



Tribunal made AFC Leopards 20 million shillings richer in two weeks

Litigation takes time and can leave a gaping hole in one's bank account. These are among the reasons why many people dread the corridors of justice. But litigation can also bring forth unexpected good fortune.

John Ohaga, chairman of the sports dispute tribunal, related a case that made AFC Leopards 20 million shillings richer.

"At the tribunal, we have a unique approach to dealing with disputes. "We recognise that each dispute is different and must be dealt with based on its particular circumstances," Ohaga told the panel on sports dispute resolution and sports tribunal.

Community clubs, like AFC Leopards and Gor Mahia, are usually weighed down by wrangles from different factions, each wanting to manage the club. In some cases, there are factions that see such clubs as cash cows. As such, they will go out of their way to make sure that they hold the club's purse strings. In early 2016, when two

factions of AFC Leopards went to the sports dispute tribunal, the matter did not just involve the running of the club, but sponsorship from two competing betting companies.

"The dispute was unique. For many years, AFC Leopards had disagreements because there were factions that wanted to lead the club," Ohaga said.

"Each dispute is different, and in this dispute, the tribunal was Solomonian in their approach. We actually found out that the way to resolve the dispute was not to say this is the right faction, but went for a mediated settlement," Ohaga noted.

He said mediation is different from making a decision, in that mediation involves sitting around the table, talking about an issue and we agreeing who is more suited to run the club.

"In the middle of the mediation, the two factions then had another dispute, which arose when one faction went

and procured SportPesa as their sponsor and the other group went and acquired Betway as their sponsor," he remarked. Ohaga said both factions signed contracts each saying their preferred betting company would be the exclusive sponsor of the club, yet two competitors cannot sponsor the same club.

Ohaga told the two factions that this could not happen because there cannot be two different contracts from two competitors for the same institutions. The chairman took an unprecedented action, and told both factions to cancel both contracts, which they did.

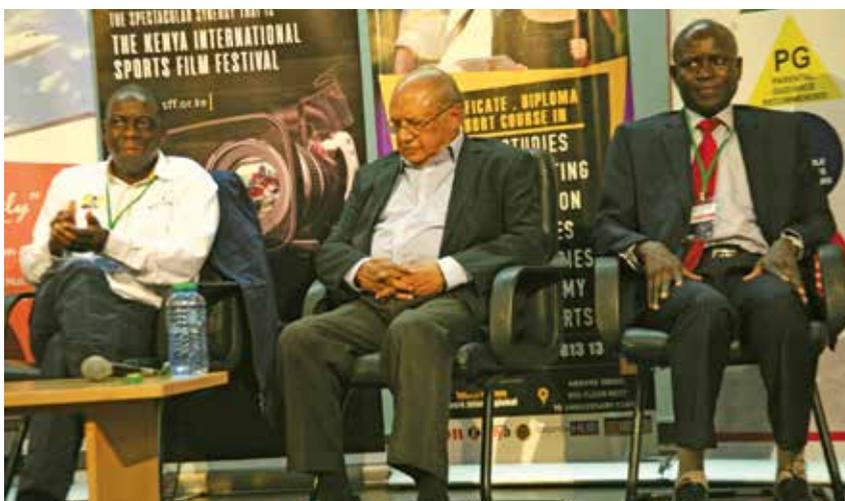
Afterwards, Ohaga invited the two betting companies to make presentations to the two factions in order to showcase who was best suited to sponsor the club.

In such matters, there are always vested interests that may do anything to have their way. While the dispute resolution was underway, Ohaga got telephone calls from lawyers who were threatening to sue him or sue the club or the tribunal.

"By the time we were done in resolving that dispute, SportPesa which eventually took on the sponsorship doubled its sponsorship from 20 million shillings to 40 million shillings through my intervention. Now, that was within a period of two weeks. In two weeks, I made that club 20 million shillings richer," he said.

He said sometimes one does not get such solutions in textbooks because there is no manual that will tell you how to resolve a dispute of such nature.

There must be an insight into sporting organisations, how they work and one also must have the desire to resolve that dispute as a sportsman.



John Ohaga(left), Sharad Rao and James Kihara during the panel discussion (Photo Credit: KISFF Secretariat)



Wilfred Bungei, Sharad Rao, Aasif Karim, Dr. Pramod Shah, F...
Douglas Wakiihuri pose for a photo a



...lorence Nduta, Abdul Sidi, Muthoni Ntonjira, Barnaba Korir and ... after the anti-doping panel session (3)

Safinaz Foundation takes over running of

Alpha Sports

By John Muli



Aasif and Nazneen (Photo Credit: Family Album)

Safinaz Foundation has taken over the running of Alpha Sports, which previously was the publisher of Sports Monthly magazine for the last 19 years. Safinaz Foundation was founded in 2014 by Aasif Karim, former national cricket team and tennis captain, in conjunction with his wife, Nazneen in honour and respect of their parents.

