African Lakeside Script

By
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Acknowledgement

The African Lakeside Script started as the Non-Latinised Luo Script founded by Kefa Ombewa of Nairobi, Kenya and Paul Sidandi of Francistown, Botswana who introduced the Letters and Numbers respectively between 2009 and 2014. The glyphs were then produced by Will Were of Nairobi, Kenya. The development team was later joined by Taolo Dipatane of Lobatse Botswana who produced the graphics and Opedi Junior Manase of Serowe, Botswana who publicized the script in Facebook and Twitter. The name African Lakeside Script was coined by Jackie Kithinji of Meru, Kenya. She was a member of the development team based in Francistown Botswana. The other members were Vincent Buogha of Siaya County Kenya, Obokeng Thalisto Kagiso of Serowe, Botswana, Nicky Gumbo of Lusaka, Zambia. Lesley Maes of Genk, Belgium also participated briefly. Others are Jackie Modumo of Lobatse, Botswana, Pearl Modumo of Gaborone, Botswana, Andrew Sidandi of London, UK, Mark Sidandi of Melbourne Australia, Dave Tolo of Kisumu Kenya and Victorine Sikwa of London UK. Early in the project, an input was made by Veteran Uganda Journalist Charles Onyango Obbo, Editor Samuel Olara of Acholi Times, Singer and Entertainer Suzanna Owiyo of Kisumu, Kenya, Collins Omondi of Nairobi, Kenya, Mekdes Assefa of Addis Ababa now of Kisumu, Kenya, Ethiopia. Others are Reporter Sharon Momanyi of KTN, Anchor Yvonne Okwara - Matole of KTN and Mary Rainwater of Nairobi, Kenya.
Introduction

1. The writing is cursive i.e. Letters are designed to be joined together.
2. The numerals are always written as stand-alone characters.
3. Direction of writing is from left to right just like Latin.
4. The main ‘X-HEIGHT’ of the letters is the height of the VOWEL. The ASCENDERS go above the vowel height and the DESCENDERS go below the BASE LINE. All the lines shown below for practice are the BASE LINE.
5. The script can be used to write any African language.
6. Exceptions to the norm are;
   - ch is just written as \( \ell \) only.
   - ng’ is just written as \( \partial \) only.
   - \( \mathring{q} \) is the southern Africa ‘click’ sound.
7. There are blank spaces provided, please fill the blank spaces in PENCIL to enable erasure after making a mistake and also for repeated practice on the same spaces. Practice makes perfect.
8. Remember the cardinal rule: write the syllable FIRST then add the diacritic mark(s).
Writing Upper Case, Lower Case and Numbers
Syllables

With all the letters and numbers done, let us practice consonant and vowel combinations. These combinations will form the most commonly used syllables. Join the consonant to the vowel FIRST then add the diacritic marks afterwards.
Asante!