



Introduction

Kenya is a country full of great talent with immense opportunities and possibilities, which if tapped into, can catapult her to the world stage, in hitherto unseen ways. Our athletes have done it for us, and so have the rugby sevens team, ladies volleyball. It is now time for chess to come to the fore.

For a while now, the Kenyan chess scene has not produced junior players who can challenge the seniors for slots on the national team, leave alone in local tournaments. This can be attributed to lack of intentionality on the part of authority structures in investing in infra-structure and programs focused on children.

Towards this end we have formed Terrian Chess Academy (TCA) that we hope will reverse this trend, and usher in a new dawn.

In collaboration with the crème de la crème in the chess scene on the world stage and other like-minded partners, we plan to get children learning the game from their early years and carry this through their adult life, so that we can have a steady flow of players feeding the national team.

By starting early (from age 5 or 6), we shall be on the path to producing world class players, come 2030 as we realize our collective national vision.

Vision

To be the leading chess training centre in the country, aiming at producing players of the highest caliber capable of competing with the best in the world.

Mission

Identify and nurture young talent, holistically, so that they can grow into competitive chess players as we raise the levels and standards of the game.

Motto

...let's move together...derived from the actual moves made in chess and how they imitate life. It is based on the African saying 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.'

Values

- a) Trust in God
- b) Integrity
- c) Honesty
- d) Commitment
- e) Self-belief

Programs

Chess Academy - Training, Life Skills, Competitions

- This Chess Academy runs four distinct Chess programs focused to equipping players with technical and tactical skills for playing chess at recreational and competitive levels. Players are equipped with life skills needed to adequately support them in managing the pressure and rigor of a competitive environment. Children move gradually from the beginners to basic, intermediate and finally to advance or expert levels.

Merchandising and Equipment

- This is an ancillary service to the Chess Academy and seeks to source and make available, equipment, kit and tools needed in the Academy. The team also provides advisory services on the best kit and setting for various levels in ways that help manage family resources and grow with the children in their game.



Logistics and Events Management

- This team undertakes the mobilization and logistical support of all Academy events and other events as may be deemed to add value to the aims of the Academy. Through a professional team of events managers, every effort is made to assure the safety of the children and their parents and guardians during such events. The team also provides advisory and logistical support to children that may be participating in other events. The team vets all care givers to ensure that children are safe from abuse.

Coaching and Parental Support

- This team provides a bridging function by helping to build a Chess loving community in children and parents and the entire community. It holds seminars and other events to support parents and care-givers in walking with children as they learn chess, ensuring a balanced approach to life.

Advocacy & Mobilization

- This team helps to engage in policy and other arrangements that identify and build on the benefits of Chess to children and society. It holds dinners, symposia and seminars to showcase what children are doing in the world of Chess and advocating or greater uptake of Chess and other games as resources for building stronger, healthier, thinking nation. It also serves as a CSR arm of the Academy in reaching out to community and helping advance the course of children in health, education, and sports.

Why Chess?

- Chess dramatically improves a child's ability to think rationally.
- Chess increases cognitive skills.
- Chess improves children's communication skills and aptitude in recognizing patterns.
- Chess results in higher grades, especially in English and Math studies.
- Chess builds a sense of team spirit while emphasizing the ability of the individual.
- Chess teaches the value of hard work, concentration and commitment.
- Chess instills in young players a sense of self-confidence and self-worth.
- Chess makes a child realize that he or she is responsible for his or her own actions and must accept their consequences.
- Chess teaches children to try their best to win, while accepting defeat with grace.
- Chess can become a child's most eagerly awaited school activity, dramatically improving attendance.
- Chess allows girls to compete with boys on a non-threatening, socially acceptable plane.
- Chess helps children make friends more easily because it provides an easy, safe forum for gathering and discussion.
- Chess allows students and teachers to view each other in a more sympathetic way.
- Chess, through competition, gives kids a palpable sign of their accomplishments.
- Chess provides children with a concrete, inexpensive and compelling way to rise above the deprivation and self-doubt which are so much a part of their lives.