



# Newsletter

Embassy of Belgium in Kenya

April 2019

## A word from the Ambassador



Dear Belgians, Dear Friends,

For the sixth time, the embassy managed to bring a touch of Belgian talent to the International Jazz Festival in Nairobi. All those who attended the concerts of Toine thys Trio in February will certainly testify how good these musicians are.

March saw the opening and the successful conclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Assembly for the Environment in Nairobi. Our country was represented at a high level thanks to the presence of Federal Minister for Energy and Environment Marie-Christine Marghem. During the same month, I had the privilege to take part in the first political dialogue ever between Somalia and the European Union, during which Prime Minister Hassan Khaire confirmed the crucial role that the EU plays in the rebuilding of his country. In addition, my colleague Noëmi Ral travelled to Asmara to attend the political dialogue between Eritrea and the EU. Next month, I will have the pleasure to fly back to Madagascar to lead an economic mission organized by AWEX (Trade Agency of the Region of



## A touch of Belgian Jazz in Kenya

From 11 till 17 February 2019, the buzzing city of Nairobi turned all jazzy. With more than nine bands from across the world - including the Belgian band Toine Thys Trio feat. Herve Samb - the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Safaricom International Jazz festival was a great success, entertaining thousands of jazz lovers.

For the past six years, the Embassy of Belgium in Nairobi has been a key partner of the Jazz festival. The main aim of this Jazz festival is not only to let a Kenyan audience enjoy jazz from all corners of the world, but also to merry for a good cause. All proceedings of the Festival go to Ghetto Classics, a community program that involves over 500 children in Korogocho – one of Kenya's biggest slums which is home to about 300,000 urban poor. Ghetto Classics provides the youth with music education in order to provide them with opportunities to better themselves and their community.

[Click here](#) to view some photos of the Belgian Jazz night.

Wallonia) and follow up on the state to state loan provided by our country.

The dry season has been dragging on in Kenya. I wish all of us a good deal of rain !

Best regards,  
Nicolas Nihon



## Prof Dr Marleen Temmerman appointed as UNESCO Chair on Youth Leadership

On 1 April, UNESCO appointed our fellow compatriot Prof Dr Marleen Temmerman as its Chair on Youth Leadership in Science, Health, Gender and Education. In her new role, Prof Temmerman is expected to empower young leaders and contribute to policies and development programmes on health and education amongst the youth in alignment with UNESCO's priorities to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Read more [here](#).

**180,000 Belgian citizens living abroad are registered for the federal and European elections 2019**

**180 000 citoyens belges résidant à l'étranger sont inscrits aux élections fédérales et européennes de 2019**

**180.000 Belgen in het buitenland hebben zich voor de federale en Europese verkiezingen in 2019 geregistreerd**

**180.000 Belgier im Ausland sind für die Föderal- und Europawahl 2019 angemeldet**



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Consular News



## Special Education Professionals (SEP) - Fashion show

On 27 April, from 2 - 5pm, Special Education Professionals (SEP) organizes at the Tamarind Tree Hotel (Langata Road), a special fashion show by children living with disabilities.

Our compatriot Karolien Remmerie is one of the driving forces behind SEP, an organization of therapists and special needs teachers who work in a multidisciplinary team, applying a transdisciplinary approach.

For more information, visit <http://www.sepkenya.com>



## 29th European Film Festival in Kenya

From 3 - 26 May 2019, our Embassy will participate in the 29th edition of the European Film Festival in Kenya. Different locations across Nairobi will be screening a number of movies from different European countries. In addition, the festival will include special engagements with invited European and Kenyan filmmakers, master classes, panel discussions, and workshops.

## Federal Elections 2019 - Voting at the Embassy

Did you know that nearly 180,000 Belgian citizens living abroad are on the voters' list for the federal and European elections on May 26, 2019? That is 50,000 more registered voters than 5 years ago!

Belgians registered for the **2019 federal elections** can come cast their vote at our Embassy (Limuru Rd) on **Wednesday 22 May 2019, from 1 - 9pm (local time)**. Kindly carry your passport or ID card with you.

## Digitalisering burgerlijke stand / L'état civil se numérisé

De papieren geboorte- of huwelijksakte is sinds 31 maart 2019 definitief de geschiedenisboeken in. De papieren akte is niet meer. De digitale akte, opgeslagen in een centrale databank, kwam in de plaats. Ook ondertekent de ambtenaar van de burgerlijke stand een akte voortaan enkel elektronisch. Voor meer info, [klik hier](#).

Les actes de naissance et de mariage en papier pourront définitivement faire partie des livres d'histoire à partir du 31 mars 2019. L'acte en papier n'est plus. Il est remplacé par l'acte numérique, sauvegardé dans une banque de données centrale. Désormais, l'officier de l'état civil signera les actes uniquement de manière électronique. Pour plus des infos, [cliquez ici](#).

## Travel advice

Belgian visitors to Kenya are advised to register their trip on [Travellers online](#)! Our [Travel advice](#) is updated regularly but it is a good practice to follow the international and local news.

## Embassy opening hours

The opening hours for the different consular services and closure dates of the embassy can be found on our website [kenya.diplomatie.belgium.be](http://kenya.diplomatie.belgium.be)

Two Belgian movies shall be screened: "The Prime Minister" (on Sunday 5 May) and "Insyriated" (on Saturday 11 May). More details on exact timing and location of the screenings will follow in a separate newflash at the end of April. Stay tuned!

More information on the Festival can be found on their



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