

KISUMU COUNTY

The County Review



Church and County in Solidarity for Civic Sunday

Civic Sunday, a special Thanksgiving Day set aside by the cathedral to allow civil servants and their families give thanks to the Almighty for the sustenance, care and the gift of life is a new development by the church aimed at enhancing its pastoral care.

This marked the first Civic Sunday that involved the participation of the Kisumu County Government, coming just a day after the annual Labour Day Celebrations famously known as May Day that commemorates the achievements of the labour movement.

Civic Sundays have been observed around the world in different styles. Speaking on phone

to St. Stephen's Cathedral Dean Ven Canon Dr. Zephania Kore, the cathedral or the Anglican church has over the years held several thanksgiving services for its congregants mainly on the first Sunday after labour day celebrations. The Canon however said the cathedral thought it wise to set aside a day that will have the church and the government on one table giving thanks to God, thus the Civic Sunday.

According to the Canon, the Church has plans to make it an annual event that will bring together all the civil servants both from National and County levels and their leadership around the Western Circuit at a thanksgiving service to offer their gratitude to God.

Kisumu Governor Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o last Sunday joined congregants of ACK St. Stephen's Cathedral, Kisumu and other County workers in observing the first ever Civic Sunday.

"As a church, we are responsible for chaplaincy in the government and are also mandated to offer prayers for the government and the leadership. It is also our way of extending pastoral care to the citizens at large". He noted

On what the church intends to achieve with this new idea, the Canon expressed that it is their desire that the leaders will have a clear understanding that without God, nothing is possible and that it is God who chooses leaders.

"We want leaders to observe the sovereignty of God in their positions. It is God who chooses leaders with their different functions". Kore said.

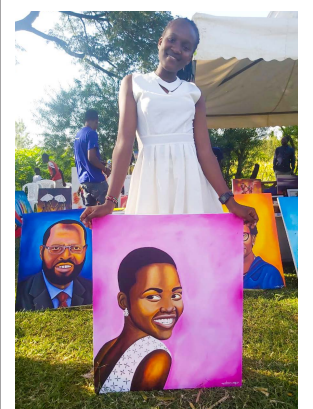
Baringo in Kisumu For Benchmarking

Baringo County's department of Culture and Sports were this week in Kisumu for a benchmarking activity with their Kisumu County colleagues. The Baringo team marvelled at the progress Kisumu had made in formulating the county sports policy; the establishment of its cultural centre(s) and branding of tourism sites.



The team had a lively exchange of experiences with the Kisumu team under the chairmanship of the Chief Officer Gerald Ondiek.

Recognition



Sheldon Tracy Akinyi is the recipient of a full 4-year-scholarship awarded by H.E. Governor Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o who was impressed by her presentation of a poem entitled The Journey Since 2017 written by Mr. Obat Masira who is the Manager of the Mama Grace Onyango Social Centre.

Tracy will be joining St. Mary's Lwak Girls High School this year.

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The History of Civic Sunday

By Nancy Juma

In Kenya, the Civic Sunday can be likened to the annual National Prayer Breakfast, an interdenominational event which takes place once every year on the last Thursday in the month of May bringing together political and religious leaders to reflect and pray for the country.

The Anglican Church and All Saints Cathedral have been leading in the organization and delivery of the National Prayer Breakfast.

Around the globe, towns such as Warrington in Cheshire, England has observed Civic Sunday each year at the Parish Church soon after the newly elected Mayor comes into office. Civic Services are also rich in the history of Bristol town where the Bristol City Council, the police and the legal profession, with the church have come together to offer prayers.

The Catholic Church is also known for the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker which was initiated in 1955 by Pope Pius XIII. The Pope wanted to elevate the dignity of work beyond the secular ideas of it by connecting the celebrations to St. Joseph, who has traditionally been an example for and patron of workers.

The inaugural service was presided over by Rt. Rev. Charles Ochieng' Ong'injo, the Bishop of the Maseno South Diocese who delivered a powerful sermon on the broken social order.

