



Museum News

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Above: Hon. David Musila addresses the mammoth crowd at the Louis Leakey Auditorium



THIMLICH OHINGA

NMK Board Chairman launches memoir

The Board Chairman, Hon David Musila, launched his memoir-“Seasons of Hope” at the Louis Leakey Auditorium on 28th March.

The book takes a synoptic look on his life since his time as a Provincial Commissioner to the recent 2017 general elections.

The event was a success as the author’s books sold out.

Among key attendees were key political figures in both the current and former government, colleagues of the Senator Musila.



The People's Dialogue Festival



The Nairobi National Museum had the honour to host the first Peoples Dialogue Festival in Kenya. The event that was organized by the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) took place between 7th and 9th of March happened exactly one year since the famous handshake between President Kenyatta and opposition Leader Odinga.

Our spacious venues from the outside courtyard which made it possible for participants to display their parties, to the amphitheatre which accommodated a large number of people and finally the auditorium was just appropriate for the event.

However the NMK being the host was given a platform to showcase it's services to visitors during the event.



D.G Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia signs the agreement alongside Nakuru County secretary, Benjamin Njoroge

NMK signs MOU with Nakuru County to promote the creative industry

On Wednesday, February 27th, 2019 – The County Government of Nakuru through its cultural section which is under the auspices of the Department of Gender, Culture and Social Services signed an MOU with the National Museums of Kenya (NMK).

The agreement, signed by the Nakuru County Secretary Benjamin Njoroge and NMK Director General Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia, permits the County Government as well as the community to use Hyrax Hill, a national archeological site to set-up a museum or cultural centre for the advancement of the creative economy in the county.

Speaking during the occasion of signing the MOU which was held at the Hyrax Hill museum, Nakuru County Secretary said the agreement between the two parties is an encouraging gesture that the county's cultural section is moving in the right direction towards mobilizing and enhancing the county's diverse and splendid cultural heritage for community's empowerment.

'What we are witnessing here today is the start of the exploitation of the opportunities we have in our rich cultural heritage, which if tapped could generate wealth for employment creation for all in our county.

Therefore, we have to work continuously to ensure these efforts are sustained. The County Government of Nakuru promises to keep its end of the bargain', said the County Secretary.

Director General Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia welcomed the initiative, saying that through the MOU, Nakuru County has joined commonwealth of counties that NMK is helping establish museums and cultural sites.

The Director General noted that NMK is 109 years old and has a wealth of expertise which Nakuru County will be able to access through the MOU to help in surveying and mapping of heritage sites in the county. 'Normally, when solicited for, these surveys are expensive, but now they are readily available thanks to the MOU', said Dr. Kibunjia.

The agreement brings on board various sections of the creative economy structure in the county which include herbal medicine practitioners who are to benefit from a botanical garden that is to be established; conservationists, youth involved in various form of art through the creation of creative spaces such as art studios and exhibitions among others. schools.

World Story Telling Day



Mashujaa Stories

Every year we set aside one day to celebrate our heroes and legends through Mashujaa Day. This time NMM and Tatu creatives extended this one day event to a digital art exhibition that took our audiences through a journey of over 400 years of Kenya's legends before 1920s.

This colourful, captivating and intriguing exhibition was of particular interest to the younger generation as the artwork was set to bring out the legends' magical and superhero qualities.

The exhibition was interesting, engaging and educational public programmes were planned around it to increase awareness. The exhibition was extended to March due to public demand.



The Nairobi National Museum's Education section in collaboration with Zamaleo and Virtual reality Dome organized for and celebrated the World Storytelling Day on Friday 22nd March 2019. Zamaleo, a well-known performing arts group entertained the huge crowds that turned up for the event. Besides, Zamaleo, the students experienced the Virtual Reality Dome where short educational films were screened.

Kadzo's planet Activity for children

NNM Education section hosted the Kadzo's Planet children' activity on 23rd March. The theme for the activity was primates of the Museum. The activity included a guided tour of the Great Hall of Mammals gallery, storytelling, touring the gallery, games, face painting, art and crafts.

