

Eyes for East Africa Monthly News 2003

October 2003

10th Anniversary of the Founding of the Eye Centre

To celebrate the anniversary on 3rd October, the Trustees of Eyes for East Africa (UK) arranged for a cake to be made by Alliance Hotels Ltd and delivered to the Eye Centre. It was a complete surprise to the staff, who quickly arranged a party and enjoyed the delicious 3kg cake!



Masai Man Regains Sight after 10 Years

A Masai man (seated on the left in the photo) who had been blind for 10 years and lived in a remote area, heard about the Eye Centre. He walked for 5 hours with a guide to a screening point and is now delighted to have regained some vision in his right eye. He had been told elsewhere that nothing could be done, but subsequent surgery at the Eye Centre restored some vision.



World Sight Day at the Kenya Coast

On 9th October 2003 Kwale District Eye Centre (KDEC), together with key stakeholders, held an open day and exhibition for the benefit of the community at the local primary school. The aim was to create awareness about the seriousness of needless suffering due to treatable or preventable eye

disease and how the community can help overcome this. KDEC was the major exhibitor, supported by Village Health Committees (VHCs), Likoni School for the Blind, the Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB), Community Based Nutrition Program (CBNP), Participatory Education Theatre Group (PET) and the Ministry of Education.

Speakers included Dr Helen Roberts, Medical Director of KDEC. In total about 1,500 people attended the event, including 20 chiefs and subchiefs (all uniformed) from within the district. The event was presided over by the Kwale District Commissioner, Mr. Mutsami.

The Sparrows Band, most of whom are blind, demonstrated that disability was not an inability by giving a brilliant performance attracting the crowds, and a jolly good party was had by all!



The photo shows The Kwale District Commissioner, Mr Mutsami, being briefed on the problems of unnecessary blindness.

November 2003

Eye Go Fishing

This deep sea fundraising event on the Kenya coast is organised each November by the Kwale District Eye Centre. On November 24th 2003, 64 anglers set off in 22 boats searching for marlin and sailfish, inspired by the catching of a 101Kg black marlin in the run up to the event. The prize for the lucky occupants of the winning boat was a luxurious stay for six people in a fabulous safari camp. The photograph shows the barbeque being prepared for those who had participated. Around \$USD 3,000 was raised at the event.



December 2003

Training of Lucy Lockett, Kenya Government Cataract Surgeon

The reputation of the Kwale District Eye Centre for high standards has resulted in the Centre being approved to provide 9 months clinical experience for cataract surgeons on behalf of the Kenya Medical Training College. After four years of training and practical experience, Lucy and other eye surgeons like her will be qualified to carry out cataract surgery without supervision. They form a very important part of the medical workforce aiming to reach the goals of Vision 2020.



Accident disrupts local telephone communications

In early December a telegraph pole fell onto the Hospital's entrance sign whilst work was being carried out on the telephone lines. Fortunately no-one was hurt by the accident. The damage has since been repaired and telephone communications restored.

