



Editors Note

As the new editor of KLDA News I welcome all the readers and contributors, many of who I have met through the social evenings held and many who I look forward to meeting in the future.

KLDA News will carry information and news about ongoing progress on development issues that affect the Karen area and other activities that KLDA is bringing on board to ensure that Karen residents are aware of how the area is growing and measures being put in place by our very own Karen We Want team working together with the Planning Systems Services Ltd in reviewing the Karengata Local Physical Development Plan.

The Newsletter will be a dynamic forum for inputs from different neighborhood within Karen and to provide space for hitherto less heard voices.

As such, ideas and comments are welcome to ensure dynamism and participation to initiate activities in which members can participate. Suggestions and inputs will be most welcome as the idea is to create an active dialogue within KLDA and the Karen community.

We would love to hear from you, and we'll be publishing selected emails at the end of each issue, Send us an email?

Follow us also on Twitter @KLDA_nbi and like our facebook page www.facebook.com/karenlangata for updates.

Rose Karobia

**Communications
KLDA**

In this issue

- **KLDA Committee and representatives from neighborhoods for 2013-2015**
- **KLDA Committee meeting with the Governor of Nairobi**
- **Meeting between KLDA and NEMA Director General**
- **Progress of the KWW on the review of the local physical development plan**
- **Remembering KLDA members who left us**
- **KLDA football team gets kits from Kenya Power Ltd**

Welcome and farewell

to the Incoming and outgoing KLDA Committee

KLDA's 2012 Annual General Meeting, held on 30th March 2013, had a good turn up of members and a full agenda with acknowledgements of what had been achieved and announcements of the new committee for 2013/2015. The KLDA committee members appointed during the year were welcomed on the night by members. The warm welcome was coupled with the sad farewell to the outgoing chairman Mr. Vincent Kambo and two significant committee members, Graham and Sara Alder after years on the committee. Sara worked tirelessly in development issues, particularly as part of the team that drove the Local Physical Development Plan. Graham, a former Chair, was also thanked for being the Editor for the KLDA News and also being part of the KLDA committee.



Graham and Sara appreciated



Chairman Eng. Mvongera reads his acceptance Speech



KLDA Members at the AGM

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PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

KLDA Executive Committee 2013-2015



Chairman, Eng. Erastus Mwangera

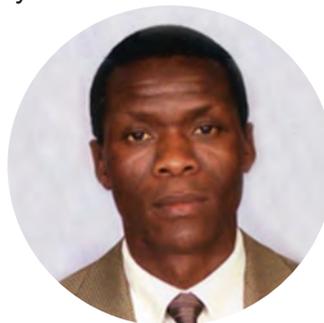
Spanning over 40 years Eng Mwangera has had a distinguished career in both public and private service. He started his career as a water engineer and rose through the ranks to become Principal of Kenya Water Institute and Director of Water Development for a combined period of 12 years. Eng Mwangera has served as permanent secretary in various ministries including the Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Lands and Housing; Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Housing; Ministry of Water Resources; and Ministry of land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development. Eng Mwangera also served as Chairman of Kenya Airport Authority for three years from 2006 to 2009 during a time of major rehabilitation, modernization and expansion of the country's international and national airports and airstrips. He is the Current National chairman of Federation of Kenya Employees.

Tom Mboya is a governance and anti-corruption specialist. He has led his hand to the fight against corruption, and the promotion



Vice Chairman: Tom Mboya

of accountability and transparency. Tom began his career as a Consultant with UN-HABITAT in Nairobi. He has worked for the department of Governance and Ethics in the Office of the President and currently, he is the Deputy CEO of Inuka Kenya.



Secretary, Albert Mumma

A lawyer with 25 years' experience both in legal consultancy and private legal practice. He is frequently called upon to advice on governance and compliance issues and is highly regarded for his insightfulness.

