



# Lorupe to fight HIV/AIDS

By ELIUD CHISIKA

Marathon star Tegla Lorupe has entered into partnership with a US based organization to fight the HIV Aids scourge among rural communities in Kenya.

The collaboration between the Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation and Kiboko Projects of USA will involve cultural exchange arts and education programs for youths in the country.

The agreement was reached in Nairobi last month between Lorupe and representatives of Kiboko Projects. Kiboko Projects Directors Jill Raufman and Mark Scheflen were in the country to finalize the agreement.

Lorupe becomes the second Kenyan athlete to team up with Kiboko Projects on a program aimed at cultivating closer cultural links between communities in Kenya and the US. Former world ~~2,000m steeplechase~~ champion Wilson Boit Kipketer has been working with Kiboko on a similar program.

"The Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation is delighted to work with a group that knows the social fabric of Kenya very well. Our target is to ensure that we create public awareness on HIV Aids" said Lorupe.

Raufman and Scheflen both said the Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation agenda "fits into our objectives of trying to assist groups in Kenya cope with social problems.

"We shall definitely be identifying programs that we can work on to mitigate the problems"



**Tegla Lorupes**

they said.

Kiboko Projects' mission is to enable dialogue between people from different areas of the world. The organization's strategy is to enable groups from different parts of the world share personal experiences through a wide range of creative Arts.

Kiboko Projects has worked on a number of projects in Kenya in collaboration with YMCA (Central), Sports Resource Center and schools like Moi Forces Academy (Nakuru), Riara Springs Academy and St. Nicholas in Nairobi.

In October this year, the group initiated similar programs in Obuola Secondary School in Nyanza Province apart from working with grandmothers who are looking after children orphaned by the Aids scourge.

Collaboration with the Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation will involve the use of hand painted facemasks, photo diaries and film as creative media. According to Lorupe participants in the program will include groups of students, artists and people living with HIV Aids. She said her foundation and Kiboko Projects would also target

groups, which have been affected by cattle rustling in the North Rift region.

"To us peace building is a major priority. We shall certainly be working with Kiboko Projects to see how we can promote peace among the pastoral communities through creative media" said Lorupe. Communities, which have benefited under the Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation include Pokot, Markwet, Turkana and the Karamajong from Uganda.

"The Girl Child education is also an area that we must look at" added Lorupe.

The main theme will be for groups working under the Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation to exchange their stories and experiences with similar groups in the US and Russia. "In this way, we shall be using sport to enhance cultural exchange. The perception of this groups on issues like Aids will be shared and this will create an impact" said Raufman.

Lorupe started the peace foundation a few years ago to promote peaceful co-existence and enhance the social economic status of the pastoral communities in the country. Lorupe, winner of several international marathon titles has been organizing peace races in various parts of the country to achieve her objectives. Apart from Kenya, the Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation works in Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Lorupe conquered the world when she won the New York marathon in 1994 and went on to break the world women marathon record two years later.