



How Lyambila accidentally got into sports journalism

Topi Lyambila was employed at the Voice of Kenya as a supplies officer until he literally had a light bulb moment. "One day my boss wanted some specifications of a light bulb which had burned in the studios. I bumped onto Rosemary Musumba and Katherine Kasavuli who were desperately looking for a male voice, but there was no one around," Lyambila said.

"Do you work here?" they inquired and when I replied that I worked in the stores department, they explained their predicament and asked me if I could read a script that they had. After the feat, they told me to go for voice test. Lyambila said that what got him interested in sports journalism was the TV programme that was running on VoK "Football Made in Germany" and whose commentator was called Tobby Charles.

He later met Herman Igambi, senior official at VoK, who he complained to that his staff weren't doing a good job at broadcasting football matches and advised him to tell his charges to watch "Football Made in Germany" to see the show's expertise.

"He told me that next time they go out to broadcast a football match, they would call me. There was no sports desk at VoK and when Cornelius Nyamboki became the director of broadcasting, he formed the first sports division in VoK in 1985. Mugambi tapped me to join the sports division and that's how I moved from supplies into broadcasting."

"One thing that I've learnt in life is that if you do a lot, you achieve much more than the ordinary person. If you just sit around and do nothing, you will achieve nothing. I started playing hockey at primary school and when I joined to Loreto Girls for my high school education, students were expected to actively participate in extracurricular activities and the push I received beyond the classroom has helped me a great deal."

Betty Wamalwa, stressing the need for sports to be firmly rooted in schools.

"I sat in the panel that adjudicated on the Russian doping case where we were given the number of athletes to look at and decide whether they should be allowed to participate in the Olympics. I cleared all the Russian athletes on the basis that I wasn't satisfied they were guilty of what the Russian government was doing. It was state-sponsored. I took the view that it was wrong to punish an athlete who had trained all those years, and to deprive them an opportunity of a lifetime whereas they had nothing to do with the state-sponsored programme. The IOC knows that without Russia and Kenya, there are no Olympics."

Sharad Rao, speaking about the intricacies of deciding doping cases.

"Some of our cultures are positive and if we followed them we would live in harmony. The ministry believes that if we follow some of the values in our culture, our future will be bright. We also believe that we should use culture for positive values. Some of our cultures are outdated and we should discard them and follow the ones that are beneficial. We should also use culture for entertainment

and people should be earning a living out of it. The ministry is also involved in talent development in the creative economy."



Josephtha Mukobe, principal secretary in the ministry sports, culture and heritage, outlining some of the values of culture.

20th
Anniversary

Congratulations

SPORTS
Monthly

Kenya's Authoritative Sports Magazine

Our Brief History

Sports Monthly Magazine was established in May 2000 by Aasif Karim as a way of giving back to sports after a long successful career in sports. The launch was graced by world-renowned athlete Paul Tergat.

The authoritative Kenya's oldest existing magazine now turning 20 years old and 139 issues in circulation keeps scaling the heights. Magazines have come and gone, Sports Monthly which specialises in sports coverage with a vast circulation has weathered the storms and has proved popular for sports lovers.



John Muli, Personal Assistant to KISFF Chairman Aasif Karim and Event Director



KENYA INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FILM FESTIVAL
KISFF
PURSUING PASSION FOR SPORTS THROUGH FILM

Director Florence Nduta exchange pleasantries on the opening day of the festival

Sports Unifies - Sports Movies Inspire

This was the tag line used when Safinaz Foundation in November 2018 successfully organised the first-ever sports film festival in the African continent.

The birth of Kenya International Sports Film Festival (KISFF) took place when the four-day event was held at the National Museum of Kenya with the red carpet closing ceremony at Aspire Centre in Westlands where the awards to various film makers were given.

During the four-day event, over 20 sports movies and documentaries were screened and 10 panel discussions were held that covered various sports-related matters that affect Kenya's sportsmen and sportswomen, including the able-bodied athletes. We had powerful panellists with vast knowledge to share for the benefit of the sports fraternity. All events were covered on the social media of KISFF and the same can be revisited anytime.

After various discussions by the promoters and the inaugural team that organised the festival, the team strongly believes that the sports film festival must be an annual calendar event. I am pleased to announce that the second KISFF event will take place from Nov.21 to Nov. 24 at avenue to be announced soon. Since the opening of submissions last month on the KISFF website, almost 500 movies and documentaries have been received to date ahead of the deadline at the end of August.

Like last year, we have a strong and experienced panel of jury led by Njoki Muhoho. The KISFF nucleus team has been strengthened by including Risper Muthamia, who will be in charge of production and technical matters. The marketing and events director will be Florence Nduta and communications and public relations will be headed by Chris Kamau. The secretariat at Aristocrats House will be once again led by John Muli Makau. Yours truly will be the chairman and director of the festival.

The preparations are ongoing and are at an advanced stage to further improve on the festival from last year. We are negotiating and in discussion with our 22 partners during last year's event and new potential associates in order to make it an all-inclusive event.

The team is also discussing on the various panel discussions to be held this year including the panellists who will add value to the discussions. The team is also doing a summary document for all the 10 panel discussion held last year to further improve sports in Kenya.

We had great support from the Ministry of Sports and various government agencies including the Kenya Film Commission and Kenya Film Classification Board.

We expect improved participation from various sports associations who are important stake holders in this festival.

In addition to various objectives of the sports film festival, the team strongly believe that Kenya's sports history over the last 60 years has a lot to offer by producing sports documentaries and sports movies on Kenyan sportsman and sportswoman, including the sports teams that have consistently done the nation proud over the years.

The Safinaz Foundation is in discussion on the same and expect with time to achieve this objective. A research that was done in the recent past points to the fact that no documentary or movie has ever been produced on Kenya's "unsung heroes". This must change!

I strongly believe that each sports association, including NOCK, needs to achieve by documenting history of sports that can then be converted to documentaries and movies to inspire our next generation of sportsmen and sportswomen.

It would be a welcome gesture and move if and when the Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Heritage, including the Ministry of ICT under which films docket falls jointly work towards this much needed objective.

In the meantime, Kenya hosted the first ever Indian film festival in Kenya where Bollywood actors, producers and directors graced the one-week event. Various discussions took place, including between Bollywood and Kenyan film industry with the intention to undertake joint-production on movies and documentaries.

In the recent past, Bollywood has produced several great, successful, inspiring and internationally-acclaimed biopics of Indian sportsmen and woman. This welcome initiative was by captain Rahul Balli, the curator for the Indian Film Festival here in Kenya and who has vast experience having overseen several Indian film festivals in different parts of the world.

Safinaz Foundation is in discussion and exploring on this potential of co-producing Kenyan sports documentaries and sports movies including biopics.

Exciting times ahead!!

Aasif Karim is Chairman of Safinaz Foundation and Kenya International Sports Film Festival (KISFF). He is a former Kenyan International Sportsman (Cricket and Tennis) as well as a businessman and FELLOW Arbitrator and Accredited Mediator, including being a Mediator for the Kenyan Judiciary for Family and Commercial disputes.

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