



KAREN & LANGATA COMMUNITY SECURITY MEETING

HELD ON 1ST MARCH 2014

The Karen & Langata Community has experienced rising insecurity over the last few months including carjacking, burglary, robbery, and even murder. As a result, Karen Langata District Association (KLDA) took the initiative to convene a meeting of all the residents of Karen & Langata, security stakeholders and the Police to deliberate on the matter. The meeting was held at the Kenya School of Law on Langata South Road on Saturday 1st March. Residents showed up numbers, and participated in the open forum.

Neighborhood Watch

Clive Lee, in charge of security for KLDA, gave a brief analysis of the incidents reported over the last few months. He highlighted KLDA's continued working relationship with the Police, alerting them on issues that require attention in different neighborhoods following reports through the KLDA office. Clive further urged residents to report any incidents to the Police, so as to ensure they patrol the neighborhood regularly. He placed a lot of emphasis on the establishment of neighborhood associations, which through their activities, could also serve as neighborhood watch. Assigning security wardens within the neighborhood associations is also an important step.

KLDA has received a security vehicle from the HUB Management which will be used in the community as a backup patrol vehicle. KLDA in partnership with Kenya Security Industry Association (KSIA) is in the process of setting up monthly meetings for security stakeholders to discuss security matters. Once the meetings are set up, residents will receive a monthly report on security.



Kenya Security Industry Association (KSIA), represented by Chris Everard

Chris Everard reiterated the partnership between KSIA and the Police, which has been fruitful. He stated that the Government has given security vehicles to various Police stations and patrols will be enhanced. Private security vehicles will also be accompanied by armed Police when on patrol. He encouraged residents to report any strange cars on the road to any security group in the area; they will be approached and investigated. The boda boda issue also arose. According to Chris, they offer good services to the workers in the area and it will therefore be difficult to get rid of them.

Open Forum

The following issues were raised by residents from different areas in the community:

Importance of Communication: A resident of Hardy requested KLDA to be the centre of communication for the residents in terms of dissemination of information. Tom Mboya, Vice Chairman KLDA, assured that KLDA is aggressively taking up the role of communication for the community. If all the residents would take up membership of the association, communication will be enhanced through existing channels. KLDA is ready to give real time information that is usable by residents not only on security but also on development issues. He urged residents to visit KLDA facebook page ([facebook.com/karenlangata](https://www.facebook.com/karenlangata)), website (www.klda.or.ke) and Twitter handle (KLDA_nbi) for updates. Whatsapp application on mobile phone was also recommended for efficient communication.

Security (Street Lighting): a resident of Mokoyeti Road raised the issue of street lighting. Levels of darkness on Langata Road are welcoming to robbers. What can be done to ensure we have adequate street lighting? A representative of the Nairobi City County Joseph Munyambu responded that there is an expansion process underway, and the areas mentioned can be considered once residents forward their request to the Nairobi City County. The Nairobi City County is working with engineers assigned on different roads to include street lighting when maintaining or repairing roads. Neighbors were also tasked to light their gates as most of them are not lit at night.

Amplified constructions works in the community: The number of Construction workers has risen considerably due to the new developments attracting different people with ill motives. This was noted by Jackie Arkle of the Nelion Group. It is difficult to identify who is genuinely working at the construction and who is not. She suggested to engineers on different construction sites to ferry workers in and out of the site using vehicles, to reduce the number of people idling on various roads.



It emerged that there is an existing registrar of construction workers and every developer on site should ensure that workers are registered before taking them on. KLDA was tasked to get the details of the registrar of construction workers and circulate the contacts to the residents.

Boda Boda forming stations on feeder roads: A strategy has been put in place by The OCS at Hardy to register boda boda operators, and OCS Karen was requested to implement the same

strategy for easier identification of any unregistered motorcycles operating in the area. OCPD Langata, Titus Yuma, also pointed out that boda bodas will only be allowed to operate up to 8pm. Any boda boda working beyond 8pm will be seized.

Non- Cooperative neighbors: A resident of Langata South Road claimed that Karen has many uncooperative neighbors who do not support residents' association initiatives. She enquired whether there is an incentive from

the City County on the Nyumba Kumi initiative that will be given to communities with such initiatives. (For those interested, a copy of the Nyumba Kumi strategy is available at the KLDA office).

Individuals to vet workers before employment

A bold employee who heard of the security meeting spoke on behalf of other employees. He requested employers to organize meetings for all the workers/guards with the aim of getting them to know each other. This will help in identifying any strange person in the area; indeed, they are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood when the employers are away.



Transformers inside the Catholic seminaries

A resident of Quarry Lane requested the Catholic seminaries that have Kenya Power Transformers mounted inside the seminaries to be flexible and allow electricians to access the transformer when power outages occur. He also requested the sisters and priests in charge of the Catholic institutions to control or have an orderly way of helping the needy who visit the seminaries for food and funds.

Change of Guard in the Police posts

When there is change of guard at area Police stations, it has been noted that crime intensifies during that period. This year has been no different when the OCS at Karen and Hardy were changed. The Police were tasked to ensure that operations and patrols are not altered due to change of guard.

Kiosks and escape route on Kufuga Lane

A resident of Kufuga Lane requested the OCS Hardy to enhance patrol vehicles along Kufuga Lane where there is a forest that robbers use to hide or as an escape route. He also noted the increase in kiosks that encourage idlers with ill motives. They also observe movements of the house owners.

Other matters of importance

- The police urged residents to cooperate with robbers when carjacked or when they gain entry to the houses. This will help prevent any personal harm;
- Police are ready to help vet workers on behalf of the employers if called upon to do so in an organized meeting by different residents associations.
- Gun license applications: These have been stopped by the Nairobi City County Commandant until further notice.
- Boda bodas will be clustered depending on the areas that they operate from.

Remarks from the Deputy County Commissioner

Mr. Francis Elungata was helpful in giving relevant Police contacts for the Karen & Langata area (below). He urged all residents to collaborate and adopt the concept of Nyumba Kumi Initiative. He requested residents who enjoy their privacy and space to try and get to know their neighbors for the sake of security. In his remarks, he insisted on use of the grassroots officials (Chief's office, DC's Office, County Ward Office) who can be of great help in solving small issues.



The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the KLDA Chairman Engineer Erastus Mwangera. He encouraged all residents to be part of Neighborhood associations that will strengthen KLDA. He also advocated for the nominations of Neighborhood Associations representatives to the main KLDA committee. Their task will be to represent the issues that affect their areas at KLDA monthly meetings, to be taken up by KLDA with the relevant authorities on their behalf. He reminded all residents to pay their annual subscription which enables KLDA to carry out its mandate of serving the community.



As a result of the very successful security meeting, KLDA will set up Quarterly meetings for all residents to deliberate on matters that affect the community.

THE FOLLOWING SECURITY CONTACTS WERE MADE AVAILABLE

Name and Title	Telephone no
Administration Police (AP) in charge Langata, Inspector Sichele	0729718937
National Intelligence Service (NIS) Karen/Langata, Elias Otieno	0722377890
Assistant County Commissioner Karen/Langata Hilary Mibey	0728789582
Senior Chief Karen Francis Waneno:	0723116317
OCPD Langata, Titus Yuma:	0722227890
OCS Karen Chief Inspector Monica:	0722513548.
OCS Hardy Chief Inspector Kemboi:	0700106841
Deputy County Commissioner, John Elungata	0715200199
National Construction Authority for Registration of construction workers	0700021222

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