

Office Changes

KLDA, representing Karen residents, is taking on greater challenges than ever before. Volunteers alone can not take on the new challenges and the KLDA office has been joined by Rose Karobia. Rose has B.A majoring in public relations and has experience in various aspects of communications relating to the private, government and non-governmental sectors. Her primary responsibility will be to develop communication with members and promote KLDA in the city and nationally.



Muthoni (Right) and Rose at your service.

Muthoni Mukere will now focus principally on development issues which require increasing resources to deal with, for example, applications for change of user and reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments as well as servicing the 'Karen We Want' sub-committee of KLDA. Muthoni will continue to manage KLDA finances and deal with rates issues.

KLDA AGM Wednesday 20th March

The KLDA Annual General Meeting will be held on the 20th of March at Karen Country Club at 6.30 pm. It will be followed by bitings and drinks.

The formal business includes:

- Election of a new committee: Chairperson Vincent Kambo has reached the end of his second term and a new Chair will be elected.
- Presentation of the audited accounts.
- The Chair's report on 2012. The Chair's report and the agenda will be mailed to members and will also be on the KLDA web site.

After the formal business there will be a presentation on KLDA's new initiative not only to review the Karengata Local Physical Development Plan but to incorporate some exciting new concepts into the proposed new strategy.

There will also be an open discussion where members can raise any topic they wish. This forum will help the new Committee in determining priorities for the year ahead.

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Development – NET Rules that Proposed Mall Can Not Use Existing Sewer

As we have reported before KLDA took the proposed Karen Central development adjacent to Karen roundabout to the National Environment Tribunal (NET). NEMA had granted a license for the development and KLDA opposed this on a number of environmental grounds including: the existing sewer is utterly inadequate and the pond is already a hazard, water provision to the area is inadequate, increased traffic will lead to even greater jams and the development contravenes the Karengata Local Physical Development Plan.

The NET agreed with KLDA on the sewerage issue and suspended the licence until the developer provides satisfactory proposals for a “borehole and [on-site] sewage treatment system”. However KLDA’s other complaints were dismissed.

- KLDA said that the development does not conform to the LPDP. In KLDA’s view the ruling takes selective quotes from the LPDP and uses them to justify the development. Also the ruling seems to think that the development is within the Karen triangle (Zone 5) where some commercial development is allowed. It is actually in Zone 1a which is primarily residential.
- Regarding water the ruling acknowledges there are severe water constraints but that determined it can’t stop the development as water supplies might improve in the future.
- Re. traffic the NET says that in 2007 the Ministry of Roads and Public Works gave no objection and accepted mitigation measures put forward by the developer. More recent plans for road improvement have probably overtaken this issue.

Other Development Activities

As well as reviewing a number of environmental impact assessments (EIA) KLDA is in discussion with a number of large-scale developers and details will be appearing on the KLDA web site.

They include:

- The Hub – formerly Rusty Nail where (another) shopping mall is proposed. The project report for the environmental impact assessment is being reviewed.
- CEMASTEVA in Karen Road where we have been attending site meetings with CEMASTEVA and the Japanese contractors. This has been following agreed plans but we recently learned that CEMASTEVA plans to construct a large warehouse on site. We shall oppose this.
- We understand that Hillcrest School plans to sell approximately 18 acres of land adjacent to Langata Road while retaining the land where the school buildings are located. This has raised a number of issues with stakeholders and negotiations are currently taking place.

As reported in the last issue, many residents have commented on the current building work adding more stories to Tana House at Karen Shopping Centre and asked if it meets building regulations, particularly with regard to safety. KLDA met the Town Clerk and raised the issue. The Town Clerk directed a senior member of the planning department to investigate and report back. Despite many attempts to obtain feedback, there has been no response from CCN. Are they serious about investigating potentially dangerous construction?

While pleased that the NET accepted that the Karen sewer is an environmental hazard KLDA is reviewing its response to other parts of the ruling, including the apparent factual errors.

Editor’s farewell

I have had the pleasure of editing KLDA News since 2009 taking over from Hilary Atkins. In that time we have increased the number of pages, increased advertising to help finance the News, and gone into colour. Despite these achievements I know that there are many more improvements that can be made. The goal is to make KLDA News into a local newspaper available in shops and other public places as well as being posted to members as usual.

There is a demand among members and advertisers for a hard copy publication and this is complemented by our new web site, Facebook and twitter feeds. All intended to serve KLDA members better with up to date information and opportunities for feedback. Our strengthening of the KLDA office is primarily intended to improve the flow of information and Rose Karobia will be taking over as editor.