Nick Evans has been the Hon Treasurer for KLDA for more than twelve years, a structural engineer by profession; he has been employed by many multi-nationals, governments and development agencies to design institutional, commercial and industrial structures. Nick attempted to register a website "blunders.com to investigate engineering failures for private clients. Unfortunately the name was already taken. Nick manages a business manufacturing pre-cast concrete products and has been a member of the Langata CDF Committee & the Constituency Roads Committee.



Hon. Treasurer Nick Evans

Sub Committee



Karen We Want

Chairperson: Heather Boustead, a Karen resident for the last 38yrs chairs the Karen We Want (KWW) initiative with a panel representing neighborhood associations. The panel is responsible for defining the vision of the KWW, working with developers to ensure that their proposals conform to the Local Physical Development Plan of the area.



Security: Lt Col (Retired) Clive Lee, a former British Army Officer, Clive came to Kenya in 1991 to start a safari company. Born in Wales, UK and educated at University of Wales, Cardiff. Currently he is the Chairman of Karen Security Trust and KLDA Committee Member for security. Recently retired from G4S Fire and Rescue Services where he was the General Manager.

Neighborhood Association Representatives

Six places on the KLDA Committee are reserved for representatives of neighborhood associations located within the boundaries of the Association. They represent one of the zones identified by the Local Physical Development Plan.

They include:

Ezekiel Angwenyi - Ndovu Road: Ezekiel is an accountant by profession having undertaken business studies in Finance and accounting. He specializes in corporate finance and international trade. Ezekiel is always keen in ensuring that his neighbors needs are addressed accordingly with a lot of emphasis on tree planting evidently seen from his home surrounded by beautiful trees.

Margaret Mutiso - Tree lane: Margaret, a retired teacher is a Tree lane resident since 1993 and a member of the Tree lane Residents Association.

Steve Mc Lean: Twiga Hill - Steve is a resident of Hardy and also a member of the Hardy Residents Association.

Hon. Eng. Gumbo, MP Karen Triangle: Eng. Gumbo is a Registered Consulting Engineer by the Kenya Engineers Board. A Fellow of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya. He is also a Member of Parliament for Rarieda Constituency since 28th Dec 2007, Member of the Energy, Information & Communications Committee, Kenya National Assembly and a resident of Karen since 2003.

Christine Ndolo - Rhino Road: Christine is a member of Rhino Park Neighborhood Association.

KLDA Social Evening Pictures



As many of KLDA Members are aware, the social evening was changed from first Tuesday of every month to first Wednesday of the month. Since the year started, KLDA has had three social evenings, the first two held at the Karen Country Club and most recent one held on 5th of June at the Collingham Gardens situated on Maasai West Road. Why the change of venue for the socials? KLDA embarked on exploring all the beautiful yet somewhat unknown facilities by Karen residents. We also wish to bring the association to the residents, so as to urge them to join KLDA and support its activities that benefit the area. At the social evenings Members are able to address issues that affect their area as well as receive updates on what has been happening in the association.

Though not all members attend the socials regularly, KLDA appreciates the support of those who subsequently take time to write back and give feedback on issues discussed.. KLDA will actively ensure that the social evenings enable entire Karen/ Langata community to participate, socialize, and get to know their neighbors, as well as raise issues of concern. Communication / notices for the social evening are done through SMS and emails. In case you do not receive the notice as a member, please SMS your number or email address to KLDA Office for inclusion on the database.

KLDA Committee met with the Nairobi Governor Dr. Evans Kidero

On May 17th the KLDA Committee met with the Nairobi City County Governor Dr. Evans Kidero at his office in City Hall. The courtesy call was to congratulate Dr. Kidero on his election and of course raise issues that affect Karen/Langata residents. KLDA Chair Eng. Mwongera presented a range of issues including lack of water, a proper waste water disposal system, poor planning and lack of adherence to the Local Physical Development Plan, poor road infrastructure, frequent power outages, conversion of residential units into high density use such as hostels, encroachment on road reserves by informal users at Karen Shopping Centre, and disregard of by-laws and traffic rules by matatus at Karen Shopping Centre. The list was extensive, to say the least! The committee Members noted that all the issues had left Karen residents frustrated with the City Council of Nairobi (CCN) Services which led them to seek court orders to withhold payment of their land rates.