Bishop Ong'injo called on workers to dedicate themselves to serving the people urging them to work closely and ensure the Governor's aspirations as outlined in his manifesto are achieved. He decried the broken social order portrayed by heinous acts witnessed across the country terming it as a cancer that must be addressed.

He said leaders in various capacities must now work for a change and be part and parcel in restoring social order for future generations.

He was impressed with the work being undertaken by the Governor urging him to continue with the



good work irrespective of the criticism.

In his remarks after the services, the Governor observed that leaders need to be humble enough before the Lord and acknowledge that in everything they do, there is a fraction that only God knows.

"This civic service will build us much strongly as peoples' servants as it provides us as leaders with the opportunity to honor workers for their hard work". Said the Governor

His sentiments were echoed by his deputy Dr.

Mathew Owili who sought prayers from the church to guide their leadership.

"We must give honor and salute all workers irrespective of their positions, roles and responsibilities at their workplace. Without their daily toil and commitment, there would be no social and economic achievements to point at". Nyong'o mentioned

The staff members also welcomed the move, speaking to Julia Okeyo, a member of staff at the County Government and one of the organizers, she expressed her excitement that finally the county had set aside a special day of worship and thanksgiving.

"We must put God first in order to help the county move forward". She said

"Let us reflect on the dignity of human labour and appreciate those working for the sustenance and betterment of the world."
Governor Nyong'o



Update on Covid-19

Kisumu in all-out war against Covid-19 Indian Variant

By Lorraine Anyango



The Kisumu County Government has assured her residents and of course the rest of Kenya that it has rolled out a massive surveillance to control any further spread of Covid-19 especially the stubborn Indian variant reported in a section of the City last week.

The county's health department announced tough measures, quarantined the Five workers of a fertilizer factory said to have contracted the Covid-19 variant and isolated more than 100 others who may have come into contact with them.

"We would like to announce that things are under control. Our teams moved fast to confine all the Five workers and their contacts. We are continuing with an elaborate contact tracing.

There should be no more panic," said Health and Sanitation Executive Committee Member, Prof Boaz Otieno Nyunya.

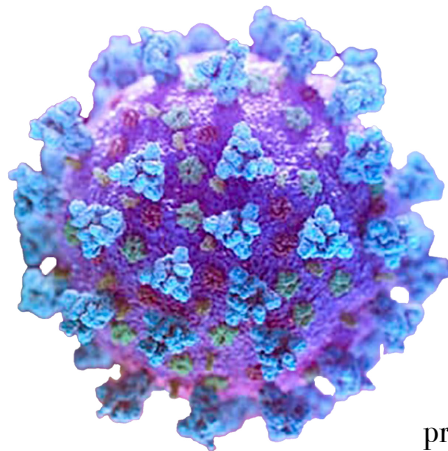
The detection of the Indian variant in Kisumu comes a time when there is enhanced preparedness to handle the virus in the county. He said the Five cases were detected following a screening involving 71 people working at the Kibos based factory.

By the time the Indian Variant surfaced on Wednesday last week, Kisumu had cumulatively tested some 32,300 people out of which 3,181 were found with the virus. A total of 94 people have succumbed to covid-related complications.

"We have also vaccinated a total of 23,000 people against the virus across the county. We want appeal to our people to continue adhering to the Covid-19 health protocols," said Prof Nyunya who addressed a press conference while accompanied by his Chief Officer, Dr Gregory Ganda and the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga

32,300 people tested

Teaching and Referral Hospital CEO, Dr George Rae.



"We are prepared to handle critical cases. We have already set aside 100-bed capacity hospital within JOOTRH which is equipped for Covid-19 interventions alone," Said Dr. Rae

Dr. Rae acknowledged that due to the dynamic nature of the virus, JTOORH was prepared for any eventuality. "We are working on minimizing the risk of infection, majorities are recovering and we have hope that the Indian strain will burn out." Dr. Rae assured residents of Kisumu.

Dr Rae told the "County Review" that the



Covid-19 hospital at the JOOTRH will also serve as a research station on the Corona Virus.

"We want to monitor the progression of the disease and follow up on our patients over time to know short, mid and long term effects and patterns of the disease. Of course we will liaise with KEMRI in all these," said Dr Rae.

