

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Jua Kali
Sector

Kenyan who recycles junk into useful goods

RECYCLING may be a new word in the Kenyan vocabulary but not to a young and talented Kenyan, Daniel Chepkienyeng arap Kipteguchu.

Daniel believes that there is no point in throwing anything after use and has had a craze for preserving wastes since he left school in 1970. His one guiding policy is "waste not, want not".

Daniel collects every junk you see in the streets and ensures these are put to some use. Abandoned bottles, newspapers forgotten on the bar counters, and tins thrown after use are all in his line of business.

He says he was inspired by President Moi's call to the people of Kenya to develop their own indigenous technology to boost our self reliance. In support of the "Jua Kali" philosophy he decided to ensure that nothing is discarded.

Butts

Things like old vehicle seats can be used in the making of new sofa sets. Discarded cigarette butts can be used for objects d'art. Daniel also collects old calendars, frames them and later sells these to the people in the countryside.

People, he says, normally go for calendars with pictures of animals, and other interesting sceneries such as Fort Jesus in Mombasa and other historical landmarks.

Daniel says he needs the support of the government and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry so that the recycling business can be made a part of the industrialisation programme.

Fields

"People simply throw things away after use. These can still be used in other fields and it is important that budding businessmen and businesswomen are helped to stand on their own feet".

Where did he get the idea? he says he was also inspired by a book entitled: "Recycle Waste to Create Employment" by an American author — John Vogler who says in part: "If you collect waste, a whole range of people and

By P.G. OKOTH

organisations benefit.

And if they are wise they will help you or at least not obstruct you. Your customers need the material for their business.

The householders or the factory that produces the waste needs to get rid of it. The local council will have to collect what you do not. They will have to find somewhere to put it".

Scopes

According to Daniel, there is a great scope for developing the recycling industry in Kenya. People do not realise that anything can be recycled, he says.

Daniel Kipteguchu was born in Elgeyo Marakwet district in 1954. His father, Kipteguchu Cheboi arap Kiplagat, was a police officer. The young Kipteguchu only attended

think for themselves. One can go through the refuse dumps and collect waste for recycling.

You can use discarded tins and other material as household utensils. You can even turn broken bottles into window glasses. All it needs is skill and dedication..."

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been urged to give financial help to indigenous entrepreneurs. Daniel thinks he deserves consideration because the field of recycling has been largely ignored.

"With the help of our government I am sure that the recycling industry will emerge as an important sector in our efforts to make Kenya an industrial centre of Eastern Africa", he says.

The government should take note of the efforts of

FOR DANIEL

KIPTEGUCHO,

ITS A POLICY

OF WASTE

NOT, WANT

NOT ...



Mr and Mrs Daniel Kipteguchu outside their home in Elgeyo Marakwet.



school up to Standard Seven and worked briefly with the National Youth Service before joining the National Bank of Kenya as a messenger.

"I believe that employment can be created through encouraging the people to people such as Daniel

Kipteguchu who are out to create employment in the rural areas.

Daniel has appealed to the government to give assistance to what he calls "basic industries" in the rural areas where the majority of Kenyans live.



An old man relaxes on Daniel's recycled sofa settee (left) Mrs Kipteguchu makes use of a recycled material which is now a hot water tank.

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