Graham Alder

CEMASTEА – A Letter From The Acting Director

The Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEА) needs at least a brief introduction. It is an educational institution under the Ministry of Education charged with the mandate of strengthening Mathematics and Science Education in Kenya through In-service Education and Training (INSET). CEMASTEА covers other African countries as part of the South-South cooperation. CEMASTEА is located within the Karen neighbourhood at the Karen-Bogani Road junction, a few metres from the Karen Blixen Museum.

Currently, we have some construction work going on under "the Project for Upgrading and Refurbishment of CEMASTEА" which is funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The construction which is expected to be complete by the end of September, 2013 will enable CEMASTEА to have offices, a 200-seating capacity hall, a library, lecture rooms and laboratories. It is necessary to mention that an Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted before the construction was allowed and an environmental management plan (EMP) is in force.

To update stakeholders on the progress of the construction work, there are monthly site meetings.

KLDA is represented in these meetings. The meetings provide a forum for stakeholders to raise any issues of concern to them. I must say the discussions we have had with stakeholders, including KLDA (through its representatives), have been cordial and constructive.

May I use this forum to thank KLDA and residents of the Karen-Langata neighbourhood for their kind understanding and support, especially with regards to the ongoing construction. On our part, we offer sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused by the on-going construction. However most of the inconveniences, which include some level of unavoidable noise, are temporary. We also pledge our commitment to being good members of KLDA as well as being good neighbours to all.

Moses O. KAWA
Ag Director, CEMASTEА

We welcome this letter from the Director of CEMASTEА but at a recent site meeting we were informed that a large warehouse which was not included in the original plan that KLDA approved, is about to be constructed under a separate contract supervised by the Ministry of Public Works. KLDA is currently in discussion with CEMASTEА regarding this unforeseen development. (Ed.)

Guiding Development in Karengata – a New Start

The Karengata Local Physical Development Plan, the result of an initiative from KLDA, was gazetted in 2006. It has guided development in the area ever since but, as is very obvious, the City Council of Nairobi has largely chosen to ignore both the KLPDP and its own regulations when it wishes and has managed to do this with impunity. The KLPDP was due for review in 2011 but the authorities did not carry out this mandated task. A number of concerned KLDA members, particularly representatives of neighbourhood associations, have come together under KLDA as the 'Karen We Want' initiative to re-invigorate our involvement in planning and to claim our rights for participation guaranteed by the constitution.

The group has proposed that with the re-structuring of government Karen needs to present a revitalized strategy to local and central government. This is an

appropriate time with newly elected politicians soon to be in place and also formulation of a new plan for Nairobi under way (see below). To prepare the strategy KLDA is partnering with Planning Systems, a leading Kenyan architectural and planning practice that, in addition to conventional projects, led the rehabilitation of the Nairobi River and introduced the 'community cooker' to slums. KLDA will provide technical inputs but above all will enable Karen residents to participate in the formulation of the plan. Much of this will be done through electronic media. Planning Systems will provide architectural and planning expertise and technical services. KWW will continue the essential task of vetting of development proposals.

A new Plan for Nairobi 2030 and opportunities for KLDA

By Elijah Agevi

KLDA representative to Kenya Association of Residents Associations).

The City of Nairobi has not benefited from any comprehensive new plan in recent times apart from the 1973 metropolitan strategy that was unfortunately not implemented in full and would have officially ended in the year 2000! As is all too evident developments in the city have not received real guidance and no wonder we have the current chaos in the city. We have ended up with "the city in slums rather slums in the city". The good news is that the Government of Japan is providing technical support to prepare "an Integrated Master Plan for the City of Nairobi". Work has just begun.

The issues that the plan will pay attention to are:

1. Uncontrolled urban development: Unauthorized developments causing expansion and creation of settlements with poor living conditions
2. Insufficient urban infrastructure –water, waste management, public transportation, water pollution-rivers, lack of sewage systems
3. Poor living conditions: insufficient affordable

4. housing ,expansion of informal settlements
5. Lack of social facilities: schools, hospitals, public open spaces, public cemetery
6. Transportation problems –poor road capacity, poor intersection management, poor railway system, poor public transport
7. Urban development plans are not updated
8. Urban development management is inadequate
9. The development permit system is unclear
- Urban plans are weak and the management of urban infrastructure is poor.

