

## KLDA AGM Elects New Committee with Neighbourhood Representative

Under the amended KLDA constitution six representatives of neighbourhood associations (NA) were elected to the Committee of KLDA at the AGM held on the 21 March 2012. NA representatives are from each of the six zones described in the Local Physical Development Plan and therefore cover the whole of Karen and Langata. The NA representatives are (respective neighbourhood associations in brackets):

Zone 1a Miotoni: No nominee as yet.

Zone 1b Windy Ridge/Kerarapon: Mr. Charles Kihagi (Rhino Park)

Zone 2 Mbagathi: Mr Gilbert Kibe (Tree Lane)

Zone 2 Mbagathi: Mr. Ezekiel Angwenyi (Ndovu Road)

Zone 3 Bogani: Dr. Martin Kamau (Silanga Road)

Zone 4 Karen Plains: Mr. Peter Donde (Karen Plains)

Zone 5 Triangle: Dr. Ben Waitara (Karen Woodlands Residents Association)

Chairman Vincent Kambo is in the middle of a two-year term and other Executive Committee members were re-elected: Eratus Mwongera (Hon. Vice Chairman), Albert Mumma (Hon. Secretary) and Nick Evans (Hon. Treasurer). Clive Lee will continue to handle security and Graham Alder will continue with communications, including KLDA News.

## Lions in Langata



This picture was taken of a lioness was taken by a remote camera in Langata in March.  
Picture courtesy of Iain Douglas Hamilton.

## EDITORIAL

It was not expected that the Director of City Planning, Mr Tom Odongo, would spontaneously announce to a meeting of resident's associations (see report on page?) that CCN acknowledges that the Karengata Local Physical Development Plan is overdue for a review and that such an exercise would have the full support of City Council. Residents should welcome this statement to engage with CCN but also be mindful of the challenges facing such an exercise. These include the uncertainties created by the transition to the County system as the Constitution is implemented and the possibility that some politicians and developers will seek to emasculate the LPDP so that the situation actually worsens. We should ensure that the review is transparent and that all stakeholders, and particularly Karengata residents, can participate.

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# Karen Woodlands Residents Association

In forthcoming issues we will feature a neighbourhood association in Karengata.

Karen Woodlands is located within Karen Triangle off Ngong Road. It was formed in 2003 and later registered with the Ministry of Social Services in 2007. There are 12 families as members and meetings are held monthly on rotational basis in willing members' houses. The main activity of the association is provision of security with guards manning a barrier into the estate. Woodlands has built the barrier, a guards house and toilets. In addition the association has installed street lighting, repaired the entrance road and beautified the

entrance to the estate. The association provides a basis for social events.

As with other neighbourhood association Woodlands faces challenges with some residents not participating and even refusing to pay the subscription for services that benefit all. Woodlands members are eager to learn from the experiences of other associations in the area.

Chairman, Mr Isaih Kimani, 0733764622. KLDA committee representative, Dr Ben Waitara, benwaitara@gmail.com.

## Communications Strategy

The sub-committee formed to develop KLDA communications with members and the wider public has completed a strategy and has identified priorities.

The emphasis will be on new web site that will be regularly updated and that will contain extensive information on matters concerning KLDA and the Karengata community. Work has begun on the new design that will include a blog for members so that they can share issues with KLDA and with each other. Neighbourhood Associations are particularly keen on how to exchange experiences on security, road maintenance and running a NA – and particularly getting all members to pay their subscriptions! KLDA will let you know when it is up and running.

A KLDA Facebook page is being established and will be operational very soon. Also KLDA has a Twitter account that is up and running. Follow the Twitter handle: KLDA\_Nbi.

There are also plans to extend the circulation of this publication, KLDA News, by providing it to NA's for their members and to the general public. It will be largely supported by advertising revenue and rates will match the increased circulation.

We are seeking to engage an intern to contribute to KLDA News. S/he is likely to be a communications/journalism student who has a curious mind, can initiate and deliver stories and, of course, who can write well. Applications to the KLDA office.

## Director of City Planning Meets Resident's Associations



Henry Ochieng (KARA) and Tom Odongo (Director of City Planning)

### Supports Review of LPDP

Tom Odongo, CCN Director of City Planning met representatives of Residents Associations at a meeting organized by KARA on the 11 April. KLDA was represented by Chairman Vincent Kambo and by Graham Alder.