Eng. Mwongera assured the Governor of cooperation with the new county government and expressed the willingness of the residents to be part of the new beginning that Nairobi had embarked on under the County Government as long as it was through meaningful and scheduled engagement.



Relationship with the county government

KLDA Chairman assured the Governor of cooperation with the new county government

citing an MOU that the former CCN failed to honor; he also expressed the willingness of the residents to be part of the new beginning that Nairobi had embarked on under the County Government. On devolution benefits, KLDA on behalf of the residents expressed its desire to access benefits of devolution through better services and access to the county government and more importantly through meaningful and scheduled engagement.

New development plan for Nairobi

The Governor in response noted that many of the problems Nairobi was facing were because of lack of/or the outdated plan to guide development and weak enforcement mechanisms.

Dr. Kidero disclosed that JICA was coordinating the development of a new plan for Nairobi in a process that will be all-inclusive and in which KLDA must participate with other stakeholders. He assured KLDA members that services such as water, roads and waste-water disposal were all receiving attention from the county government. He noted that his Government was seeking funding where necessary to enhance the capacity of existing facilities and develop new ones. Some of the facilities being considered include new water sources to supplement the Ndakaini Water plant network.

For the waste water disposal system, KLDA Committee members were informed that new County laws would be enacted to regulate and improve the service. The importance of having county laws governing residents associations and how they relate to the County Government was also underscored. Regarding roads, the Governor requested KLDA members to give feedback about which roads needed urgent attention for presentation to KURA. A list of Karen roads was submitted to the Governor to act upon.

Points of Action after the meeting

After the very fruitful meeting it was agreed that KLDA would reconcile rates held by KLDA under the court order in 1998 owed to the County Government and advise the Governor.

Then KLDA would also forward to the Governor a Memorandum of Understanding between KLDA and the City Council of Nairobi that that CCN failed to honor. KLDA will also become involved in the new planning process that will come up with development standards to be enshrined in the County Laws. This process will make development a public rather than a personal process as was now the case in many areas of Nairobi. It was agreed that KLDA and the County Government should continue to have more meetings at least four times every year and dates for these meetings would be proposed and tabled

Meeting with NEMA (National Environmental Management Authority) - Finally the awaited meeting between the KLDA committee and the new Director General of NEMA took place. A short history of the Karen /Langata area was presented by the chairman followed by issues that affect Karen area raised by the committee. They included;

Land use and zoning - With investors increasingly looking to develop in Karen there is pressure to change use for commercial activities and this will change the whole outlook of the area. The committee requested NEMA to carefully monitor upcoming approvals to ensure that they comply with the provisions of the KLPDP.

NEMA's non-responsiveness to KLDA letters - The Chairman suggested to NEMA to identify a liaison person who would be contacted by KLDA for issues of concern raised by residents and to be the person to follow up with for reports and feedback of letters addressed to them.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports - The entire KLDA committee stated that as a recognized stakeholder within Karen / Langata, KLDA ought to be involved in the EIA process by being provided with the EIA reports for review; however this has not been effective since very few reports are received by KLDA.

Noise pollution - A complain from most members coming from bars and wedding grounds within the area.



Oxidation ponds at Karen:

Constructed in the 1950s and are surprisingly still operational despite their deplorable state. KLDA requested NEMA to visit the site and see how these can be enhanced as there were attempts by various developments in the area to channel their waste to the ponds whose capacity is limited.

Illegal / temporary structures: Many residents have complained about the hostels springing up all over the area. Residential houses that are converted into student hostels without much regard to environmental and social challenges that radiate from these structures.