In anticipation of the 4th wave of the virus, the hospital is fully prepared for any emergency-with a well equipped isolation area, a waiting room, a theater, labour ward, a renal unit and an ICU with 20 beds.

"We stay prepared, since Covid, affects all parts of the body; we have made provisions for all eventualities." Dr Rae concluded.

The health workers are also carrying out rapid test while ensuring that those diagnosed are isolated and those they have been in contact with too.

"We are carrying out strategic grouping of identifying regular contacts, we are also educating groups to be on high alert to detect possible infection and observe standard practices." Prof. Nyunya said.

"Behavior change is not easy, we are back to educating the residents to observe a behavior that will be good for them to keep the infection at bay.

"Dr. Gregory Ganda, the Chief Officer for Public Health and Sanitation said.

Currently the COVID facility has fifteen males and nine females in total isolation, seven male patients are on oxygen while the number of females on oxygen is twelve while we have three patients in the ICU. Those in the holding areas are nine.

Images courtesy

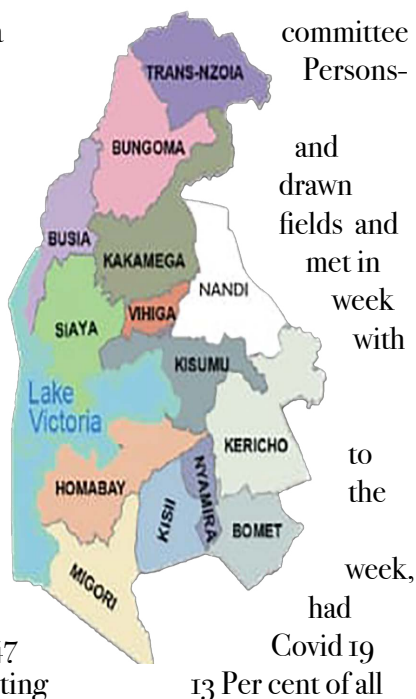
Update on Covid-19

This is our Resolve on Covid-19, Malaria and HIV/AIDS - LREB



The Lake Region Economic Block, a development caucus that brings together 14 Counties, is racing against time to tame the three diseases causing great concern in the region- Covid-19, HIV/AIDS and Malaria.

A meeting of a committee of Eminence a grouping of professionals experts from diverse Governors, Kisumu last came up strategic resolutions on how respond to diseases. As at last the region recorded 19,847 cases representing 13 Per cent of all cases in Kenya.



The Lake region endemic leads in malaria prevalence at 19% while the National is 5.6%, according to the Kenya Malaria Indicator Survey, 2020. Currently, lake region accounts for 70% of the 6.5m malaria cases.

On HIV/AIDS, 49% of 1.5 people Living with the virus in Kenya are within LREB.

The LREB committee of eminence persons is chaired by respected Health Sector Specialist and former World Bank consultant, Prof Khama Rogo and advises the 14 county governments

on the health sector, including resource mobilization.

In a communique issued after the meeting held at Ciala resort the LREB team resolved as follows.

On Covid-19:

- Adopt rapid testing which is more cost effective to improve case detection.
- Harmonize enforcement of public health measures (hand washing, masking and social distancing).
- Upscale risk communication and information through various media to influence desired behaviour.
- Step up contact tracing and community surveillance.
- Embrace 'adopt a school' initiative to prepare schools for safe opening and champion prevention using local resources
- Undertake profiling of local viral strains in LREB region.
- Actively engage health and other professional bodies on vaccinations and technical support.
- Coordinate and optimize sharing of specialized skills and services.
- Optimize available oxygen capacity in the region through sharing/procurement arrangements within the region.
- Establish and harmonize referral mechanism between counties.
- Strengthen home based care and monitoring at community level through capacity building of CHWs.
- Enhance multisectoral coordination and partnerships in COVID-19 prevention and management
- 4. Coordinate sharing of data within the

region through LREB secretariat to inform planning, sharing of resources and decision-making.

- 5. Provide a dedicated budget line for intra/inter-county COVID-19 management within the region.