Below: Children line up to enter the virtual reality dome at the Nairobi National Museum.



What is a Gazette?



A government gazette is a periodical publication that has been authorized to publish public or legal notices. It is established by statute or official action and publication of notices within it, whether by the government or a private party, is usually considered sufficient to comply with legal requirements for public notice. Gazettes are published both in print and electronically.

How does a site, monument or building become gazetted?

1. Research is conducted on either cultural and/or natural heritage that has been identified by either researchers or members of the public that could be considered of historical interest and hence national importance.

2. From the research findings if a specific heritage is considered of outstanding national significance it is proposed for protection. The report with research findings together with a draft proposal for its gazette under the National Museums and Heritage Act 2006 (previously the Antiquities and Monuments Act Cap 215), is then forwarded to the National Museums of Kenya Legal Office. After verifying that the documents are in order, they are then forwarded to the Ministry of Sports and Heritage.

3. After consultation with the National Museums of Kenya the Minister of Sports and Heritage may by notice in the gazette declare a specific heritage a national monument or a protected area within the meaning of the Act i.e. National Museums and Heritage Act Part IV – Heritage Declarations Section 25, which reads as follows:

(1) After consultation with the National Museums the Minister may by notice in the Gazette declare:

(a) an open space to be a protected area within the meaning of this Act;

(b) a specified place or immovable structure which the Minister considers to be of historical interest, and a specified area of land under or adjoining it which is in the Minister's opinion required for maintenance thereof, to be a monument within the meaning of this Act;

(c) a specified site on which a buried monument or object of archaeological or palaeontological interest exists or is believed to exist, and a specified area of land adjoining it which is in the Minister's opinion required for maintenance thereof, to be a protected area within the meaning of this Act;

(d) a specified object or type of object, whether or not part of an immovable structure, which the Minister considers to be of historical, cultural or scientific interest, to be a protected object within the meaning of this Act;

(e) a building and a specified area of land adjoining it which in the Minister's opinion is required for the maintenance thereof to be a protected building within the meaning of this Act; or

(f) a geopark to be a protected area within the meaning of this Act;

and the notice shall state that objections to a declaration made under this section shall be lodged with the Minister within two months from the date of publication of the notice.

4. The documentation and gazette is forwarded to the Attorney General's office for advice. The information and advice is then relayed back to the Minister for publication in the Kenya Gazette.

What to do with information.

If you are a researcher or member of the public with information on a site, building or monument that you feel needs protection please pay the Directorate of Antiquities, Sites and Monuments at the NMK a visit.

Article by:

Josephine Gitu

Research Scientist

Directorate of Antiquities, Sites and Monuments



Above: Participants follow the proceedings during the training at the Old boardroom

Emotional Intelligence Training at NMK

Emotional intelligence or EI is the ability to understand and manage your own emotions, and those of the people around you. People with a high degree of emotional intelligence know what they're feeling, what their emotions mean, and how these emotions can affect other people.

For leaders, having emotional intelligence is essential for success. After all, who is more likely to succeed – a leader who shouts at his team when he's under stress, or a leader who stays in control, and calmly assesses the situation? there are five key elements to it: Self-awareness, Self-regulation, Motivation, Empathy, Social skills.

On 21st March, NMK through the PR department hosted renowned public image specialist Derek Bbanga who gave a talk on emotional intelligence. The session was presided by the Director Admin & HR who officially opened the training and the HOD Public Relations who closed it.

It is hoped that this important Customer Service Training will be rolled out to help improve service delivery at NMK. Attendants of the session were taken through steps of improving their emotional intelligence and why it is important when dealing with people on a day to day basis. Participants also carried out various exercises to gauge their degree of emotional intelligence and what they can do to improve. The training included customer service, security, public relations, snake park and others.



