

LAST WORD



Ahmed



Sherbanu



Yusuf



Nargis



Aasif



Nazneen

As I look back on my years as a sportsman with a lot of satisfaction, I feel a twinge of nostalgia and a longing for the excitement of the cricket pitch and tennis court. I can still feel the anticipation, adrenaline and the thud of my shoes as I approached the pitch to bowl or stood ready with my bat or hitting a tennis ball across the net. They were magical years. I gave it my all and was richly rewarded.

I am now content to see the younger generation in Kenya step up to carry the mantle of success and take this country to a higher level, irrespective of the field one is in. I strongly recommend a solid foundation for life which is provided by a good education. This is followed by working towards success with integrity in any field. With tenacity, one will always reach the goal or destination.

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which one has overcome.

I wish to acknowledge my forefather for the hardships and challenges they faced first in India and then in Kenya along with other Asians now living in East Africa to make a better life for the future generation. My father, despite limited resources and strained economic conditions, followed his passion for sports and with my mum, encouraged my siblings and myself to do the same. I am immensely grateful to both my parents for the support and love.

I still maintain that I am the "beneficiary" of the seeds of success sown by my father in sports. He was the sportsman who actually deserved exposure and recognition at international level.

Similarly, the real and 'unsung hero' of our family is my mum, Nargis. Equally, my wife, Nazneen for her undivided support to my sports career and her priceless role as a wife, mother to our children and to our home.

The baton has now been handed over to the younger generation of the Karim family, including my children. They must take the important next steps that will determine their success, be it in sports, business or personal life in any part of the Global village.

The concept of this book was a perfect opportunity for highlighting my father's brilliant sports

career that enriched my sports cum business life and now the third generation of the Karim family, Irfan playing at international level. This is a story of how our family contributed to sports and made a successful life in this beautiful Nation for the last 90 years.

As I conclude this journey on the production of the documentary and the coffee table book, I thank the Almighty God for giving me and the family the courage to complete this colossal project with contentment. I equally thank Alpha Sports Ltd and all those involved with their assistance in the production of this coffee table book including the documentary produced earlier.

This story should hopefully inspire future generations and motivate other sports stars in Kenya to do a similar project for posterity.

As the former South Africa President and International Statesman, Nelson Mandela remarked;

"Death is something inevitable. When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his family, his people and his country, he can rest in peace".

This is the essence of life and perfectly befits my FATHER – Yusuf Karim.

May God rest his soul in eternal peace!

Be blessed!

Aasif Karim
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Aasif Karim