

UHDHA Newsletter

UPPER HILL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Issue 5

APRIL– JUNE 2015

WELCOME NOTE

Thank you for making the February 25th Stakeholder's Forum a success. A lot was discussed and shared which were highlighted in the minutes that will be shared soon.

We take the opportunity to introduce and welcome our new member, Kenya Women Microfinance Bank who joined us early in the year.

In this edition Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company gives us an insight on the sewerage in Upperhill. Also we continue with the second series of a Resident's perspective of Upperhill and the Nairobi City County Column which gives a brief on the new decongestion plan.

The 2014 Financial Audit is almost being finalized and we will soon be sharing the

financials, in the meantime please ensure that you pay up the annual subscription in good time. 🌱

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THE PRESENT UPPERHILL: A RESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



By @Eugene_Okumu

Upperhill has changed: gone are the many brown stone bungalows along Kenya, Elgon, Kilimanjaro, Mara and Hospital Roads. In their place, now stands impressive steel and glass office blocks that are home to the who's who of Kenya's corporate scene.

There is a mass exodus of Banks, Insurance companies, Embassies, Hotels and other corporates from Nairobi's CBD into what is now known as The Nairobi Financial District. The quaint narrow roads that wound their way through our neighbourhood are largely gone or soon will be. Apart from a handful of high rise apartment blocks along Kiambere Road, there has been hardly any new construction of residential space in the neighborhood. What is now being created here is a 'City within a City'

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SECURITY

During the Stakeholder's Forum, Capitol Hill Deputy OCS brought to our attention the many reports the station had received of security guards harassing members of the public.

In 2014, the Daily Nation Newspaper wrote that the first suspects in cases of theft or robbery in Nairobi were security guards. The newspaper attributed this to poor or little payment that they received as well as being over worked.

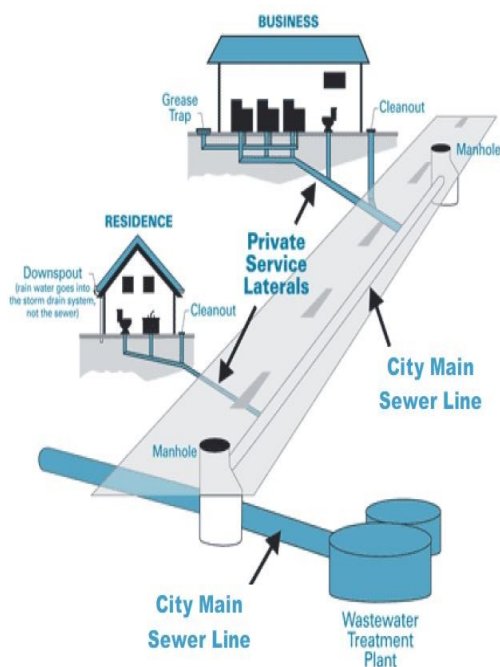
Evidently, our security guards protect property worth millions of shillings and yet earn less than KES 10,000/- per month.



To seal security threats that are caused by these security guards, the Deputy OCS emphasized on the need to vet them to ensure that we know the people we are hiring to protect us and our property.

The Daily Nation concluded the article by noting that a good pay and proper treatment motivated the security guards enough for them to not fall into temptation and commit crime. After all, they are only human and the uniforms don't make them any less. 🌍

UPPERHILL SEWERAGE



Upperhill on various occasions has suffered many sewer leaks and while we may assume that the Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company is to blame for poor sewer systems, the blame is equally ours. According to the Nairobi Water and Sewerage

Official for Upperhill, the biggest cause for sewage leaks in the District is user abuse of the systems by dumping polythene or plastic that clog the pipes which consequently cause the leaks.

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of sewer service laterals from

their buildings until the pipes transition onto public property. Therefore, landlords should educate tenants on proper garbage disposals, especially plastics and polythene, to prevent blockages in the pipes. 🌍

A Hilly Affair -HILLPARK HOTEL



Once upon a time, back in the 1970s, Hillpark Hotel were apartments until 2007 when they transformed to the hotel that it is now. We got the chance to know them a little.

Three words best describe the hotel

Serene. Unique. Homely

What makes you guys stand out?

Our well lawned gardens that still have the traditional mature trees create a warm and pleasant atmosphere marking us as the excellent location to unwind.

Complete the sentences:

We started out with serviced apartments.

We are very good in treating every guest as family

The last time I was at Hillpark it felt like home.

Why Upperhill as one of your locations?

The strategic location with the proximity to the city centre, airport, industrial area, national park and Upperhill corporate hub makes ideal for the business not to mention the serene environment.