On Malaria, the meeting resolved to:

- Develop a business case for malaria program to demonstrate the social-economic impacts.
- Counties to progressively allocate budgets for procurement of commodities for malaria – at least 10% of the malaria commodities/supplies.
- Partner with the private sector for production of malaria commodities such as treated mosquito nets.
- Fund interventions that have worked- IRS, malaria vaccines etc.
- Undertake strategic partnership with NHIF to ensure progressive coverage of communities to increase access to services and financing for malaria prevention interventions.
- Scale up social behavioral change communication in malaria prevention

On HIV/AIDS, it was resolved as follows:

- Commodity Security – resolve the HIV commodity security between USAID and KEMSA and Global Fund
- Financial Insecurity - Address diminishing HIV program resources by determining and agreeing on local funding to address the gaps created through development partners.

Food for Good

Delivering Nutritious Meals to Cancer Patients in Kisumu

By Lennox Omondi



Mama County Dorothy Nyong'o through the Africa Cancer Foundation has been conducting a successful fundraiser on the Global Giving platform to set up vegetable cone gardens for cancer patients in Kisumu.

Already ten patients have received vegetable cone gardens in Kisumu County, aimed at improving their survivorship during and after treatment through improved nutrition.

According to the Programmes Coordinator at Africa Cancer Foundation (ACF) Ms. Wairimu Mwaura, the organization has worked closely with Mrs. Nyong'o since August 2020, sourcing for and donating foodstuff to cancer patients undergoing treatment at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital. "A few months in, we realized that that was not sustainable since the food would only take the families through one month. We then begun to look for ways to achieve sustainability"

It is against this backdrop that ACF partnered with Munira Gilani and Kibos Maximum Prison to set up vegetable cone gardens at the homes of the cancer patients. Within three weeks the patients have been able to harvest six different varieties of vegetables from the six tier cone gardens, including sukumawiki, spinach, osuga; spring onions, dhanian and beetroot, and they've been able to sell the excesses.



"I have benefited so much through the cone garden. When I sell the excess vegetables, I get money to buy other items that I need," Ayub Otieno, a cone garden beneficiary said the County Review reporter who visited him at his home.



Emerging from Crisis; ECD Centers to Reopen for Third Term

By Matilda Aieno

Over fifty thousand Early Childhood Development school going children in Kisumu County are set to return to school this week for the third term after months of uncertainty.

Speaking to the County Review team, the Chief Officer for Education, Human Capacity Development and ICT, Penina Onyango, confirmed that the children will be back to school for the second time since March 2020 following the pandemic which has caused immeasurable disruption to the lives, learning and wellbeing of children.

On his part, the County Executive Committee member for Education Mr. John Awiti confirmed that the county had put in place safety measures including placing hand washing stations at the class entrance and made facemasks mandatory for entering into the school premises.



"So far sixty three schools, eight from each sub county have received hand washing stations to keep up with the COVID-19 guidelines." He said. The centers have also received writing materials, text books and more furniture that is tables and chair, to ensure social distancing is practiced at the schools.

Areas affected by recent floods have also been considered in the schools reopening plans, with higher grounds being identified to ensure no disruptions during learning.

"We have provided five more tents to schools that have been affected by floods, including Atoya and Kawenje in Seme, Kabonyo Kanyagwal and Ambaka ECD centers." Said the Director for ECD Mr. Michael Adar.

Adar further explained that plans were under way to recruit eighty six more ECD teachers to add to the seven hundred and twenty two teaching staff who are currently on contract.

While school feeding programs are ubiquitous in ECD centers, the county government is ready to kick off food distribution to the centers as soon as the schools reopen



Images courtesy

Food for Good

How Rice Farming is Changing Livelihoods in Nyando

By Dr. Paul Omanga

Kisumu County has set its development agenda as outlined in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and the Governors Manifesto with the aim of giving her citizens better standards of living through economic empowerment.

In the county of Kisumu, enormous potential exists for rice production under both rain-fed and irrigated conditions to significantly address the concerns of food security, income generation and offer employment opportunities to the population.

