Kabasseeh's

OHAGA PAUL

Reggie Kabasseleh on piracy and 'sianda' artists.

the loss of DO Misjam of the Benga maestro early last month was undoubtedly a big blow to Kenyan music. In 1998, another all time singer, composer, and producer Ochien'g Kabesseleh passed awa

Ochieng's death was reason to believe that his songs would also go under

But his son Reggie Kabasseleh pur on his big-shoes and has been marching on ever since

In fact, Reggie seems to have made a major strides to retain his father's legacy. He is taking Ochieng's music to a whole new higher level.

In a recent interview, Reggie tells me soon his new albums will be begging for more space in the musi-

Tall, dark and bugely built, Reggie strikes the pose of a serious businessman as he walks into the Kisumu-studio. He is smartly dressed in a black crouser, an African designer shirt and black shoes.

The muse around him as he welcomes but he turns it down and we chat. FBC real name is Nathan Ragwar Kabasseleh. He was named after an uncle to his mother. Reggie is the short form of Ragwar, Musically

speaking, he is Reggie Albuta Kabasselch. Names like Albuta, Masanga, and Kidi are his trademark names. He comes from such a large, extended family he says he does not know the number of all his

Reggie has two mothers, Joan and Judy Kabasseleh. They are sisters. His grandfather, Joshua Ogola Kadovo, who is mentioned in many of late Kabaseleh's songs, had thirteen wives and countless children. He v. — born in 1978 in Omiva location, Rarieda division of Bondo discoer

Reggie ik a devoted Christian, ver his father witt a staunch Muslim The younger Kabasseleh got into sucthe early 90s, when he preformed alongside his fato-

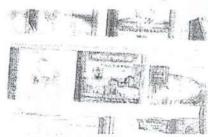
He says for seven years, he trained on how to play guitar and other instruments. After performances, his father would allow him and his elder brother Joel Babu to practice in other bands like Super Mazembe (associated with the late Luango Didos) and J.P Jakorando's band.

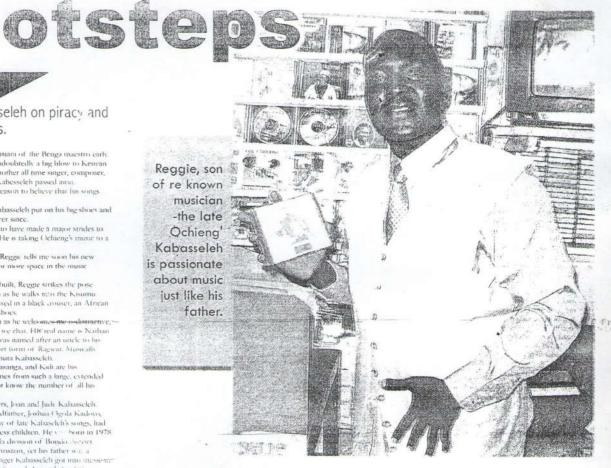
They also had a chance to play alongside L'Ochestre Kisasa Five, and even performed with Moreno Mbatamba and the Congolese Choc Generations band which then

After boning their skills in these bands, he and his brother went back to take control of his father's band where Babu became boss

He has also performed with Ken Watenya (of 'Adhiambo Sianda' fame), Jasolo Akush Omin Oswaga (now with Aluoch Jamaranda of Malo Malo Kings), Lomboto Banja, the late Bitota and Omondi Tony (Akinya Judy Akinyi) among others.

The band's name was later changed from Lupa' Kidi to





T.P. Luna Kidi Ngoma Kubwa, where the two helped their father release a number of hit songs. His father helped them with the recordings and acted as a technical advisor.

He has several nicknames. Reggie is also called Halujas Nyapanje Ogola, Kidi, Obwogo Kwach, Masanga, Mhuta, and Ochien'g. He has been in the music industry for twelve years and has so far produced three albums, a VCD and is on hir way to producing his fourth album.
His latest VCD is called Waga Jaka Mbare. The three albums.

which he produced with the help of his uncle, are doing well. He says his first album Rapudo Kambuta, which had five tracks, did well, while the second one, The Second Liberation of Rainbow, did poorly. The third, Los Mari Kata Tin is reportedly doing

"The fourth collection will be my best," he says. He attributes his success to his uncle Amisi Buddy, whom he considers his mentor, and guardian... "Amisi nurtured me into whor! I played alongside him in the L'Ochestre Buddy Sikse Band for at least four years. In fact, I produced many of my songs while I

But he had to quit because he wanted to pave way for other upcoming young artistes to get the necessary support that Amisi

outfit, L'Ochestre Kidi Masanga, has ten member There is Malachi Raring'o Odindo, who does solo and is also the personal Assistant to the band.

There is also long term singer Crispin Odhiambo, Sylvester Jaugunja (drums), Katana Kazungo (rhythm), Sheriff Otany (base). Sheriff is also a long time friend and technical advisor to

Others members are Omondi Jakakoth, Ochien'g Omare,

Oluoch wood Min Oluoch, and Owiyo wood Jokindu

Reggie adores music because it pays. "Music is my source of income," he says proudly "I do it like any other work. I don't consider it a talent, but a job, just like any other. Music has also made me responsible."

The artiste is married to Hilda Akinyi and has four children. He describes his wife as 'the loveliest woman on earth.' In jest, he tells me, "Make sure you report that. She is the best woman who ever lived."

He says he will go on to compose more songs on national unity. He is however, critical of a section of the current crop of musicians, whom he says are 'overly obsessed with singing about the size of women's behinds."

How I love the songs done by the old artistes! They were so educative and could soothe your spirits. But the current musicians only sing about love and sianda (women's burns) Music is good. We can make it better if we kill piracy and encourage creativity.

Piracy is killing us. The government has neglected us, yet music is a source of income and employment to many people. He rummages through his suitcase and pulls out a co-py of a CD with pirated songs. "You see, I found this in Nakuru. Someone hawker was

selling it to me. Just imagine! I got hold of him! I am going to

Reggie has recently shifted base to the sugar town of Muhoroni and acquired new producer named Kademba

"Make sure you report correctly, or I will take you to court, like the pirates. Mark you, I have a very tough lawyer,"