

Girl's Education on Everybody's Agenda

'A Night at the Races' may turn into one of Blantyre's annual glamour events if the success of this one is anything to go by.

Ubwino Wa Amayi- 'For the good of the women, educate the girls', used an Ascot style race meet format for their latest fundraiser on Friday. In true African style, The Big Five animals were used instead of rocking horses and they were mounted by real life jockeys riding for the sponsors of the event at the throw of a dice. Big names such as Burco, Toyota, Sharma Industries, Universal, Plascon Paints, Agora, Bakemans, Stansfield Motors, City Building, DK Suppliers, Ulendo and FMB all supported the event which took place at Blantyre Sports Club in a marquee provided by Tanamera.

The animals had names like Frooty Frolic, Coconut Cookie, Wall and All, Double Velvet Fivos, Prado, Hover Steed and Lion King and the punters clad in wonderful outfits and hats took bets on their favourites. There was much hilarity as the jockeys donned racing caps and bibs and excitement mounted as they raced for the finish line!

David Kelly specially commissioned a work of art for the prize draw - his painting of a girl on the threshold of womanhood was highly coveted by all in attendance.

The organisers, Ubwino Wa Amayi, thank their sponsors for helping to raise awareness about Girls' Education and for contributing to the success of the event which raised K1 million. This money will be used to pay for secondary school and Trade school fees in Namitembo and for the running costs of Namitembo Montessori nursery school. By helping girls to continue their education, Ubwino hope to contribute in a small way to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In the words of **United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**

"Investing in girls' education delivers well-known returns. When girls' are educated, they are more likely to earn higher wages and obtain better jobs, to have fewer and healthier children and to enjoy safer childbirth"

We therefore need all those with the power to change things to come together in an alliance for girl's education: governments, voluntary progressive groups, and above all, local communities, schools and families. [Kofi Anan]

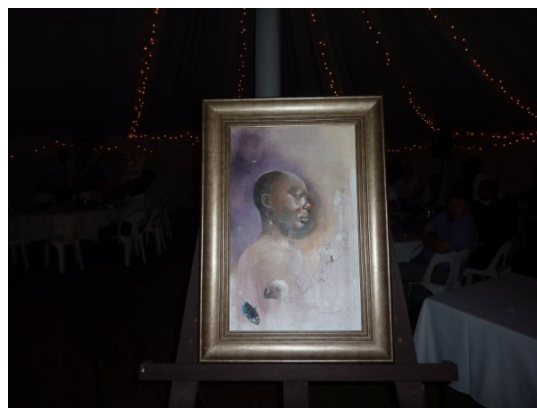
A Night at the Races did just that.

By a correspondent

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Race in Progress. The Namitembo Classic



David Kelly painting, Girl on threshold of womanhood