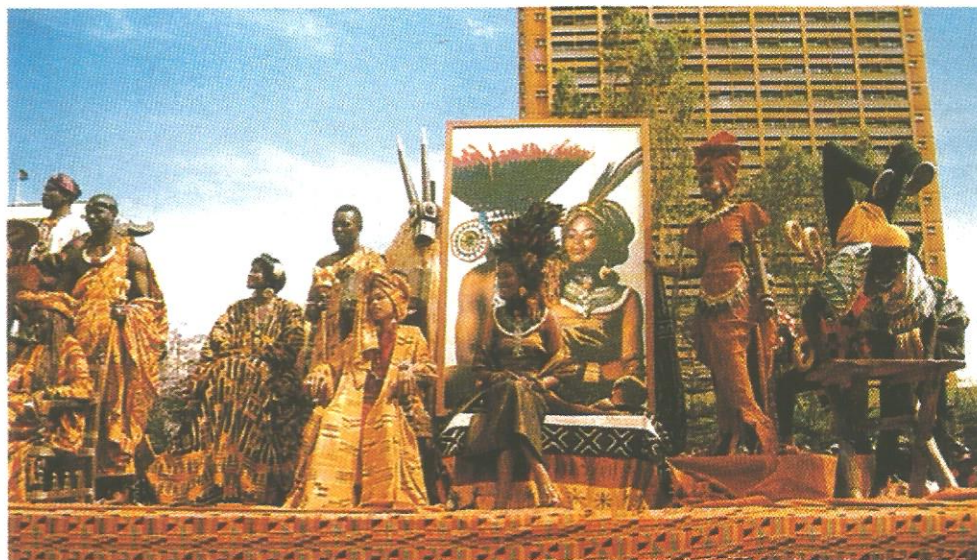


A massive carnival to celebrate the 100th anniversary of one of the best known cities in the World, Kenya's capital Nairobi, brought out revellers in their thousands.

BARRACK OTIENO joined the joyful throng



The African Heritage float started the march of 100 models with a court scene in the magnificent hand woven "Kente" cloth and gold jewellery from Ghana

CARNIVAL

comes to Nairobi

It was a scene to behold. More than 100,000 Nairobi city residents lined both sides of Kenyatta Avenue, sealed off to traffic, to celebrate the city's centenary on 11 October with a showpiece of street carnival, put together by the African Heritage Gallery which was also

celebrating its 25th anniversary. They started arriving as early as 10am, in mini-buses, omni-buses, on bicycles and foot, and in some of the latest Japanese and European saloon models. They wore some of the most colourful dresses, suits and casual designer wear. The young, the very old,

the street children and pick-pockets, the lowly and the mighty rubbed shoulders — equals for the day.

By 2pm, when the festival started, Nairobi city centre was teeming with humanity milling around. The few thousands who turned out for the Moi Day celebrations at Uhuru Park, or indeed at the alternative gathering at Kamukunji Grounds in the slums of Shauri Moyo, where the police were opening up the skulls of the attendants on the previous day, were put to shame by this crowd.

Dubbed the "best of African street festival," the carnival, organised by the African Heritage Gallery, the Rotary Club of Nairobi, Serena Hotels, the Nairobi City Council and other non-governmental organisations, succeeded beyond the wildest dreams of its co-ordinators.

With kind support from UNEP, The World Bank and the Nairobi City Council, the fashion and cultural event featured puppeteers, floats from the M-Net television network, classic vintage cars, musical bands, acrobats, dancers, musicians and other entertainers, who all had the crowd so transfixed to the events on the street, that they did not know when their purses and wallets

The Safari Cats pose with model Gertrude Kitawa who wears a black suede gown based on a Turkana dress with floor length hammered brass necklace from African Heritage