Rice is grown by over 20,000 families from an estimated 16,000 acres in over 42 schemes spread mainly in Nyando, Muhoroni, Nyakach and Kisumu East Sub-Counties.

The main schemes include Ahero Rice Irrigation Scheme, West Kano Rice Irrigation Scheme and South West Kano Irrigation Schemes. Other irrigation schemes are Wasare, Ombeyi, Gem Rae, Awach Kano, Mbega, and Chiga.

Past efforts to address challenges facing rice farmers and improving rice production have succeeded in improving production levels to take advantage of the huge market demand that exist locally.

The efforts have included improvement of irrigation infrastructure for efficient water use; the use of certified seeds of rice varieties; improved agronomic practices including planting in rows, timely fertilizer application using recommended rates; crop protection against insect pest and diseases; and timely harvesting using combined harvesters.

These efforts have resulted in yield increments from 15 bags to over 35 bags of 80 kgs resulting into a production of over 22,400 MT of paddy valued at Ksh 800 million between June 2020 and February 2021 (in one season).

The increased production has come with processing and marketing challenges. The county has two large rice mills (LBDA Rice Mill in Kibos and Western Kenya Rice Mill at Ahero) with a total milling capacity of 7 mt per hr. However, these two rice mills are very old and currently underperform both in quantity and quality of milled rice. As a result of the closure of schools which is a major consumer of processed rice from the county, most of the paddies are still with farmers and in storage facilities in Kisumu and Ahero.



Images courtesy

OPINION

How Nyong'o is Mobilizing Funds to Make Kisumu a Model City

Evance O. Alalah

Kisumu Governor, Prof Peter Anyang' Nyong'o strode to power in 2017 with a clear mission and vision- to rebrand the lakeside County and redefine its development agenda. Like a soccer player who has been studying the match from the bench, he entered the pitch with a new game plan to tilt the score line.

In just three years, Prof Nyong'o has tilted the game and Kisumu now looks the next big investment destination in East and Central Africa. He has restored the investor confidence and completely changed the face of the Country's third largest City.

Next year, Kisumu will become the first intermediary city in Africa to host the Pan-Africa's development summit- Africities that brings together nearly 10,000 delegates from across the continent.

Next month, this Lakeside City will host the Madaraka national celebrations at the New-look Jomo Kenyatta International stadium.



The objective of this opinion piece is to bring to the fore the success stories of the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) in Kisumu; I would like to debunk the myth that this dropped like a gift from heaven and not as a by-product of deliberate effort and proper planning.

As one of the architects of the vision 2030, while he was the Cabinet minister for planning some years back, Prof Nyong'o had a clear plan of implementing the challenges that were identified in the vision and crafted as the Mid-term Plans. Top of the agenda was the challenges of Urbanization. In his manifesto he laid down his 10-point agenda for change in Kisumu among them relevant to this piece today were:-

- Ensure a healthy population living in a clean environment
- Build modern Physical infrastructure
- Promote skills development and innovation
- Establish the City board and promote other urban centres

Behind this backdrop is the birth of the Kenya Urban Support program which is a conditional grant to urban authorities by the World Bank.

Kisumu qualified for this fund for the first time in

the financial year 2019/2020 to the tune of Ksh 770 Million as Urban Institutional Grant & Urban Development Grant.

Urban Institutional Grant (UIG) is basically to address the institutional issues through capacity development, improvement or even establishment of management structures for Urban centres while Urban Development (UDG) is basically to focus on infrastructural developments like;

- Storm water drainage.
- Connectivity (roads, non-motorized transport facilities, and street and security lights).
- Urban social and economic infrastructure
- urban greenery and public spaces
- Fire and disaster management

Through prudent management of these funds, several unprecedented infrastructural improvements have been witnessed in Kisumu especially in the City.

The successful KUSP projects are:-

Non-Motorised Transport Project

The Non-Motorized transport project that covers Oginga Odinga, Ojino Okewo, An'gawa and Kenyatta Avenues is a project has several components other than the clean and friendly walkways. The project incorporated a revamped storm water drainage system that has solved the perennial flooding hitherto witnessed in these areas of the Central business district.



The other component of this project is the modern market stalls at Chichwa that accommodates 518 traders who were, prior to this project hawking in the three avenues.

These traders have had a life changing opportunity of regularizing their trade and have clean and modern trading spaces with permanent address that guarantee them access to finance that guarantees their growth from street vendors to SMEs. This, as envisaged in the governor's manifesto on business and SMEs.

Integrated Fire and Disaster Management System

Before the reign of Governor Anyang Nyong'o, the response to disaster including fire was near non-

existent. The Governor having realized the need to have a robust and efficient Fire and disaster response system listed the construction of a modern fire station and response centre at the works yard ,



The Governor also through his linkages got modern fire engines from Bedfordshire City fire department who also has trained the Firemen in Kisumu , in readiness for the completion of the fire station) . This has greatly impacted on the fire management and response time within Kisumu City and county at large.

Construction of the Rotary Youth Innovation centre

A city is as good as its next generation and the visionary governor had foreseen the impact that the innovation centres has in the eradication of unemployment while giving the young people in Kisumu a chance to explore their creativity in a way that earns them an income.

The rotary youth centre which is near completion will provide a platform for linkage between the youths, training institutions and the Governments.

The centre once complete, will be the hub of growth for small scale industries and overall economic positioning of Kisumu City.

One of the key duties of a leader is to mobilize resources from within and without the realms of Government, channel these resources towards the betterment of the millions of people who entrusted their fates in his hands and delegated the responsibility of judging the direction of their lives through that one ballot cast in favour of his dream, this is what Governor Ny'ongo is doing and to borrow from his words, "Kisumu has begun the journey of flying with the eagles."

Like a real hunter, the Governor has to go out of the county's resource envelop so that meaningful development is seen in Kisumu , His name goes before him and that's why there is confidence in every investor who comes to Kisumu .

All the fundings that come to Kisumu is not by chance but by sheer hard work and astute mobilization by the very person who knows where there is absolute need.

News from the Sub-Counties

North Nyakach Ward Projects



Asao Resource Centre in North Nyakach Ward is undergoing renovations courtesy of the department of tourism.

This is in line with the Governor's vision of establishing at least one modern Resource Centre in every ward.

The centre also houses the office of Asao location area chief as well as that of the North west Nyakach village Administrator.



Still in North Nyakach, construction of Kokungu ECD classroom under the Ministry of Education, ICT and Human Resource Development, is almost complete just in time for schools reopening.

Water for Life and Source of Livelihood in Chuth Ber

By Matilda Atieno

The county government supported by the Safe Water and Aids Project (SWAP) and the University of Illinois have successfully constructed a solar powered water project in South West Ward, Kisumu West Sub county, in Chuth Ber.



The 2.5 million water project dubbed 'Sola Maji' is funded through Bill and Melinda Gates foundation to benefit a total of 110 households in the area. Sola Maji is a technology that embraces solar powered water supply systems to typically operate autonomously with close to zero running costs while generating income for the local community.

The high performance solar powered project collects its waters from the nearby River Mugruk, purifying it for safe consumption in line with WHO and KEBS drinking water standards.

The SWAP project director Mr. Aloice Mwaki flanked by Dr. Sam Dorovich of the University of



Illinois stated that the project is a community based sustainable solution to the challenge of providing safe water drinking water to rural communities.



The county water infrastructure officers Ann Kombija and Eng. Reginald Olang' were also taken through the new technology and projects progress. The officers encouraged the community led by the project committee members to responsibly embrace the project for sustainable use.

Lifestyle

With Harriet Chausiku

Young Beauty Princess

With A Love For The Environment

To fifteen year old environmentalist Rahmina Paulette, the Lake is not just a water body but a beauty that she marvels at like she did from a tender age whenever she went for boat rides with her parents.

"The boat ride was my favorite activity and I enjoyed playing with my friends by the lake but the raid of water hyacinth destroyed the beautiful scenery of Lake Victoria thus cutting short our fun", says Paulette.

Bothered by the new weed, Ms. Paulette went on a fact finding mission; poring through pages and pages of content on the internet, in search of ways of turning the hyacinth into something usable. She found out that the weed can be recycled into different beautiful products. With mentorship and support from her mother Ms. Miriam Oyugi who is also her manager and Mama County H.E Dorothy Nyong'o, she founded Kisumu Environment Champs and Kisumu Eco Products.

Paulette proudly wears the hat of the Chief Executive Officer of Kisumu Eco Products that makes a variety of items using water hyacinth as the raw material. The products include bags, cards, organizers, table mats among others in the little workshop at the entrance of their home. As the "big boss", she has a total of fifteen employees who work full time with four paid and eleven volunteers.

Apart from being an entrepreneur, Paulette has won many environmental and modeling awards since 2016 notably the



Little Miss Kenya Kisumu County, preteen Miss Kenya, preteen miss Eco Project, Little princess Africa, Teen Environmental Ambassador Kisumu County among others.



Paulette advises her fellow teens to take advantage of the pandemic and make use of their time at home to conserve the environment and turn hobbies into entrepreneurial ventures.

"I am working on an app called Mazingira that is a game with two levels on the importance of environmental conservation. This will be available for young people to learn as they play", she announced proudly.



Travelling With...

Atieno Otieno

Unbeaten Trails of the Impala Animal Sanctuary

"The world is a great book, of which they that never stir from home read only one page" Saint Augustine.

In books, words transcend geographical borders, break walls, cross rivers, climb mountains and take you to places you never imagined accessible. So does travel. It gives you an opportunity to savour spaces, cultures, traditions, hear tales never told, some, not even captured in books. On each page you will have different experiences; new tastes, sounds, scents, all bound to have a profound effect on you now and in the future. Such desires to explore have seen me explore spaces within Kisumu that I never knew existed.

One of the most exciting and yet under-visited places remains the Impala Animal Sanctuary that's right in the middle of Kisumu city and boasts ofwild animals all for your entertainment, education and close inspection. That's all you probably know about the park, right? There's more.

A short TukTuk ride got me to the gate, armed with my camera, ready to explore. This must have been my umpteenth visit and yet there were spots unexplored. One such was the Sunset Picnic Site. "Tembea tu straight utafika kwa picnic site" (Walk straight on and you will come to the picnic site) one of the wardens had guided in Swahili.

I'd worn comfortable shoes so was physically and mentally ready for the trek. The path got lonely and the thickets thicker as I walked on, a clear indication that these indeed were unbeaten paths. For a moment there, I thought I'd veered off the path directed by the ever friendly KWS wardens at the main gate.

I walked on. I walked past the EcoLodge hotel, past grazing zebras, some shy Impalas scuttled past me and I spotted a monitor lizard disappear into the swampy grounds.

Just as I was second guessing myself, I came to a vast, enchanting opening hidden behind thickets of exotic trees. I stood in awe. The space looked curved out of a hill with climbing plants lining its rocky sides.

The stone engraving just before the opening, announced my arrival and lo and behold, this looked like a scene straight out of Lara Croft's Tomb Raider.

Surprisingly, I wasn't the first one here. A group of children noisily ran past me, and out yonder a woman was sitting by herself soaking up the fresh air and the enthralling ambience. I spotted two tents, an ablution block and a hut that, upon inspection, revealed a perfect cooking and dining area. The three inbuilt fireplaces were yearning for the crack of fire and the space looked well kempt.

Here, I met two ladies and a man busy preparing meals for, I suspected, the energetic children that were running around obviously having a time of their lives.

"We wanted to give our children a back-to-school treat in a place where we felt was safe," explained Christine upon my inquiry. "This place is marvellous. It's private, it's different and we are having a very good time here."

Asked what it cost her family to spend time in this amazing space, she broke it down as:

"Park entry fees, 120 for kids and 200 for adults. You can either walk or if you're driving, you will pay 300 shillings for your car. And that's all and you get this amazing location, running water, clean toilets, you name it!" she marvelled.