Keeping in mind the major contribution the Karim family has given to cricket and tennis, the primary purpose of the foundation is to promote all sports in the country. It supports sports events and tournaments, provides sports equipment to talented sportsmen and women and where possible, education and social needs. In the future, subject to funding, the foundation intends to explore other areas of sports promotion. The foundation welcomes any individual or corporate with similar vision for partnership.

Alpha Sports initiated a project dubbed "The Karims – A Sporting Dynasty" to celebrate the achievements of the family and to promote sports in Kenya. "The Karims – A Sporting Dynasty" are a moving, emotional and insightful documentary of a family that has spanned three generations and two sports. The documentary follows the origins of this family from Cutch in India, to Mombasa where Yusuf Karim ruled the tennis scene for 25 years.

His sons took up the mantle after him and his second-born son, Aasif, excelled in both tennis and cricket just like his father and took the Karim name to an international level. Aasif, a qualified as an arbitrator and mediator, has been the longest serving member on the Kenya cricket team, having achieved many personal and team firsts in his cricketing career. Irfan, Aasif's son is now the torch-bearer in the family where he represents Kenya at international cricket. The documentary went on, three months later, to be nominated again at the Iran International Film Festival and eventually as one of the best



Kulsum Sherah Ahmed Kassam and Sherali Ahmed Kassam (Mrs. Nazneen Karim's parents) (Photo Credit: Family Album)

documentaries in the 2014 Kalasha Film Festival in Kenya. In 2008, Yusuf Karim was finally honoured by the All Africa Federation of his community before he passed on in March 2009 following ill health. A road was named after him in Mombasa in 2012 by the mayor.

The documentary and the coffee book table are both a work of dedication in honour of his parents, a salute from Aasif and his wife Nazneen to Yusuf and Nargis Karim and their selfless love and support they gave to each of their children. It took them over two years to produce the documentary which was written and directed by Indian film-maker Amit Tyagi. The Karims' has received admiration from the sporting community and critical acclaim from the world of motion

pictures. The documentary received international recognition at the 2013 Tiger Paw Sports Film Festival in New Delhi, where 82 films were featured. The two-hour DVD has subtitles in English, Kiswahili, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, Farsi, Urdu, Arabic and Sign language.

"Three generations. Two sports. One family." That is the headline of the back page write-up of a 360-page coffee table book that has been written about the sporting legacy of the Karims. The case-bound book was launched in May 2017 in Nairobi by Paul Tergat, National Olympic Committee of Kenya president during a ceremony attended by more than 200 people, and later in London the same year.

The project took over five years to assemble from more than 800 photographs, over 110 newspaper articles and certificates and editorial history dating back to 1825. The narration in the book is almost dwarfed by the many and generous graphics, and the reader gets a feel of browsing through a well-kept archive by the time they are done reading the 15 chapters of the book.

The design of the book comes out as original as its makers chose authenticity over uniformity. The book begins with a backgrounder on what made the Karim family leave India – activities of British colonialists before independence in 1947.



Yusuf Karim and Nargis Karim (Mr. Aasif Karim's parents) (Photo Credit: Family Album)

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Japanese Ambassador to Kenya Toshitsugu receives a trophy from KISFF Director Madam Florence Nduta after making a speech during the 2018 Awards Presentation Ceremony



KISFF Brand Ambassador Douglas Wakithuri makes a speech - and to the audience as Rose Tata Muya looks on (November 2018)



Idah Waringa receives trophy for her film Acakoro from KISFF Chairman Aasif Karim (November 2018)

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They depict human body and spirit resilience. They break world records, they make history and inspire us to push ourselves to our outmost best. Sports films immortalise their lives and achievements. The Kenya International Sports Film Festival (KISFF) is an initiative of Safinaz Foundation that promotes sports in Kenya. Founded by Aasif Karim, a decorated sportsman himself, Safinaz Foundation firmly believes that, sports unifies societies, film inspires individuals and communities.

Entries submission: 15th June to 31st July 2019

Late Entries: 30th August 2019

Event begins from 21st November 2019
to 24th November 2019

for more details visit: www.kisff.or.ke



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