BEE BEE BEE KEEPING
AND
POLLINATION

Exhibition



**Coming
Soon!**

@

Nairobi National Museum



NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON

Below: From Left Head of NMK Archives, Imelda Kithuka oversees the digitization process of paintings and artefacts. The activity was facilitated by google.



NMK partners with google to digitize collections

The National Museums of Kenya has been in existence for the past 110 years and over time it has collected numerous collections over this period. The collections have been kept safely within the museum's strong room and more are still being collected. The world as we know it is developing technology wise in terms of preservation and documentation. It is for this reason that google came up with an arts and culture platform to enable users to access high resolution digital images on their platform.

The Director General of NMK Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia held talks with google who agreed to partner with the museum for the project. This is aimed at digitizing samples of collections in order to improve traffic to our collections, disseminate information about collections and gain exposure for new collaborations. This will encourage more use of the archives by the public; create chances for projects and collaborations to enhance heritage management.

With an inventory of 5 million collections, experts agreed on sampling a bit of everything starting with 10,000 arts and cultural artifacts and 500 collections (mainly paintings) from NMK archives. Google therefore has contracted Gibs photography to carry out this exercise is now completed. The agency has already taken over 5,000 images and uploaded them through accessing the back end of the google arts and culture platform. The images have National Museums of Kenya rights and provenance. This will neutralize cases of online fraud and theft of collections. New partnerships with Google are also in progress with the most likely being Google Streetview (360). This platform will host all museums providing panoramic views from positions along many sites in Kenya. some sites already covered include Hyrax hill, Kariandisu, Karen Blixen, Meru Nyeri, Nairobi gallery, Nairobi National Museum, Snake park, olorgesaille, Uhuru gardens, Thimlich Ohinga and Institute of Primate Research.



National Museums of Kenya Board member Mr. Joseph Ole Simel (middle) during his official visit at Fort Jesus World Heritage Site. (Top L) Ms Fatma Twahir, Principal Curator assisted by Mr. Rafael Igombo, Education Officer in giving a guided tour.



Above: Dr. Ndiema, Senior Research Scientist, archaeology showcases fossils to a high level French delegation which paid NMK a courtesy call during French president's visit to Kenya on 13th March.



Above: New attraction, the skeleton of Karanja the black rhino who died on Christmas Eve in 2004. The Italian Embassy sponsored the mounting of the most photographed rhino in Kenya. Karanja is based at the Whispering Bones display at the semi-permanent exhibition area.



NMK hosted a one-week exhibition, through the South African Embassy, celebrating South Africa's 25 years of democracy and freedom. The cultural week culminated in the signing of a bilateral agreement between Kenya and South Africa on matters of art, culture and heritage exchange.



Above: The Nairobi Gallery in collaboration with the August Peace Memorial club, NMK Botany department Marked the International day of Forests on 23rd March 2019 by planting indigenous trees at the Karen Blixen Museum Nature trail with both children and a group of elderly people.



