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 4th 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 6th 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

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](http://www.sepkenya.com).

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](http://www.sepkenya.com).

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.

**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 newsflash at the end of April. Stay tuned!

More information on the Festival can be found on their [Facebook page](#).