



CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION OF KENYA  
肯尼亚中文教师协会

HELLO AND  
WELCOME TO  
OUR JUNE & JULY  
NEWSLETTER

## CLTAK TEACHERS

Mr. Mwai Nyongesa



My name is Mwai Nyongesa. My passion for Mandarin Chinese took root during my studies in English and Literature at Kenyatta University. This is after a classmate, Jethro shared his experience in learning Chinese. It was there that I discovered the profound desire to learn.

Beyond academics, I find deep solace and warmth in music and the arts. Singing and listening to music are truly therapeutic for me, refueling my spirit. My love for performance even led me to become a two-time champion at the Kenyatta University Confucius Institute Good Voices Singing competition! Complementing this creative side is my practice of martial arts. Under the dedicated guidance of my teacher, Steve Wakoli, the disciplines of Kung Fu and Tai Chi found a firm footing in my life, bringing balance and focus.

# My Chinese Learning Journey



My teaching path has led me to a deeply rewarding focus: sharing the beauty and complexity of Mandarin Chinese. It's been an incredible journey across diverse classrooms. I've had the privilege of teaching at Blessed Narok School, the Blessed Narok Institute of Chinese and Technology, Door of Hope Christian School, and I currently inspire young learners at Regis Runda Academy. I've also found online individual classes to be a really cool and effective way to connect one-on-one. Volunteer teaching of Chinese in the slums of Githogoro at Brilliant Angels Academy has been a special moment for me.

One of the greatest joys has been teaching such a wide range of ages. I've sparked curiosity in the youngest minds, starting at just five years old, and shared the learning journey with wonderfully engaged adults, the eldest being a vibrant 67 years young. This incredible span truly reflects the universal appeal of language learning.

In my classroom, I know that genuine connection with my learners is the absolute key to a successful lesson. While thorough lesson preparation is essential, magic happens through engagement. For my younger students, I rely heavily on visuals and hands-on activities to make learning tangible and fun. This is where my own creative passions – guitar playing, singing, and drama – become invaluable tools. They help me transform lessons into dynamic experiences, turning the acquisition of Mandarin into an exciting adventure.

Teaching Chinese has been a profoundly enriching experience. Not only has it allowed me to continually deepen my own understanding, but the true gift lies in sharing this knowledge and crafting learning into a fresh, exciting journey for each of my students. I am endlessly grateful to the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Kenya (CLTAK) for their amazing programmes. They provide crucial support, equip us teachers with valuable skills, and foster a truly enlightening community. I strive every day to be a bridge-builder, using language, creativity, and heartfelt connection to open doors of understanding for learners of all ages.

# Capture Mr. Mwai's Fun Moments



# Pamela Murugi Kinyua - Tones, Turns, and Turning Points: A Story of Finding Myself in Mandarin



My name is Pamela Murugi Kinyua. My journey into Mandarin began not in a grand classroom, but in a moment of unexpected change. In 2023, when Kenyatta University's Embu satellite campus was closed, I had to transfer to the main campus to complete my English Literature degree. That shift led me to the Confucius Institute, where I casually joined a part-time Chinese class.

What started as curiosity quickly became a deep connection. I only studied for one semester, but it was enough. I fell in love with the tones, the culture, the challenge. After graduating the same year, I registered for my first HSK exam in October and passed. That small win felt like a major turning point. I knew then: this wasn't just a hobby; it was my new path.

# Pamela Murugi Kinyua - Tones, Turns, and Turning Points: A Story of Finding Myself in Mandarin



In 2024, while prepping for HSK 2, I began volunteering to teach Mandarin at my former primary school St. Joseph's Primary in Kianjokoma. Nothing quite prepares you for the chaos and joy of teaching young kids to say "nǐ hǎo!" but I embraced it. It grew into something greater when I started working under Lions International, teaching both English and introductory Mandarin at Lions School in Embu.

That same year, I joined a local Chinese teacher training programme at the University of Nairobi's Confucius Institute. I met incredible mentors, native Chinese teachers, and fellow dreamers. It gave me the tools and confidence to dive deeper into the language and its teaching methodology.

<https://chineselanguageteachers.co.ke/>

Facebook: Chinese Teachers Association

Instagram: @cltakteachers

# Pamela Murugi Kinyua - Tones, Turns, and Turning Points: A Story of Finding Myself in Mandarin



2025 brought even more surprises. At the Chinese New Year Festival, at Two Rivers, I had the honor of meeting the amazing Ms. Faith Mworia, Chairlady of CTLAK. I told her I was looking for a school that would support my part-time learning and teaching journey. She welcomed me into Discovery Chinese cultural training Centre in Lavington, a decision that's truly transformed my HSK 3 preparation. With CTLAK's generous donation of teaching materials to my school, my classroom has never been more alive.

This journey hasn't been a solo voyage. I owe endless gratitude to my mother, Rosemary Karimi Karigi, whose unwavering love and encouragement fuel everything I do. And to my brilliant sister, Diana Wakio, whose belief in me has carried me through the hardest tones and the longest nights. You two are my foundation. Looking ahead, I'm excited. I'm energized. And I'm fully immersed in a path I never expected, but now can't imagine living without. As a Chinese proverb reminds me: "学习如逆水行舟，不进则退。" "Learning is like rowing upstream; not to advance is to fall back. So, I'll keep rowing—with purpose, with heart, and with gratitude for everyone helping steer the way.

# CLTAK - UPCOMING EVENTS

28th June – Teacher Seminar – Effectively Building a Chinese Language Teaching Career by Dr. Mercy Kathina.



25TH July -26th August : 4 of our CLTAK teachers will travel to Hubei University of Education (Wuhan) for a teacher training among other 16 students. The training will take one month.

- Damaris Mutinda
- Caroline Mwaura
- Annet Wairimu
- Ann Nekesa



# CLTAK - UPCOMING EVENTS

30<sup>th</sup> August – CLTAK Teachers Getaway (Team Building and Bonding) This will happen at Nkasiri adventures.



20<sup>th</sup> September – CLTAK Mashinani Initiative at South B Mukuru slums- rallying the building of a Resource center for the teaching of Chinese and many others skills.

Calling Participants to register and to partner with us. Call 0724875317

**CLTAK - CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF KENYA**

## BUILD MUKURU RESOURCE CENTER

### Mukuru Chinese Mashinani Resource centre

**Event Highlights**

**Fundraising Initiatives**

Raise funds to build the Mukuru Resource Center for language and tech access.

**Donations**

Distribute books and learning resources to support literacy and digital growth.

**Chinese Learning**

Promote Chinese language and culture as lifelong, empowering skills.

**About Our Event!**

This event supports the creation of Mukuru Resource Center — a space where children in underserved communities can access books, technology, and quality education. Help us raise funds and resources to give them global skills like Chinese language and digital literacy.

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