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First Lady, Margaret Kenyatta unveils the memoir of Mukami Kimathi



Her Excellency The First Lady Margaret Kenyatta (right) unveiling the memoirs of Mukami Kimathi, wife of the late Dedan Kimathi (seated) at the Louis Leakey Auditorium

H.E First Lady Margaret Kenyatta on 17th February 2017 joined several Mau Mau veterans in celebrating the life of Mukami Kimathi and her sacrifices in celebrating the struggle of Kenya's freedom.

During the celebrations, the First Lady launched a book by Mukami Kimathi, widow to the late freedom fighter Dedan Kimathi. The book reveals her role during Kenya's liberation struggle.

Developments

Rabai Museum Receives Restoration Agreement



Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia, Director General NMK and H.E Jutta Fresch, German Ambassador to Kenya after signing the agreement to restore historical Sites in Rabai. Looking on from left is Mr. Uwe Cultural attache to German Embassy, Ms. Metrine Wakhungu Ag. Corporation Secretary & Legal Services & Dr. Mwachala Director, Directorate of National Repository & Research

German donors, through the German Embassy signed an agreement with the National Museums of Kenya on 13th March, 2017 for the restoration of Rabai historical sites to a tune of KShs.5.35 million. The project which will be undertaken this year will be funded by the German federal foreign office. Present during the signing was; German Ambassador to Kenya H.E Jutta Fresch and the Director General NMK, Dr Mzalendo Kibunjia .

Rabai Museum was founded by German Johannes Ludwig Krapf, the first Missionary in East Africa. Rabai Museum was built in 1846 as the first Church edifice in Kenya. Rabai is well known in the annals of history as the place where Christianity and modern learning in Kenya started well over 150 years ago. In 1994, the Krapf Memorial Museum was founded to give formal and a perpetual reminder to monumental events during the advent of early missionaries. Stories about the first missionaries were passed on by word of mouth and are still told today.

Developments

National Museums of Kenya launches Key initiative with Amazon web Services and Intel to Digitize Premier Collections in Earth Sciences



Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia (NMK Director General) & Frank Heitmann President DDD (Digital Data Divide) in the Middle shake hands after signing the agreement. Looking on from Left is Sharon Kyungu PR Manager & Dr. Manthi, Head; Dept of Earth Sciences. Right is Dr. Kibii Head Paleontology & Palaeoanthropology Section and Dr. Emmanuel Ndiema Head Archeology Section.

The National Museums of Kenya (NMK) on 31st March, 2017 announced a long-term strategic initiative in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Intel, to digitize marquee collections in Earth Sciences, starting with Archeology and Paleontology sections respectively.

The first phase of the proposed project will involve digitization of a selected number of Kenya's premier fossils and culturally significant artifacts, the creation of an open access digital database, and an interactive website ("virtual museum"). The platform will be hosted on the AWS Cloud. Digital Divide Data (DDD), a non-profit enterprise with expertise in digitization of cultural heritage collections will partner with NMK on this initiative.

Speaking on the occasion held at Pan Afric Hotel, Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia, Director General of NMK, said, *"These collections are reflections of Kenya's heritage and the world's prehistory through the ages. The searchable digital archive will not only be of immense value to researchers worldwide, but will also make our evolutionary history and culture more accessible to the younger generations which would foster a deeper and richer understanding of our heritage. I want to thank AWS and Intel for teaming with us on this initiative and look forward to working with DDD."*

Mr. Frank Heitmann, President, DDD commented, *"DDD is proud to be associated with NMK in this landmark project. Our objective is to deliver superior value by creating the next generation, cloud based digital archive platform for NMK."*

Developments

Sultanate of Oman refurbishes Oman House and installs exhibition at Mazrui Hall, Fort Jesus Museum



Left - Right: H.E Dr. Hammad Dhawyani Chairman National Records & Archives Authority Sultanate of Oman exchange gifts with CS Culture, Arts & Sports Hon.Dr. Hassan Wario and CS Tourism Hon.Najib Balala. Omani Ambassador to Kenya H.E Saleh Al Harthi & PS Culture, Arts & Sports Mr.Joe Okudo looks on.

