

11<sup>TH</sup>  
EDITION

2017/18

# MEKAELA TIMES

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ON CULTURAL DAY

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## From the Editors' Desk

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Greetings and a warm welcome to Mekaela Times 11<sup>th</sup> edition.

Last year has seen so many disruptions in schooling activities in Kenya. One thing that brought anxiety to the education system in the country was the election on August and thereafter the Supreme Court of Kenya ruling on the presidential elections. This disadvantaged some candidates for failing to have a levelled playground in the national exams. To make matters worse some, even lost their lives.

It is for this reason that we find this edition to be enlightening to Kenyans and particularly the politicians because peace and tolerance are needed in Kenya more than anything. Find out what our young readers have to say on this.

Our schools have had many achievements (both academics and extra-curricular) in 2017, thanks to God amidst all the happenings in the country. Read about this from the school administration and learn why Mekaela Academies is the place to be.

Karibu sana,  
Tereza Ajumbo



*Tereza Ajumbo (LBS)*  
**Chief Editor**

### Mekaela Times Co-Editors:



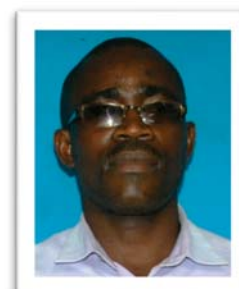
*Florence Mayabi*



*Fredrick Otieno*



*Joseph Kisilu*



*Wilson Odhiambo*

Thanks to Base Titanium for sponsoring the printing of Mekaela Times once again. Recently, the market prices for minerals which Base is producing have improved significantly thus (supposedly) Base was able to fetch a lot more for every ton of Rutile, Zircon and Ilmenite shipped to their customers.

Also, we have learned that the life-span of the Kwale mine could be extended by several years which is excellent news for the local community, the economy and the workers.

Thanks a lot, Base Titanium for your continued support.



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## From the Management's Desk



**Elijah Musili**  
**Managing Director**

As we have closed the 2017 academic calendar, the management of Mekaela Academies wishes to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the staff, learners, parents and all stake holders for an incredible year.

We look over our shoulders and are really grateful how together

we have sailed through a turbulent year that was and still is full of uncertainties.

Many people, most importantly our parents, partners and education office (both county and national), have been very supportive, this has not gone unnoticed.

It also gives us great joy and satisfaction to see children transit from one academic level or grade to a higher one. In 2017 alone, we have been overseeing a transition of:

- 89 boys and girls graduated from pre-school to lower primary school in all our three pre-primary and primary schools. (Mekaela Likunda Primary, Manuel Alexander and Ratinga Primary School)
- 74 KCPE candidates from Mekaela Likunda Primary and Manuel Alexander School graduated to high school education.
- 64 High school candidates from both Lulu Boys High and Lulu Girls High School graduated for higher education.

It's our prayer that the good culture of discipline, hard work and responsibility that we have instilled in them will be a pillar in their journey to academic excellence.

We are forever indebted to our staff for their service to the children. Their hard work is our pride, no one



**Students of the "Out of the Box" Programme**

can pay them enough for the sacrifice they make for the children.

### Holidays

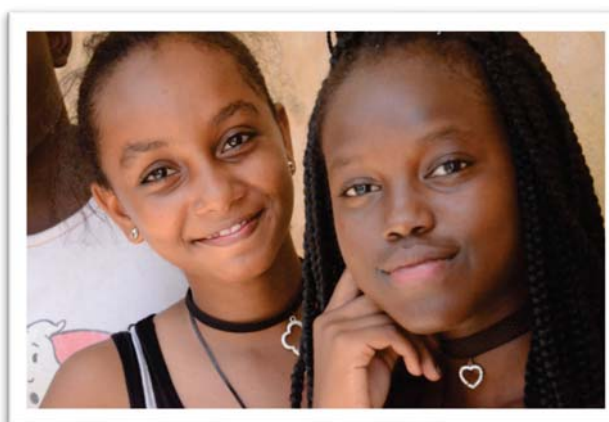
We hope you have spent quality time with your son or daughter during the holidays. We have done our part and when the children are coming home we wish to advise you to be cautious of the company and friends your child is keeping.

Beware and be cautious on:

- Exclusive leavers bash which in most cases end up being an orgy.
- Sleep overs.

***We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.***  
***(Franklin Roosevelt)***

Teachers were given adequate holiday assignment.



