

UPF Kenya convened Peace Road 2016 at the Central Park, in Nairobi

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The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Kenya chapter in collaboration with its associate's organization, YFWP, WFWP, FFWP convened Peace Road 2016 at the Central Park, in Nairobi on July 30, 2016. The auspicious occasion, under the Theme "March to Lasting Peace" attracted the participation of over 300 people from diverse backgrounds, representing the 47 counties of Kenya. Peace Road promotes awareness for peace, harmony and stability.

The event kicked off with interfaith prayers and after that we had welcoming remarks by the president of UPF- Kenya, Rev. Fred Wakhisi, who reiterated the need to maintain peace with the call to adhere to Universal/spiritual and moral principles that remain fundamental guidelines to lasting peace. "Peace can only come when we understand the root cause of conflicts". This resonated well with the prospect of Kenya heading to the general elections in 2017.

The post-election violence in 2007/2008 offered several lessons that have contributed immensely to the state of peaceful co-existence in the country.

Entertainment involved captivating performances from various groups including martial arts Drama Peace skits, and Chorals. Special Emissary, Prof Thomas Hwang, reiterated the call for peaceful coexistence amongst all Kenyans reminding us that we are all children of a common Parent, God. He also noted that God has a special favor for Kenya that can be seen through its leaders.

The Chief Guest, Amb. Mishi Mwatsau, through her representative, Dr. Mwamlole called for women empowerment through education. This is a means of ensuring value addition. Education enables one to have an open mind. This facilitates the establishment of strong, healthy and stable families thus contributing to long-lasting peace. He emphasized the need to unity, peace and liberty as engraved in our national anthem.



The 2.5km peace procession walk flagged off by Dr. Mwamlole, went through Uhuru Highway (main highway), Haile Selassie Avenue, Parliament Road, and Kenyatta Avenue back to the park. All these roads were closed by the Police for the Peace Road 2016. It was led by 14 cyclists from Kenya Association of Cyclists, accompanied by Ambassadors for Peace from diverse backgrounds, FFWP, WFWP, YFWP, Kariobangi Waste Management Alliance, Calvarian Community Centre, Global Veterans for Peace, Interuniversity Church of Kenya, One Spirit Christ Church, Justice Peace Commission, Bahati Ministries, Brighton's Hope KCB Church, Speed King Videos, Mau Mau Governing Council of Kenya, Patriotic Youth Peace Ambassadors, St. Thaddeus Child Care Society, Tai Foundation, Christian Brotherhood Church, Beauty Point College, Peace Hope Riders among other individuals.

Reflections

“we are glad to be part of the event and we thank UPF for the invitation and look forward to continuous engagement as we head to the general elections 2017”