The National Records and Archives Authority of the Sultanate of Oman refurbished the Oman House and installed an exhibition at the Mazrui Hall at Fort Jesus Museum restoring this World Heritage Site to its original splendour.

The exhibition was officially opened by Sports, Culture and Arts CS Hassan Wario on 22nd February, 2017. Present during the opening of the refurbished structures was Omani Ambassador to Kenya H.E Saleh Suleiman, and Tourism Cabinet Secretary Najib Balala.

The Oman house exhibition portrays Oman's historical presence in Kenya as well as the long existing relationship between the Sultanate and the African nation.

Fort Jesus was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 2011.

National Museums partners with Italian Centre to set up underwater Archaeology exhibition in Malindi

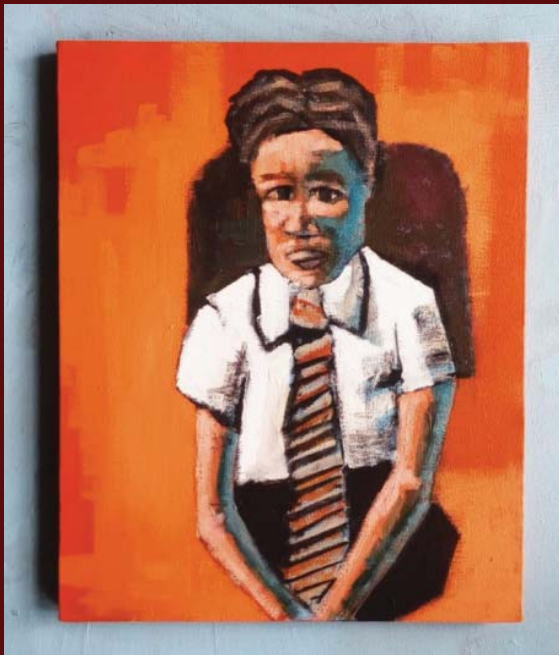
National Museums of Kenya in partnership with the Italian Cultural Institute launched an underwater archaeology exhibition in Malindi Museum on 21st, February 2017. The exhibition showcases ancient trade links at the Coast.

The exhibition is a compilation of Ceasar Bitu works reflecting the rich archeological history that exists in the Kenyan waters. Images displayed in the exhibition include ship wreckage some of which date back to over 500 years ago while others are between 30 to 40 years old. Dubbed the *'Amazing wonders of Kenya's* underwater cultural heritage, the exhibition reveals that for over 2000 years there was trade and exchange of goods across the east African coast for textile, pottery.

The aim of the exhibition is to show the world the existence of the rich ancient artifacts which were used in the olden days as a means of travelling for trade.

The chief guest during the exhibition opening was Italian Ambassador to Kenya H.E Mauro Massoni; In attendance were over 100 tourists majority being Italian Nationals. Dr. Mwachala, Director, Directorate of National Repository & Research represented the Director General, NMK during the opening exhibition.

Butterflies on International Women's Day



Above: One of Jeffie Magina's painting

To Celebrate International Women's Day and month, the Nairobi National Museums showcased works by Jeffie Magina. Magina applies different media to create a story-line around the everyday lives of girls.

Magina is known for his imaginative compositions and intriguing characters with personal references. Magina has converged his exploratory approaches to create *'butterflies'* - a tribute to the girl child.

Butterflies is an eventful passage of life; social, intellectual, physical and spiritual. The exhibition took place from 3rd March -25th March 2017 at Nairobi National Museum.

Exhibitions

Annabelle's World of Colour



Apostle Dr. Annabelle Wanjiku Reeno made her name in the Kenyan art scene in the 80s. A mother and grandmother, Annabelle is a fun and engaging person who is passionate about family unity. The multiple coloured shades in her paintings are symbolic of the virtues of humanity; peace, love, cohesion as well as strength in body and spirit. *"In nurturing of cohesive families lies the strength of any nation. Each person virtually needs the other in search for sustenance in life."*

Annabelle is inspired by nature, African traditional cultural values and environment. *"I consistently express these feelings and creative energy on canvas"*, She says. She has exhibited extensively locally and internationally. Currently Annabelle is based in Uganda where she works with the church while still furthering her career as an artist. Annabelle's exhibition will run from 13 March - 16 April, 2017 at Small Temporary Exhibition Hall, Nairobi National Museum.