**Lulu Girls High School Students**

We encourage the children to make the most their time having fun, be of practical help at home but still have time for their studies. Learning is a continuous process, as such we urge you to help them come up with a relaxed balanced programme.

We have reviewed and fine-tuned our programmes to nurture talents beside an academic excellence. We are going to be keen on programmes such as swimming, talent exhibitions, games and sports, music, debate and public speaking among others.

It has been a privilege for us to serve you and we look forward to serve you better in 2018.

Mekaela Academies  
The Management



**Shadrack Kalisa**  
**Administration Manager**

## Manuel Alexander School



**Abdallah Nyundo (MAS)**  
**Head-Teacher**

At Manuel Alexander School (MAS) we believe in Teamwork. As the administration, we are guided by co-operation and cohesion as key principles in running the school.

MAS is the only school under the umbrella of Mekaela Academies that is purely a Day School. Blessed with a population

of 325 pupils, and being the first Mekaela School to be established by our esteemed Directors, we have so many blessings to count.

Situated along the Diani Beach line, MAS has a very conducive learning environment.

Our graduating class of 2017 were our maiden candidates of our day school system and we are confident that they will make history with their excellent performance.

We take a lot of pride in our adequate facilities and committed staff who are always ready to assist our pupils to excel, not only in academics but also in other important spheres.

Talking of facilities, construction plans of a new ECD-School block is underway and hopefully by April 2018 we shall have state-of-the-art ECD facilities.

We offer the 8-4-4 curriculum system but with extra subjects like Computer and German. We also have a

myriad of extra and co-curricular activities which help in nurturing all-round pupils.

Clubs and societies are a paramount part of our system. These include

- Scouts
- Tae kwon-do
- Swimming
- Music and Drama
- Good News Club.

The Good News Club was introduced to cater to the pupils' spiritual needs.



**Edwin Onyang (MAS)**  
**Deputy Head-Teacher**

The pupils receive spiritual nourishment from outsourced spiritual leaders from the 3 main religious communities, Muslims, Catholics and Protestants. This has gone a long way in enhancing discipline and good morals among the pupils.

There is also an active Guiding and Counselling Department that deals with emotional and behavioural challenges faced by our pupils.

As we look back at the Academic Year, we celebrate our accomplishments and we look forward to the future. We believe anything is possible with

good planning and hard work. It's about walking the talk.

Remember, well done is better than well said!



**MAS Playground**



**MAS Teaching Staff**

## Likunda Primary School



**Florence Munke (LPS)**  
**Head Teacher**

Likunda primary School is a boarding and day school located off Lunga Lunga Road near Kwale County Government offices within Mvindeneni village.

It is located in a serene environment which is conducive for learning and nurturing the different potential of the young learners.

Likunda primary is served by qualified, hardworking and fully dedicated staff and administration team who go beyond the normal call of duty to serve the clients. The staff serves under the leadership of a senior Headteacher-Florence Munke who is assisted by two deputies; Erick Omondi and Esther Luvindi.

In academics, Likunda School is a giant in quality performance, last year 2016 in KCPE examinations; we posted among the top candidates, five candidates who scored above 400 marks. Our quality performance comes as a result of our dedicated teachers, early syllabus coverage and candidates' special programmes such as morning prayers and staff adopting and guiding candidates in different families commonly known as the mentorship programme. This year we have thoroughly prepared our candidates for the national examinations which are forth coming and we believe they will beat the record set by their predecessors.

Due to this quality performance, Likunda school was recognized and selected as a pilot school by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) in pre-primary 1 and 2. We were also recently selected by the KNEC to carry out the KCPE 2017 pre-Test.

Our kindergarten is an ultra-modern structure, very spacious and fully fitted with playing materials and toys promoting all round growth of the young children.



**Eric Omondi (LPS)**  
**Deputy Head Teacher**

The local and international trips also play a vital role in our academic outcome, we visit different places within and out of the country and we have so far visited South Africa and Dubai and Thailand.

In the boarding section, the care and the welfare of the children is our priority. Our recently introduced routine dormitory checkups and inspections not only checks the cleanliness, neatness, unwanted items and personal grooming of our children but also instills the spirit of team work, participation and responsibility as the children take part in cleaning and taking care of their environment.

We value children who are all round and morally up right and for that reason we involve them in -all round training including communal work creative arts such as weaving, cooking, sewing among others.

