

NEWSLETTER

OASIS COMMUNITY NETWORK PRESENTS: MUNYOYAYA CULTURAL FESTIVAL



Introduction

We are thrilled to share the incredible success of the Munyoyaya Cultural Festival, held on Saturday, 13th July 2024, in Konoramadha Village, Tana River County. This joyous celebration brought together community members, leaders, and guests to experience the vibrant culture, traditional songs, dances, and cuisine of the Munyoyaya people. The Munyoyaya community, native to Tana River County, has a rich heritage and history. Originating from Cushitic-speaking groups, they have preserved their distinct traditions. Their economic activities include agriculture, fishing, and pastoralism, cultivating crops such as maize, sorghum, and millet, fishing in the Tana River, and rearing livestock like cattle, goats, and sheep. These activities sustain their community and contribute to the local economy.



Cultural Performances

The festival was filled with mesmerizing cultural performances that captivated our hearts. Traditional songs and dances by preprimary school children, youth groups, and women's groups showcased the rich heritage and artistic talents of the Munyoyaya people. The vibrancy and energy of these performances were truly unforgettable.



Dances and Dance Moves

One of the most exhilarating parts of the Munyoyaya Cultural Festival was the spirited dance sessions that brought everyone together. The community showcased their traditional dances with vibrant energy, demonstrating intricate dance moves that have been passed down through generations. Guests were invited to join in, learning the unique flair and style of Munyoyaya dancing.

The air was filled with joy and laughter as everyone, from young children to elders, moved to the rhythmic beats of traditional drums and songs. This shared dance experience not only highlighted the rich cultural traditions of the Munyoyaya people but also fostered a deep sense of connection and unity among all attendees. It was a celebration of life, movement, and community that will be remembered by everyone who participated.

Children's Poem

A poignant highlight of the Munyoyaya Cultural Festival was a powerful poem performed by the children, addressing retrogressive cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), forced marriages for young girls, and lack of education. Through their emotive words, the children called for change and greater awareness, urging the community to abandon harmful traditions and embrace progress and education for all. Their courageous performance was a compelling plea for a brighter future.



Message from the MCA

The Member of County Assembly (MCA) **Madogo Ward: Juma Dido**, expressed deep gratitude to OASIS Community Network (OCN) for remembering and supporting the Munyoyaya community. He rallied the community to stand firmly against primitive cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and forced marriages for young girls. He urged everyone to prioritize education for their children, emphasizing that it is the key to a brighter and more prosperous future. His inspiring words resonated with the audience, reinforcing the importance of cultural evolution and the community's role in fostering positive change.



GUEST OF HONOR

We were honored to welcome our esteemed guest of honor, **Deputy Governor, Tana River County: Mahadh Ali Loka**, a distinguished leader from the Munyoyaya community. His deep roots and unwavering commitment to preserving Munyoyaya cultural heritage made his presence significant. In his inspiring speech, Deputy Governor Loka emphasized the importance of cultural preservation, community solidarity, and standing against retrogressive practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and forced marriages. His leadership and support are invaluable to the Munyoyaya people and Tana River County, encouraging unity and progress for a brighter future



COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP EMBRACE

We are deeply grateful for the warm embrace and hospitality extended to us by the local leadership and the Munyoyaya community. From the outset, the local leaders, including Deputy Governor Mahadh Ali Loka, the Members of County Assembly (MCA), the Chief, and Assistant Chiefs, along with community members, welcomed OASIS Community Network (OCN) with open arms. Their invitation to OCN signifies not only their inclusive spirit and commitment to cultural preservation but also their desire for our continued presence and future engagement within the community. This partnership has enriched our understanding and appreciation of the Munyoyaya heritage and reinforces our shared mission to foster community solidarity and cultural pride. We look forward to ongoing collaboration and deeper integration with the Munyoyaya people.