Upendo: A celebration of Love

During the month of love, Nairobi National Museum celebrated with paintings, photography, sculpture as well as objects and stories from our Museum collection. This took place from 14th February - 31st March 2017 at Creativity gallery, Nairobi National Museum.

Africa Heritage under threats photo exhibition

This exhibition addresses issues affecting Africa through photos i.e Disasters (fire, floods) and armed conflict. The exhibition is currently ongoing at the Cultural Dynamism gallery, Nairobi National Museum.

Workshops

CHDA Technical tentative listing workshop



Group photo of participants with the Chief Guest Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia and his delegation after the official opening ceremony

The Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) conducted a workshop from 30 January to 1 February 2017 in Mombasa. 30 participants attended the workshop from 15 different countries. The Technical Tentative Listing workshop is the first activity within the larger World Heritage Nomination Program in Africa that aims at upstreaming the Continent's Tentative Lists for the period 2016 - 2019. This is a joint project with CHDA's counterpart for Francophone Africa, EPA, who are implementing the same program in Francophone Countries.

The program aims at strengthening the capacities of African Cultural and Natural Heritage professionals to develop up-to-standard nomination files and thus increasing the number of nomination dossiers successfully submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for consideration as World Heritage properties.

This project is being undertaken in close collaboration with, and with the participation of the World Heritage Centre (WHC), as well as the World Heritage Advisory Bodies – ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM.

As a foundation to the workshop, a questionnaire was sent out to the technical offices responsible for the implementation of 1972 Convention in all the Anglophone and English-speaking Arab States Parties (Sudan, Libya and Egypt), seeking information on the status of their tentative lists. The responses to the questionnaire were analyzed and a detailed report developed. This report, together with results from previous work by AWHF and the WH Gap studies were the basis of the three-day workshop of experts, who reviewed the data, discussed the priorities and opportunities at the regional and national levels and finally developed a prioritized list of sites with clear potential OUV and supported by the relevant States Parties and Advisory Bodies. Subsequent Nomination Dossier training workshops under this program will work on the selected sites to a level that may be successfully presented to the World Heritage Committee for inscription as World Heritage Sites.

Workshops

Inaugural course on Heritage Training launched



Above: Group photo of Course Participants during the closing of the course. Seated from Left to Right Saadu Hashim Coordinator/Training Manager KeHTI, Mr. Athman Hussein Keeper, Antiquities Sites & Monuments Coast, Mr. Wazwa Mwadime Programmes Manager KeHTI, Mr. Stanlus Ongalo DAHR, Fatma Twahir Ag. Principal Curator Fort Jesus

The inaugural course on Heritage and Museum Basics took place on 21st February, 2017 at the Kenya Heritage Training Institute (KeHTI) in Mombasa. The course aims at providing participants with knowledge to tackle challenges facing heritage. Participants were drawn from National Museums of Kenya, County Governments, Kenya Defense Forces and the International Community. The guest of honour during the training was PS, Ministry of Sports, Culture & The Arts Mr. Joe Okudo.

Workshops

1st Regional Workshop on Assessment of Lepidoptera pollinator species diversity data in East Africa



Group photo of Participants at the Nairobi National Museum during the 1st Regional Workshop on Assessment of Lepidoptera pollinator species diversity in East Africa

The National Museums of Kenya held four-day-1st regional training/workshop on Assessment of Lepidoptera pollinator species diversity data in East Africa from 5th March 2017 at the Invertebrate Zoology lab . Dr. Mzalendo Kibunja, Director General, NMK officially opened the workshop on 6th March, 2017.

Lepidoptera pollination data for the East Africa region is needed to facilitate combined use of economic, socio-cultural and holistic valuation of pollinator gains and to provide information for the management of and decision-making about pollinators and pollination.