The guiding and counseling department too plays an important role in talking to the children frequently contributing greatly to their emotional and psychological growth.

The availability of our 4 school buses makes it easier for the day-scholars to move to and from school in time and also makes our educational trips successful.

We are also not left behind in co-curricular activities, we flourish in games and sports and Music Festivals. In games and sports, the boys reached the county level in football competitions courtesy of our standard and spacious football and volleyball pitches providing enough space for training. In music festivals our participants managed to reach regional level, next year we purpose to proceed to the national level.



**Esther Luvindi (LPS)**  
**Deputy Head Teacher**

Our children are also actively involved in clubs and societies such as swimming gala, debates, music club, Red Cross, Scouts and Girl guides and wildlife. In these clubs

children enjoy creativity, team work, participatory, competition among others.



**Kindergarten - Time for Playing**

## Ratinga Primary School



**Ronald Mwasaru (RPS)  
Head Teacher**

Mekaela Ratinga is one of the umbrella schools of Mekaela Academies located at Kona ya Musa in Ukunda. It is purely a day school running from Baby class to class 7.

The school was started to cater for the needs of the local people who could not afford to join the other private

schools in Ukunda. The fees are about half of the other Mekaela schools, a fact which has led to its fast growth.

We have well skilled staff both in primary and Pre-primary school (Nursery) that is caring and loving. The school has modern equipment for the young minds to interact with and by the end of the 3 years course in kindergarten they are able to read and write without assistance.

The academics department is headed by the able dedicated deputy head teacher Madam Florence Mayabi who is one of the oldest staff. Mekaela Ratinga is rated to be among the best performing schools in Kwale County due to its high discipline and hard working pupils.

The school has adequate space for expansion with a playground and facilities to facilitate extra-curricular activities in school for pupils in all ages. The school programmes are well organised and cater for all pupils' needs.

Outdoor activities like guiding and counselling, Debates/mjadala, swimming, clubs and societies such

as drama, Red Cross, Scouts are important in our school.

Educational trips are vital in Ratinga school and therefore each class has its area of visit each year. This enables pupils to physically see what they learn in class and relate it with topics covered especially in Social Studies and science.

I would like to note with satisfaction that our achievement this year has come through because of