The Director General reiterated his willingness to improve the working relations between KLDA and NEMA. Some of the measures that NEMA would put to place were as follows:

1. The Deputy Director of NEMA would ensure that the EIA office avails to KLDA any information required.
2. NEMA is now posting EIA reports on their website for interested groups to find out the status of the submitted reports.
3. The County Government and NEMA to work together to see how best the approval process can be handled. The DG's suggestion was that the NEMA approval becomes the first license any party obtains before applying to the County Government for any other approvals to ensure that NEMA operates preventively rather than reactively.
4. NEMA will henceforth strengthen its feedback process by ensuring that stakeholders including KLDA are informed of any decision made on a particular development and conditions given to allow stakeholders monitor compliance.
5. A tripartite meeting between KLDA, NEMA and the County Government to deliberate on how best to deal with planning issues which will go a long way in alleviating most of these issues.
6. Quarterly meetings between KLDA and NEMA to be organized where environmental issues in Karen / Langata are raised and tackled as opposed to dealing case by case. KLDA was obligated to furnish NEMA with proposed dates of these meetings.





Remembering KLDA Members who have left us

KLDA lost one of its active members Michael Clifton Tilley, husband to Heather and father to the late Katrina who passed away on 21st March 2013 after a short illness. Michael came to Kenya in 1952, finished his schooling at Prince of Wales school now Nairobi School.

For the past 38yrs he had lived in the Karengata area. Many will remember him as a keen bowler at the Karen Country Club. He loved Kenya his adopted country. Forever will be missed by his wife Heather Tilley and the entire family.

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& laughs



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Certainly, which way did you come in?

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Bins services contacts:	020 8042124/5
Karen Police Station:	020-3531860 020-882538
Hardy Police Station:	020-891225
OCS Karen:	020 882553
Langata Police Station:	020 3531859
Nairobi Water: Karen in Southern Region	
Regional Manager:	0726848915
Technical Coordinator:	0735880433
Customer Care Hotline:	0721885914

KYSA's KLDA FOOTBALL

The Karengata Youth Soccer Academy (KYSA) football season has progressed in spite of some interruptions caused by the rains and elections. The Senior Boys team has been promoted to the Nairobi Provincial League, and they are finding this a challenge. So far this year they have won 1 match, drawn 2, and lost 5 – but they remain determined to improve on these results by attending more training sessions, but these are often limited by lack of funds for the academy. The Junior teams – U17 and U14 boys, and U16 girls have been back to practice following the flooding of their practice pitch, and are now looking forward to friendly matches. At one of KLDA's Social evenings, we were very pleased to meet the Kenya Power representatives.

Last month, at a presentation with some very excited young players, Kenya Power gave a donation of kits and boots for the

Junior teams, and KYSA is very grateful for this generous contribution.

We also very much appreciate the donation of shirts and balls from Allan Wickham, a KLDA member. Planning has now started for the KLDA Tournament, which will take place in November, with the finals in the first weekend of December. KLDA & KYSA welcomes sponsors willing to support this noble initiative as well as the upcoming tournament in November. For further information, please get in touch with KLDA.

Kenya Power presents kits, boots and balls to the KYSA team



Allan Wickham donated balls to KYSA

WHEN DID KAREN BECOME SO WELL ENDOWED IN SCRAP METAL?

A concerned resident of Marula lane

If you're wondering where your garden ornaments, kid's swings and odd utensils have vanished to, a gentleman might have a few answers! He's a scrap metal collector. If you refuse to give him your donations at your gate he'll wait till all is quiet, sneak in and help himself!

He's incredibly quiet and he's a superb scaler of high walls-a regular cat burglar. He likes Karen because it's full of large compounds with porous borders (he'll be at one end when the guard dogs are at the other-he in and out with incredible speed). He loves those long lanes with trees and nooks where nobody asks who he is or what he's doing here. She became aware of him last October when operating on insider info regarding her domestic set up. She got a picture of him when he was chased by her dogs over the wall for the umpteenth time and he momentarily turned back to pick up his gunny bag. The fellow has been reported to the Karen police.² Officers are claimed to have gone to her place to check what was going on. This still doesn't answer the bigger question though which goes something like this. When did Karen become so well endowed in scrap metal that we attract all these collectors into the hood? Are we an industrial area? Where's the scrap coming from? Abundant used horseshoes, ox cart wheel rims??? More than likely the ornamental caps on the bollards at Nakumatt etc.