This project targets three Lepidoptera pollinator families, the hawkmoths (Sphingidae), the skipper butterflies (Hesperiidae) and the swallowtail butterflies (Papilionidae) in natural history collections and key ecosystems, the Eastern Arc Mountains in Kenya and Tanzania and the Mabira forest in Uganda and the surrounding agro-ecosystems. The partner institutions in the project are the Museum and House of Culture, National Museum of Tanzania and the college of Natural Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda who will establish working links with other National institutions.

In addition to field sampling of these key ecosystems and surrounding agro ecosystems, the project will digitize Lepidoptera collections in Museum in the three countries.

Also in attendance was the JRS Biodiversity Foundation representative Dr. Dino Martins, Director Impala Research Centre .



Left- Right : H.E Dr. Hammad Dhawyani Chairman National Records & Archives Authority Sultanate of Oman takes invited guests on a guided tour of newly installed exhibition outside Omani House at Fort Jesus Museum



Left-Right: H.E Dr.Hammad Dhawyani, Chairman National Records & Archives Authority Sultanate of Oman CS Culture, Arts & Sports Hon. Dr. Wario, PS Joe Okudo & NMK Chairperson Dr. Paula Kahumbu viewing the exhibition at Mazrui Hall, Fort Jesus



Guided tour of Fort Jesus by Ag Principal Curator Fort Jesus Ms Fatma Twahir to H.E Manuel Frederico Pinheiro da Silva Consulate-General of Portugal in Maputo accompanied by Her Excellency Ms Luisa Fragoso, Charge d' Affairs of Portugal in Nairobi.



Left: From L to R Fatma Twahir Ag. Principal Curator Fort Jesus, Saadu Hashim Coordinator/ Training Manager KeHTI, Maria Fungomeli Curator Mombasa Butterfly House, Dr. Paula Kahumbu, Mr. Raphael Igombo Education Officer Fort Jesus.



Above: Visitors during the opening of the Food Waste Exhibition at the Nairobi National Museum Creativity gallery. The display features work from IKV (Internationaler kunstlererein e.V and Hawa Artists. The exhibition supports the awareness of food Waste as a challenge through this collaborative exhibition by African and German artists. The exhibition closes on April 28



Left -Right: Ambassador Dr. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Dr.Mzalendo Kibunja Director General NMK during the seminar on connectivity revisited: India, Kenya & Indian Ocean at Louis Leakey Auditorium on 28th March, 2017 . The Seminar was organised by the Indian Hgh Commision in Kenya

UPCOMING EVENTS

21ST Edition of AETFAT (The Association for The Taxonomic Study Of The Flora of Tropical Africa)

National Museums of Kenya (NMK) in collaboration with the University of Nairobi will host the 21st Edition of AETFAT from 15th to 19th May 2017 at the Catholic University of East Africa conference Hall. AETFAT (The Association for The Taxonomic Study Of The Flora of Tropical Africa) was founded in 1950 and organizes congresses every 3 years.

The main goal is to bring scholars together studying African plants thus, contributing to research and capacity building in botany as well as biodiversity conservation in the continent. It therefore helps to build capacity in plant taxonomy for use and conservation, as well as provide important data in monitoring traffic in plant species, in an effort to mitigate for illegal trade.

The membership of AETFAT is currently over 1000 plant scientists, drawn from all over the world brought together by shared interests in the botany of tropical Africa. The AETFAT congress directly supports the host nation's economy through conferencing and marketing of the attractions on offer for general tourism. The conference specifically targets audiences from scientists and academics and indirectly impacts conservationists, bio-prospectors, Suppliers/Service providers to Science and Pesticide/Hygiene industry.

Apart from placing Kenya on the world map as a science hub it will also make major contributions to tourism, especially in events tourism, i.e. Meetings Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE), (visitor arrival, hotels, airlines), and the direct/indirect impact it will have on the work of agencies like Brand Kenya, Kenya Tourism Board and other Corporate businesses it is important to support this conference as it comes to Nairobi.

About 500 participants, including local and international scientists, will be expected to attend the conference, with the academia and the Corporate World hoping to tap into the knowledge and business opportunities.



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