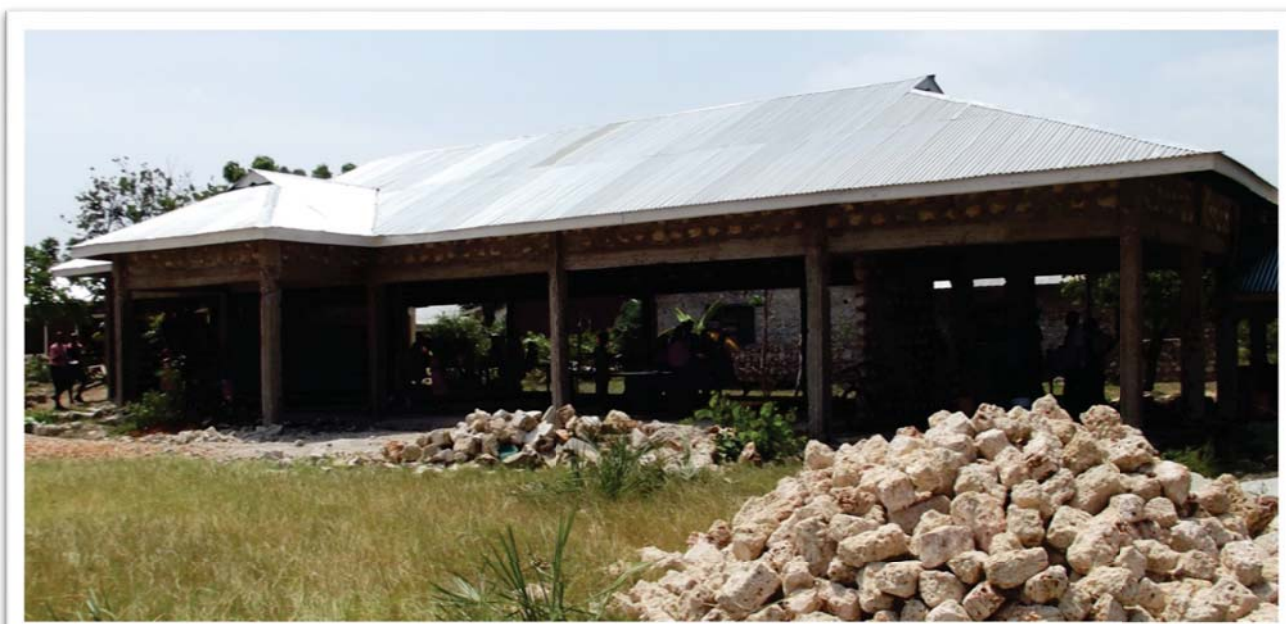


**RPS Pupils During Lunchbreak**

the resilience of the management, staff, parents and pupils' support in planning and implementation of the objectives towards quality service delivery.

Special gratitude goes to our Directors, the management team, Irmel Hinssen and Doris Jacobs's family who have offered great support in the development projects in the school.

Visit our school and get all what your child needs at affordable school fees.



**The new RPS Dining Hall in Progress**

## Lulu Boys High School



**Anderson Mwero (LBS)  
Principal**

academically and discipline wise! These are the two pillars that has made this school blossom and put it at high ranks in the county till date.

On its inception, the school was a mixed boarding school till last year when it went through growth and out of this it delivered a new kid now in the block and that's the girls' wing and named it, Lulu Girls' High School popularly termed as LG. The school acquired also its new status as Mekaela Lulu Boys High School.

The school has a learners' population of 117 under experienced, committed, dedicated team of young, qualified and energetic teaching staff who are geared towards achieving the best out of the boys. They are committed to deliver and impart knowledge to the young and enthusiastic brains. The team has an outlined work plan that guides them daily in their execution of their mandate.

There are various departments which work hand in hand to see that the daily tasks are done according to the plan. We as Lulu Boys' high school have a very big dream because we believe the sky is not the limit. This year being the first year we are undertaking the national examinations as a boys only school, we are optimistic to take the bar even higher.

Apart from our ambitious daily routine that sees the boys wake very early in the morning and go to class to study and retire late at night to sleep, we also expose

At the heart of south coast, Ukunda, 12 years ago, a third born 'child' is delivered! He's named Lulu meaning diamond therefore acquiring the name lulu high school. It's born under the umbrella Mekaela Academies. Since its inception, Lulu has been thriving both

our boys to co-curricular activities both at the pitch and out of pitch. We engage our learners in clubs and societies which enable them meet and interact outside class. Clubs like, peace club, environmental, mathematics and young achievers, red cross society to name but a few. This also saw us appearing at the national level in Music Festivals and table tennis.

To sum it all, the school takes pride in academic excellence and discipline. On the academics, every year we send a number of our candidates to both public and private universities of which most of them undertake high ended courses. The transition rate from our school to tertiary education is almost 100%. Our top achievers have been recognised by Equity Bank under the programme wings to fly and for some time now, in the county most students who have



**Lulu Boys on Cultural Day 2017**

undergone that programme every year are the alumni of Mekaela Lulu Boys High school something we celebrate and take pride on.

On matters of discipline, it's said that you can't make it in life if your personal discipline is wanting! Here in Lulu it's something we take as part of our daily living. We have a well-coordinated vibrant discipline committee which helps the students achieve high level of self-discipline. That has been our culture. This committee also works closely with the guidance and counselling department of which it guides the students and at the same time counsels where necessary.



**Lulu Boys High School Inner Court**

## Lulu Girls High School



**Faith Mutua (LGS)  
Principal**

That Mekaela Lulu Girls' High school will be on its feet and stand tall like other schools was an idea that was hard to buy last year when it broke off from Lulu High School with the then form one and two girls. The school was like a fresh graduate that has just finished college and started working. Time has taken its course and Mekaela Lulu Girls High School is now in its second year.

At the moment, the school has both enough classrooms and a well equipped Biology and Chemistry laboratory. This has encouraged the girls to do regular practice in the laboratory so that they can sharpen their science skills.

The form fours, who were the pioneer candidates in the school had every other reason to smile as they diligently conducted their practicals in preparation for the science subjects in the Kenya Certificate and Secondary Education Exams.

The school boasts of a team of dedicated and highly trained staff that is out to assist the learners achieve the best of their ability. The team is committed to shape the students become all-round educated individuals. It is because of this reason that we have had successful academic follow ups in the school where teachers sat down with individual parents to

come up with measures that can help the learners improve their performance. We are having the first candidates sitting for the national exam this year and both the teachers and the students are determined to make a great start in the exam and bring glory to the school.