A joint governmental Coordinating Committee has been instituted together with a Technical Committee. Seven working groups will drive the process: Transport, Infrastructure, Land Administration and City Planning, Environment, Institutional & governance, Population Socio-cultural systems and Urban Economy.

This provides an opportunity for KLDA to participate in determining Nairobi's future and already KLDA is determining how it will engage with the planning exercise.

Karen Police Station

The refurbishment works of the Karen Police Station are still ongoing under the auspices to the Karen Police Station Project Management Committee.

The committee comprises of various stakeholders including the KLDA, Lang'ata Constituency Development Fund which is providing the funding to a tune of Kshs.2.9M, and the Architectural Association of Kenya offering professional services free of charge.

The involvement of the AAK is a pilot to gauge the impact of involving professionals in CDF projects in terms of quality of work, timelines and costs. The first phase of the works at the Karen Police Station is complete and work is about to commence on the second phase. Once the work is complete, it is expected the station will have more humane facilities and a better environment to work in than has hitherto been the case."

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KLDA Football Tournament Report - 2012

Towards the end of 2012, for the third year, KLDA supported a Football Tournament within the KLDA area, in partnership with the Karengata Youth Soccer Academy (KYSA). This time, the entries were the Senior Boys, U17 and U14 Boys, and the U16 Girls teams.

In the Tournament Finals played at the Cooperative University field on 9th December, Bomas FC won the Senior Boys trophy, RVSA FC won the U17 Boys, and KYSA U14 Boys and U16 Girls teams both won their groups.

KLDA congratulated Joseph Oloo, the KYSA Manager, for the hard work involved in the organisation and coordination of the Tournament over 2 months.

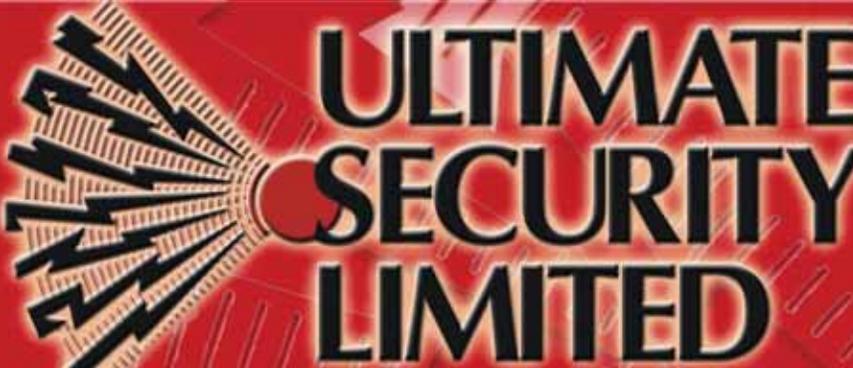
KYSA expresses their thanks to KLDA, and the many other individuals and companies who played a vital sponsorship role in ensuring the Tournament was so successful. The I&M Bank provided footballs for the top 3 in each group, and Que Pasa provided sodas and water for Finals day.



Senior Boys KLDA Champions - Bomas FC

In the 2013 season, the KYSA Senior Boys play in the Nairobi County League, while the other KYSA teams play in friendly matches and tournaments. We look forward to another season end KLDA Tournament

Kenya Power, our core sponsor, has donated football kits to two youth teams. The presentation ceremony is scheduled for April 2013.



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Friends of Dagoretti Children and the Karen Street Children's Trust

urgently require a strong lockable cupboard for the office that they share.
If you can help please contact Catherine on 0721861525

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Tony Church on his 60th birthday



by Edita Camm - portrait artist
For commissions contact: 0721253189
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Security

Vehicle Rules

Members have been raising queries about the new traffic regulations. It is incorrect for any police officer to insist upon a private vehicle owner into carrying a fire extinguisher, first aid kit and a towing rope in their Private Vehicles. Only Public Service Vehicles are required by law to have the items. A police spokesman says motorists should report any officer who asks for the items to the number 020 260 381 4. The only item you require in your car (applies to private vehicles only) is a pair of LIFE SAVERS (hazard triangles). However, other than just satisfying these regulations, the above items can turn out to be very useful in case of emergencies.



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Please note that the
KLDA email address has changed to :
info@klda.or.ke

NOTICE

**The Annual General Meeting
of the
Karen & Langata District Association
at Karen Country Club on
Wednesday 20th MARCH 2013
at 6.00 p.m.**

Social thereafter

**VINCENT KAMBO
CHAIRMAN**

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