Henry Ochieng (KARA) and Tom Odongo (Director of City Planning)

LPDP Due for Revision – CCN Will Support

He then said that the Dept. of City Planning is aware that the Karen Local Physical Development Plan (LPDP) is due for revision. The exercise should be led by the Dept. of Physical Planning (Ministry of Lands) and he said that he is fully in support and will participate. He suggested KLDA and CCN should arrange a meeting on the review of the LPDP. KLDA has been

pressing for a review for many years.

### Changes of User and Illegal Development

In his presentation Odongo immediately acknowledged that "Changes of User" from residential to commercial has aroused a great deal of ire among residents as developers deliberately try to conceal their intentions. The required notification in the press is often put in obscure corners of low circulation newspapers. One participant pointed that the boards put up on the site are often "hidden behind bushes". Often CoU's conflict with zoning. CCN has formed a committee with the Kenya Institute of Planners to address the problem.

KLDA suggested that there is an easy solution (one that has been available for many years) and that is to put all planning applications on-line so that the system becomes immediately transparent. This is done in many cities around the world. Odongo disclosed that the CCN is now developing the software to do this and it will be on-line in 2012.

He acknowledged that in many cases there has been interference in planning decisions leading to approvals that contravene regulations. One example among many was the division of land off Bogani Road (Langata) that has been subdivided into quarter acre plots and where, without the city's knowledge, title deeds

have been issued. Corruption is a severe problem. It should be noted that possession of a title deed is not related to planning permission and that CCN could have easily refused building permits for these plots.

All planning decisions go through the Technical Committee that now has representatives from AAK and KIP. KLDA Chair Vincent Kambo pointed out that these professional bodies have a vested interest in approving developments and proposed that resident's associations should also be represented on the committee.

### Pressures come from Developers

Odongo said that planning is under great pressure as the city's population expands and land values increase so that developers want to extract maximum value. He also remarked that developers are now turning to using sectional titles and multi-dwelling regulations rather than sub-division.

CCN Preparing Strategic Plan for the City  
He also said that Nairobi is in the process of preparing a strategic development plan funded by Japan and this should be completed within 18 months. Under the Kenya Municipal Programme studies are planned or under way on alternative sewerage systems, city-wide drainage and the recovery of public open spaces.



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# National Environment Management Authority - EMCA Due for Review

Dr. Ayub Macharia, NEMA Acting Director General (Dr Geoffrey Wahungu has since been appointed as DG) said that NEMA faces a number of challenges in carrying out its mandate in the areas of manpower, finance, political interference and equipment. However, the act (EMCA) under which NEMA was established is coming under review and residents are encouraged to make their views known. It was suggested by participants that one of the pressing issues to be addressed in the review of the act is who pays the consultants who prepare environmental impact assessments and project reports. It was felt this should not be by the project proponents as at present where he who pays the piper calls the tune.

The process of EIAs is programmed to take 45 days and often objections are received late and therefore cannot be considered. The Acting DG clarified that once the authority makes a decision e.g. granting of licence, the decision irreversible, the law has no provision for reversal of decisions once made and communicated, Such decisions can only be varied by imposition of additional conditions, through the tribunal or through the courts.

The issue of health effects from electromagnetic radiation emanating from telecom masts was raised



Dr Ayub Macharia (Acting Director General, NEMA)

and Dr Macharia responded by saying that NEMA has referred the matter to the body dealing with radiation and radioactive materials for guidance and advice. He also said that a regulation to deal with air pollution is being formulated and the authority now has sufficient level meters to deal with noise levels.

## National Environment Tribunal

As reported in our February issue KLDA has taken the case of the proposed Karen Central Shopping Mall to the National Environment Tribunal based on concerns about sewage and traffic. At a hearing on 27th of March 2012 KLDA experts put forward the objections of the community. The lawyers representing the project asked for further time to study the documents and the next hearing is set for June.

## Roads and Traffic

We are all highly conscious of the worsening situation concerning roads and traffic in the area. We have reported on this many times and KLDA is in frequent communication with the Kenya Urban Roads Authority and the Kenya National Highways Authority. KLDA has now formed a sub-committee to intensify efforts. If you have an interest and/or expertise to contribute contact the KLDA office.

## The Karen We Want - Fighting Against Impunity

A new group has formed under the auspices of KLDA provisionally called 'The Karen We Want'. The members are deeply concerned about the nature and pace of development in the area – issues that have been reported on in recent editions of KLDA News. Flouting of the Karengata Local Physical Development Plan will underlie their activities as this has led to the construction of many commercial buildings and that in turn stress limited resources – particularly water, sewage disposal, roads and traffic. The group has as members representatives of Neighbourhood Associations as well as professionals including architects, planners and engineers. Membership is open to all Karen residents.