Discipline is one thing that is given a lot of emphasis in the school. The school through the Students' Welfare Office ensures that this is achieved because success both in life and education and discipline go hand in hand. Therefore, this office does frequent counseling on the noted needy learners and organizes talks on teenage life skills so that the learners can become fruitful citizens in their life after school.

This year, the girls participated in the Kenya Science and Engineering Fair and this gave the school pride as four girls; Anisa Sarai, Ranisaher Amin, Stacy Nduta and Hope Washo managed to reach the county level in

the competition.

The girls are always known to give sports a wide berth. These girls are however different. They believe that apart from sports being able to keep them physically fit, it enables them to be active in class and also ward off some minor illnesses. Our school leg ball team took part in this year's term 2 ball games competitions and was able to reach the sub-county levels where they put up a spirited fight but lost at the preliminaries.

As we have moved to 2018, we say it's by God's grace.



**Lulu Girls Students in their New Laboratory**



**New Lulu Girls High School Classrooms and Buildings**

A large industrial facility, possibly a refinery or chemical plant, is shown at sunset. The sky is a deep blue with scattered white clouds. The facility features several large, yellow-painted storage tanks and a complex network of pipes, walkways, and structural steel. A yellow crane is visible on the right side. In the foreground, there are large piles of dark, granular material, likely coal or oil, and a small body of water reflecting the sky. The overall scene is illuminated by the warm, golden light of the setting sun.

DELIVERING



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- Developed the largest indigenous tree nursery in East Africa with over 47,000 indigenous trees representing more than 200 species planted within the mine area to date;
- Established apprentice, intern and graduate training programmes to ensure rapid transfer of skills to Kenya's youth; and
- Provided over 1,050 scholarships to students from Kwale County.

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## What Our Students Have to Say

### Life in Mekaela Academies

When we joined Mekaela Academies, we were totally different from what we are today. This is clearly visible in our performance. We were blunt knives but when we came to Mekaela, it revealed our full potential to the bright stars we are today.

The administrators of Mekaela owed to the maximum that all work with no play makes Jack a dull boy and Jill



*Eve Wanjiru, MAS*

a dull girl when they brought up all the co-curricular activities found at Mekaela. It is known all over the country for producing heroes in ball events such as football and volleyball and swimming.

Moreover, it has helped us explore our talents by organizing activities such as the drama festivals,

music and not forgetting the annually held "Meka-night". It has also given us a golden opportunity to visit countries in the world like the recent Dubai and South Africa and later the Thailand trip.

That is all for now but that's not the end of the yellow-brick road for Mekaela Academies.

### Mekaela Is the Best

I'm reaching out to my fellow pupils and to the schools across the world, for claiming to them what we can do because Mekaela is the best.

I believe that we can win, that we can achieve everything. So lift your hands up in the air and say:  
Manuel Alexander to Likunda,  
Likunda to Lulu Boys,  
Lulu Boys to Ratinga,  
Ratinga to Lulu Girls.



*Hassan Hassan, MAS*

Together as one we make a team, together as a team we make a school, and together as a team school we make a family.

Together all:

Mekaela is the best,  
Mekaela is the best,  
Mekaela is the best!!!!

### The Mekaela Academies Scout Club

Mekaela Academies not only outshine others in academics but also in other disciplines.

Since the beginning of this year the Mekaela Scouts fraternity has been on the forefront doing exemplary well in various scouting competition Camps from the Sub-county level to the regional level.

During the camping, they have emerged the leaders thus nicknaming themselves, "the ultimate leaders".

They have also participated in various activities like market cleaning, beach cleaning, hiking tree planting just to name but a few.

Through all this activities the Scouts have developed their confidence and at the same time a sense of responsibility as they do everything by themselves. Scouting has also improved their academic performance as most Scouts actively participate in lessons.

They have also learnt to balance education and co-curricular activities and how to express themselves better hence raising their self-esteem.

As the Scouting club we wish to thank our parents for the support they have given us to enable us to attend the camps not forgetting our able management for allowing us to attend the Scouting activities.

Indeed Mekaela is a place to be.

Bravo Mekaela Academies!



*Haroub Bakari, MAS*