EDITOR - This comes barely three weeks after the Nairobi City County Governor Dr Evans Kidero announced that scrap metal trade will be regulated to end the menace of stealing gates, rails and have only genuine traders. Does it mean that the scrap Metal collector will no longer have markets for the stolen items missing on our backyards? Only time will tell!!

How Should Karen Langata Grow?

By Henry Musangi – Associate Director at Planning Systems Services Ltd

A few months ago, the Karen Langata District Association and Karen We Want team came to Planning House to visit with us. We learnt from them what anyone could easily observe: that the Karen Langata area of Nairobi is growing and

developing very fast and in many instances not in keeping with the district's Physical Development Plan [PDP]. On the basis of PLANNING's track record in developing quality urban and land use intervention schemes, as well as our specific building designs, KLDA/KWW asked PLANNING to help in the development of a revamped and more effective PDP, to which PLANNING humbly obliged. Over the past couple of months PLANNING has had the opportunity to be part of an extensive drive through and photographic survey of the various neighbourhoods that form this historic edge of the city. What emerged from that survey was both good and bad news. The good news was the fact that extensive portions of the Karen-Langata residential sector have maintained their character, scale and aura. However, the bad news was also evident in uncoordinated development, public transport routing and densification.

It is very apparent for PLANNING, as it is to the residents of Karen-Langata, that the area is undergoing a radical amplification. PLANNING and KLDA therefore agreed on a new three step strategy towards developing the new PDP, consisting of the following steps:

1. Preparation Stage, entailing an investigation, documentation and thorough understanding of the context, especially existing conditions. This stage would also involve the documentation of KLDA stakeholders' aspirations for the area.
2. Design Stage, entailing the development of a graphic special masterplan that would illustrate proposals or aspirations for development and preservation of sub-neighbourhoods, streets, buildings, public spaces and landscape – and thus the overall character and quality of the district. PLANNING and KLDA noted that the expiring PDP did not adequately capture the aesthetic vision that Karen wishes to enjoy.
3. Implementation Stage, entailing the practical strategy to harness social, commercial, political and economic realities that would make the new PDP a continuing reality in the years to come.

PLANNING and KLDA have agreed that the new PDP would be developed via a participatory effort that draws together the various stakeholders in Karen and the County, thus ensuring buy-in.

PLANNING and KLDA have been able to map out three themes of the area, namely various STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES and OPPORTUNITIES.

The above exercise is bringing out the fact that the new PDP masterplan will have to, for example, address the need for quality and coordinated public transit routes and hubs. We also all realized that Karen-Langata has no quality public green spaces that offer opportunity for repose and recreation. The KLDA participants pointed out that planning for the development of those should be key as structuring elements including heritage sites.

We also noted the planned expansion of Ngong and Langata Roads, and with that prospect the need to develop a proposal for the designed standards that these roads would adopt at the lengths they bisect the neighbourhood. Without applying a neighbourhood standard to expanded highways, Karen-Langata risks being divided into three almost disconnected portions walled apart by speeding vehicles. It was further envisioned that the masterplan should address "gateways" to the area from Ngong and Langata road sides.

PLANNING and KLDA will in the coming days conduct more participatory mapping exercises that seek to highlight the predominant non-residential building types, their locations and bulk. This will give us a good illustration of the character of those spots, the potential trends and opportunities as well as what might be driving them. We look forward to the continued and widest input possible from all Karen-Langata stakeholders.

As an early start to the Implementation stage, KLDA and PLANNING are coordinating this effort with the county government, including the Governor's office and the County Planning Department. To make the new PDP masterplan the primary guide for all future development in the area, PLANNING will also harmonize this effort with the Nairobi Integrated Masterplan development currently being spearheaded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency and the County Planning Department.



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