## Letters to the Editor

Residents of Karen are increasingly getting irritated and concerned about the hundreds of signposts being crudely posted on roadside trees advertising services ranging from witchcraft, house girls, hostels, rental houses and a host of others. These signs are embarrassing, damaging our trees and disfiguring the beauty of our residential area. They should be stopped forthwith and only you, Karen residents, can do it! I wonder why the NCC allows their proliferation since they are illegal, some obscene and obviously an eyesore to everyone. Since the owners have their telephone numbers on them, why can't the NCC follow them? You don't see these things at Runda or other up-market residential areas. Why Karen? I suggest that residents should pull them down whenever posted near their homes as they are illegal. I have done this for the past several months and no one dares place them near my house these days!

Sincerely,  
Patrick Mungai

## KLDA - Kenya Youth Sports Association Football

The football season started well for the Senior men's team, but with some challenging League matches. They have played 8 matches, won 4, drawn 1 and lost 3. Unfortunately their training sessions have often been limited due to a lack of funding for the players transport. The U17 and U14 boys have been training, and are now looking forward to some friendly matches. The Girls U14 had a late start to the season due to an important Schools Tournament. Then there was a further delay due to a lioness being seen several times in the forest the girls need to pass through to get to the training field! See Page 1. They are now back to training and also looking forward to some friendly matches.

At one of the KLDA Social events, we were very pleased to meet the Bank of Africa representatives. Since that evening they have been very helpful, and we have opened an account with them – their Goodwill Account which is designed for a wide range of Social organizations, and it has none of the usual bank charges. Thank you KLDA for this opportunity.

Margaret Pearson



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## Members Small Ads (free to members)

**"The 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Mbagathi River Water Resource Users Association(WRUA), will be held on Saturday 19th May 2012 at the Shade Hotel, on Ngong Road just near the entrance to Mwituu Estate at 10.00 am. All are warmly invited to attend."**

### **Hardy Safi**

Needs to raise funds so that we can continue to look after the Hardy area. With the closure of Langata Grocers account facilities, we can no longer collect money donated by you. However, we would appreciate it if you could consider sending in cheques written out to KLDA Hardy Safi. As little as 200/= or 500/= per month would be much appreciated. Alternatively one can leave cash in the cash box situated at Kids Stuff situated next to Langata Grocers. Thank you in advance for your support



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## PO Box Charges

New charges for PO Boxes at Karen are 3 times that of most post offices in Kenya. KLDA Chair Vincent Kambo has written to Posta and they claim they have replied. Lost in the post? He has also written to the Watchman in the Daily Nation.

**WHY PAY MORE?** Why should the Postal Corporation of Kenya charge mailbox renters at Karen Post Office, Nairobi, three times as much as what their patrons in other parts of the county pay? asks Karen & Lang'ata District Association chairman Vincent Kambo. The notice on the new rates shows that individual boxes will now cost Sh2,000 a year, but a letter sent to Karen mailbox holders says they should pay Sh6,000! "The Posta slogan of 'touching lives' seems to be aimed at touching our wallets!" Kambo moans. His contact is [klda@swiftkenya.com](mailto:klda@swiftkenya.com).

## Water Forum

**KLDA, Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company, Athi Water Services Board**

### WATER FORUM

**Friday 18th May, 2012, from 9.00am to 12.30pm, at Karen Country Club**

Please come along to this forum, so that you can stand up and voice your complaints and difficulties with any aspect of water services. **ATTEND ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING AN ADEQUATE WEEKLY RATION OF WATER.**

Now is your chance to be heard by the two most senior executives in the Nairobi Water Company and the Athi Water Services Board, who will be there with other management staff.

Problems will be heard, discussions take place and

issues in common identified. The water authorities, in partnership with the KLDA will be asked to work on real solutions and to put in place some sort of system that actually works, to address our day to day matters of concern.

The main topics for discussion will be WATER SUPPLY, COMMUNICATIONS, and BILLING and METER READING. Some of you may want to talk about BOREHOLES.

Whatever it is that bothers you, - come along and be prepared to say something. The larger the numbers, the more the authorities will understand the level of dissatisfaction.

Please don't be apathetic, as for sure nothing is going to happen: make an effort, and let's see if we can set the ball rolling towards some sort of improvement.