WSF and is organized within the thematic parameters as envisioned by the International Council of the WSF. It enables young people to organize panels, workshops, roundtables, demonstrations, cultural events and other activities within the diverse expressions of youth visions and culture.



The WSF2007 as in the previous World Social Forums will facilitate this important space for young people to articulate their living alternatives under this year's theme: *Youth Struggles, Youth Alternatives*. We ask you to register for the WSF through existing

registration procedure available at the WSF2007 website: [www.wsf2007.org](http://www.wsf2007.org).

Young people with the requisite skills are also advised to register as **Volunteers**.

Since many of the interactions before the WSF2007 are online, we are requesting youth organizations and networks with internet resources to facilitate the registration and interactivity of their constituencies without internet access at the WSF Common Space. These acts of mediation are considered central to the success of the WSF2007 forum.

For further enquiries or request for information on the International Youth Camp, please write to:

[youth@wsf2007.org](mailto:youth@wsf2007.org)

## Upcoming WSF Events

Dates	Event	Location
Nov, 17th	Huruma Social Forum	Huruma Grounds Nairobi, Kenya
Nov, 17th	Central Kenya Social Forum	Whispers Park, Nyeri, Kenya
Nov, 25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	Eastern Africa Organising Committee Meeting	TBD Nairobi, Kenya

## Media Accreditation Procedures

The first step is to complete the individual registration form available at our website <http://wsf2007.org/registrations>. This form must be filled and sent as an attached document in a mail to [registration@wsf2007.org](mailto:registration@wsf2007.org)

A few days after you will receive a CODE that you need to fill the MEDIA ACCREDITATION FORM. The Accreditation Form and more information for media representatives will soon be available at our web site. For comments or questions please contact:

**Media & Publicity Commission:**  
[media@wsf2007.org](mailto:media@wsf2007.org)

## Volunteer Opportunities!!!

The WSF2007 is offering volunteer opportunities to young people interested in being of part in this historic event. You will have the possibility to interact with other young people from across the world and learn more about the World Social Forum.

To apply visit our website <http://www.wsf2007.org/volunteer> or send an email to [mosioma@sodnet.or.ke](mailto:mosioma@sodnet.or.ke)

## Venue of World Social Forum 2007

A team of professional architects and physical planners is currently developing the physical plan for the venue at Moi International Sports Centre in Kasarani.



We have added a picture gallery, where you can follow the transformation of Moi International Sports Centre into a beautiful venue for the World Social Forum 2007 event. You can access the picture gallery <http://www.wsf2007.org/picture-gallery>



## Want to contribute to the WSF Solidarity Fund?

We are humbled by the numerous flows of support and solidarity, but again, we ask you to go this extra mile. We request you to send your monetary contributions to:

**BANK:** Stanbic Bank  
**Name:** SODNET-WORLD SOCIAL FORUM  
**No.:** 7040029869101  
**SWIFT CODE:** SBICKENX

**Intermediary Bank in New York:**  
**BANK:** Deutsche Bank Trust NY  
**SWIFT CODE:** BKTRUS33  
**Account:** 04096505  
**Currency:** US Dollars

If you will be making any other forms of support or contribution, please contact us at the secretariat through [donations@wsf2007.org](mailto:donations@wsf2007.org)

We hope that we can count on you to send the most generous gift as soon as possible.

**Every kind wishes and our most profound gratitude!!**

## WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 2007 SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

### Main office:

Masandukuni Lane, Off Vanga Road,  
Off Gitanga Road  
P.O. Box: 63125, 00619 Nairobi, Kenya  
Phone: +254-(0)20-3860745 or  
+254-(0)20-3860746  
Fax: +254-(0)20-2713262  
E-mail: [info@wsf2007.org](mailto:info@wsf2007.org)

### Dovenest office:

Argwings Kodhek Grove,  
Off Argwings Kodhek Road  
P.O. Box: 63125, 00619 Nairobi, Kenya  
Phone: +254-(0)20-2713262 or  
+254-(0)20-2712646  
Mobile: +254-(0)725 127 364

**“Another World is Possible”**  
**“Dunia Mbadala Yawezekana”**