



PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Plagiarism Allegations Against Redscar McOdindo K'Oyuga

It has been extremely difficult dealing with the news of plagiarism against Kenyan poet Redscar McOdindo K'Oyuga. The news came to the attention of Babishai on Sunday 9th October morning. He has never received any prize from Babishai but we are aware of other literary prizes that he won this year.

Redscar's submission that appeared on the Babishai 2015 long list was plagiarized, however, and we're in touch with the original owner. His 2016 submissions have furthermore been removed from our sites and he will not appear in reprints of our work as investigations continue. Other journals that published his Babishai submissions are requested to take them down. Our efforts to reach him have been futile.

As we continue with the poetry prize, while relying on African poets' goodwill, we will also take stricter measures to counter plagiarism. We understand that there are about ten journals that Redscar was published in this year alone, 2016 and so other organizations and individuals are likely to have been affected.

To the members of the literary fraternity that have offered unwavering support and advice, we are extremely grateful. We should each sensitize writers about plagiarism so that this information is shared and applied accordingly.

Babishai is committed to the growth of African poetry, learning from challenges and strengthening from the knowledge of the literary community at large.

The Board and Management

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