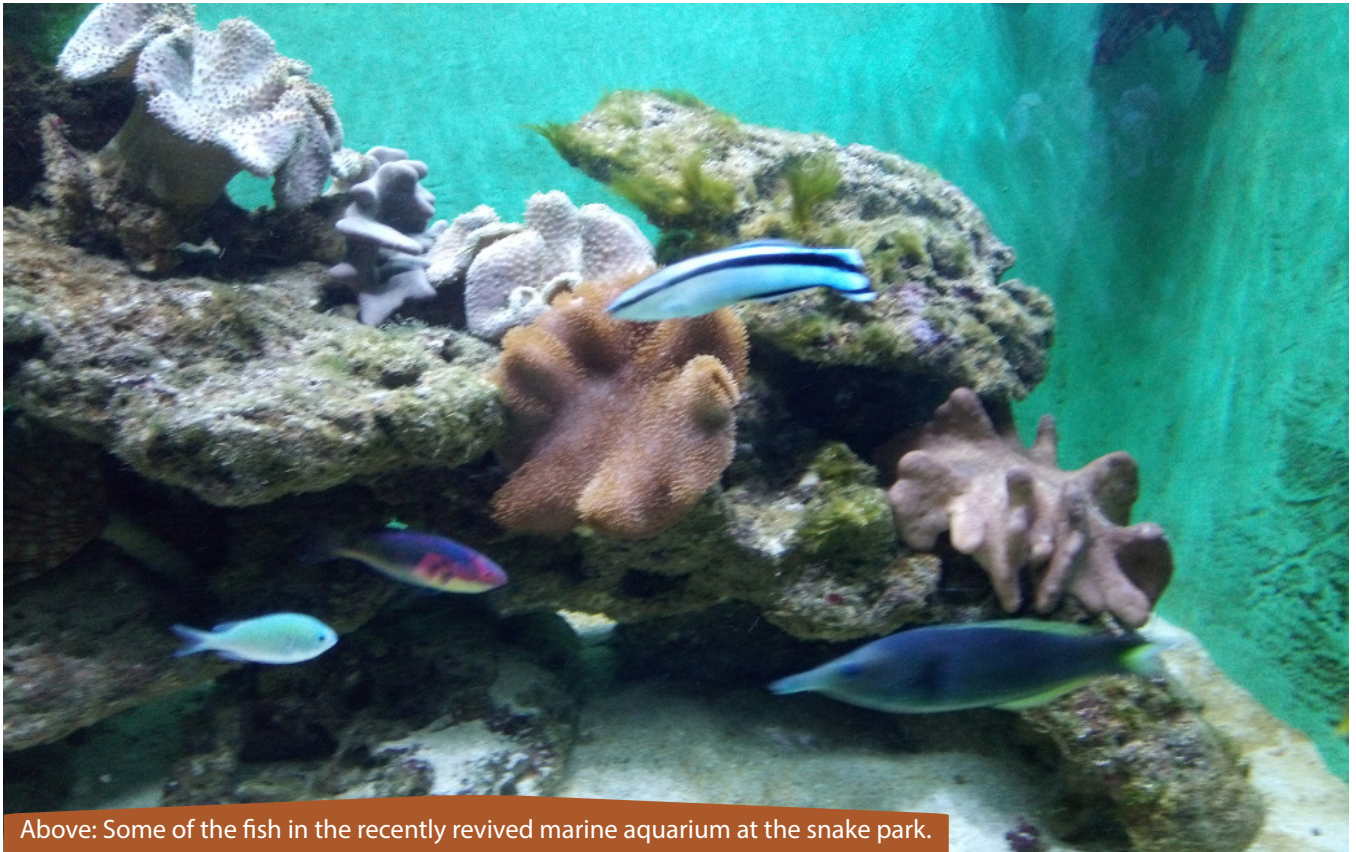
The Kenya Heritage Training Institute held a workshop dubbed 'Community Involvement in Heritage Management' on 25th February 2019. The participants were drawn from Zanzibar Stone Town Heritage Society. Trainers were drawn from National Museums of Kenya Coast region's pool of experts in heritage management.



Above: Professor Gikungu & Dr. Kiura met and trained nine (9) remaining contestants of Ms. President, a program to nurture Kenyan Women to the Presidency. This program is aired through the Kenya Television Network (KTN) and is a production of Media Focus on Africa. The group was trained on the mandate of NMK and importance of heritage and issues surrounding the same. The contestants are from different walks and fields of life.



Above: Professor John E. Cooper a veterinary doctor from the U.K examines a tiger snake with veterinary students from the University of Nairobi and snake handlers from all over the country in both private and government snake parks. He visited the Nairobi Snake Park in March to share his expertise on best practice standards from the U.K.



Above: Some of the fish in the recently revived marine aquarium at the snake park.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ISO training April 8th to 16th 2019

Bee keeping and pollination exhibition April 2019

Re launching of the Central Bank of Kenya numismatic exhibition April 2019

International day of Sites and Monuments- Nairobi Gallery and sites, April 18th 2019

International Museums Day, May 18th 2019
Samosa festival 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June

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NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON