

Publisher:

NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

P. O. Box 24381- 00502,

NAIROBI, KENYA

Tel: +254 (020) 3883549, +254 (020) 2606230

Fax: +254 (020) 3883552

Email: info@ndc.go.ke

Website:www.ndc.go.ke

Designed & Printed by:

Perspective House Ltd

P.O BOX 75002, 00200 Nairobi

Tel: 020 2044338,

Cell: 0721 689 070

Email:info@perspectivehouse.co.ke

Editorial Board:

Col M K Suleiman, Col J K Ruhunga,

Lt Col J E R Fiedler, Mr P K Waweru,

Mr J M Mwanzia, Col E M Lusaala

Copy Right © 2016

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by means without written permission of the publisher.

DISCLAIMER

The views and articles contained in this newsletter are solely those of the participants concerned. They do not in any way reflect the official position of the Ministry of Defence or that of the National Defence College.

Contents

FROM THE COMMANDANT'S DESK	3
MESSAGE FROM THE SPONSOR	4
DEVELOPMENT OF LAMU PORT:	
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING	5
NATIONAL INTERESTS & NATIONAL POWER AS KEY ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY:	
THE CASE OF NAMIBIA	6
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) MECHANISM	7
INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PLANNING PROCEDURES	8
DOCUMENTATION OF BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED	9
POST-COLD WAR INTELLIGENCE:	
THE IMPERATIVE FOR COOPERATION AND COORDINATION	10
WHAT DOES A KENYAN DIPLOMAT REALLY DO, ANYWAY?	12
PROTECTIVE SECURITY	13
PEACEKEEPING WITH A DIFFERENCE: CASE STUDY OF RWANDA	14
THE PATH FROM STUDENT TO REBEL	15
RAMIFICATIONS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)	16
THE ROLE OF WILDLIFE TOURISM IN CONSERVATION	17
THE AMAZING LAND OF KENYA	18
A NIGHT TO REMEMBER	20
A MAN AFTER MY HEART	21
MY LAST SKY FREEFALL	22
THE SHONA ART OF MARRYING IN ZIMBABWE	24
THE AFRICAN MARKET PLACE WITH IDEAS	25
BE KENYA 'S TOURISM AMBASSADOR ABROAD: MY OWN EXPERIENCE	26
MY EXPERIENCE AT THE NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE	27
PICTURE SPEAK	28
BOARDING SCHOOL: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE	30
MY EXPERIENCE IN MALAYSIA	31
LIFE ON THE FAST LANE - EXPERIENCES OF MOTOR RALLYING	32
MASAI CEREMONIES	33
WHAT YOU SEE IS NOT WHAT YOU GET	34
MY EXPERIENCE AS A MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER IN NASSIR COUNTY OF SOUTH SUDAN	36
THE UNEXPECTED GUEST	37
"THIS IS AFRICA"	38
CHALLENGES FACING POLICE OFFICERS IN KENYA	39
MALAWI CHIEFTAINCY SYSTEM	40
STRANDED IN THE MIDDLE OF CIVILIZATION	42
VISIT TO A BOMBED SITE AFTER A TERRORIST ATTACK	44
THE CULTURE OF THE ZIMBABWE	45
CHIEF LOGISTIC OFFICER AFRICAN UNION MISSION IN SOMALIA	46
DUSK TO DAWN AT A BORDER CONTROL POST	48
THE KING AND 99 CLUB	49
DETERMINATION KNOWS NO BARRIER	50
NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE (K)	51
WHICH WAY?	52



EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS



COL M K SULEIMAN
KENYA ARMY

Chairman



COL J K RUHUNGA
RWANDA DEFENCE FORCE

Member



LT COL J E R FIEDLER
GERMAN AIRFORCE

Member



COL E M LUSAALA
KENYA NAVY

Secretary



MR P K WAWERU
KENYA FOREST SERVICE

Member



MR J M MWANZIA
KENYA FOREST SERVICE

Member

FROM THE COMMANDANT'S DESK



LT GEN J N WAWERU CBS, OGW, 'NDC' (K), 'ACSC' (USA)

COMMANDANT, NDC

The National Defence College is a Regional Centre for Policy and Strategy Studies whose mission is to prepare selected senior military officers and equivalent senior civil servants of the Republic of Kenya and their counterparts from selected allied countries for higher responsibilities in the strategic direction and management of security and other related areas of public policy.

In striving to be the Regional Centre of Excellence for Policy and Strategy Studies and the realization of a secure, stable prosperous and peaceful society, excellence is the hallmark of the institution. To this effect much is expected from our alumni. The National Defence College Newsletter has been a platform for the course participants to express their personal views on a wide range of issues including the valuable personal experiences. The diversity in the course is expected to come up with unique experiences and views on these issues. Newsletter two has brought out issues and experiences including those at NDC itself for Course 18 2015/2016 and it is my pleasure to give blessings for its publication.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPONSOR



BRIG J M KIVUNZI
SPONSOR

This is the second and final newsletter that participants of course number 18/2016 have produced; the first one having come out earlier during the second term of the course. It contains articles from the 39 members of the course as the course progresses into term three and towards completion.

The reader will be captivated by the way stories are told by the different writers who are equipped with personal experiences, be it field or routine office work, general knowledge, opinions/perspectives on lifestyle issues and even poems. The course itself has also had an impact on participants, due expectations and actual experience, and this is reflected in some of the articles. Simply written, there is so much more to it than the humour and wisdom contained herein.

The newsletter is sure to provoke some thoughts on the issues contained. Entertaining, educating and enlightening, the articles are carefully wrapped in a delightfully uncomplicated language. It is both tailored and packaged to provide the reader with satisfaction as topics are accompanied with attractive and fascinating images.

DEVELOPMENT OF LAMU PORT: OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING



COL L M GITUMA

KENYA NAVY

Lamu Port South Sudan and Ethiopia Transport corridor (LAPSSET) is a major infrastructure projects that is aimed at developing the economically marginalized areas of northern Kenya. Development of Lamu port is one of the flagship projects under Kenya's Vision 2030. The other LAPSSET programmes include airports, resorts cities, an oil refinery and a pipeline. This transport corridor will link Ethiopia and South Sudan from the new port at Lamu through Garissa, Isiolo, Mararal, Lodwar, and Lokichoggio.

The government undertook groundbreaking for LAPSSET in March 2012 and thereafter the construction activities of the various infrastructural facilities and services aimed at progressing implementation of LAPSSET Corridor Project commenced in Lamu. One of the key projects under LAPSSET Corridor program is the Port of Lamu as a second port in Kenya. The construction of this second international seaport is expected to bear positive impacts on the local, national and regional economies. At the local level national, the Port is expected to generate much needed employment opportunities for the locals and Kenyans at large. Lamu will also be transformed from a small port on the Indian Ocean seafloor of the East Coast of Kenya into an international Port handling huge volumes of cargo and decongest the port of Mombasa. The transport corridor will

also ease pressure on the traditional Mombasa-Kampala Corridor. This will eventually open large swathes of land for development in Northern Kenya and also Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

The Lamu Port is expected to have 30 berths by 2030 when it will be due for completion. However, in the short term, it is expected that the first three berths should be developed in 2017 to trigger the subsequent development of all the other LAPSSET components.

The Lamu Port development is bound to create considerable employment opportunities in vessel-based port support services, including pilotage, salvage, towage, pollution control, maritime search and rescue, port security, ship repair and shipbuilding. Other indirect employment opportunities will be in the port logistics and supply chain context and support services that include clearing and forwarding, warehousing transport, marine insurance just to mention a few.

For the locals to have an advantage over the massive employment opportunities that the Port will offer, they will need to be well educated and trained. This is where the problem lies. As a sleepy island, Lamu is dependent on local fishing and tourism and not a single ship repair or support capability exists. The literacy levels for the local population are very low. Bearing in mind that port support services infrastructure and maritime education and training are not part of the LAPSSET but individual or private investments, there is great possibility that the locals will be locked out from the skilled employment opportunities that the port will offer. There is an urgent need for a deliberate strategy to develop Human resource development in tandem with the port development for the local communities.

Kenya is particularly lacking in the area of Port Human Resource Development. The current skilled Maritime Human Resource base is not capable of meeting the demands of the Port of Mombasa. The personnel under this category must be duly trained and certificated under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) convention on training of seafarers. Competencies for this category of port personnel include, among others,

route planning and navigation, cargo handling, energy efficiency monitoring, vessel-source pollution control and prevention, and environmental stewardship, marine engineers, Naval architects, marine pilots amongst others

It is imperative for the Government in collaboration with the County Government of Lamu, to prepare and equip the locals and other Kenyans with capacities to undertake port operations. The coastal communities especially the people of Lamu perceive themselves to have been marginalized by successive governments. Missing out on employment opportunities to be created by the project may reinforce the perception and increase their hostilities against the upcountry community that is resident in the region and also even drive them further into radicalization.

As the development of the Lamu Port continues, the government needs to develop human resource capacity among Kenyans and more so the locals necessary for the undertaking of port operations in Lamu Port. This can be achieved through setting up fully-fledged maritime institutions/s with a training ship to create the relevant human resource capacity necessary to undertake Port operations. Although a capital intensive venture, it is necessary. Failure to do so, there could be far reaching socio-political and security ramifications in the region.



NATIONAL INTERESTS & NATIONAL POWER AS KEY ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY:

THE CASE OF NAMIBIA



COL F T RUGHARO
NAMIBIAN DEFENCE FORCE

National security means different things in different societies. Most scholars in the field of security studies define it in terms of alleviation of threats to a state and its values. They consider it as an inevitable political aspect that plays a vital role in deciding who gets what, when and how. The Constitution of Namibia defines national security as all-encompassing conditions in which all its citizens live in freedom, peace and security; partaking fully in the process of governance, the enjoyment of fundamental rights, access to the country national resources and other basic needs.

National interest and national power are vital to state. These are values which the public deem so important to its identity that it is willing to protect them at any cost. National interest is a concept that outlines the collectiveness of things that ensure national sovereignty and which guarantee the survival and development of a nation.

National power refers to the capabilities by states to influence the behaviour of others in order to achieve their desired goals. It is part of the “national security quintet”, which comprises national will, national interest, national values, national

identity and national power. According to the Namibian Constitution, national power plays an important role in ensuring that the other elements of the quintet are observed in order for national security to be realised.

National power manifests itself in three ways: hard power, soft power and smart power. Hard power is regarded as the calculation or interaction of the national assets and encompasses military power, which projects its formidability in the form of highly-technical fighting equipment, leadership, training and morale. Soft power is seen as the state’s reputation in the form of human capital, economic, technology, education, media, tourism, alliances and communication systems and it is viewed as a power of importance. Smart power on the other hand, refers to the full range of tools at a state’s disposal; diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal and cultural. To attain national security, there must be a balance between national interest and national power. A good example of this is found in the Namibian Constitution, which provides that territorial integrity is part of national interests and has to be protected or maintained through one or more elements of national power such as the deployment of

the military to protect the country against external aggressors.

Human rights and freedom of movement is also part of a country’s national interests. The provision of physical security to the citizens by the state also demonstrates the link between national interest and national power with national security. In other words, all the values of the state that, if violated, may lead to war, constitute national interest. States can then use their national power to protect national interests. Namibia for example has three sea harbours—Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Lüderitz – which are vital to its economy. Thus, hard power in the form of the naval forces and air force elements have been deployed in the sea to ensure the safety and protection of the maritime resources and transport. All this demonstrates the link between national interest and national power in the quest for national security.

In conclusion, national interest and national power are critical components of the national security quintet. It is therefore important to incorporate them, alongside the national will, national identity and national values, in crafting any state’s national security strategy.



Former President Hifikepunye Pohamba takes his last salute as President and Commander-in-chief from the Namibian Defence Force, NDF’s 21st Battalion. Photo by Levi Upula

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) MECHANISM



ELEMA WARIO SARU, HSC
KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

Conflicts have existed in all cultures, religions and societies since time immemorial. Conflicts can develop in any situation where people interact, in every situation where two or more people or groups of people perceive their interests are opposing and cannot be met. Conflicts are an integral part of human life. It is therefore, important to learn to manage them in a way that will prevent escalation and destruction, and come up with creative and innovative ways to resolve them. The commonly recognized approach to resolve conflict is through a court process that has been observed to have lots of disadvantages and hence alternative approaches have been identified and used world over. The alternative approaches are called alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) also referred to as Appropriate Dispute Resolution is a general approach and/or technique aimed at resolving disputes in a non-confrontational way. It covers a broad spectrum of approaches ranging from party-to-party engagement in negotiations to arbitration and adjudication where an external party imposes a solution on the parties. ADR is a type of dispute resolution that seeks to limit the costs of litigation by using alternative approaches to a court process to resolve disputes such

as arbitration, mediation/conciliation and many others. Part of this alternative dispute resolution is the African Traditional dispute resolution approaches that have been used by Africans before the arrival of the Western education and technology. Many African countries have adapted these approaches in their legal system despite the existence of the current nation – states and the national laws. These countries attest to the benefits the alternative approaches have and the need for those countries which have not adapted them to consider using them.

Alternative Dispute Resolution has several benefits that make it suitable for conflict resolutions. It takes far less time to reach final resolution than when the court process is used because the courts has many other matters to deal with which usually slows the process. It costs much less money to settle disputes using ADR in comparison to the court system and hence allowing disputing parties a financially viable way to settle their dispute. The parties control some aspects of the process and also select the ADR method they want to use and the panellists for their dispute resolution. They determine the length of the process and even the outcome in the case of mediation/conciliation approach. This is as opposed to the court system where the judiciary controls every aspect of the litigation process. ADR therefore is more flexible.

Confidentiality is maintained in the majority of ADR methods like mediation/conciliation and arbitration which is conducted in private. This is contrary to the court process which is a public process. ADR uses professional experts who are neutral and trained in dispute resolution mechanisms. The parties are able to select from a list of qualified professionals as opposed to the court process where judicial staff adjudicate who may lack expertise in the field of the dispute. All ADR services take place in an informal, less confrontational atmosphere which is conducive to the maintenance of good relationship between the disputing parties and especially in the case of mediation the outcome is a col-

laboration of the parties.

African countries lost their traditional disputes resolution mechanisms through adoption of the Western legal system. Modern states which are collections of many ethnic nations may not have been possible to adopt one ethnic community's dispute approaches for all to use. However, many countries have realized the important alternative dispute resolution principles, approaches and methods that may be included in the national legal system. How shall a country incorporate ADR approaches to settle conflicts especially the African traditional mechanisms? To start with there is need for governments to encourage the conduct of research and documentation of African Dispute Resolution mechanisms before the elders die because African customs, values, beliefs, rituals, ceremonies and dispute settlements are done verbally with no written literature available for reference.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has many benefits that make it suitable for conflict resolutions in Africa. People need to recognize the important principles and values in these alternative methods that can enrich the current national legal system and use them to resolve disputes as a cheap and convenient alternative to resolve disputes than the modern court system.



Council of Elders



INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PLANNING PROCEDURES



COL H T RAKGANTSWANA

BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE

Introduction

Just like any operations in the military, flight planning is crucial in the achievement of a successful mission. A lot of details go into planning for a mission, as a slight omission can lead to disastrous consequences in the different types of operations in aviation like training flight, operational mission or even VIP mission. The importance of this planning is further emphasized by procurement of flight simulators to ensure that details are not overlooked before the actual mission. For a VIP flight, the following need to be considered from the time aircraft tasking order is received:

Diplomatic Clearance. To come up

with Diplomatic Clearance Request, one needs to consult aeronautical charts (en-route charts) to establish the ideal route to fly. The planning should strongly consider the shortest route, avoiding hostile airspace and taking into consideration availability of en-route landing airports/airfields in case of emergency. The pilot then calculates the estimated flight time, Estimated Elapse Time (EET) to enter and exit the over-flown airspace border, called Flight Information Region (FIR), of all the countries they will be overflying. Calculating this is quite easy since by now the crew is aware of the Estimated Time of Departure (ETD), and the speed the aircraft will be doing.

Itinerary. The itinerary is thereafter submitted to the Protocol Office for onwards forwarding to the VIP for their inputs. At least two options should be availed so that the VIP may choose his/her preferred route. It is worth noting that the VIP may choose the route that is favourable to them, taking into consideration the countries that have diplomatic relations with. This happens especially where there is going to be a refuelling stop en-route and they may be required to disembark. Other information included in this is need for Visas and inoculation, if required.

Ground handling. This entails preparations beforehand, to have the following arranged through a ground handler, who is in the country of destination:

Transport. Transport is needed for VIP

pick up, especially if there is no diplomatic mission to coordinate such. Transport is also needed for crew pick up and drop off to the hotel and any other flight planning administration matters.

Accommodation. Even though the passengers may have their own accommodation arrangement, the crew has to liaise with the ground handler to have a reasonably priced accommodation in secured for them. It is usually in a different hotel to the one the VIPs are accommodated, even though two-way communication has to be established between the crew and the protocol officer, just in case there are new developments/requirements and schedule changes from the VIP.

Fuel arrangements. Fuel uplift is usually prearranged for the day before the scheduled departure, or on the departure day if the flight is going to be long, therefore need for a lot of fuel. This is to avoid the aircraft standing for a long time with full fuel, a critical measure taken to preserve structural integrity of the aircraft.

Conclusion

Flight planning is not only important for providing information to the VIP, but also for the safe accomplishment of the mission, facilitation of flight tracking and search and rescue. From the onset, it ensures that nothing is omitted, which may be crucial for the safe undertaking of the mission.

DOCUMENTATION OF BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED



SIMON J. OCHIENG
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING

Many newly designed projects and programmes in various fields fail, or are implemented poorly because they do not learn from best practices of projects and programmes that have been implemented in the past.

There is no universally accepted definition of a best practice, but varies across most disciplines, including security and poverty reduction programmes. A best practice is often influenced by number of factors including, the prism from which it is viewed, the time it is affected by technological changes, and who is defining the practice.

Best practices are those that can be replicated because of the impact they have had, or innovativeness shown in project design, implementation and monitoring. A good number of good practices are always identified during implementation and should be documented for learning purposes. They often relate to cases of successful resource and budgetary allocation and use, improved networking, ensured sustainability, excellent cost efficiency and creation of visibility of projects.

In order to document best practices, a criteria checklist can be developed as a foundation for action, planning and evaluation. By definition, a best practice should meet at least 3 criteria: effectiveness, efficiency and relevance, in addition to one

or more of the other criteria such as community involvement, sustainability, fit with Government philosophies, accessibility, technical/ethical soundness and replicability.

On the other hand, a lesson learned is a new idea, process, experience or understanding which helps in improving the way project is managed and contribute to greater effectiveness and impact. The experience may be positive, as in a successful test or mission, or negative, as in a mishap or failure. A lesson learned must be significant in that it has a real or assumed impact on operations; valid in that it is factually and technically correct, and applicable in that it identifies a specific design, process, or decision that reduces or eliminates the potential for failures and mishaps, or reinforces a positive result.

Frequently, lessons learned highlight strengths or weaknesses in project preparation, design, and implementation that affect performance, outcome, and impact. A quality lesson must capture the context, have a clear application domain and identify target users; it should suggest a prescription and should guide action. Some of the best practices and lessons learned from selected Ministry of Devolution and Planning project and programmes include; project success and sustainability of benefits must be dependent on a multiplicity of factors including support by the relevant government agencies, capacities and co-resources of partners, and nature of the selected activities. But critical is the beneficiary communities' knowledge, skills and capacity to internalize project objectives in light of the policies, and the institutional and legislative implementation environment. Other lessons are that women play a significant role in the success of community based projects, and that Community Action Planning is an effective tool of engaging and collecting community priorities. However, individual ownership within group based interventions sometimes yields better results than group ownership depending on the context of the project.

Best practices can be captured from capacity building interventions which is a

crucial element of programmes not only for effective implementation, but also for longer term sustainability. Programmes should not adopt a very limited approach to capacity building focusing on one-off events and technical skills. All evidence however points to the fact that, organisational capacity issues, such as leadership styles and organisational culture are ultimately much more important than any other factor during implementation.

The monitoring and evaluation of the projects usually give rise to numerous lessons learned and best practices, which stand to inform and add value to the planning, implementation and future designs of projects and programmes.

Therefore, documentation of Best Practices and Lesson Learned are important component of effective project management and implementation in any field. Projects must make a conscious and deliberate attempt to flag out lessons, document them and incorporate them into the project implementation and future organisational project planning, and share them with partners and other stakeholders for further replication and posterity.



POST-COLD WAR INTELLIGENCE:

THE IMPERATIVE FOR COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

The end of the Cold War in the late 1980s elicited massive celebrations. Not only did it provide a sigh of relief to a world suffocating under the tension of a possible third major war of the 20th century; it also ushered in a new era of greater freedoms with the corollary improvements in peoples' lives. To some, however, this historical development occasioned a sense of trepidation. Intelligence agencies, for instance, were uncertain as to what the new world order portended. The overarching concern by these larger-than-life outfits was "what next for us"? Clearly, the danger of being out of business loomed over the horizon. These agencies thrived under the Cold War, where the enemy was clearly defined. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the USA and the Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti (KGB) of the USSR and their respective allies engaged in endless 'cat-and-mouse' games in different locations the world over. Meanwhile, the image of shadowy men in overcoats, hats and dark glasses running covert cross-border operations,



LEONARD N BOIYO
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (KENYA)

pitching senior officials of foreign governments, stealthily gathering information on the capabilities of their adversaries, covertly instigating the removal of unfriendly governments was prevalent in thousands of novels and movies.

In due course, however, new threats of transnational nature emerged and grew in scope and magnitude. Among these was international terrorism, with Osama Bin Laden as its poster boy. Intelligence agencies now had a new lease of life as it became clear that the war against international terrorism was primarily an intelligence war. Intelligence agencies had to recalibrate their doctrines and ethos in light of the emerging threats. One critical principle of intelligence that had to die was 'need-to-know' so that a new principle 'need-to-share' could be born. But did the former principle really die and is the latter thriving?

Today, other than the conceptual dilemma surrounding terrorism, the quest for greater cooperation and coordination amongst national agencies and between different nations is a constant feature in discourses on terrorism. No national, regional or international forum discussing one aspect of terrorism or the other concludes without the call for cooperation and coordination.

The importance of cooperation and coordination in countering terrorism usually manifests itself clearly following terrorist

attacks. After the 9/11 attacks in the USA, it emerged that whereas none of the intelligence and law enforcement agencies knew with certainty that the attack was forthcoming, the CIA and the FBI had bits and pieces of information regarding the movements and activities of some of the attack masterminds within and outside the country. The two agencies did not share this information, perhaps because they did not make much about it, but also because the structures for inter-agency coordination and collaboration were non-existent. On their own, these snippets of information actually made no sense; but if shared between the two agencies, analysed and subjected to serious investigations, a clear picture of what was shaping up could have emerged and perhaps 9/11 averted. Little wonder then that one of outcomes of the 9/11 Commission formed to enquire into the attacks was the creation of the Department of Homeland Security with a mandate to enhance inter-agency coordination.

Kenya on its part has undergone similar experiences through various terrorist attacks; but it was in the 21st September 2013 attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi that weaknesses in inter-agency cooperation and coordination played out openly. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) insisted it had provided intelligence about the planned attack, but the National Police Service (NPS) insisted that the said intelligence was not specific. Meanwhile, as the terrorist siege on the mall continued, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) take-over of the operation from the NPS caused a great deal of disquiet. Arising from the incident nevertheless, all the agencies learned valuable lessons and embarked on forging better cooperation, coordination and collaboration among themselves.

Back to the post-Cold War dilemma by Intelligence services. Yes, the proliferation of new security threats has given them new, even more challenging roles. In this changing environment, however, intelligence in itself is not sufficient. Without linking this intelligence to other processes such as law enforcement and judicial action, it becomes essentially useless. The 'need-to-share' clearly supersedes the 'need-to-know'.



Osama Bin Laden



IT'S NOT JUST A ROOF IT'S A LIFESTILE

Premium stone coated roofing tiles



www.mabati.com



WHAT DOES A KENYAN DIPLOMAT REALLY DO, ANYWAY?



J K NJIRU

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE, KENYA

The mention of diplomats leaves us visualizing glamorous living with all the fine things in life, a lifetime of travel to foreign and exotic lands, cocktails and parties, extra vacation time, flashy subsidized flights for family reunions; the life of a Kenyan diplomat is highly stereotyped but the real picture hardly agrees with the true state of affairs. The reality is not as glamorous and, truth be told, its more work and sacrifice, of social life, family time and even the luxury of personal time. The perceived glamorous life of a Diplomat has many downsides including, but not limited to social, cultural and linguistic isolation, or sometimes physical danger. A good example is the burning down of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in January 2015 in Tehran or the bombing of the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 2008 where many diplomats' lives were lost. Not to mention the constant moving around the world every four years or so which takes a heavy toll on families, as spouses are forced to sacrifice their own careers and children hop from school to school as they follow the diplomat parent around the world on his or her official duties. Broken families and broken marriages are stories told by diplomats from around the globe. I once had a chat with a lady diplomat from Japan during a social gathering and she disclosed to me that she

was not married because her fiancé dumped her due to her “unstable kind of life”.

WHAT then is diplomacy? Barton defines diplomacy as the art and practice of conducting negotiations between representatives of groups or states. It is also concerned with the management of relations between states and between states and other actors. From a state perspective diplomacy is concerned with advising, shaping and implementing foreign policy. It is also the means by which States throughout the world conduct their affairs in ways to ensure peaceful relations. Barton identifies one of the tasks of an embassy as timely warning of adverse developments in co-operation with intelligence services. Diplomacy is about the promotion of political, security, economic, cultural or scientific relations as it does international commitment to defend human rights or the peaceful settlement of disputes.

WHO then is a Diplomat? A diplomat is a person appointed by a state to conduct diplomacy with another state or international organization. The main functions of a diplomat are divided into three main categories: political, trade, and consular services, they are referred to, as Foreign Service officers and posted to perform either bilateral or multilateral diplomatic duties depending on the country or duty station. A Kenyan diplomat's normal day, revolves around the representation and protection of national interests though articulating the country's foreign policy, maintaining good relations with country of accreditation and taking care of the welfare of the nationals based in the host country as well as the promotion of information and friendly relations; Coordination of Mission activities such as administration, protocol, meeting important visitors at the airports and providing technical and administrative support for their visits; coordinate and facilitate meetings among Ambassadors for example to discuss regional or continental matters.

A Kenyan diplomat in charge of political affairs reports on local developments and advocates for support of Kenya's interests in the international arena. On an average day, a

political officer writes a speech for a visiting high-ranking government official from back home or attend another countries national day's celebration, attend other official meetings and prepare reports. Political work is about cultivating contacts and networking, writing reports, attending meetings and official functions and chit chat during functions, of course not forgetting to carry a smile all the time. A Consular officer provides services for Kenyans who live, work or visit the country of accreditation. Their duties include responding to queries about traveling or living in the host country and processing applications for passports, issuing travel documents for visiting Kenyans who may have lost their passports. Consular Services also entail issuing visas for locals who plan to travel to Kenya. A consular officer will also coordinate and facilitate contacts in case of a national accused of a crime, or visit another in jail, contact family members back home in case of an injury or death of a Kenyan and sometimes required to accom-



Turkish Ambassador to Kenya HE Deniz Eke with Maj Gen Ikenye, NDC Deputy Commandant

pany a body back to Kenya for burial.

A trade officer's role is to promote the interests of Kenya, by identifying markets for Kenyan commodities and identifying related companies and making them aware of commercial and business opportunities available in Kenya and, provides guidance for trade visits and basic information. Due to shortage of staff in the Embassies, political officers sometimes double up as trade and economic officials. Their duty is mainly to develop relationships with important economic figures, including those in the business community, the government and opposition, non-governmental organizations, academia and multilateral organizations. They promote Kenya's economic and commercial interests. There are also more specialized roles conducted by different government agencies and experts, such as immigration officers, education, national security, Agriculture and military attachés, serving in missions abroad, but the bulk of the work lies squarely on the three main categories.

If a diplomats' life is this challenging, then what is the catch? Of course there are the perks that come with being a diplomat. The diplomats earn a Foreign Service allowance, granted accommodation in leafy environs, duty-free goods and services, diplomatic immunity, and education supplement for their children. And then of course, there is the travel, while on duty and one gets to see and experience the world. Living and working as a diplomat, can lead to a great deal of knowledge and insight about issues affecting different countries. Attending cultural events and celebrations, endless briefings and interacting with local customs, and the simple immersion of everyday life, one can get to know things about a country that not many would. Diplomats have the opportunity to help repair a fractured economy, spread the gospel of accountability, process refugee claims, and open up markets as well as deepen relations between states. Make a difference for at least one stressed-out traveler when they arrange a travel document quickly, promote tourism by issuing visas or, in a worst-case scenario, when they send the body bag home promptly and notify the family of a distressed Kenyan. While the life of a diplomat is not as permanent holiday, the joys of making a difference in the mother country is gratifying and a real fulfillment.

PROTECTIVE SECURITY



JOSEPH N BUSIEGA
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

National Security is defined under article 238(1) of the Constitution of Kenya as "The Protection against internal and external threats to Kenya's territorial integrity and sovereignty its people, their rights, freedoms, property peace, stability and prosperity, and other national interests." Protective security, which includes physical, personnel and information security is essential in enabling the Government to work in a safe and secure environment through ensuring that all security threats and risks are adequately addressed individually and collectively.

Protective Security is a risk management procedure is aimed at safe guarding government documents, physical structures and persons. It is the sum total of measures used to proportionately mitigate these threats to ensure safe delivery of government services. These may be physical, technical and procedural controls which needs to be applied in order to achieve the required security standards and as well meet the needs and circumstances of an organization.

State Departments should therefore establish an appropriate and elaborate structure with clear lines of responsibility and accountability at all levels to ensure security. They must also establish an appropriate security structure complete with clear lines of responsibility at all lev-

els of the government to protect and prevent incidences of terrorism, espionage and sabotage.

In instances where government department utilize shared services or assets, the responsibilities for the risk management of those shared services/Assets should be agreed and documented to ensure the security needs are approached in a structured and outcome focused way to ensure that the risks are managed appropriately. There is also need to ensure that sensitive or valuable assets including paper based assets, ICT hardware/software and removable media devices are physically protected to the standards required.

Persons deployed to protect state assets must at all times ensure that they conduct a careful assessment of the security risks and must put in place appropriate physical security controls to prevent unauthorized access to the assets. They should also work towards reducing or limiting the vulnerability of establishments to terrorism or other physical attacks. They should put in place selected controls that are proportionate to the level of the threats. Finally security risks should be regularly reviewed and re-evaluated with security risk management principals embedded as part of day to day business.



A CCTV SECURITY SYSTEM

PEACEKEEPING WITH A DIFFERENCE: CASE STUDY OF RWANDA

The Rwandan Peacekeepers were the first to deploy in Sudan's Darfur region when the African Union Mission (AMIS) deployed in 2005. The situation had flared in 2003 when two rebel groups rose up against the government, accusing it of willful neglect. Khartoum had moved swiftly to crush the revolt by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA). A number of people had been killed, many villages destroyed and hundreds of thousands of people fled the violence and were in squalid camps in Darfur and neighboring Chad.

On July 31, 2007, the UN Security Council established the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping operation in Darfur (UNAMID) that replaced AMIS to address the humanitarian crisis in the western region of Sudan. I deployed in Darfur under the UNAMID as a Contingent Commander in 2009 and located my headquarters with the battalion at Zamzam in El Fasher, Tawilla and Korma. Under the contingent were also other three battalions, one deployed in Zalingei and Nertiti in Sector West; the second battalion in Sector North at Sarfuma, Sartonny with headquarters at Kabkabiya; while the third battalion deployed at Shangil Tobay with headquarters located at Super Camp, El Fasher. All battalions were tasked to carry out protection of civilians, confidence building patrols, humanitarian and mission supplies' escorts among other tasks.

While the UN has Quick Impact Projects



BRIG GEN CHRIS MURARI

RWANDA DEFENCE FORCE

(QIPs), the funds are hardly available or are channeled through the civilian substantive sections who implement the projects through local contractors with little impact to the people. However, since AMIS, the Rwandan peacekeepers with experience back home had always carried out Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) outreach activities on their initiative that included free medical services, supply of water and construction of low fuel cooking stoves known back home as Rondereza to the communities in the areas of their responsibilities.

During confidence building patrols in villages and Internally Displaced Persons' Camps (IDPs), the Rwandan Peacekeepers interacted with people in communities and through various reports, I noticed that the people had a lot of needs given that the area was marginalized for so long and the situation had been exacerbated by war. Among the many basic needs, we realized that children were studying under trees in very harsh climatic conditions and we thought we could make a difference to their plight by constructing a school for them.

Following one of our home grown solutions of extending CIMIC activities to communities, I mobilized the peacekeepers about the project who willingly contributed funds. With the battalion integral engineers expertise and equipment, we also mobilized among the peacekeepers enough manpower to support in the construction of the school. As a way of involving the communities,

we discussed with the communities' chiefs known as Umdahs to sensitize and organize their people to work side by side with us. This strongly built confidence between us and the communities in the area, an activity that came to be very useful in our day to day conduct of mandated tasks. In few months, we completed the school of seven classrooms which was a very big contribution to that community and unbelievable to the people.

The Force Commander who was informed before starting the CIMIC activity inaugurated the completed school and in attendance were UNAMID staff and the provincial government officials. On that momentous day, the people and their children expressed their happiness and appreciation with songs of praise to the Rwandan peacekeepers for the contribution. The Force Commander, Gen Patrick Nyamvumba while handing over the school, he also donated furniture for the classrooms which indeed was another big contribution towards providing conducive learning environment for the children.

In the meantime, the peacekeepers in other locations had also identified what CIMIC projects under similar self-help arrangements they could contribute in their areas of responsibilities to the communities. As a result, the Battalion in Zalingei built a market for women who used to sell their produce in harsh climatic conditions while the Battalion in Kabkabiya built a water well for pastoralists' herds and communities around which eliminated water conflict in the area. During the same period, the battalion from Super Camp, El Fasher also built a school in one of the IDPs camp known as Ab Salaam. These CIMIC activities earned the UNAMID's trust and confidence from the people of Darfur, and they regarded the Rwandan peacekeepers as true African sisters and brothers who made a difference in their lives.

Following the experience and my observation thereof, military peacekeepers involvement in CIMIC activities is worth supporting as it builds confidence and wins the hearts and minds of the people. This not only facilitates peacekeepers to successfully carry out their day to day mandated tasks, but also creates a conducive environment for the critical peacekeeping mandate of "Protection of Civilians".



Classes before Rwandan Peacekeepers contribution

THE PATH FROM STUDENT TO REBEL



COL PIERRE MIBURO

BURUNDI NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE

This newsletter does not intend to talk about the historical events that occurred in Burundi. It intends to highlight some of the circumstances which pushed me and other students to give up our studies and join rebel group. We were like the other students at the country's only university that existed at that time. We wanted to finish our studies; get degrees and initiate a public service career, since the State was the only dairy cow. With our official life we hoped to help our families and our relatives who had accompanied us throughout this journey. But that seemed hell-bent against us; we began to believe that we were a cursed generation. You could not think such unfortunate events could befall us.

First the various massacres of Hutu in dark periods of our country had taken almost everything: parents, brothers, sisters, friends including materials. We were plundered.

However, the most serious crisis erupted in 1972, when the Hutu elite was decimated by the army, the police and the gendarmerie, and the Rwagasore Youth Revolutionaries (JRR), the youth wing of the UPRONA party. The big crisis of 1972 sent tens of thousands of Hutus into exile. Many of the survivors feared at returning to schools and the national university where Hutus had been massacred. The majority Hutu ethnic group was excluded from decision-making spheres and discriminatory policy regarding Hutu access to national education was also imposed. In August 1988, another

Hutu massacre occurred in natal province of Kirundo and its neighboring Ngozi.

Then came the current multiparty democracy and that breath on the countries of Central Africa and Burundi in particular. We saw political parties bonded mushrooming. Some parties taxed obedience Hutu, others obedience Tutsi. We should believe in miracles, the renaissance as they say it is hope that sustains. Briskly political parties campaigned for the presidential and legislative elections. Obedience Hutu parties won the elections. It was the joy cheerfulness in the camp of the victors; Hutu long oppressed and excluded from decision-making circles were back to life. Free elections had succeeded in bringing a Hutu president to power without resorting to violence.

Despair in the camp of the vanquished was perceptible and even visible. They had been dethroned, the throne they held for four decades. The Tutsis were expecting anything but not the victory of the Hutu. For them it was unthinkable, unimaginable. They had to react and very quickly. They would resort to old methods to regain the power they lost at the polls. The army was acquired to their cause. On October 21 1993, the Hutu president democratically elected was killed with many of his colleagues. The panic seized the country, the jubilee Hutu camp just three months earlier fell into torpor and fear resurgence of the massacres on them like in the past. So they take the lead and massacre their Tutsi neighbors. The Burundian army deployed throughout the country and massacred Hutu. Survivors of the coup authorities are hiding. In their huts they call for help but no one seems to hear their cry of despair, not even the UN.

Orphan of the authorities the population had just elected; abandoned by all, people try to resist somehow with the resources panel. The countryside are leaning their Tutsi inhabitants joining the centers to better be protected by the army. In the capital Bujumbura balkanization is organized. The neighborhoods deemed predominantly Tutsi hunt or kill Hutu neighbors. Hutus make even neighborhoods and hunt Tutsi. Popular resistance then organizes especially in these Hutu district of Kamenge and Kinama where residents started to procure arms. But a violent crackdown is organized. Resistance inside the country constitutes a

parallel movement. Hutu students attending the Higher Institute of Military Officers (ISCAM) deserted to organize. In later 1994, a great number of resistant movements merged together and formed the FDD, which later became National Council for the Defence of Democracy and the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD in its French acronym).

The noose is tightening around the resistance in the capital city Bujumbura. The choices were limited, we had to run away not to be killed or join the rebellion training. The massacres on Mutanga Campus decided the skeptics. Cornered against the wall, many of those who escaped the massacres joined the rebellion. It was the beginning of an entirely different experience. We had to fight for honor and the memory of our deceased. Those are some of the circumstances that led most of the students to truncate their pens to Kalashnikov.



RAMIFICATIONS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



COL B SENTALA

ZAMBIA AIR FORCE

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a nascent trend that has dodged our social circles and sometimes even resulting into death of a spouse, in case of married couples. Its magnitude and significance goes beyond imagination especially what is reported in the newspapers and by the electronic media. What lacks therein and not discussed is the psycho-somatic, philosophical background and latent ramifications of Gender Based Violence. The most common psycho-somatic and philosophical attribute of Gender-Based Violence is sadism; this is the introduction of sexuality which drives into the realm of violence against males or females. Sadism has nothing to do with male chauvinism as females can also be sadist some women never talk about violence against them on account of their social status. Female company executives will make appearances, appearing like a duck, composed and in control on the surface and yet beneath paddles like hell due to psychological disorder in their lives. Sadism, however, revolves around the derivation of sexual ecstasy on the part of the one inflicting pain on another person, the perpetrator of that experiences sexual satisfaction as if in copulation. Sadism is a very important notion and interface in the understanding of GBV. The other notion which is associated to GBV is masochism. A masoch-

ist is a person who derives sexual pleasure, as in copulation, when pain is inflicted on him or her. Sadists and masochists are found in our society and the world over and they account for a large portion of GBV. It may turn out that a husband is a sadist while his spouse is a masochist and vice versa. Such couples would fight and batter one another every so often or more frequently and yet their union remains solid, intact and would not even entertain divorce to the amazement of on-lookers and their families. They may even argue that despite their fight they deeply love each other. There is an absurd traditional element that unless a couple fights, they do not love each other! This is preposterous and counsellors should never entertain it. It is for this reason that counsellors must not shield issues of GBV either on the part of a man or woman to each other. They are to encourage those abused persons to seek appropriate measures to put a stop to this violence.

A thesis being postulated is that men subjected to GBV by their wives are likely to murder the wives when an opportunity presents itself. Consequently, men must report to the appropriate authorities for redress when they have been subjected to GBV by their wives. Men are often shy to report that they have been battered by their wives and hence bury the agitation in the depth of their psyche and only to murder their wives later. The psychological toll that such men experience is highly traumatic and some seek the solace of beer to assuage that pain. The aforesaid psychological trauma is one of the most serious ramifications of Gender Based Violence and account for many murders and suicides of spouses. When a husband or wife has been murdered by the spouse the critical question to be asked is one about the frequency of Gender Based Violence prior to the murder and whether streaks of sadism or masochism are visible. Social workers, counsellors and police involved in the investigation of such activities must be familiar with factors if they are to unearth what transpired prior to the death. Another but latent set of ramification is the potenti-

ality of children to abused parent to repeat violence when they get married. What they saw their father do to their mother or mother doing to their father, is repeated in the lives of the children.

So Gender Based Violence is infectious and counsellors must seek it out especially in young couples, they should not argue that the fighting couple will grow out of it. The above-mentioned notwithstanding, some children shun marriage altogether when they grow up because the violence parents exerted to each other lingers on in their memories. They would not wish to experience it in their lives and hence the option is to remain single and some may even opt to join the priesthood or other religious life. The challenge is if a person wants to maintain and sustain his/her mental equilibrium, he/she must open up the inner closet to reveal his/her rotting skeleton. Gender Based Violence is real and its consequence both immediate and latent can be catastrophic and traumatic. The root cause of Gender Based Violence must be recognized for true healing to take place. The root cause may be attributed to sadism or masochism and the vicious circle being its recurrence in posterity.



Two actors dramatizing gender based



THE ROLE OF WILDLIFE TOURISM IN CONSERVATION



COL P M MASAWA

TANZANIA PEOPLES DEFENCE FORCES

Wildlife-based tourism is a large segment of the nature based tourism industry and its popularity is growing. Like other forms of tourism, it has potential to pose negative impacts on wildlife populations, environments and cultures. The behavior of tourists is often at odds with rules and regulations or vulnerability concerns given the attraction factor of certain species. In the perspective of both biodiversity conservation and tourism development, it is crucial that tourism activities do not cause adverse environmental impacts. Unfortunately, there are many

examples from around the World where tourism has had significant negative impacts to wildlife.

Well known examples are Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve (Serengeti's neighbour), Amboseli, and Nairobi.

National Parks, where excessive numbers of tourists in vehicles have endangered the Cheetah population, as well as Galapagos where the bird life is impacted by a number of factors in the aftermath of the wildlife tourism boom. In Kenya, a large part of the national economy depends on wildlife-based tourism, and the country has developed national guidelines for ecotourism. Still, the industry is threatening both the species and habitats through disturbances on breeding and foraging patterns. Wildlife based tourism can in some forms be regarded as a type of ecotourism, and is often perceived to be effective in promoting conservation of important species and habitats in developing countries. Conservation tourism is even emerging as a rapidly growing subsector of ecotourism. It is however, difficult to generalize about the multifaceted relationship between nature-based tourism and conservation. Arguably, ecotourism can create economic incentives for poor villagers and their communities through sound stewardship of local resources, but adequate institutions for management as well as equi-

table distribution of resources are often lacking. There is widespread understanding that the economic incentives of ecotourism must be sufficient to outweigh alternative, consumptive uses of biodiversity resources shall ecotourism contribute to conservation. A major concern is leakage of revenue, i.e. the fact that income from ecotourism provides minimal economic benefit for host communities. However, whatever amounts that are retained may still be significant compared to other available sources of revenue, and hence of great importance to local communities. Research indicates that often will non-use values outweigh use- or consumptive values (clear cutting, pasture etc.). As such ecotourism can be support conservation, but meeting the requirements of ecotourism can still be very difficult. The contribution of community based ecotourism to biodiversity conservation is typically limited by factors such as small areas, few people involved, small earnings, weak links between biodiversity gains and commercial success, as well as the competitive and specialized nature of the tourism industry. Ecotourism has been shown to positively affect awareness towards conservation, but the level of awareness and potential commitment to sustainable management actions are partly dependent on how directly the people in question benefit from conservation.



COL D N NGARE

KENYA AIR FORCE

Kenya is a Sate located in East Africa. The equator cuts it in two equal parts. Its shape is an amazing ‘deformed’ square which looks like a left-over from the scrambling and grabbing of African territories by the Europeans after the Berlin conference. It is a multiracial society but home to indigenous blank Africans of over forty two ethnic societies. Others are Arabs, Europe-ans and Indians who have blended well hence contributing to Kenya’s social diversity.

The Indians found themselves around Africa due to expansion of colonial rule by the British Empire into Africa in the nineteenth century. They were potters and handsmen of the British contractors, and builders of transport infrastructure like railway

line. The Arabs were the earliest visitors in Africa. I believe they found themselves around because of the hash desert condition of Middle East and partly due to the Islamic Jihad wars of the time. Also it may have been due to the political systems that ensured extermination of weak societies as they fought for the desert scarce resources for survival. The most agreed reason is that the Arabs were merchants of slave trade in Africa. They also managed to establish Sultanates or Kingdoms along the East Coast of Africa. It’s amazing to note that the Sultan of Oman loved Africa, in particular Zanzibar so much that he abandoned his palace in Oman to settle in the Island of Zanzibar.

The good people of Europe found themselves in Africa through their desire to search for more resources to support their growing population and to dominate the new found territories. Some societies in Kenya have a saying that: “After the white man explored Africa preaching the Living Word, he realized how beautiful it was. Then he asked the African man to close the eyes for prayers. The African did close the eyes, and when he opened, his dignity as a man, and the land and disappeared with the white man”. The African man then took his spear and the shield and started struggles for freedom. However after independence the descendants of these Arabs, Indians and the white people, live in harmony with the rest of Kenyans in this amazing land.

The Great Rift Valley from Syria in the

Middle East through the Red Sea and Abyssinian high-lands cuts Kenya in the middle from the North to South. I believe that when people start to visit the moon in the near future the first attraction would not be the valleys and mountains in the moon, but the section of the Great Rift Valley’s golden and silvery look across Kenya down on Earth. This section is dotted with many sparkling blue fresh water lakes, white salt lakes, dark-red roam soils and white snow capped mountains. The sprawling green carpet savannah grassland and deep green forests that are sometimes masked by black heavy clouds and lightning are sights to behold. On a clear day, the chain of these features from the moon could look like great diamonds, rubies or Tanzanites on a ‘beaded’ Maasai bracelet worn on a bare chest of a young African lady.

Kenya’s Great Rift Valley section is a broken terrain of the terraced escarpments and highland plateaus running from the North to South. The Uhuru highway and the Nairobi National Park in the capital city of Nairobi mark the baseline of this Eastern highland ridge. The Mt. Kenya and the second highest mountain on Earth, Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt Elgon are major highland features of the Rift Valley. Although they are on the periphery their formation was as a result of volcano activities during the formation of the Great Rift Valley. Many more conical, steep sloped, forested and with huge black crater holes mountains scatter along the Rift val-

ley. From the many scenery points along the escapements, either from the Eastern or the Western the view is beyond imagination. It gives the eyes an amazing sight, and to the soul and mind the peace and the overwhelming presence of an amazing Creator, is prove of the existence of an Immortal God to behold.

The green carpet Savannah of Maasai Mara plains are vast. The sparkle of the golden rays of the rising sun wake the life in the Savannah like a beautiful baby from a green and brown woolen Germany blanket. The call of the singing early birds, the shouts of the monkeys, the hearty laugh of the hyenas across the plains, and the crying roars of the African lions dominate the morning warm breeze. The early morning sight of African wild animals grazing in the rolling Savannah creates an amazing sight to both the old and the young tourists. The young antelope dance with spring jumps, the crested crane song, and the ostrich dance captures beauty of the human posture fixated to watch the wonders of the world. The African savannah big five the lion, the elephant, the rhino, the leopard and the buffalo are amazing sights. The experience of the flora and fauna makes one fail to imagine the world without these animals given the scientists talk of the devastating effects of global warming with its adverse effects to climate change.

The encounter with the Maasai Morans (Youthful Maasai Warriors) in their beautifully red dyed long hair, armed with the club and long spears one captures the aura of the culture of the pastoralist. The Moran normally stand with their feet forming a figure four while slightly leaning on a thin grazing stick. A herd of several thousands of livestock graze under their watchful eyes for any prey animal that might take advantage. The Maasai community has lived with wild animal since they came to earth. They do not consume wild animal food products and they don't have any conflict of sort unless the preying wild cats that may snatch their animals from time to time. They are very courageous when a need arises to attack live-

stock eating lion.

To the South East is the Kenya's coast line that stretches for about six hundred kilometers from southern border with Tanzania to the border with Somalia. The sea shore has some of the best white sand beaches in the world. Tourist visit to take advantage of this beauty and the warm East Africa Coast Current. The government has enhanced the growth of beach hotels which are world class. The coast line is part of the Kenya's tour circuit that starts from Nairobi, Mt Kenya region, Rift valley, Maasai Mara lower Eastern region and then the Coast

region.

Kenya is an equatorial country whose topography and attractive nature has been shaped by the Rift Valley, flora and fauna, cultural diversity and being a littoral state along the Indian Ocean. Many people who have toured Kenya believe that one cannot say he has visited Africa unless he or she has visited Kenya. The common statement by those who have toured Kenya is "Kenya Hukuna Mataka". Nevertheless Kenyans welcome all people of the world to tour Kenya and experience and enjoy this amazing land.

Open NOW!

SALARY ACCOUNT

Your future, Our concern.

OPEN A FOSA SALARY PROCESSING A/C TODAY AND ENJOY your FINANCIAL FREEDOM

The Harambee Sacco **Salary Processing A/C** is your key to affordable **FOSA Loans** and **Salary ADVANCES** at friendly repayment terms.

FOSA SAVINGS ACCOUNT – FEATURES

- Offers members opportunity to have withdrawable savings
- Comes with Sacco link ATM Card and M-Sacco
- All loans are credited to this account after approval
- Salary advance and other advances available to customers who receive their salaries through this account.
- A member whose salary is processed through FOSA qualifies for an Instant M-Boosta Loan of up to Ksh. 10,000 on their mobile phones.

* Terms & Conditions Apply.



Head Office & Nairobi (FOSA): Harambee Co-op Plaza
P.O. Box 47815 – 00100, Nairobi, KE • Tel: +254 (0)709 943 000 (Pilot) • (020) 343822 • Cell: 0705 300 300
Email: info@harambeesacco.com • Website: www.harambeesacco.com • SMS: 21920

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



PETER K WAWERU
KENYA FOREST SERVICE

This may sound rather absurd, no one usually gets lost in a terrain and location where he/she conducts their official duties and is therefore expected to be conversant with like the back of one's palm. Believe it or not this happened to me and another three of my colleagues at work. I can vividly remember this strange occurrence as if it happened only recently though it happened more than 20 years ago.

I had just been posted to Kakamega District as the District Forest Officer reporting from Turkana where I held the same position. Previous to that I had been working at the Forest Department Headquarters in Nairobi. Being the first time to be in charge of all forest management matters in a duty station with a lot of forest resources, I had a lot of zeal to prove myself. The date was 16th October 1992 on a Wednesday morning when I was paid a call by an elderly man whose name if I can recall well was Morris Aluvanga. He was a pleasant and respectable old man who upon entering my office removed his hat revealing a balding head with greying hair. He then proceeded to make a bow.

I requested him to take a seat and after some pleasantries I asked him how I was to help him. He was by now feeling at ease and he said to me; "Mkubwa wewe ni mungwana una wapenda wageni" loosely translated as Officer you are a gentleman and you appreciate visitors. I assured him that I was only but doing my job.

He looked at me as if he was appraising me before continuing with his conversation and once convinced that he could trust me proceeded to inform me that he had very useful information regarding some illegal forest operation to take place after night-fall that day in Kakamega forest. He made as if he was hunching his back and leaned towards me to whisper that my officers working in Kakamega Forest Station were colluding with some illegal timber exploiters to cut some indigenous trees specifically the highly valuable Elgon Teak. This kind of got me in surprise as I couldn't expect a government official to work in cohorts with criminals.

Having assured him of my confidentiality he informed me that the Assistant Forester and the forest Guards manning Shamiloli beat had conspired with four poachers of timber to have them enter the forest at night with a power saw to remove beams of hardwood timber. Having known that the Forester was to be absent that day, the operation had been planned to be done after eight P.M. that night. I couldn't believe what I was hearing but Mzee Morris looked very sincere and I had no reason not to trust him.

I thanked him profusely and arranged that on an opportune time I would make arrangements to visit him at his home. I assured him that I was to personally take up with the matter and promised myself that I was not to let him down as a good law abiding citizen. I started strategizing on

how to nab the nefarious criminals together with their conspirators. I needed at least two armed guards, but I could not dare use the ones from Kakamega Forest Station. I therefore made a decision to go to the nearby Malava Forest Station where I could get the guards and possibly the Forester in charge of that Station. I was making all these plans without letting any other person aware.

After taking an early dinner from my house I called for the government vehicle driver and we proceeded to Malava. Upon reaching Malava I was fortunate to get the Forester whom I requested to get us two of his best Guards who should arm themselves with service rifles. We then proceeded to Kakamega forest but going through a detour so as not to raise any suspicion. We parked the vehicle at the Assistant Chief's office and had to walk the rest of the distance to the edge of the forest. We tried taking our bearings before entering deep into the forest taking into account that we were all not conversant with the terrain and geography of the forest. The informant had confided in me that the four poachers would prepare their meal in the forest and hence they would need to visit the Isikhu river for cooking water. We decided to look for a nice spot next to the river and lay in wait. At around nine p.m. we heard the distinctive sound of a power saw some distance in the interior of the forest and we therefore decided to ambush them. We walked stealthy towards the direction of the sound. We decided to make a V formation with the armed Guards



making the flanks.

I was certain we would nab the criminals, however little did I know that the poachers had put some men on the lookout and having spotted the vehicle at the Chief's post one of them rushed to the forest to warn them of the imminent danger which I and my team were oblivious of. They therefore stopped whatever they were doing and silently sneaked out of the forest which we were not aware of.

I was too keen to discover their operation ground and therefore urged my team that we scan the whole portion of forest and after assessing the area we could lay an ambush. Unfortunately, before long it started raining and after waiting for about two hours with the rains pounding continuously we decided to call off the operation. We therefore decided to retrace our way back to the edge of the forest and to where we had packed the vehicle.

Being all unfamiliar to the terrain we kind of lost our bearings and instead of getting to the edge despite walking for a long time we could not make it there. By now we were all drenched and really cold with our energy levels getting very low.

I made a decision that we look for a comfortable position where we could hunch together for warmth and wait until the heavy rains subside. I was aware about the many poisonous and dangerous snakes in the forest and therefore despite being pressed to take a short call I could not dare move away from my colleagues. The forest is also home to other dangerous animals but at least we had the assurance of the two rifles.

That night luck was not with us and the rains continued pounding until the wee hours of morning when from a distance we started hearing sounds of vehicles moving along a road which seemed not too far away. We decided to find the road only to discover it was less than 500 meters away and the Land Rover was packed only a short distance further along next to the same road.

We all could not believe that we had to spend a cold and wet night in the dangerous forest when our means of transport was within short reach. The driver was also not amused as he also spent his night in the cold vehicle. We returned back first taking the Forester and his team to Malava station and then returned to my house to find my anxious wife waiting and wondering what may have happened to us.

This is a night that I will never forget any time I recall my life serving the public.

A MAN AFTER MY HEART

Marcelinus...well... er... em...to be exact Father Marcelinus is my preacher friend. He inhabits a corner of the streets and preaches his heart out to whoever listens-and they are few. But it worries him less as he argues that the big bearded fellow with the big pencil and book up there of course notices him.

With bloodshot eyes, beads of sweat and foaming mouth, he thunders, "The sins of Sodom and Gomorrah are with us, fornication and adultery flourish" here he points a menacing finger to the crowd" I must, in a fashion, warn you that unless you as-as it were -repent -and so to say -mend your ways-you maybe after a manner of speaking, damned!"

Marcelinus words are ambiguous, mysterious, superfluous especially so when he drinks a little wine "for his stomach". Never mind, the little wine is a whole crate of a popular stout brand for as he unashamedly admits:

"A tot or two of whisky in the morning before you are fully awake rejuvenates you after a long restless night, a further two tots of Vodka in your mid morning coffee makes you fully awake ready to face your many chores, a tot or so of brandy in your mid-morning tea fortifies you for the remaining part of the morning and two beers or so with your lunch vastly improves your appetite and finally a crate or two of cold, frothy, stout in the eve-



COL J M OWUOTH

KENYA ARMY

ning late and in the night plays down your recurrent insomnia" But he hastily adds-

"Let this drinking not interfere with the serious business of preaching the word of God!"

Histrionic, confusing and a juggler of words is my friend Marcelinus... I once asked him as a matter of interest "... Father, what denomination ordained you, what religious precepts do you ascribe to?"

He answers back after a hard stare" What denomination, would Jesus ascribe to if he comes back tomorrow?"

I have no answer; he could not therefore also answer my question

"Holy man" I ask him. "Why did you abandon your church-the Catholic church?" "Three reasons" He answers.

"One: A church should be a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints"

"Museum?" I question.

He ignores me.

"Two!" he bellows. "What can you say about a religion that makes a sin out of intimacy and a sacred act of out of drinking alcohol?"

"Three: You remain celibate as a priest and then every weekend, in the confessional, you listen to glamorous escapades of your parishioners..."

Marcelinus, my friend...a man after my own heart.



MY LAST SKY FREEFALL

The visit to the Head Quarter of the Kenyan Air Force on November 2015 reminded me of my last sky freefall jump. After visiting the parked aircraft, three ideas had come to my mind: The training in parachuting, psychological preparation and execution of the jump. In this article, I will tell the story of my last sky freefall. Many people think that parachuting is an activity dedicated to the military only. Far from it, this is only an apprehensive idea because sky freefall is done both in the military and in the civilian world. Currently, sky freefall is practiced by both the civilian and the military which attracts spectators as numerous as those who watch the football game. However, a clarification is needed here because we must distinguish two kinds of skydiving: military parachuting and sky freefall as a sport. For this article, I will focus specifically on my sky freefall sport.

Skydiving is an activity that dates a long way back. Without getting into details about the history, parachuting started since 18th Century. Initially it was only practiced in the military. It was considered as one of the fighting methods which allowed airlift or airdrop of military personnel and equipment in order to gain time to reach the operation theater. Later, skydiving has evolved until it became a sport exhibition which currently attracts a sizeable audience. However, training sports skydiver requires many things that I will develop in this article.

The formation of a sports sky freefall

Many people refer to skydiving jump as plummeting. It is a sport that is qualified by some as being the most dangerous sport,



COL JEAN B

BURUNDI DEFENCE FORCE

while others put it in the same package among other sport games such as volleyball, basketball, football, swimming, sprint, karate, judo, tennis, among others. The big difference with these games is that parachuting is practiced in an air environment while others take place on land or in water. With that, it is obvious that the mode of training is specific one as it demand specific requirements. Like all other sports, parachuting requires one to be in good physical condition, that is why some medical tests are required. However, having flexibility, boldness and coordination are also assets that can facilitate the performance of the sports. The education and training of a sports skydiver takes place on the ground, and skydiving being the practice of theory assimilated on the ground. With the evolution of technology, simulations of specific courses have emerged, facilitating the training. Also, manufacturing security devices attached to the parachute to rescue the parachutist in case of inattention while skydiving has been refined to reduce the number of accidents. However, after completing the training on the ground, psychological preparation is very necessary before proceeding to perform the jump.

Psychological preparation

Psychological preparation is essential before boarding the plane. Its purpose is to prepare the athlete to manage the stress and fear mixed with joy that the athlete experiences following the first opening of the parachute. Consciousness of Para sport must be developed because, after the release of the plane,

his life is in his own hands even if there is a security device that could help him in case of need. This is why the behavior, skills, attitude, experience, level of training and discipline for an individual and comrades is a requirement. For this we can afford to compare the preparation of parachutist that will perform the jump to the counseling administered to the patient awaiting surgery. The latter, if it not properly prepared and anesthetized with the necessary dose, there is a risk for one to fall into a coma never to rise up. Similarly, a non-notified sport parachutist can continue its free fall without worrying about hitting the ground if he does not respect the instructions required of him. That is why one must be careful and keep his consciousness right out of the plane to landing.

The execution of the jump

The execution of the jump is the most delicate work in free fall or skydiving. This work consists of three phases, namely the free fall and work in the air, sailing under descent and landing. Each phase has its demands and the processes. The first phase requires that, after crossing the door of the aircraft, one takes a good stabilized position before starting the acrobatic exercises, if they are required. The second phase for its part, is to make the right drift to attack the target once parachute is deployed. Finally, for the last phase, the skydiver progresses toward the target in order to land in the right place and with safety.

Thus, after this great theory on free fall sport, the reader surely awaits the outcome of my last jump I remembered during the visit to the Head Quarter of the Kenyan Air Force. Allow me to tell you that my last jump was an exhibition jump to enhance the independence day of Burundi. The festivities took place on the football stadium, which is bordered by a stone fence. I remember, and being sure that I had done all the work described above except the last phase of the landing to the target. Instead of attacking the target in front of the grandstand, the wind carried me away behind the fence and all the spectators sensed a fatal accident. Curiously, I landed in the arms of a crowd that stood along the fence. Instead of allowing me to land and run to give the report to the President of the Republic that the exhibition had ended, the crowd formed a bridge shackled with their arms and swung me until I landed inside the stadium. I say this jump was the most wonderful one of my life.



**WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH,
THE TOUGH GET THE ISUZU FTS.**

**ENET AFRICA**

Abstract—The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of a 10-week training program on the heart rate (HR) and heart rate reserve (HRR) of sedentary middle-aged men. The subjects were randomly assigned to a control group (CG) and an exercise group (EG). The EG performed a 10-week training program consisting of 3 sessions per week. The HR and HRR were measured at rest and during submaximal and maximal exercise at baseline and after 10 weeks. The results showed that the EG had a significant decrease in HR at rest and during submaximal and maximal exercise compared to the CG. The HRR was also significantly higher in the EG compared to the CG. The results suggest that a 10-week training program can improve the cardiovascular fitness of sedentary middle-aged men.

The Iauzu FT8 4 wheel drive is the most durable, reliable and adaptable medium duty truck on the market. Whatever your transport needs, you can trust the Iauzu FT8 to deliver. The Iauzu FT8 is ready to rumble now at your nearest GMEA dealer.

ISUZU
Dall'Europa

[illegible]

THE SHONA ART OF MARRYING IN ZIMBABWE



COL C MAZAIWANA
ZIMBABWE DEFENCE FORCE

Every community feels proud to maintain its values and cultural practices besides the dynamic changing environments and modern way of living. However, one culture which remains in traditional practices is the art of marrying in the Shona culture, which is one of the ethnic groups in Zimbabwe. The procedures are inherited from generation to generation and are not foreseen to be abandoned in the immediate future. The Shona culture is patriarchal in which man is the dominant character in society. He is culturally expected to fend for the family and from childhood the boy and the girl have their specific role they undertake in the home and society till they gain adulthood. Elders were responsible for grooming behaviour and mentoring despite parentage. In this aspect, social changes have taken place because of the societal structure in which families are no longer as close together as they used to be. The grooming is now done through specific family systems but on cultural practices, it is the same as long as the people belong to the same ethnic group. One common practice which is uniformly practiced by the Shona people is the art of marrying, besides the fact that most of the exchanges have shifted to cash rather than commodity exchange vows when one goes to negotiate for lobola. This is what is going to be discussed in this article on how in the Shona culture, one earns himself a marriage partner; from love proposal to marriage.

Finding a partner

In the old days an individual could get a partner to marry for life without a love proposal but through good deeds. This could be through hard work, politeness and respect to elders. The type of respect here was to give help to an elder when one is not carrying anything or giving way to older people on encounter. Whether a boy or girl, some families will admire this behaviour and wish that their daughter or son could marry such a person in the community. Depending on who won the heart of elders, a middleperson was sent to start negotiations through the aunt or close friend of that family and a deal was struck for the two to be one. This no longer applies since the last century, because one has to propose love on his own till the other party accepts the proposal. When the affair blossoms to the marriage peak, two options exist. The first one is, if the suitor does not have bride price or lobola, the girl will elope to the man's family in the evening, but leaves a message to a confidant to inform the family of her whereabouts. The girl's family will also look forward to the acknowledgement from the suitor, upon which within a week, the male partner must send a middleman who is able to run with a silver coin. He would peep at the door normally towards the evening, and throw the coin into the hut shouting the name of the suitor's family, so that they officially know where their daughter is. In some instances, if the family were not comfortable with losing their daughter to this man, they could whip the middleman with a stick if they caught him, hence need for him to take on his heels as soon as he threw the coin.

**THE PARTNERS CAN
FORMALISE THEIR
RELATIONSHIP,
THEN THE SUITOR
PLANS AND SETS A
DATE TO GO AND
PAY LOBOLA TO
HIS IN-LAWS.**

Paying lobola

The second option is that the partners can formalise their relationship, then the suitor plans and sets a date to go and pay lobola to his in-laws. He may not attend in person but the team constitutes his father, brother, a close relative and the middleman preferably one familiar with norms and values of the fiancée's family. The hosts will gather relatives to witness the negotiations, though many would wait for feeding with the few involved in charging the lobola. Before any transaction, the fiancée is asked to identify the visitors if she knows any of them, but the would-be-husband's party, will only introduce themselves after negotiations are completed and before feeding. Traditionally, charges were in the form of few coins and cattle, but due to scarcity of cattle, the parties agree on the value of one cow or ox for the purpose of value charge which will be converted into cash. Nevertheless, the heifer for the mother of the fiancée is normally required alive, not cash, but mothers are also becoming flexible and accepting cash. The negotiating team is expected to bring food and beverages to be consumed after deliberations. At the end of negotiations, the son in law to be team would requests for authority to have a Christian solemnised wedding or date to have the woman join her partner for permanent courtship. After feeding and drinking the man's party normally go back to their home on the same day.

Conclusion

This article presented the art of marrying by the Shona people of Zimbabwe, and this applies to anyone who wants to marry a Shona woman despite the race, creed or religious background. What happens after that will be up to the new couple. Some negotiating teams may fail to raise enough cattle charged or the equivalent cash, but if the team reach the set threshold, the other processes will go ahead. The balance can always be paid whilst the couple are already having children. If the wife's parents are strict, they can pile on pressure to the extent where the children meet the balance of the bride price of their mother. By following the above procedure one can get himself a marriage to a life partner in the Shona cultural way.

THE AFRICAN MARKET PLACE WITH IDEAS



COL P S K SULUBU

KENYA ARMY

A market is a fairly spacious site where traders sell goods and buyers browse the merchandise. It can also be a place where services such as shoe mending, hairdressing and cyber services are offered. Therefore, a market is a beehive of commerce and trade. The hours of business mostly depend on the trading events to be carried out. It could start as early as before first light around five o'clock up to later in the evening about eight o'clock. In a market, you can find a variety of goods being stocked in order to meet the demands of customers. Traders set up stalls and sell their goods. They identify prospective customers and establish personal contacts with them. The traders set up their stalls at specific areas for example traders dealing with the sale of fruits and vegetables are situated in a specific place. A market also contains wholesalers who sell goods in wholesale to retailers. Nevertheless, you can also find carpenters who display their products in the open in order to attract the attention of passers-by. There are also people who sell cheap clothes. The traders are persuasive in order to attract customers. A market may also contain a dumpsite where people throw waste items. This makes the place to have unpleasant

smell. However, the city or town authorities employ some workers to clean the streets and market places so as to reduce the spread of diseases such as cholera and tuberculosis.

In many markets you will find street children begging for money. Others look for scrap metals in the dumpsite. There are also many types of beggars ranging from those that are blind, the crippled, the sick, pretenders and so on. As the old saying goes, you will never miss a mad man in a market. Well, it is true as there are normally mad people who children like to tease all the time. One is left in wonder how the mad women end up bearing children who are normally taken away by relatives. The easier explanation is that such events are God's creation and therefore possible.

There are also transport services including stages where passengers board and alight from vehicles. This place is normally very noisy due to the hooting of vehicles and shouting of touts to compete for passengers. Nevertheless, there are telephone booths, postal and various money transfer and exchange services to enhance trading business and communication. Entertainment and vendors are also not left behind and are always busy wooing customers to the various items of artistes and music they can offer. Preachers are always available time and again to offer spiritual nourishment to market populace amidst the helter-skelter characteristic of a busy market day and place. Thieves and Conmen are always scheming and waiting to make a big catch out of the unsuspecting people, some travelling and going on their transactions and chores. Indeed on a routine market day one would gather a sizeable reflection of the society in several dimensions whether social, cultural, economic and others.

The mix of various categories and classes of people found at the African market place ranging from children, youth, adults, the elderly, poor, middle class, and the rich makes dynamics of life quite remarkable and interesting. Business wise there are

some people or families who have traditionally traded at the market place for generations and can be assumed as permanent or dynastic, some are seasonal traders, and others are transitional or specific to a trading mission. The intensity of human interactions at the market place is unavoidable due to the nature of trading thus the sharing of ideas and influences inevitably occurs. Natural laws prevail and for example the law of demand and supply would arise if a group which wants to create the demand, for others to supply and those who want to create the demand and do the supplying as well.

Good performance in market business was traditionally borne out of experiential learning and not academic endeavours in Entrepreneurship, Sales and Marketing, Purchase and Supply portfolios and so on. The current dispensation whereby innovation and entrepreneurship is key to a country's youth agenda and development will require knowledge enhancement through professional engagement in the various aspects of the African market place trading and business. A topical or sensational political issue could create informal debate within the market place and the resulting opinions influencing the general public and society at large.

The market place could easily create a good rumour mill due to the intense human interactions and can also be a hotbed of politics as the guaranteed audience is a critical ingredient. In terms of Security, the market place is a lucrative target of terrorism. It suffices to note that all manner of description of the market place and characteristic homogeneity, suggests real and potential for a cacophony of good and bad ideas. The good ideas if harnessed can be useful to the society. The African market place with useful and inherent variety of ideas and methodologies of market business can easily pass for 'a market place with ideas'

BE KENYA'S TOURISM AMBASSADOR ABROAD: MY OWN EXPERIENCE



BRIG A M KIUGU

KENYA ARMY

Kenya's tourism industry is the second largest source of foreign exchange revenue after agriculture. To sustain this status, many promotional and marketing strategies are key. A number of Kenyans hold the perception that it is the responsibility of the government to promote the image of the country locally and abroad but they are wrong. It is the responsibility of every Kenyan to be the Ambassador of the motherland. However the government is required to initiate programmes meant to change this culture and more so, those Kenyans travelling abroad for education, seeking employment or otherwise should

also act as the country's agents abroad. The Kenyan tourism industry is easy to market because of the country's endowment with diverse nature from its vast palm-fringed coast with some of the most natural sandy beaches to the summit of Mount Kenya, from lush tea plantations to desert scrub land, while the Great Rift Valley bisects the agricultural central highlands. Besides nature, Kenyan people are famed for their friendly character and warm welcoming culture. All the above disectomy, coupled with good tropical climate makes the country unique and easy to market.

Before travelling to Kansas in 2006 for my military midcareer staff and command course offered at the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, I gathered tourism promotional literature that is available at the Kenya Tourism Board and vowed to market my country well to the Americans after hearing stories of their ignorance about the African geography and culture. After a few interactions with the locals of Fort Leavenworth, I confirmed that what I had heard was true. Many knew about Kenya and not necessarily its geographic location because of President Obama (who as a Senator of Illinois then, had declared candidature for the US presidency) or because of athletics more so the famous New York and Boston Marathon races that Kenyan long distance runners have traditionally dominated over the years.

However, I realized that talking positively about Kenya and tourism in particular, made many understand our country better and even find more information on the internet and as a result, three American families decided to visit the country. The college allows at least one country from each region of the world to talk about their country alternately each year and since this time it was not Kenya's turn, I requested to do Kenya's presentation to my seminar group and it was highly appreciated.

I did the same when I served as Defence Attaché (Adviser) at the Permanent Mission of Kenya in New York where I persuaded the training Division of the Department of Peace Keeping Operations of the UN to conduct a number of workshops at the famed International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) at Karen, Nairobi, Kenya so that the participants would get a chance to visit at least Nairobi National park and Nairobi city. Those who attended such workshops and conferences spoke well about Kenya and the people and encouraged others to visit. While in New York, I held a the portfolio of Vice, Dean of the Military and Police Advisors Community and therefore I was able to convince 20 Military and Police Officers to visit Kenya after visiting the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We spent a day at IPSTC discussing peacekeeping in Somalia and the thereafter the visitors had an opportunity to tour Nairobi city and the National park and enjoyed Kenyan cuisine at the Carnivore restaurant. When we returned to New York, they encouraged other diplomats and their families to choose Kenya as their tourist destination. A number of Americans have since visited and every time they do and I meet with them, the feedback is very positive with most of them describing Kenyans as the most admirable people.

My take is that if all Kenyans took it upon themselves to talk good of their country locally and abroad, Kenya shall not only attract tourists in large numbers but also investors alike. I conclude by saying that countries do not talk for themselves but people do. Kenyans should adopt the culture of being their country's Ambassadors whenever they are for the good image of our beloved motherland.



MY EXPERIENCE AT THE NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

It was that time of the year to fill the Performance Management Forms and there is this section that talks of the courses you would want to undertake in the year in order to enhance your performance. The courses should be filled in order of priority. For two previous years my immediate supervisor had recommended I start with the National Defence College. I just did it for the sake of it for in my heart I knew there was no chance of me ever setting foot in NDC. For me it was a routine task. Fast forward to Thursday 4th June 2015, when it all came to be and reality set in. Here I was on my way to NDC. It happened that morning in our usual Thursday meeting when my Director congratulated me. I was surprised and asked, “for what”? The Director replied, you are going to NDC. I persisted and asked again, “to do what”? He just said, “wait for joining instructions”.

I thought it was a dream; the Director couldn't have been serious. Of all the people why me for NDC! I wished it away thinking that if I ignored, it would go away. Maybe he just wanted to see my reaction. Alas, was I wrong. One week later the joining instructions were delivered. The reporting date was 26th June 2015, at 0800hrs.

Stories told about NDC are not encouraging. Nobody tells you of anything other than don'ts, the harassment you will get, timelines you will have to keep and most importantly: TIME, time, time and time. Keep time. “If at all you come late and with good reason, use the back door. Don't try to make it to your seat, just be at the back. The door on your right of the auditorium, is not meant for you; oh one last one don't forget, sleeping during lectures is unheard of”. Sounded to me like a detention camp; where you were always on autopilot mode. After all this, would anyone still want to join NDC?

So here I was on the 26th June 2015 heading to NDC. I arrived at the gate at 0650hrs. One may ask, “why so early”? I was just observing time. The joining instructions stated 0800hrs but I did not want to be caught up in the traffic jam and risk arriving late. By so doing I was heeding the earlier warning



H K OMURWA
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE - KENYA

about time keeping. The security person at the gate asked who I was. I identified myself as a participant coming to report. He asked for my Identification card, which I gave. A little while later he came and confirmed that indeed my name was after which he gave me directions to the participant's parking lot from where someone would come and show me to my room. An officer came and took me to my room. What surprised me was that there was even my name on the door. I was expected, enough preparation had been made

and I was here for the long haul.

Time for registration came and was done away with. Orientation and a tour of the institutions was conducted. This involved a visit to Library at United States International University – Africa, tour of Kenya National Archives and The University of Nairobi library. We were addressed by senior staff of the faculty; official address by the Commandant and later official opening by the Cabinet Secretary. Everything went according to plan, so meticulous it left me in awe.

Much has happened since my reporting here. I have had lectures of opportunity as well as academic ones which will go a long way in shaping my life more than I anticipated. I am glad to have been given a chance for this course and one thing I have come to appreciate is TIME; observation of Time is key. This has impacted on me immensely. It makes all the difference; for a minute lost has consequences. I now have a different meaning altogether for time and the fact that we all are equal when it comes to time. I have learned how to manage myself, prioritize on tasks that deserve my attention at the same time making decisions on what to do and how to spend my time ahead.

Life is a journey and mine is in progress and most importantly I appreciate Time.



A LECTURE IN SESSION



PICTURE SPEAK

CULTURAL DAY



1. Group Captain Sani from Nigeria presents to the Deputy Commandant.
2. The diverse Kenyan culture.
3. The Burundi drummers.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS



1. Team D at the King's African Rifles Monument, Malawi.
2. Team C at Base Titanium Ltd, Kwale, Kenya.
3. Team D visit to Kenya Pipeline Company, Nairobi.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS



RWANDA



1



2



SENEGAL



3



4



CAMEROON



5



6

1. Visit by Team A to Horizon Group of Companies, Rwanda
2. Visit to the Rwanda Defence Force Command & Staff College by Team A
3. NDC Deputy Comdt (Military), Maj Gen Ikenye, who was also The Team "B" Delegation Leader, Inspects A Guard of Honour at The School of Infantry in Thies, Senegal
4. Team "B" Members Visit to the Cadet Training Centre in Thies, Senegal
5. Team C at Sonara (National Oil Refinery), Cameroon
6. Head of Team C Delegation, Deputy Commandant (Civil) Amb N R O Ogego and Senior Directing Staff - Navy, Brig J M Waweru at the War College, Cameroon

BOARDING SCHOOL: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE



COL J K RUHUNGA
RWANDA DEFENCE FORCE

It's never easy to leave the nest. At the age of twelve, my parents who wanted me to become a Catholic Priest decided to send me to a Seminary which was a boarding school situated 200km away from home. I tried to protest this decision but in vain; I had to go. My first days in the boarding were very hard due to the teasing sessions imposed on new students by the seniors. Doing things such as making my bed and washing my clothes which I was not used to back home made it hard. It did not take long for me to adapt to the new life and realize that being sent to the boarding school was the best opportunity I ever got from my parents. During my six years' experience in boarding school, I came to the conclusion that a good boarding school had a lot of benefits that I wish to share in this newsletter. The reason why I did not become a priest is a story for another day.

From the warm family environment, you learn how to cope with life and all its many high and low points within a community of your peers who are going through the same experience. All of this is happening under the watchful eye of

your teachers who are mentors, and not your family relatives. Students in a boarding school not only have to manage their own affairs but also are exposed to learn how to live and interact with people with diverse characters and who are not their relatives. You are challenged to develop your interpersonal skills to be able to fit in the community because you can't hide in a boarding school. You also learn to be responsible for your actions since you are answerable to your acts which should be in line with the school code of conduct. All these lessons learnt in boarding school will lay a solid foundation for your future.

It is in boarding school that one establishes reliable and lasting friendship and builds network of friends who know you and with whom you have shared enjoyable and difficult moments. These are the friends that continue to care and support you for the rest of your life.

Good boarding schools are characterised by discipline, a variety of activities, and daily challenging programs. Boarding school students benefit from this rich life experience of living in a community where personal growth, learning and exploration are exercised; programs and activities are carried out; making friends is paramount; and where success is the goal. Other advantages of good boarding schools include a variety of sport facilities and good academic and spiritual education environment. Due to all those activities and environment found in good boarding schools, students are kept mentally, physically and spiritually fit.

Given the above described benefits of a good boarding school and the current lifestyle where parents no longer get time to follow up the education of their children, I would urge all parents to identify good boarding schools and send their children for their better future.



Secondary school pupils in Rwanda

MY EXPERIENCE IN MALAYSIA



JOSTINE M BARMAO

NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE - KENYA

In September, 2013, I was nominated to attend the 39th International Senior Police Officers' Command Course (ISPOCC) at the Royal Malaysia Police College in Kuala Lumpur. I departed Kenya on the 7th September 2013 at 10.00 pm and arrived on 8th at 6.00am. The Training commenced on Monday 9th with the Commandant SAC. Dr. YEW CHONG HOON Inspector General of Police welcoming participants to the college. There was a total of 44 participants drawn from 31 countries: Australia, Brunei, Bangladesh, Hongkong, Indonesia, Fiji, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mauritius, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Malawi, Nigeria, Namibia, Oman, Papua, Philippines, South Korea, Seychelles, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Swaziland, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Thailand, Taiwan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

We were taken "through the Malaysia Police Vision which is Enhancing Professionalism in Policing through continuous training". The Mission is to produce Human resources that are highly capable and with integrity in order to fulfil the modern Policing needs in line with the National Development Policy towards realising vision 2020. Their Motto is knowledge the basis of service. The theme of the course was multilateral cooperation; Global Policing and the objectives included: establishing multilateral cooperation and networking, enhancing leadership skills and understanding global issues in policing.

On 10th September 2013 at 8.00am, we all departed for an induction programme at

Zabri Camp, 400km inside the forest, after being issued with jungle uniforms for team building exercises. At the camp we were taken through a number of exercises including jungle survival demonstration, compass game and the most difficult of all jungle Tracking and survival through the slippery hill and the treasure hunt. Some participants found it hard but were assisted by the officers present. It was interesting and exciting and one has to have a stamina and enduring spirit to finish. In the jungle one has to eat anything for survival, including snake meat and frogs, which were offered.

Tuesdays were set aside for the mandatory physical training exercises from 7.00am to 8.00am, with the Commandant and all participants taking part. The lecturers were drawn from the Faculty of Business Management, University Teknologi MARA and in total we had 12 modules covering: The Nature of Leadership and Characteristics of a Leader, The Leadership Evolution, Types of Leadership, Developing a Personal Leadership Inventory, Your own Leadership Model, Inspire thus choosing- your vision and communicating your Vision. The Art of Influencing and Negotiation, setting Goals and reflection, Counter Terrorism-Malaysian experience, the past, present and future in Policing, Corporate Leadership and Governance among others.

During our stay, I had the opportunity to visit the Chiong Village for the Aborigines who live in the forest and depend on fishing and gathering fruits for their livelihood. Malaysian people preserve their forests and there is no wanton cutting of trees as it happens in Kenya where logging is undertaken with impunity.

On 18th September I visited Kajang Prison where I interacted with prisoners mostly drug dealers from West African Countries and one Magistrate who had been imprisoned

for 20 years for engaging in corruption. Incidents of corruption are rare, and those found engaging in them are punished severely as a deterrence measure. On the 20th I visited the Malaysian Police Forensic Lab, a critical facility for investigations and examination of exhibits. Kenya requires such a facility to enhance police investigations and reduce the cost of taking exhibits abroad for analysis.

Tourism in Malaysia thrives due to elaborate security measures put in place. The public are sensitized on how to handle tourists and everyone in the country takes care, unlike in Kenya where they rob, injure and at times kill them. I was impressed with the home stay program by tourists, as it offers an opportunity for visitors to stay at traditional Malay villages. The village that participates in the home stay program is carefully selected and complies with the strict guidelines set by the Malaysian Ministry of Tourism. Unlike an ordinary holiday, the home-stay programme whisks visitors off to an Oasis of tranquillity and rustic charm. Part of the money received by the home owners is paid to the Government. Security for tourists is granted by the people and police only conduct patrols. Kenya should emulate Malaysia and the Ministry of Tourism to take the lead by introducing regulations on the home stays and sensitizing the villagers and the home owners on how to take care of tourists who opt to stay with them.

In Conclusion, my one month stay in Malaysia was great learning experience to me. From the elaborate training at the royal Malaysia Police College to the diverse foods consumed to a creatively thriving tourism industry to zero tolerance to corruption, I gained invaluable lessons. There is a lot that Kenya and other developing countries can learn from Malaysia as they endeavour to attain sustainable socio-economic development.



Physical training exercises



Participants in forest



From left: Mitsubishi Gallant VR4 of Charles and Jerome Mwanzia during Guru Nanak rally in November 1996. Prize giving ceremony after the rally. Mitsubishi Evolution III being flagged off at Kenyatta International Conference Centre by Hon Nyiva Mwendwa, then Minister of Culture and Social Services in 1997.

LIFE ON THE FAST LANE- EXPERIENCES OF MOTOR RALLYING

As a child growing up in rural areas, one of the most exciting times was the Easter holidays which coincided with the Safari Rally. At that time, my siblings and I would wake up as early as the first cock crow- around 3 am- and walk for 4 km to our nearest market of Tala in Machakos County to witness the exciting event. The rally heroes of the time were Joginder Singh, Shekhar Mehta, Bjorn Waldergard and Hannu Mikkola among others. The highly decorated cars with bright flashy headlights, roaring engines and trendy looks were a marvel to us.

Several years later in 1995, as a newly employed graduate posted as an Assistant District Forest Officer in Murang'a by the then Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, life was quite routine when I settled into my first permanent job. However, all that changed when I visited my elder brother, Major General (Rtd) Charles Mwanzia- then a Colonel working at the Department of Defense- and he gave me a booklet with strange writings that appeared like shorthand. He explained to me that they were rally pace notes and asked me to learn how to read them as he had acquired a rally car. This marked the beginning of an exciting hobby as a rally navigator. The next weekend, we had our first reconnaissance on a rough stretch between Ongata Rongai and Kitengela using a normal car. With my inexperience at the time, we quickly got lost after only 3 corners and we had to revert to what is known in rally circles as DBS- Drive by Site. After two more practice sessions, we were ready for our first rally.

To be a rally navigator is both interesting and challenging, since one has to learn to read the pace notes, align them with the situation



JEROME MWANZIA
KENYA FOREST SERVICE

on the road, all this at a very high speed, and be a good judge of distance at those speeds. It helps to identify land marks that are in the notes so that you keep on the route. Normally, a navigator describes every turn and corner, any washed out section and the state of the road in great detail. An example is a corner can be described as max (meaning you can take it at maximum speed), fast, medium, slow and hairpin. A navigator also fills the official documents and rally card that is stamped by the race controllers who fill in details of the timings. In addition, a navigator has to calculate the fuel required (the vehicles use either aviation gas, super petrol or more often a mixture of the two) and instructs the service crew on servicing requirements.

The week preceding our first ever rally was quite memorable as we acquired our competition license, rally gear and helmet fit-

ted with communications. Excitement peaked on the weekend of the rally, and as I reminisce it reminded me of the excitement I used to experience as a small child during Christmas holidays. The rally was on a Sunday and as fate would have it, our first ever stage was in Karura forest through to Kiambu road passing by the Forest Department offices, my employer. The vehicle, a Mitsubishi Gallant VR4, was a rally prepared vehicle which was previously used by legendary Japanese endurance driver, Kenjino Shinozuka. The rally was nothing like the recce that we had done prior to the rally. There were a lot of spectators and I was apprehensive of the whole new experience as a rally navigator. After flag off, we raced off at very high speeds and as we approached half way, a hit a tractor that was packed near the road. Fortunately there was no serious damage to the car and we proceeded to the other stages around Ruai and Kangundo successfully, and went on to finish 7th overall.

After a few successful rallies and several trophies later, a very exciting opportunity opened for us in 1997 when Mitsubishi Rally Team-known as the Ralliart- identified my brother and I for support during the main Safari Rally, which was then a part of in the World Rally champion circuit. They needed an indigenous Kenyan crew and we were the lucky recipients of a fully prepared Mitsubishi Evolution III. The car was very special as it had a lot of unique features that we had not encountered before. The major challenges for that rally were overheating due to hot weather, and tyre bursts because of the rough terrain. The team had adequately addressed those problems as they had installed a water spray

over the engine which as the navigator I was tasked to monitor the temperature and press a button to spray the engine when necessary. As for the tyres, they had an anti-deflation device which allowed one to drive on a flat tyre for several kilometers at high speed until you get to the service point. Another interesting feature was the car had no speedometer- a tactic that was meant to encourage maximum speed. It instead had a computerized gizmo that allowed only the navigator to read the speed, fuel consumption rate, temperatures and distance covered among other things. Further, the car did not have a clutch, as it was fitted with a crash gearbox to enable seamless change of gears thus enabling attainment of high speeds at a very short time. On the rally itself, we were seeded as car no 50, as all the world, Africa and regional rally champions were at the event which was flagged off by Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi. The first competitive stage was from Isinya to Kajiado through Mashuru area of Kajiado County. The car was so fast that in the first stage we overtook 15 other cars and climbed to position 35. The day was very tough with competitive sections in excess of 150 km. Unfortunately on the second day, we encountered a problem after we hit a huge rock which knocked out the drive shaft forcing us to retire.

There is a popular saying in the rallying cycle that you haven't quite rallied if you have not rolled in a rally car. We had our first such experience in a rally taking place around Athi River area. Incidentally we were leading the rally and the only remaining section was a short 10 km competitive section between Athi River town and Embakasi. On this section, we started off at tremendous speed and on the second corner, we hit a rut and rolled. Fortunately there were no injuries and the car was moderately damaged. The safety record for the rally cars is good, as it is fitted with a six point seat belt that literally straps you on the seat. Incidentally I did not realize that we had rolled as I was concentrating on the notes.

One of the interesting episodes encountered by fellow drivers was at a service park in Mogotio where an overzealous service crew member poured water instead of petrol in the tank, effectively ending the rally. In another episode, a rally car in a remote area experienced engine oil leakage, and the driver was in a danger of getting an engine knock. Luckily, he found a Masai farmer treating his fencing post with used oil and he bought it- to the amusement of the lucky farmer. Though the oil was quite unsuitable, the driver was able to get to the service park.

MASAI CEREMONIES



TOBIKO NAYIOMA
KENYA- MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND
COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The Masai is one of the forty two tribes of Kenya. They occupy Narok and Kajiado counties. A small section is also found in Laikipia County commonly known as Laikipia Masai. The masai have several clans such as Purko, Keekonyokie, Matapato, Kisonko, Kankere, Loita, Ildamat, Siria, Uasinkishu, Moitanik among others. The bigger part of the community is found in Tanzania. Closely related to the Masai are the Samburu and Ilchamus of Kenya. The culture and language of the three has a lot of similarities.

The Masai have various ceremonies which they hold dear and have a lot of attachment. These include, circumcision, age group and naming. The community is known to practice male circumcision and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) though the latter has reduced due to Christianity and the country's laws that outlaw it. FGM is a rite of passage and a ceremony which is most treasured by the Masai. Many girls dressed in traditional regalia converge to praise the initiates through song and dance as they prepare to cross into adulthood by undergoing the cut. They girls are normally initiated at the age range between 15 and 18 years.

The owner of the home who prepares the initiation ceremony with the help of a committee invites all relatives, neighbors and friends. Major shopping is done for foodstuff and drinks for the guests. Several cows are slaughtered to feed the crowd as it is unfair for the attendants to go hungry. Experts of the

entire process are also welcomed to ensure the function runs smoothly as per the tradition. Song and dance from various groups such as men, women and moran fill the air. Once the occasion is over, the organizer is rewarded with several cows and goats by friends as a form of appreciation and as a way of recovering the cost incurred during the ceremony.

The difference with boys' circumcision is that there are no rewards to the organizer. People just feast and disperse. This shows that girls are treasured in the community and this might be one reason why FGM has refused to disappear completely in Masailand. After initiation and recovery, another ceremony though smaller is held to release the initiates from seclusion. Some go back to school, while others are married off and some boys may proceed to manyatta to fulfill other rites of passage and form a new age group.

Traditional marriage ceremony is still strong in the community and involves a lot of meat eating on both venues of the families involved. The bride and groom are dressed in traditional Masai attire and offered a lot of advice to enhance chances of their marriage success. Most activities are carried out by the groom's age group including accompanying the bride to the groom's home. The bride is given a maiden name to show transition, she also receives several cows and sheep from the groom's family as a foundation to start the new life.



WHAT YOU SEE IS NOT WHAT YOU GET



COL M K SULEIMAN

KENYA ARMY

There is a particular soft drink that I like; it is called Krest- bitter Lemon. The signature bitter taste of the drink is produced by a combination of quinine and lemon pith used in its manufacture. The addition of lemon juice and rind gives the drink a unique taste. However, since it is not a favourite of many, its production is limited and often times it is not available. Therein lies the problem. On numerous occasions, when I request for the drink, a waiter will quickly announce that it is not available, but happily fish out a sprite (another soft drink) and hastily try to open it, while silently seeking my approval. For many years, I tried to 'educate' bewildered waiters and shop keepers that the contents of the two drinks are very different and that the colour of the bottles-green- is the only thing that they have in common and is not what I am interested in. I finally resigned to the fact that I am the one who is out of sync since I seemed to look at the issue differently. It is all about perception, and what we see is not often what we get. And there are numerous examples that attest to this.

As a young captain and an instructor in the Officer Cadet Training School in Nakuru, I vividly remember an occasion where a cadet commissioning rehearsal by the Chief of General Staff (CGS), as is the norm, ended with a

luncheon in the Officer's mess. In his closing address to the officers, the CGS expressed his satisfaction to the instructors who had done a great job in moulding the soon-to- be Officers into dependable and reliable members of the Kenya Defence Forces. Thanking the chairman of the mess committee (CMC) for the elegant luncheon, and obviously impressed by the effort that had gone into preparing the food, he said 'I hope this is the standard of how our officers normally feed in the mess and is not an exception because of my visit'. Instantly the CMC (a Lieutenant Colonel) sat bolt upright on his chair, blinked several times and gazed around suspiciously to see if there was any reaction from the officers, with

an awkward smile- and- having assured himself that there was no reaction, and confident that no officer who valued his career would dare say anything in the presence of the CGS, he relaxed back and went on staring blankly ahead as the CGS continued with his speech.

How many times do you hear people complaining about people they assume to be mean? Phrases like 'huyomseenigamu' or 'huyojamaanijiwe'! Implying that the accused are averse to generosity are not uncommon. Chances are that the poor souls being accused of being penny pinchers are genuinely not in a position to fulfil what is expected of them. But why would anybody conclude that the other is capable but is only



Identical but similar?

PEOPLE ARE VERY BUSY TRYING TO OUTDO EACH OTHER WITH THE LATEST 'NUMBER PLATES', LAVISH PARTIES AND ROUND THE CLOCK SHOPPING.

pretending? There are no clear answers since there are several factors that come into play in such issues but an important one is image perception -or illusion- if you will. And the people on the receiving end are normally culpable to some extent.

There are numerous reasons why people create images that are misleading, and maybe this is due to the social environment. The truth is that behind the façade of 4wheel drive guzzlers and dark tinted windows are endless tales of pay slip manipulations, overdrafts, defaulted loans, car loans, huge mortgages and wound up businesses-even loss of employment. Broken friendships, endless financial court battles, even total bankruptcy are all camouflaged in deceitful display of splendor, glamour and fake opulence.

People are very busy trying to outdo each other with the latest 'number plates', lavish parties and round the clock shopping. Even when one is able to construct a dwelling house finishing priority is given to the living room, with glittery and expensive decorations even if it means sleeping on the floor, so long as the image created for visitors or guests is alluring. We are normally obsessed with impressing guests and visitors while paying little or no attention to our own welfare, comfort or health. It is these desires that compel people to go to lengths, even engaging in crime in order to be able to draw attention and acquire recognition of having 'made it'.

But then, who is to blame? We live in a society that has placed certain expectations and pegged them with certain conditions that prompt people to be always on the run trying to achieve what in most cases would amount to unhealthy and damaging struggle. Society expects us to fit in at all costs and does not

care who we really are; they only want us to stop expressing our views that do not conform to the popular culture. The pressures placed on a person in today's society are spinning out of control. The quest to have the perfect work/family/life is overwhelming. Everyone is striving for perfection, which is completely unrealistic. However, one can always opt to meander off.

Accepting ones status is the first step towards self emancipation and road towards inner peace and tranquillity. Trying to engage in competition with others without knowing the actual sources of the wealth they possess is normally an exercise in futil-

ity and can often leave one exhausted, frustrated and in never ending financial woes. Trying to impress people at the expense of one's health and wellbeing is a sure path to self destruction.

But again, who is listening? It is all about images and perceptions...never mind that these are masks for deception. No wonder, by the time one is around 50 years of age hypertension, ulcers, heart attacks, insomnia and stress are the norm. This is as a result of struggles of the late 20s 30s and 40s in trying to not only meet obligations but also to be 'with the group'. Is there anyone listening out there?

THE KENYA'S CO-OPERATIVE ANNUAL HANDBOOK

An **AUTHORITATIVE** publication, specifically serving the needs of the country's fast growing Co-operative sector.

A Special Invitation



The Kenya's Co-Operative Annual Handbook is published annually by Perspective House Ltd.

P.O. Box 75002 - 00200 City Square Nairobi Kenya Tel: 020 2044338
Mobile: 0721 689070, 0733 568260 Email: info@perspectivehouse.co.ke

MY EXPERIENCE AS A MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER IN NASSIR COUNTY OF SOUTH SUDAN



COL ERIC M LUSAALA

KENYA NAVY

My going for a peace mission in South Sudan was steeped in challenges and myriad of trials. I had initially been selected to be an observer in Dafur region of Sudan. Intriguingly I could not secure a visa from the government in Khartoum. It was one year later that the chance to go to South Sudan came. The intrigues aside, I managed to report for my induction course in Entebbe Uganda at the UNMISS Logistics base on 10 March 2013. I was informed that my posting was to a county called Nassir in the Upper Nile State of South Sudan. After completing my induction training and having passed the Advanced Field Security Test, I was declared fit to serve in the field and flown to Juba to await the flight to my new home for the next one year. I managed to meet some few officers who were either clearing to go back to their countries or on their Compensatory Time Off

The night before I flew to Nassir I was given some few excerpts into my future home. One thing had a huge impact on me and I must confess that I don't particularly like snakes. Here comes this Nigerian officer with photo previews of his life and times in Nassir. One of the photos had captured a snake coiled in a toilet bowl. I couldn't resist letting my imagination run wild. I imagined an instance when one is pressed and in a hurry to get relieved early in the morning.

I leave the rest to your imagination, but I dare say this was my first sneak preview of what to expect. I was warned to ensure that I do not leave my rubber knee length boots and a rain coat because sometimes the floods could be terrible. Just to drive the point home I was shown another photo of a pack of dogs perched on the bonnet of a Nissan Patrol with the car half immersed in water. That was terrible because I could only imagine where the human beings must have slept that day. Not wanting to let the doom and gloom cloud my focus I finally packed my stuff and left for Nassir. I finally arrived in the town only to meet a dry and dust environment with temperatures ranging around 35°C.

My initial stay in Nassir was uneventful but educative. Of course there were snakes around but I never encountered one in the toilet bowl. The UN County Support Base was right on the banks of River Sobat; a tributary of the Nile. Fish supply was abundant but there were some cultural shocks to contend with. One particular practice was the issue of public showers and public toilets. These were real public and I mean real public in all the sense of it. I gradually started being initiated by those who had already acclimatized to the weather and the town.

The highlights of my stay included the cultural divide between the Dinka and the Nuer tribes. Nassir was predominantly dominated by the Nuer tribe. In my endeavour to study this tribal divide, I managed to glean from diverse sources that the Nuer are actually Dinkas. They were brothers who got separated two centuries back in time. An online satirical exposé of the British Broadcasting Corporation interviewing a renowned anthropologist Sir Edward Pritchard summarized this relationship: He stated that a Nuer never fights a fellow Nuer (which in reality is not true). But if they have to then a war council sits to declare which group would represent the Dinka just so that this hard-line stance is not negated. Indeed this was to play out a couple of times but this one instance really struck me. During a patrol to a County Commissioner in a neighbouring county, we heard

a sustained gun fire in the neighbourhood. This struck me as a real cause for not just our own security but a concern that the UN Mission Headquarter would be interested in. On inquiry, the County Commissioner assured us of our safety and, promised to give us a comprehensive brief the following morning.

The following morning after having our breakfast, the Commissioner, looking real tired (a sign he had not had any sleep) sat us down to explain the incident. Apparently, two families related through marriage, though both from the Nuer group had decided to sort out a family feud over an incomplete payment of dowry. The groom, had not completed paying the required number of cows to the bride's family and on being challenged to meet his obligations had answered in what was considered a rather unsavoury manner (In my culture in-laws are treated with utmost respect almost bordering on reverence. This was rather intriguing for me). To cut a long story short the families resorted to a gun battle with skirmishes lasting a good part of the night and culminating in a stalemate and two serious injuries. My question to the Commissioner which he tactfully evaded was how do the two families ever relate again?

Dowry payment is a real cause for conflict in South Sudan. The number of heads



A snake coiled in a toilet bowl.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY STAY INCLUDED THE CULTURAL DIVIDE BETWEEN THE DINKA AND THE NUER TRIBES. NASSIR WAS PREDOMINANTLY DOMINATED BY THE NUER TRIBE.

of cattle demanded for one to marry is extremely prohibitive and one has to resort to cattle rustling to surmount this life sustaining endeavour. I was to later learn that there is no iota of truth in the claim that a Nuer never fights a Nuer. They do it quite often but they often blame it on a dreaded warrior tribe the Murle. Revenge killings amongst families and clans are so rampant that a son of the soil (as Nuers respectfully refer to each other) coming from abroad has to be careful not to fall victim of a revenge killing perpetuated by the family of his forefathers' enemies. No Nuer man worth his salt can stay in peace unless the death of his slain father is avenged.

Indeed, the rain came in May and I was treated to more surprises than I had imagined (remember the dogs on the bonnet of the Nissan Patrol?). In fact, all vehicles were parked for the next eight months. There are no all-weather roads in this part of the country. I could catch fish from the comfort of my residence because River Sobat fills up and takes over all low-lying spaces. Catfish found comfort under my container residence. Even though the Nuers are Dinkas war still broke out again on 16 December 2013 marking the climax of my tour of duty in South Sudan. I had the experience of my life watching the dreaded Nuer youth militia popularly referred to as the White Army prepare for war. When celebrating they shoot aimlessly, often injuring each other. When really mad they shoot at each other most often with fatal consequences. Talk of peace in South Sudan!!! I left them fighting having tried my bid unsuccessfully to keep the peace.

THE UNEXPECTED GUEST

The Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Wajir in North Eastern Kenya was my first official posting as a lieutenant, having spent the early years training in Air Traffic Control and Air Defence. In the early nineties, the Base was normally quiet, with very few activities taking place, particularly in air operations, which was my docket. Official work would literary end by lunch time, courtesy of the harsh weather conditions that is characteristic of the whole region. The afternoons would be spent in games, reading or watching movies, while the evenings normally witnessed myriad social activities that brought together most civil servants from the District Headquarters.

Accommodation was in wooden blocks, albeit with air condition and in-built wash rooms. However, taking a shower was an experience to behold, courtesy of the salty water which made any bathing soap look like crude oil once applied on the human body. In terms of news, the whole town was in the dark as the only source of news was The Voice of Kenya radio and old newspapers, normally delivered once per week via a weekly air force resupply air craft. So we had to wait a whole week to get all the week's collection of news papers, by which time news had changed to history. Don't even think of a TV - Nonexistent at that time in the region. Hence we were vainly aware of the day to day conflict in neighbouring Somalia, pitting incumbent President Siad Barre and several warlords, notable among them being Generals Morgan and Aideded. This awareness was however very limited due to the scarcity of news.

It was therefore quite a surprise one morning when a visibly shaken guard commander telephoned from the main gate and asked to urgently speak to the Officer Commanding (OC). On picking the phone, the OC listened pensively, and then asked the caller if he was alright or if he had taken some funny stuff in the morning. He then seemed to pay more attention, gauging from his body language. Thereafter, in a language out of the ordinary, the OC dropped the bomb shell on the rest of us, explaining that there were armed foreign visitors at the gate demanding to be let into the base. Quite surprising, considering the base never handled foreigners - let alone armed ones. The OC then left for the gate, after giving us instructions to mobi-



COL J N NJENGA
KENYA AIR FORCE

lize all the personnel and activate the Base Defence Plan. But it was too late, as at that time we saw the long convoy of jeeps snaking its way towards the Officers' Mess. Simultaneously, the phone rang again, this time round the guard commander explaining that the entourage was escorting President Siad Barre and they were under hot pursuit by one of the factions fighting to topple him in Somalia.

In a short while the convoy reached the Mess. So there he was, a president on the run, with a few armed men and bags full of the green bucks, in a Base obviously not prepared for such a guest. The next two hours were nothing short of a thriller movie. We, the young officers were to reinforce the base security in anticipation of the pursuing force, while the OC had the un-enviable role of informing the headquarters in Nairobi about these events. Luckily enough, the Headquarters understood the whole situation very fast and instructed the OC to take good care of the visitor while they organized for an air lift to Nairobi. "Take good care". Like giving the "President" a salty shower etc. But true to the Air Force time tested characteristics of speed and reach, an aircraft arrived within 2 hours. The "President" was then flown to Nairobi for further arrangements on his political asylum. Unknown to us at that time, and possibly to the rest of the world, that day marked the start of a Somali Republic without an official Government, a situation that would last another almost 2 decades.

“THIS IS AFRICA”



LT COL (GS) J FIEDLER

GERMAN AIRFORCE

Mzungu Mjerumani is now in country for almost five months, has started his second term in NDC, has taken over as a seminar leader, has now clocked almost 3.000 km driving on the wrong side of the street mostly in the new Fortuner and since the family has arrived as well,- it is time for an news update:

Since my first newsletter, I have moved in the new house for real, the family is here now, the containers have arrived, the family has grown bigger by two dogs, our new Toyota Fortuner is standing in the driveway and a bit of routine has settled in the family life: Our son has settled in his class at the German School Nairobi, our daughter has grown fond of the Kindergarten at the same place and my wife has even managed to play Tennis a few times, is learning Swahili and is getting Piano lessons to learn how to use her newly acquired electronic piano.

But first things first: Of course, the plan to settle in at a date when the ongoing renovations should be finished just in time did not work out,- but it didn't work out at all! So for the first few weeks we experienced all the possible variations of local “wafundi” – the specialists for all kinds of necessary repairs, be it water, gas, electricity or any other breakable service.

The house, although newly renovated, was not ready for use and so we had to find out what was working or not: The water taps in the washing area were not really connected to the reservoir in the attic, so we had to rearrange the plan where to put our washing

machine to be able to do our laundry even without the main water supply running,- it's now in our bathroom.

But our local furniture designer in the Ngong Road was not only able to produce a bed made to German dimensions but could create a post for our washing machine too, which is in use every day now and - fixed to the wall - is able to support our German washing machine.

The installation was done by a local plumber who set the bathroom aflood twice by unscrewing the water pipes while still under pressure. He nonchalantly introduced us to the magic words “This is Africa” – a phrase that was going to be the running gag in all the repairs in the house.

The second never-ending story was – or still is – the problem of our generator. Since I thought this to be a back-up system only, I wasn't surprised to see a relatively small generator for this big house, but experiencing now several power outages per week, sometimes even longer than 48 hours, the generator is definitely out of its waters! So we had the electrician in our house almost every other day but still the generator wasn't running reliably!

After waiting for several weeks for spare parts, lending our tools to the electricians and being guaranteed several times that “now it is really going to work” the generators demise was commented by several “Sorry, Sorry, Sorry” and this famous phrase “This is Africa!” again.

Being a big house with several back-up systems we tried to use the gas to cook us a meal,- just to find out that the gas cooker wasn't working too. This time our landlord

took things in his own hands, worked hand in hand with me to show me that things are finally moving,- and went out of the kitchen with hair and clothes aflame after a big BOOM shook the house!

He tried to spark the gas manually, but due to a leakage, the gas was already in the whole kitchen cabinet and reacted to the match more violently than planned: Every drawer was pushed open, the bottom panel was pushed outwards and every paper decal was burned to ashes, which were drifting through the kitchen just as white snow in the German winter. While putting out the flames together and realizing how lucky he has been, we both said: “This is Africa!”

To show the NDC what Germany has to offer, I was given the chance to portray Germany on the day of Reunification, which in this year happened to be the 25. anniversary of this great moment in German history. I finished the briefing by inviting the NDC to a German cake, a “SchwarzwälderKirschtorte” (Black Forest Cherry Cake) made especially for this occasion and by inviting the commandant of NDC, the faculty and my fellow participants of course 18 to a housewarming party together with a few friends, neighbors and colleagues from the German Embassy.

More than 70 people were easily fed, watered, housed, guarded and taken care of until pretty late in the evening! The NDC supported greatly by providing transport from Karen to Runda and back and even pitching in a whole Mbuji as NyamaChoma – Thank You, John!

Just while being given a few very nice presents, the first drops of rain started to fall,- which led to a pretty solid downpour for the rest of the evening. But everybody found a place in the big house, either at the bar, on one of the couches or in front of the big screen. Obviously, my brother from Botswana did a few “Pula” wishes for me too much,- but I learned that it is considered a good sign if it rains on the housewarming party, obviously, “This is Africa” too!

Just considering there will be a life after NDC ;-) I will be seeing a lot more than just Karen, Runda and the streets between these two places. Hopefully, I will even get to look at other fine locations in Kenya and in East Africa in the years to come. I even plan to visit my friends in South-Africa and in the DRC, so I will be finally able to say: “This is Africa!”



CHALLENGES FACING POLICE OFFICERS IN KENYA



CALEB A MAIRURA

NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE - KENYA

Law enforcement is not a traditional 9 to 5 desk job, nor its ranks filled with stereotypical figures from TV and movies. Today law enforcement officers have a career environment that is diverse in opportunity, skill, talent and personnel. Policing is an activity that ensures community safety and security and that people obey the rules of the state. But there are challenges that law enforcers experience which require attention.

Police officers are empowered with awesome responsibility and authority to inter alia, preserve peace and maintain public order. The officers have the unique opportunity to engage with citizens, identify and address social problems as per the law. The result is a dynamic profession that blends tactical response, critical thinking and interpersonal skill.

Law enforcement agencies respond to tens of thousands of calls for service each year. Each day presents new challenges that require application of these various skills in new and different situations. In this regard therefore some challenges are harrowing while others are like a hall of fame. Here below are some of the challenges the police face in their daily routine.

Note; In this context the words “Law enforcement officers and Police officers” will be used interchangeably.

Housing. Accommodation is an old age problem facing law enforcement officers.

Many officers share the little accommodation facilities making it difficult for them to live with their spouses and families in their various police camps/lines. Cases of infidelity are not uncommon among the officers since most of them if not all whether married or single share the limited spaces in the camp. This becomes a very big challenge particularly on matters intimate. These officers despite lack of decent accommodation are required to be available 24/7. Ponder a child who confronts his father/mother who is an officer is reporting off duty that while you were away uncle/aunt slept on your bed.

Information Technology. Limited or lack of information technology knowledge is another crucial challenge that cannot be under estimated. The society has changed so are the criminals. Almost everything has gone digital. Criminals’ modus operandi have changed whereby they have perfected if not upped their game a notch higher. There are issues of cybercrime and other computer related crime in which criminals are engaged. However, many law enforcement officers are not computer literate thus making it an uphill task to deal with such crimes and or techno savvy criminals. Further, the use of old fashioned tools and equipment in dealing with criminals who have advanced not only in technology but also armed with modern weaponry is quite challenging to law enforcement officers

Public Mistrust/ Lack of Public Appreciation. There exists a growing sentiment in the society about the perceptions that all

law enforcement personnel are bad, corrupt, uneducated, uncultured and therefore un-trusted people. Police officers no longer earn respect and or appreciation for the little good work they render to the many levels of society. All brutal acts in the society are blamed on police laxity and yet they never volunteer information regarding the wicked amongst them. Condemning and demonstrations against law enforcement is the order of the day. Going back to family after duty, one is ambushed with neighbours who console with laughter.

Counselling. The work of law enforcement officers is not limited to maintenance of law and order but involves attending to accident scenes, murder cases, engage in operational duties or combat situations. All these leave or involve some harrowing images in which the police face or encounter almost daily. Imagine sharing a vehicle carrying corpses of people you have fatally overpowered. After such incidents officers require counselling.

Police officers carry out their work in accordance with the laws of the state. However, the conditions at workplace as aforementioned require upgrading to conform with the neighbourhood standards. Especially housing, office accommodation and modern information technology facilities to conform with changing crime trends. It is therefore imperative that people entrusted with such mandates be fairly motivated for them to be able to offer efficient and effective services.



These are the type of houses officers and their families are accommodated in

MALAWI CHIEFTAINCY SYSTEM



COL C H E SOKO

MALAWI DEFENCE FORCE

There are at least ten tribes in Malawi and each one of them has its chieftaincy hierarchy. Some of the tribes have the Paramount chiefs who are traditionally so powerful that they can even influence the voting pattern politically. These chiefs also have the powers to evict a citizen from their area of traditional jurisdiction. However, this article will focus on the ascendancy to the chieftaincy once the chief dies and each tribe follows its own rituals.

Among the Chewa, usually one of the children of the chief's sisters becomes a chief. A group of women comprising the chief's sisters are responsible for appointing a chief from a group of all the children belonging to the sisters. Once this is done, the name is presented to the community. Both men and women are eligible for chieftaincy. However, the women caucus prefers men to women because it is believed that "amuna amasunga mudzi" (men build the village) and that women will always be taken away by an educated man.

Unlike the Chewa, the Ngoni chieftaincy is given to the first-born son of the first family (where the chief had more than one wife) because, just like among the Chewa, men are the ones who keep or build the village. However, the successor of the chief in the

Sena society is supposed to be a brother/sister or eldest son/daughter of a retired/deceased chief. In the Lomwe and Yao

societies, the successor is supposed to be the nephew/niece born to the eldest sister of the retired/deceased chief. There are certain variations in terms of the actual processes of installation of a chief among the different ethnic groups in the Southern Region of Malawi which are worth noting.

Among the Lomwe tribe, the nominated chief is assessed for his/her knowledge of witchcraft. It is believed that a chief ought to be knowledgeable in witchcraft as he/she has to protect the village from witchcraft. In some areas among the Lomwe, a chief elect, if male, is requested to sleep with his sister in a ritual aimed at safeguarding the chieftaincy. Among the Yao tribe on the other hand, the nominated chief wears a headband made out of the nsanda (cloth) used for the burial of the late chief. This is a statement to the effect that the new chief is to emulate the good deeds of the late chief.

In the Northern part of Malawi and in particular Chitipa and Mzimba, only men can become Chiefs. The argument is that

females are married away and the fear is that when they are married, their husbands would be the real authority behind their wives' leadership. In Chitipa, since being a chief is a big responsibility and people intending to harm the chief are many, so many chiefs-to-be run away from the responsibility. The royal guards and his ndunas persuade the heir apparent to accept their nomination for the chieftaincy. The chief-to-be is beaten up together with his wife. If he runs away, he is followed and pestered until he accepts the position. Most people in the district say it is fun to beat up the chief-to-be because the opportunity to rough up a chief never presents itself again since after installation, the people are at his mercy. Chisekeresko (a celebration that includes dancing, beer drinking and eating) takes place at the installation of the new chief. In Mzimba, people dance Ingoma, slaughter cattle and drink beer as celebration at the installation of a new chief.

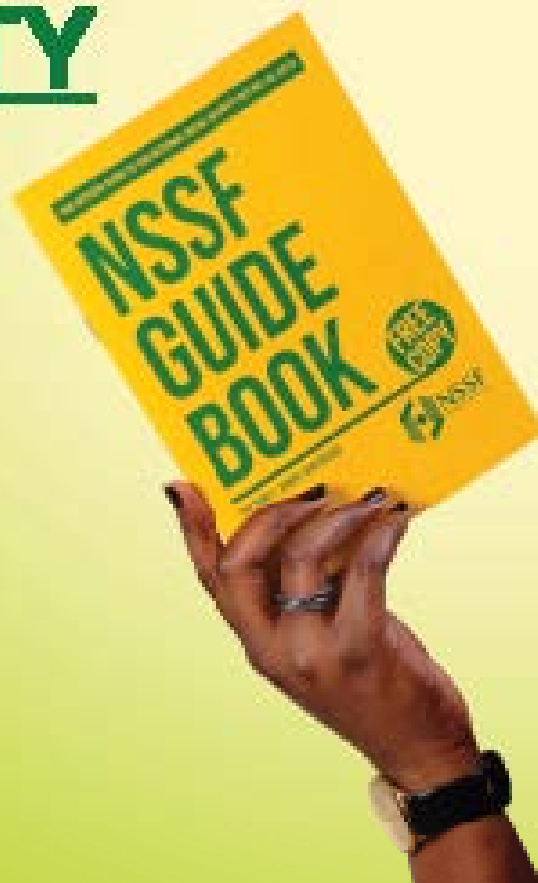
However in Nkhata Bay, both men and women could become chiefs. A matrilineal system is practiced and people look for whoever is best suited from the lineage to ascend to the throne. Although either could become chiefs, males dominate because females are said to be married away and as such the fear of giving them leadership positions is that this could amount to selling their leadership to husbands who might run affairs of the throne from behind their wives. Generally in all the areas the successors of chiefs are subject to scrutiny for good manners and legitimacy in terms of lineage. An installation ceremony is generally organised where there is some feasting, dancing and counseling of the new chief.

It is worth mentioning that all the chiefs, including village headmen and headwomen, are paid monthly salaries by the Government of Malawi. It is because of these salaries that we see a lot of court cases to day. Everyone wants to be a chief and if blocked, witchcraft takes the centre stage as mentioned in the Chitipa chiefs' fears.



Source: <https://www.google.com/search?q=www.malawi-map.com>

KNOW YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY RIGHTS



WAKATI WA KUJUA NI SABA!

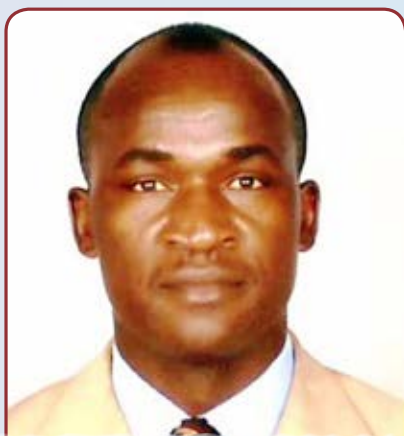
Every Kenyan aged 18 and above has a right to enjoy social security as well as the benefits that come with it. For more information, get your free copy of the official NSSF Guide book at your nearest NSSF branch or download it from www.nssf.or.ke

📞 020 2227111 / 020 2227122 📞 Toll Free 0800 070000 📱 nssf_ken 📺 nssfkenya





STRANDED IN THE MIDDLE OF CIVILIZATION



MUNYI SOSPETER
NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE - KENYA

The year 2002 brought with it mixed fortunes to my life and career in the Kenya Police Force. As a young Chief Inspector, I was privileged to be nominated for service in the Balkans for a period of one year under the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

We set out on the Wednesday 21st of February from the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport Nairobi destined for Prishtina Kosovo via London. The delighted team of 25 senior and junior officers was ready to explore the unknown horizons. Pure naïveté

was observable even from the way we managed ourselves on the queues and counters as we were checked in. None among the team members had ever set foot in London before, leave alone the little known town of Prishtina.

We landed at the London Heathrow on the morning of 22nd at 6.00am local time. At the main airport building, we met our travel agent who briefed us on the next step of our journey. We all pulled out our luggage and immediately rushed to the nearest coffee shop for a cup to beat the February cold weather. As we sipped our coffee, something peculiar was up in the air; an announcement that was repeated time and again. "Notice to all our esteemed customers. Please always ensure you have your luggage with you. Any luggage found unattended will be taken away and destroyed". This scared us and we did not exactly understand what informed this repeated announcement. It was not until our lady host alerted us that security at all the airports in Europe had been heightened following the twin tower terrorist attack in New York four months ago.

On the other hand, I could see Peter, our group senior hastily moving from one counter and office to another in the company of the host and the airport security. Our next flight was indicated to be 10.30am from Gatwick airport. We had no idea how far it was and the means we were to use to get there.

We seemed to be taking a bit too long. After a while, our agent finally alerted us that there was a hitch regarding part of our luggage. Our common luggage, 'the black box', had raised a hell of concern. As part of our luggage, we had carried small arms for use in the mission area. UNMIK was an armed mission hence the requirement for the arms. They were packed in a big black box which was well secured. Coming so soon after the US terror attack, it had to become a security issue. But really, why now? The travel company was well aware about the luggage all the way from Nairobi. It was no news to the agent.

The departure time for the next flight was quickly approaching and so far we did not have an idea where to take the connecting bus. Our host made a decision very quickly to release the rest of us to head to London Gatwick airport and leave her behind with the contingent leader to sort out what had now become a security scare. We fitted very well in the airport transit bus and sped off. It was still winter season and therefore cold and windy but not snowing.

We immediately ventured into a real different environment. Everything, from the airport, the roads, the intersections, the green farms and lawns on either side of the road, the white merino sheep, horses and all, appeared abnormally clean and orderly. There were no potholes on the road as back

home, all the traffic lights were dutifully functional, there were no police checks all the way, I couldn't find a single old smoking jalopy on the road that we used. The traffic moved so meticulously. Flying plastic paper and garbage heaps were conspicuously missing. The whole place looked so much out of synch with 'normal' life. Not even the honking of the matatus to invite passengers, nor the shouting touts. By now it had dawned upon me that I was deep into a totally different society; the core of civilization.

Forty five minutes to Gatwick seemed like only ten. On arrival, the driver came down, opened the bus' underbelly and began to bring down our luggage. We tried to extend our hand to pick the bags only for him to stop us. "Okay sir, please stop it", he told one of us. I couldn't believe it. He wanted to complete his job without interference. The old man removed all the bags, one after the other, very keenly and put them next to the entrance to the airport. When he was done, he offered a friendly smile and wished us safe flight then left. What a surprise? The old man was serving the 52 seater omnibus alone, all alone.

Our team leader and two others arrived some minutes after ten o'clock together with our good agent. They did not look so happy. They did not have the box. Was it possible to board our flight within the remaining fifteen minutes or so? I registered my doubts on this. We went to the British Airways counter to enquire only to get a rude shock; we were late for checking in and boarding. So, what next? That was the question on everybody's lips. We could not travel until Monday the following week when the next available flight was to be. It took about an hour of serious negotiation and exchange. The BA staff would not want to take responsibility at all, and neither could we. How about the box? Forget it! Our senior had been warned that the next time he would see it will be in Prishtina, not anytime before. Finally the BA staff ceded some ground and it was time to give us instructions on the agreed terms to govern our three days stay in this foreign land. "You will be booked at the Meridian hotel for three days" said the mean looking lady. "The booking will only be bed and breakfast, the other meals and subsistence will be on you. Your flight will be Monday 25th. Understood? Thank you" Although the pinching English was not so clear to me, I could sense some trouble in the statement. Our senior then sought to make it clearer as we took the elevator downstairs towards the hotel which is located just next to the north terminal and has an adjoining tunnel. One of the BA staff led the way as we rolled our bags behind him. Within five

minutes or so, we were at the hotel reception. He gave some instructions to the hotel staff and off he went.

From Nairobi, we had been given advice that would now put us into trouble. We were told we did not need money along the way since upon arrival at the mission area, we would be put in a hotel at the cost of the UN as we undertook a week long orientation training, after which we would be paid some allowance to help us settle down. So, we were advised to carry only like fifty dollars maximum. Some of us therefore did not carry any money at all. We saw some looming danger for the next three days and one could easily notice the worries on our faces. We were put in some reception room where we

**WE WENT TO THE
BRITISH AIRWAYS
COUNTER TO
ENQUIRE ONLY TO
GET A RUDE SHOCK;
WE WERE LATE
FOR CHECKING IN
AND BOARDING.
SO, WHAT NEXT?
THAT WAS THE
QUESTION ON
EVERYBODY'S LIPS.**

could ponder over our predicament together as we waited for the room keys. We pondered over our fate and so many suggestions were raised including getting in touch with the Kenyan High Commission in London. We couldn't imagine surviving for the three days in this strange land on only one meal a day; breakfast for that matter. Someone however brought some hope to the group; doubtful though. The days' manager overheard our whispers and sought to intervene. A young Zimbabwean of British extraction listened and understood our concerns. He explained to us that the hotel actually served full English breakfast which one could comfortably survive on for a day. In addition, he advised us that they provided several forms of beverages in the rooms. He however warned against interacting so much with the bar in the rooms for it would cost one a fortune. He even warned against lifting the bottles in the

bar for that could register a cost at the counter. This sounded like some good relieve. The young man was so friendly so far. After we had freshened up in the splendid rooms, we came back to our newly found friend. He advised us how to spend our days to avoid boredom in the hotel rooms. Our passports had been endorsed temporary visas for four days. He advised us to visit city centre by train if we wished or visit the south terminal of the airport by tram. The first day really dragged as all of us looked forward to that heavy breakfast. Majority of us took coffee or tea from our rooms in the evening and went to bed. We had been briefed that breakfast was normally served at six in the morning but, believe it or not, colleagues were at the restaurant by 5.00am in the morning, so eager and I believe hungry to hold the hunger pangs any longer. They had to be turned back until it was time. When time came, we literally raided the restaurant and you can imagine the damage we occasioned on the kitchen. We took a whole hour of serious stocking for the day. By the time we left the restaurant, we were too heavy to do a thing. The extra weight only led us back to bed up to around 10.00am. Through the three days, life became bearable by the day and we were able to pull through to Monday.

During the day, we would ride the tram to the south terminal and window shop or better still watch the aircrafts land and take off just to pass time. Our movement outside the airport was however limited for fear of losing our direction in the city and remember. We did not have money on ourselves. Only Mohammed managed to visit the city centre to meet a relative. He was brave enough to take the train from the airport to the city centre and back.

On Monday, we woke up fairly earlier than usual in order to prepare for the flight. We bid good bye to the kind hotel manager. It was great knowing him. By 8.00am, we were already at the BA booking office ready to begin the checking-in process. This time round, none of the team members could dare be late for even a minute. We boarded our flight and left for Prishtina city in Kosovo where we were received by fellow country men mainly police officers. Our dreaded "blackbox" was at hand upon arrival. The three days' experience was to me not just a period of suffering, but an eye opener as I enjoyed the order and beauty of virtually everything around me. Kosovo incidentally did not offer the same kind of civilized environment. No wonder the inhabitants were still misbehaving and slaughtering one another just like back in Africa. I had a whole year to live with them, learn and understand them.

VISIT TO A BOMBED SITE AFTER A TERRORIST ATTACK



GP CAPT B A SANI

NIGERIAN AIR FORCE

On 14 April 2014 at about 0645hrs, pandemonium struck in the morning in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, when a heavy explosion rocked an outskirt of the city. A dual bomb explosion took place at a crowded bus station in Nyanya town, Nasarawa state killing about 88 people and injuring at least 200. The bus station is about 8 km southwest of central area of Abuja. The explosives, which were hidden inside some vehicles, got detonated during the morning rush hour in the bus station. It was observed that the very first blast also triggered further explosions as fuel tanks in nearby vehicles ignited. The bus station serves the poor, ethnically and religiously mixed community in their daily transportation to and from the metropolitan town of Abuja.

We were briefed that several vehicles including 12 government owned high capacity luxurious buses were destroyed during the attack. Many of the luxurious buses were carrying passengers ready to convey them to Abuja when the explosion occurred. The incident occurred in the early hours of Monday, which are always the rush hours at the bus station. Immediately after the incident, rescue teams were mobilized to assist and evacuate the wounded and conveyed the corpses of the dead to the hospital. More than a 150 people were affected with many burnt corpses of the victims mangled beyond recognition.

I was then serving at the Defence Head-

quarters in Abuja. I therefore accompanied the Chief of Defence Staff and we arrived the scene of the incident by 0745 hrs. It was a horrific site to see human body parts of erstwhile normal human beings, limbs, human trunks and other mutilated body parts littered everywhere. There was still some smoke of burning human flesh and vehicles; stench and foul smell of the dead and freshly burnt human flesh filled the air. It was a sorry sight to behold. The military and the Police had cordoned off the area while ambulances and vans belonging to the Police, the Vehicle Inspection Officers, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), were busy conveying some of the corpses of the victims and injured to the hospital. Meanwhile, NEMA had warned citizens living close to the bus station to stay away from the scene of the explosion. The explosion had caused intense apprehension in Nyanya and its environs as many residents stayed indoors. Residents and the public were advised to check for relatives at various hospitals where the injured were conveyed to.

Six days after the occurrence of the blast, Boko Haram laid claim to the bombing.

Abubakar Shekau, the sect leader released a video on U-tube on 19 April 2014, claiming responsibility for the attack. Later on Interpol arrested Aminu Sadiq Ogwuche in Sudan in May 2014 on the suspicion of being the mastermind behind the bombings. The big question on my mind, of course, is how did we get here? How did we find ourselves with the situation where so many innocent children have been brain washed and ready to detonate bombs and kill themselves and others? Why are so many children not on "our side" but on the terrorists' side? I know that children often do not decide on their own but are instructed by adults. But what made the adults themselves to be easily convinced by this type of ideology? I don't think this is just religious conviction. I believe the problem is that we have a lot of people up North who are so alienated from whatever the modern world has to offer that they have nothing to lose. Well, these are questions demanding answers for another day.

It still remains unclear how the bomb was ferried to the park, however some witnesses suspected it was planted by a suicide bomber. This therefore brings me to another issue that I want to share on this page, which is how to recognize a suicide bomber. According to



Forensic Medical Nederland, in its Public Service Announcement, stated the following points as possible ways of identifying a suicide bomber:

1. The suspect most often wears loose clothing. This gives the impression that the fellow's body is disproportionately larger than the feet and head.
2. Wears heavy clothing, notwithstanding the weather (out of season dress). For instance, a fellow wearing a rain coat or sweater in a hot weather; or a baggy clothes or slacks. This dress makes the body frames appear too excessive and larger than their feet or head, which makes them, sweat profusely.
3. Has an unusual gait, a "robotic" walk. Movements are very stiff with a lack of or reduced flexibility of the lower torso, possibly from carrying a bomb device, however backpacks are increasingly common.
4. Display of tunnel vision. The suspect will often appear fixated on a target, with a nervous, preoccupied and or a blank stare.
5. The suspect also appears vigilant and focused as if praying to him/herself – giving an impression of whispering to someone.
6. Displays no form of response to any authoritative voice or direct salutation; just in a world of his/her own.
7. The behavior may be consistent with no future, unconcerned and aloof.
8. Walks with a deliberation, but not running, towards a visible objective.
9. Demonstrates forceful actions by pushing he/her way through a crowd or restricted area to reach a desired target.
10. Shows some signs of drug use, which may include erratic behaviour, restlessness, enlarged eye pupils and a fixed stare.
11. Carries bags or backpacks, used for carrying explosives, nails, and other shrapnel. The bomber generally holds his or her bag or backpack tightly; sometimes with wires sticking out of the bag.
12. If a male, may have a lighter skin on his lower face and a fresh shave or a short haircut in which case will serve to disguise the appearance or look well groomed when going to paradise.
13. May also have smell of some unusual flower/herbal water, in order to have a smell better when going to paradise.
14. May possibly have a hand in the pocket or a tight grip on something like a bomb device.

It is pertinent to state here therefore that security is everybody's business/responsibility and therefore you are advised to always be on the lookout, especially in trains, planes, buses, malls, markets and large events!

THE CULTURE OF THE ZIMBABWE



JOHN KYOVI MUTUA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS-

African culture is replicate with mystical beliefs, vigorous dance, colourful dress and imaginative diets that cut across the continent. These elements have featured prominently when African countries promote visits, more so touristic visits to their scenic and mostly panoramic destinations. In as much as there is commonality, each of the cultures in their respective countries are unique to the particular inhabitants.

Following a strenuous decade or so, stability is returning to Zimbabwe hence tourists are gradually trickling back to the country. They are richly rewarded for their endeavors: with its fascinating heritage, good climate, abundance of natural wonders and welcoming locals, Zimbabwe is one of the most remarkable countries in Africa. On arrival in Zimbabwe you will be accosted by joyful greetings by some of the friendliest people on earth. Making your way through Zimbabwe's cities, markets and villages, one thing always remains the same. Wherever you go, you will be constantly surrounded by warm and friendly people, always wearing a smile and willing to lend a helping hand.

Zimbabwe as a country is filled with rich and diverse cultures with the largest ethnic group being the Shona who occupy the northern parts of the country. They possess and showcase many carvings of gods and sculptures which are made with fine hard woods. The Ndebele people live in

the western regions. Besides the Shona and Ndebele, there are many other minority ethnic groupings strung across the country, all sharing the encompassing commonness in the diversity of their cultures.

The country has enviably tried to preserve their people's traditional ways of life including a number of shared core beliefs. This is evident in their many types of food and various ways of preparation; myriad songs and dance types; a varied diversity in marriage rites and ceremonies; multiple ways of establishing relations and social hierarchies and attendant obligations within multiple cultures even though the details may differ. The spiritual world plays a significant role in the Zimbabwean and remarkably, during the country's fight for independence, the majority of Zimbabwe's tribes called upon ancestral protector spirits to their aid at war. Obviously, numerous traditional dances from the country will tell a story. For a case in point, the Shona have the Mbende-Jerusarema dance, a UNESCO - Intangible Cultural Heritage for Humanity; the Ndebele are famous for their Isitshikitsha dance while the Chokwe people who live around Victoria Falls are famous for the Makishi dance.

Consequently, these dances present a unique depiction of Zimbabwe's traditional arts and culture as the very pulse of the nation; Their rhythm and beat the heart and soul of Zimbabwe and are hosted in various festivals throughout the year these is despite 85 percent of the population being predominantly Christian, mostly Roman Catholic, the Church of England with Seventh-day Adventists and Methodists making up the remainder with 1 percent who identify as Muslim.

As in most of Southern African region, food in Zimbabwe is simply awesome with the core staple being corn, and most dishes are made with either Braai or cornmeal, usually mixed with water to produce a paste known as Bota. Aside from Bota, Zimbabweans rely on dried fish, known as Kapenta which is the equivalent of Omena in Kenya, or a lightly-curdled milk known as mukaka wakakora (Mursik in Kenya) this is supplemented with various vegetables and boiled or barbequed beef or goat and the occasional Biltong.



CHIEF LOGISTIC OFFICER AFRICAN UNION MISSION IN SOMALIA

Introduction

It all started with my nomination and appointment by Army headquarters to take over the duties of Chief Logistic Officer (CLO) from a Kenyan senior officer who was rotating out after his tour of duty was over. There were 12 other Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) officers who were also to take over various appointments at the Force Headquarters in Mogadishu. Immediately we reported for a pre – deployment course at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) at Karen Kenya for three weeks. The course was conducted for all officers including those from other Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs). The other TCCs were: Burundi, Uganda and Djibouti. All of us (KDF) officers reported to Mogadishu on 1st August, 2013 and took over the duties. It is on this background that I would like to briefly share the encounter and experience as CLO African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Organization and Duties of Logistics Branch - AMISOM

The logistics branch was organized as follows: The chief logistic officer was the head, followed by a deputy then there were five other officers heading each sub branch



COL D F O MCOKECH

KENYA ARMY

and all were answerable to the chief logistic officer (CLO) myself. The sub branches were: plans, country owned equipment (COE), equipment support (ES), Board of Survey (BOS), and Logistics (stores). The duties of the logistic branch was to sustain the forces throughout the mission period. To achieve this some of the specific duties were: To advise the force commander on all matters pertaining to military logistics support, directs, coordinates and supervise the administration and management of techni-

cal mission support, logistical support and operational services.

Mission Implementation Plan (MIP)

The mission implementation plan served as a road - map for implementation and alignment of AMISOM efforts and resources towards achieving the mandate. The main aim of MIP was to analyze the dynamics in the political, security, humanitarian and administrative environment to identify objectives, priorities and tasks. From this, the departmental priorities, tasks, work plan and projects were derived and aligned to the overall mandate, strategic concept and operational imperatives. Due to the budgetary implication, the MIP fell within the docket of the CLO.

Mission Support Concept

The AMISOM comprised of three components namely : The civilian, military and police components. The United Nations Provided Mission Support through the United Nations Support Office of Amisom (UNSOA) for all the components. This was done through the UN assessed contribution and Trust Fund for AMISOM in accordance to memorandum of understanding(MOU) between the African Union (AU) and United Nations(UN). The two key posts in this

arrangement were those of Head of Somali Support (HSS) representing the UN and Chief Joint Support Operation Centre (CJSOC) representing AU. The chief logistic officer referred all logistic requirements to CJSOC who would in turn refer and coordinate with the HSS. The concept was based on field support network consisting of logistic bases for bases at Mombasa and Mogadishu, sector hubs for sector headquarters and sub - hub for Battalion locations (sub sector). The challenges faced were mainly on distribution of supplies to forward locations especially to hubs and sub - hubs in the four vast sectors (1 – 4).

To reduce this challenge the supplies were organized in 28 days of supply and broken into two deliveries of 14 days of supply each. Due to the security situation sometimes the deliveries had to be done by air which again posed constraints due to few air assets. This kind of scenario required the CLO's office to have a thorough forward planning and coordination with the CJSOC for success and achievement of the mission support.

Security Situation

The security situation in Mogadishu and the entire area of operation was bad and kept on fluctuating day by day between bad and worse due to Al shabaab activities. Since our arrival in Mogadishu on 1st August 2013, I went out of the Mogadishu Base camp located at the International airport only three times by road, all other times

DUE TO THE SECURITY SITUATION SOMETIMES THE DELIVERIES HAD TO BE DONE BY AIR WHICH AGAIN POSED CONSTRAINTS DUE TO FEW AIR ASSETS.

were by air. Going out of the camp was not easy and we had to use Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) at least three in a convoy. Despite leaving the camp using APCs, there was no stopping or alighting on the streets of Mogadishu (unless for operations only) until the next military camp. Confinement due to security restricted daily movement to the accommodation, mess and the offices only. This made life difficult and boring, all personnel in the mission area were always excited and happy to get out even if it was only for a day or two.

Challenges

There were many challenges in this mission (AMISOM) and some of the key challenges to the logistics were: Lack of force enablers, the force structure did not include

a logistic unit or camp administration unit. This made distribution of stores within and outside the base very difficult. We had to improvise contingents' assets which again deprived them of the services of same. Another challenge was the non availability of certain items in the market and long lead time for supplies. There was need to identify alternatives and also make an elaborate forward planning and budgeting. Finally the restriction on main supply routes (MSRs) due to insecurity and poor state in all sectors aggravated the challenge of distributions. The only alternative left was to use air for the deliveries/distribution to the sectors which again had a negative impact on scarce air assets having more ground time for maintenance.

Conclusion

This was a very difficult mission especially for a chief logistic officer who had to ensure that all the right services and commodities are delivered at the right place, right time and in right condition. The major challenges on logistic were those caused by lack of force enablers and the MSRs especially during wet seasons as this delayed the supplies from reaching the destination on time. Besides this was the experience of restriction and confinement which worked against the morale of all at the force headquarters. Despite all the hardships and challenges, God the Almighty was with us and we all came back safely without any incident



DUSK TO DAWN AT A BORDER CONTROL POST



MS. PAMELA OTENYO

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

It is an extremely hectic night with three important international airlines having landed within intervals of thirty minutes and the international arrival hall is filled to capacity. The departure terminal is likewise very demanding because the same airlines are expected to depart shortly. It is 20:00hrs in the evening.

Suddenly, I hear some commotion at the international arrivals banking hall, I quickly go out to check and find a young good looking lady dressed in a long brown dress with a black scarf over her head. She calls herself Hannah* and says her life is in danger and there are people running after her. She does not wish to talk to anyone and could not submit to any immigration checks. I seek assis-

tance from the airport Port Health clinic and took her to a secluded room. At that moment, a lady passenger from the same flight offers some useful information by telling us that Hannah has been in jail in one of the countries in the Middle East and is on deportation or is being repatriated back home since she has served her sentence at a jail already. The only luggage she has is a small dilapidated plastic bag with one ancient looking dress and a few personal effects. The good Samaritan passenger does not know much about Hannah because they only met before boarding the plane at the airport in the Middle East. Hannah had been escorted by a few people who looked like Government officials from their former residence and was handed over to the airline staff. Fortunately, Hannah had a cell phone with a lot of useful contacts.

The problem is, even though Hannah's surname is a common name found in Central Kenya, Hannah can not speak any local language, she speaks a language that sounds like Arabic and keeps shouting at the top of her voice and jumping up and down as if she is possessed by demons. She is holding tight to some papers which she will not let us see. When she finally agrees to speak to us, she speaks to us in Kiswahili she tells us that the papers she has should be delivered to president and that she "would like them to be covered neatly". Hannah is out of her mind and is in another world. While the health officials are doing their assessment of her condition, we find her father's telephone contact numbers. We then get in touch with him and he acknowledges that she is truly his daughter and informs us that she left the country about three months ago "in search of greener pastures" against her parents' advice. He then informs us that he will come to Nairobi the following morning to pick her up. The only choice left for us now is to keep her at the clinic as we wait for her next of kin's arrival.

I am called back to the office and when I get there, I find yet another young girl, Ambiyi* about nineteen years old together with her "sponsor" an older lady. Ambiyi was at the Departure terminal trying to leave the country for the

Middle East using another person's passport. A vigilant officer noticed the anomaly and on further interrogation, Ambiyi was asked to call her "sponsor" who was still hovering around the airport. It turns out that the sponsor was paid to "escort" Ambiyi to the airport because Ambiyi is from Western Kenya and this is her first time in Nairobi, well that is what she tells us. She alleges to have never applied for a travel document and is not even sure about where she is going to but has been informed that a Ms. Khambuja* will be waiting to receive her at her final destination and will give her a job as a house helper for a "very rich" Arab family. She has been promised a salary of Ksh 25,000.00 per month and a lot of pleasantries. Her parents paid some money to a "recruiting agent" for some companies in the Middle East. This is a complicated case, Ambiyi and her sponsor will have to spend the night in our holding facility till morning so that our Investigations and Prosecutions Section at the Head Office can carry out further investigations.

It has been hardly one hour since I reported on duty but today looks like a very exciting night. I look at the scheduled flights for the day and noticed that there is a budget airline that comes once a week from Southern Asia that should be arriving in thirty minutes time. I ask a colleague to accompany me to the arrival gate so that we can conduct an impromptu security check before the passengers get into "no man's land". This flight is on schedule and the passengers' stream in one by one. We notice a group of about fifteen passengers between the ages of twenty one to twenty eight who seem to have a similar itinerary and are walking close to each other. They inform us that they are on transit to a country in the Southern part of Africa. However, their tickets look suspicious and the flight they should have connected onto left about an hour ago. We withdraw the passengers' passports and take them to a waiting area as we check with the airline about the authenticity of these tickets. To our amazement, we confirm that the tickets are not valid because apparently they were reserved but only one sector of the trip was paid for. This is a possible case of trafficking or smuggling, so we indemnify the carrier and declare these passengers Prohibited Immigrants and send them back to their point



of origin on the same flight.

At about 23.00hrs, we hear some shouting at the arrival banking hall. This time it is from a middle aged African man who says he is a Kenyan and will not pay for a visa to enter “my homeland”. I ask the young officer at the booth who looks terrified by the passenger what the problem is and he explains that even though the passenger has a “Kenyan name and place of birth”, he is travelling on an American passport. I take Mr. Fisi* into my office and request him to provide us with any documentary proof of his Kenyan nationality. Mr. Fisi alleges he cannot speak any of local language due the fact that he lived in the USA for many years, but speaks with an American accent with traces of his Kenyan dialect and insists his name is proof of his nationality. I politely show him the relevant article in Kenya’s new Constitution that requires those who voluntarily acquired another nationality of their need to apply to regain their Kenyan citizenship. Mr. Fisi is cornered and after uttering some unprintable insults, he grudgingly pays the USD50.00 for a visa and promises to “deal with us” when he returns.

While all this is happening, a regional flight arrives with a transit passenger who is ineligible to enter the country but has a sick baby who has difficulties in breathing. We need an ambulance and once again the Port Health officials give us a confirmation of the medical condition of the ineligible passenger and we are obliged to issue a temporary entry pass to allow the child to be taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Hannah’s father and brother (that is the lady from the Middle East) finally arrive at almost 06.00Hrs and when she sees them, she does not recognize anyone and continues to speak in Arabic. They take her away and promise to take her to hospital immediately. We will never know what happened to Hannah who left Kenya only three months ago as a healthy normal girl but has returned as a mentally ill person. The family is however grateful that she is alive.

An Immigration officer’s job can be both interesting and challenging as that of many other agencies who work at our busy border control points. Immigration is an important function of the State and strict immigration controls are necessary to ensure that the country is safe and secure. A safe country will also help the country grow economically due to a peaceful environment. Both entry and exit points should conform to international best practices because as Tony Blair says, “A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in.... and how many want out”...

THE KING AND 99 CLUB



COL JULIUS GAMBOSI

TANZANIA PEOPLES DEFENCE FORCES

Once upon a time, there lived a King who despite his luxurious lifestyle was neither happy nor contented. One day he come upon a servant by name Massanja who was singing happily while he worked. This fascinated the King why he the supreme ruler of the land was unhappy and gloomy while a lowly servant had so much joy! The King asked the servant, why are you so happy”? The man replied, Your Majesty, I am nothing but a servant, but my family and I don’t need too much but just a roof over our heads and warm food to fill our tummies.

The King sought the advice from his most trusted advisor. After hearing the story, the advisor said, “Your Majesty, The servant has not joined The 99 club”. The 99 club “what is that”? The King inquired. The advi-

sor replied, to truly know what the 99 club is just place 99 Gold coins in a bag and leave it at the servant’s door doorsteps then you will see what will happen. As he was advised the King placed 99 gold coins in a bag and left it at his servant door step. When the servant saw the bag, he let out a great shout of joy, so many coins! and began to count them. After counting several times he was at least convinced that there were only 99 coins. He wondered, what could’ve happened to that last gold coin! Surely no one would leave 99 coins! He looked everywhere he could, but that final coin was elusive. Finally he decided from that day he was going to work harder than ever to earn that 100th gold coin.

From that day, the servant was a changed man, He was overworked, grumpy, and blamed his family for not helping him make that 100th gold coin and he had stopped singing while working. Witnessing this drastic transformation, The King was puzzled. The advisor said, “You Majesty, the servant has now officially joined the 99 club”. He continued, The 99 club is a name given to those people who have enough to be happy but are never contented, because they always wanting that extra one saying to themselves, “let me get that one final thing and then I will be happy for life”. We can be happy with very little in our lives, but the minutes we’re given something bigger and better we want more and even more! We lose our sleep and happiness, all those as the price for our growing needs and desires. That is the 99 clubs Zero membership fees to enter but you pay for it with your entire life.



DETERMINATION KNOWS NO BARRIER



MUTHIKE NDAMBUKI

KENYA- MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND
COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

I always remember my mother and how she always encouraged me to face life's difficulties in a positive way. I clearly recall what she told my brothers and I to be bold and never to give up in times of trial and tribulation. There is a particular story she liked narrating to us that we should stand firm and not allow difficult times to

overwhelm us. The following story still lingers in my mind and I feel obliged to share it.

There was an old man who had a very old mule. One day while the mule was grazing in the field it slipped and fell into a pit. The mule brayed so loudly the old man heard and rushed only to find the mule coiled in the pit crying for assistance. The pit was very deep so the old man called his neighbours and friends to come and help him remove the old mule from the pit. The neighbours came and tried all means to remove the mule from the pit to no avail. They tried to tie it with rope but the donkey was too heavy, so it continued to bray. So the old man weighed the situation and decided that since the mule had grown so old and was no longer of any help to him, so he decided to bury the life mule in that pit and since they had tried all means to assist the old mule to no avail. So he discussed with the neighbours and so they started to cover the pit with soil and debris. At first the old mule brayed and brayed hysterically

as the soil started to hit it on the body as the friends of its master continued to put shovels of soil in the pit. But then it happened that as they continued to pour soil inside the pit the old mule would shake it from his back and move one step up all of a sudden the mule stopped braying and it seemed to enjoy what its enemies were doing that is their intention to bury it alive seemed to be a blessing in disguise. The man didn't seem to realize that the mule was just stepping up after every shovel of debris and soil thrown in the pit. The old mule kept on stepping up no matter how hard the stones hurt its old back. It just encouraged itself and determined that it was heading to its freedom. So relentlessly the men poured soil on top of the mule and the mule kept on stepping up until it stepped out of the pit successfully to the amazement of its adversaries. The mule was exhausted and tired and weak. But it brayed triumphantly to freedom and ran away. Then men just laughed at the dexterity of the old mule and its determination to overcome all odds.

The donkey had handled its adversity without fear or despair and kept on pressing on without giving up. My mother encouraged us with this parable when problem seemed to beset us. She could tell us to always to face problems head on and positively and always to refuse to give in to panic and bitterness or self-pity. She could tell us to be determined in every challenge, for troubles if handled without despair are stepping stones to success.

If the mule had allowed itself to be buried alive without taking any action then its fate would have been sealed by the master and his cruel neighbours but it opted to step up when they shovelled handful of soil and debris over its back. The moral teaching of this story is that we should always stand firm in times of trouble and not relent or give up times of trial. DETERMINATION KNOWS NO BARRIER.





PATRICK G MUCHAI

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE - KENYA

National Defence College (K)

As serene as sobriety surrounds, so

Tenaciously discipline reigns amid

Inherent charismatic command with

Old hands in the game ruling the air.

National world personalities traverse
seas and oceans, searching for this

Academic spring, ready to
nourish and water their

Leadership and policy making prowess

Discipline becomes the guide and

Excellent teamwork a virtue in this

Fight for transnational knowledge.

Everyone is a brother and sister
and God for us all in NDC (K).

National Defence College
of Kenya, where

Colour, class, race and negative

Ethnicity were denied admission.

Cognizant of conditions, and
terrains, come with me.

Others won the battle ere 2015,
the Year of our

Lord, but not without
valour and vigour.

Laxity kills the zeal of the team.

Enduring entirely is the name of the

Game of our choice and with unity,

Everything is do- able at the

National Defence College (K)

WHICH WAY?



NANCY KABETE
KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

Yes, a mother and a wife, give me a break, and a wildlife officer! Crazy it sounds? It makes me feel like I am riding a see-saw sometimes. My family on one side and my job on the other side. I can tell you for sure very rarely has the see-saw been horizontal and balanced for any length of time. Dear reader, while I talk about motherhood here, it is by No means I want to suggest that this is only a plague for women, so it does to you men.

When I write this newsletter, I vividly recall a 24 year old ranger and a mother of two beautiful children who was charged (Orderly Procedure Room) for failure to deploy on an over-night duty because her childcare help had fallen through, the penalty is her monthly pay less a few coins. Before you proceed further, please take note that I am not here to judge this ranger or the organization's response, reason being I am not privy to all the details. The only question I intend to explore is whether it was poor planning on her part or was it the organization's excessive rigidity?

Now, ladies and gentlemen, a simple question to you all, "what was more important, work or family?" I can confidently tell each one's thought, I have no intention of guessing but my guess is as good as your answer, 99.9999..... percent have an inner thought and call to say "family first", you are free to give your opinion and every opinion is varied. But ask yourself what does it mean to have your family come first? Consider these two perspectives; are you measuring your answer by the time you spend together with

your family? Or providing good opportunities for them thus requiring long hours away and for a ranger sometimes translating to months of protecting rhinos if one happen to be deployed in a rhino sanctuary.

The question and the perspective I want to argue with is a clear indication that my answer is perpendicularly aligned to yours. Putting a family first for me it can take many dimensions. One, the organization may be the bridge for the provision of educational opportunities and job security that one may not be in a position to give in seemingly other settings. My take here is that doing work that contributes to service to others can teach children the importance of service, sacrifice and above all selflessness. There is no one-size-fits-all way and one need to find a solution that works for the family.

One day I was seating on a city council public bench near city hall in Nairobi waiting for a friend of mine who had travelled from upcountry to pay me a visit or rather taste the sweet city life as one can describe it from the village way of thinking. As I sat patiently, a middle aged woman made herself comfortable next to me. We exchanged greetings and as if we had met before, we proceeded to talk. After a while she asked me whether she could secure a house help job with me. Unfortunately it couldn't be possible. However from her I learnt she had been doing this work for several years here in Nairobi in order to send money back to her home village in Makueni County where her elderly mother was raising her children. This got me thinking how many men and women come to the city of Nairobi without their children or family in order to offer them a better life.

When I was barely five years of age, I came to understand why Grace my dearest friend always had her both parents at home,

while for my siblings and I, we rarely saw our father and it only happened a month or so in every year. We lived with our mother, and as if my mother did not want me around, she again through my father made the decision to take me away from the other family members and put me into a boarding school. I hated boarding school life and at some point I wondered if my parents didn't think I needed them. The questions one would ask here are, what balance did my father have to leave us under the care of our illiterate mother while he worked far away? Secondly, what balance did my parents have to put me in a boarding school where life seemed so difficult for me? Looking at the scenario at face value I did not have an opportunity to have my father close to me like my friend Grace since he had left for the city of Nairobi because of "endless opportunities." I was kept away from my other family members and left to contend with the hard life of boarding school. I keep asking myself this one question "would it have been better to have been raised close to my family and to an extension, "my clan" but in a village where my parents felt my future would be limited?" What about if my father didn't see the need to seek the "endless opportunities" in the city and decided to stay in the village and go for what Mututho describe as an outlawed activity to engage in, just as Grace's father decided to and left the family at the mercy of God; no food, clothing or education for a better future. Looking at my life today I feel grateful for the decision my parents made.

Indeed I find many parents struggling to identify a "perfect balance" their anxiety exacerbated by belief that there is actually a perfect balance, and they want to be the "BEST PARENTS" and professional they can be! They "just know" that the solution to their "problem" is out there and it is just a matter of finding it. What I find myself saying to you as well as to myself is that often the solution to many of these problems is this: Accept there isn't (or may never be) a solution and just enjoy the adventure on the playground. As I balance motherhood, wife and my career life, I remind myself that "good enough has to be good enough" or don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. I may not return your evening call just because I am helping my children with their homework. My conclusion and advice to you all out there trying to balance family and work, we can do it all "BUT JUST NOT AT THE SAME TIME!!"

**I REMIND MYSELF
THAT "GOOD
ENOUGH HAS TO
BE GOOD ENOUGH"
OR DON'T LET
THE PERFECT BE
THE ENEMY OF
THE GOOD.**