Set on the shore of Lake Victoria, the Impala sanctuary features well-maintained 3 km (2 mi) of trails and a selection of scenic picnic spots. It hosts impalas, the rare Sitatunga antelope as well as big cats, buffalos, giraffes, cheetahs and several primate species. Besides spending time with the animals and bird watching, guests here can take glass bottomed boat ride to the lake to enjoy a view of its shores and the flora and fauna

around it.

The sanctuary is also home to five campsites (including the one I visited), all with spectacular views of Lake Victoria.

If you are ever in need of a place for and relaxation, be one with nature; to bond with friends and family; to meditate and reflect and recharge, look no further than the Sunset Trails picnic site.

In my sojourns around the globe as a self-proclaimed #rovingreporter, I've traversed parks, far flung towns, been on lonely roads and busy streets; dined with kings and slept out in the open with locals; dodged poisonous spiders out in the desert and yet enjoyed meals of slugs and game meat with the moon as the only light. These experiences have indeed shaped my worldview. These experiences have influenced my desire to prod you to travel within our great county.

"Quote By Camp Warden"

No doubt, the ongoing pandemic has dealt the Impala park and tourism a big blow as before at a time like this, they'd have.... number of guests compared to the current figures ofper day.

A report recently released on the status of East African Tourism, revealed that there were 21 Million job losses in the sector and a whopping 480 Billions shillings lost in the year 2020. "....." Christine Boit.

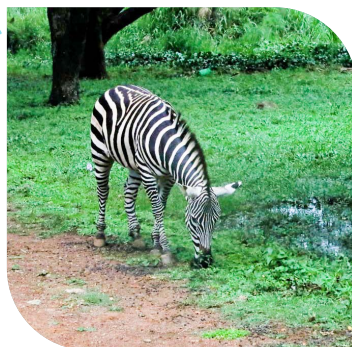
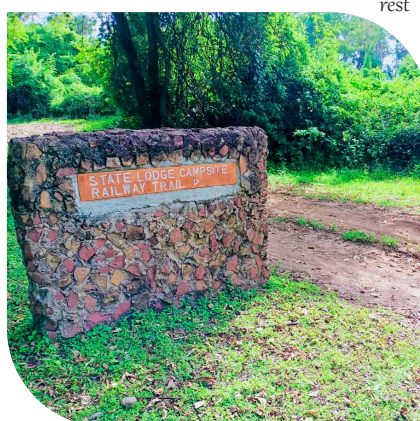
Back to Saint Augustine the theologian, philosopher and Bishop of Hippo (354 AD) who travelled far and wide spreading the gospel, his mission was to encourage people to travel; to broaden their worldview and get rid of prejudices.

If for some reason you've been reluctant to travel, remember that travel can be one of the most life-changing experiences of your life.

No doubt, not all of us can travel the globe but make local travel a priority. Not only will you be building the local economy but also giving a special gift to yourself and family as you broaden your worldview.

Here's A List Of What You'll Need For Your Day Out

- Comfortable shoes and clothing
- Picnic blankets (shuka, plain sheets will do)



- As many games as you want (balls, skipping ropes, skates, bikes)
- Lots of snacks
- Water for drinking
- Hand washing soap
- Bring your pans and ingredients if you wish to cook
- Matchstick
- Reusable plates and cups
- Mosquito repellent



NOTE

Always remember to clean up after the picnic. Leave the site cleaner than you found it for next users and for the safety of the animals..

SPORTS

CS Sports in Tour of Kisumu's New Stadium



The CS for Sports Ambassador Amina Mohamed this week inspected the progress of works at the Jomo Kenyatta International Stadium at the ASK showground and the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports Complex in Kisumu's central business district.

According to the CS, the stadium contractor assured her team that the it will be completed by 15th May 2021 and will be handed over on 23rd of May 2021.

A tweet posted on her page on 7th May 2021 read in part, "We have stepped up stadia completion surveillance countrywide."



completion date

15th
May 2021

The two modern facilities, when completed, will make Kisumu a sporting hub in the region.



H A P P Y

Mother's Day



Kisumu Governor

*H.E. Prof Peter Anyang' Nyong'o
wishes all Mothers in the County a very
Happy and blessed Mothers Day.*

We value you as our mothers.

You are great people.

God bless you all.