

Mkombozi

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Mkombozi's youth in London... Junior Rugby Team travels to the UK for Tullow Oil 'touraid' Cup

Mkombozi's junior rugby team had an unparalleled opportunity to travel to the UK to participate for the Tullow Oil **touraid** Cup 2008 which took place in London from the 5th to 12th October. **touraid**, a UK-based charitable organisation, uses rugby as a tool to create long lasting, international relationships between touring teams and host schools. For the 2008 tournament, youth came together from Namibia, South Africa, India, Madagascar, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Ivory Coast, Uganda and Ghana. The main objective is to catalyse hope, choice and opportunity in the life of each young participant - something that can be carried into the future.

"touraid is a children's charity that establishes sustainable relationships between schools and clubs in the UK with organisations around the globe that support disadvantaged children. touraid sees rugby as the catalyst for these partnerships with the resulting educational, cultural and social benefits to the visiting teams and host children being immeasurable".
(Learn more @ www.touraid.co.uk)

Mkombozi was invited by **touraid** to send 10 children and two staff to this year's tournament in London. The children selected to represent Mkombozi were: Musa Flavian, Riziki James, Haji Juma, Ezrome Lazaro, Joachim Robert, Mohamed Abdalah, Muddy Hamisi, Benedict Clement, Hatibu Edwin, and Philemon Mosha. Two staff members, Sports teacher Simon Nyembe and Senior Social Worker Jerome Sam De Mwaya, accompanied the children to London. Upon arrival, the Mkombozi crew met with **touraid** liaison officers Andy Barry and Julie Barret and host teacher Rob Williams, who had arranged for each individual's home-stay with a local, London family for the duration of the tournament.

On the 9th October the tournament group matches began. In fact, on this first day Mkombozi boys won three out of four played matches! They were thereby placed in "Group B". On the 11th October, the **touraid** cup finals took place at Esher RFC. On this day Mkombozi played against Ivory Coast and, unfortunately, lost 5 to 7. Overall, the final was played between Namibia Desert Warriors and Ecole de Vie from Madagascar. Namibia defeated Madagascar and became the champion of 2008.

Importantly, Mkombozi's youth did find time to experience London in addition to their sports schedule. Social Worker Jerome Sam De Mwaya says: "We had a trip on the London Eye which was fabulous for all of us. From there, we went to the London Aquarium where we had an opportunity to see and learn about aquatic life. The boys saw varieties of marine species, including sharks, octopus and jelly fish, which they had never seen before".

Jerome Sam De Mwaya says: "The entire trip was a success! Although we didn't come with the trophy, we still managed to bring with us long lasting relationships with different people, as well as life-long learning experience. The boys have continued to communicate with the host families, who are keen to help and see them grow and live their full potential".

Mkombozi would like to take this opportunity to extend special thanks to: the Tanzanian Rugby Union; the British Embassy; the Immigration department in Dar and Moshi; International school Moshi (ISM); International School of Tanganyika; **touraid** organisers, Rokeby School; Mkombozi management, staff and children; host families; and also to the many others who contributed to the success of this trip.



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