If we are sitting here five years from now, celebrating Hillpark achievement, what success would that be?



5 years from now Upperhill will be really developed scraping away that homely touch, so we would definitely be celebrating being a modern facility with the traditional homely ambience ;think a homely city hotel away from the city.

"Serene

Unique

Homely"

Do you have things done the Hillpark way?

Of course. No one does a barbeque like us, we have a classic barbeque every Wednesday that will leave you craving for more not to mention we happen to be the only modern hotel in the area offering traditional *nyama choma* that has *mutura* (traditional sausage) every Friday. Our services are also tailor made to suit the customer as we have staff who are willing to go the extra mile for a guest.



Telephone: 020 344194
www.nairobi.go.ke



City Hall
 P.O Box 30075-00100
 Nairobi, Kenya

NCC COLUMN: NEW RADICAL MEASURES TO DECONGEST NAIROBI

GOVERNORS OFFICE

Recently, the Nairobi City County and the National Government jointly announced a raft of new measures to decongest Nairobi. The measures which cover the immediate, medium and long term include a fresh re-design of the city's mass transport system and an expansive road building and improvement project within Nairobi and its environs. Notably, the county is in the process of buying high capacity buses as one of the measures to eliminate the never ending jams which this county over

While unveiling the drastic measures, the County Governor, Dr. Evans Kidero said that the increase in population and spatial growth are not matched by infrastructure growth, Nairobi is slowly degenerating into an unproductive stasis and lethargy. He added, "Traffic jams already cost our economy about \$1 billion annually. Nairobi is too important to be allowed to drown in gridlock. We must act fast to get Nairobi working and moving again."

Starting immediately and within the next three months, PSVs (Public service vehicles) found floating the rules will have their licenses revoked. An intra-agency team will be constituted to police roads within the Nairobi metropolitan area (Nairobi City and its satellite towns). PSVs will be allowed just five minutes at the bus stops and 40 minutes at termini to drop and pick passengers. Also key shall be the gazettement of new routes and termini.

Also prioritized for immediate action is the conversion of roundabouts into signalized junctions, with the city's main arterial roads being targeted, starting with Mombasa Road- Uhuru Highway-Waiyaki Way. The report also suggests massive traffic re-configuration both at these junctions and within the CBD (Central Business District).

If the authorities have their way, no new PSVs will be licensed, while handcarts and trolleys have been banned from city roads. The Police and NCCG personnel will be trained on traffic management from a Control Centre. The removal of bumps and potholes on key roads and better signage are also listed among the "quick wins."

The measures are contained in a report by a special task force appointed by both governments to come up with ways of de-congesting the city. The Taskforce on Nairobi Decongestion was headed by Nairobi City County CECM (County Executive Committee Member) for ROADS AND Transport, Mohamed Abdullahi.

The move comes at a time when Nairobi is experiencing unprecedented and heavy traffic jams, on the back of the recent falls in the price of fuel and a huge and growing vehicular traffic, largely composed of private cars.

#UPPERHILL THROUGH THE LENS



(contd.)

THE PRESENT UPPERHILL: A RESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

With this massive shift from residential to commercial land use and development also comes some not positive changes for Upperhill residents.

Gone are the days of unlimited supply of water. Day time demand for water has soared against an unchanged supply from the county and today the area suffers acute daytime shortages.

Similarly, traffic jams have become a constant feature of life in Upperhill. The gridlock is not only due transit traffic through Upperhill to and from other parts of Nairobi but also 'internally generated traffic' from people who work in the area. It is hoped that the new roads will accommodate this increase in both motorized and non-motorized traffic. The neighborhood is still

relatively secure with only the occasional break in here and there. The Capitol Hill Police Post has been elevated to a full Police Station under the Kilimani Police Division and it is the hope of many Upperhill stakeholders that an upgrade of housing units, number of officers and patrol vehicles similarly occurs soon.

Despite the changes taking place, Upperhill today is still a wonderful place to live. It's a 10 minute walk to town, relatively secure and architecturally stunning. It has great hotels and if you enjoy your tippie, a couple of decent pubs.



By Alan Majisu

UHDA MEMBERS



MENNO PLAZA LTD.



LEO INVESTMENTS LTD.



SEALINK HOLDINGS LTD.



EUROSWISS LTD.



KIAMBERE MANAGEMENT LTD.



ROYAL NGAO HOLDINGS LTD



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Eagle Africa Centre |
5th Floor | Longonot Road
P. O. Box 38922-00100 GPO,
Nairobi



UHDA

Phone: +254 739584765

E-mail: upperhill@uhda.or.ke



@uhda_KE