



## Friends of Belgium - Elections in Kenya

News from the Embassy of Belgium in Nairobi on Belgian relations with Kenya, Somalia, Madagascar, the Seychelles, the Comores, Eritrea and UN institutions in Kenya.

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## Kenyan Elections – How the Belgian Embassy prepares

Dear fellow Belgians,

As all of you know, we are moving closer to the Kenyan elections with a first round on 4 March and possibly a second round for the presidential elections on 10 April. However, we do not have absolute certainty about the date for the second round. As a consequence, we are heading towards a period of around six weeks of increased uncertainty.

Kenya is a wonderful country with great quality of life for Belgians who choose to live here. **In the past, however, during election periods, there have been internal clashes, especially after the 2007 elections.** Consequently, although it is difficult to make any predictions on what is going to happen during the election period, the Embassy prepares a contingency plan.

Firstly, let us remind you that Kenya and particularly Nairobi has a high level of **crime**. As the police will have to oversee security during elections, it means that the risk of crime may increase in the coming months. The Embassy advises all Belgians to keep themselves informed, e.g., by asking your private security firm to provide you with the SMS service to

keep you up to date on security risks in your area. As of now, we will also mention significant changes in the security situation on our Facebook page. Do not forget to 'like' our Embassy of Belgium [page](#) in order to receive the latest updates.

The Embassy has prepared a **crisis plan in Kenya** which foresees several emergency procedures to assist the Belgian community. For **Nairobi**, this includes the nomination of a number of **sector contacts** who will assist the Embassy with keeping in touch with the Belgians in Nairobi. During the coming weeks they will contact you to find out what your plans are for the elections period and to check whether we have the correct contact details.

Belgians in Mombasa and at the **coast** are advised to keep in touch with our Consulate in Mombasa. For the area **south of Mombasa**, the sector contact is Frederik Vanderhoeven. Belgians **elsewhere** in Kenya will be taken care of directly by the Embassy. All sector contacts are co-operating directly with the Embassy. At any given time, all Belgians can contact the Embassy.

If the situation would deteriorate the Embassy will establish a crisis centre on a 24-hour basis. Please find all contact details in the side bar.

A significant part of our Embassy's crisis plan is a preparation for an evacuation. However, worldwide there are very few examples of collective evacuations by the Belgian authorities. **At this stage, the Embassy does not request you to leave the country.** Should the security situation deteriorate, our first recommendation will be to ask you to stay in a secure place as much as possible. Depending on the situation, this can mean that you need to stay at home for several days. **The Embassy will keep you informed with all the communication tools available**, among others, Facebook and the sector contacts.

It is important to be prepared for a worsening of the security situation. That is why the Embassy prepared a non exhaustive list of precautionary measures. The better we are prepared, the more we can reduce risks.

The Embassy Team



### List of precautionary measures

- Make sure your passport is valid and important documents such as your bank documents, vaccination cards, etc are safely stored and readily available in case you need to leave your home;
- Have a reasonable amount of cash – banks might close for a number of days in case of crisis;
- Your family members who do not have the Belgian nationality should have a valid Schengen visa – the Embassy will upon application provide your direct family members with a multiple entry visa for the Schengen zone;
- Check that all emergency phone numbers are stored in your mobile telephone and that you have a backup of this information;
- The Embassy needs your contact details even if you do not want to register formally with the Embassy;
- Take care that your mobile telephone has enough credit and is fully charged under any circumstance. Buy additional credit;
- Make sure that you have sufficient fuel for your generator and your car – in the past, Kenya has experienced prolonged periods of scarcity of fuel in Kenya. Therefore, it is advised never to drive around with a fuel tank which is less than half empty;
- Ensure that you have enough non-perishable food for at least 10 days. In the past, we have seen that shops closed down for several days or lacked essential items.
- Make sure to have a reserve of both drinking water and non-drinking water for consumption for at least 10 days. It is advised to have a reserve of tablets to purify water;
- In case you have children, think about reserves of diapers and baby food;
- Be prepared for an immediate departure with some essentials for the road (warm clothes, pick nick, maps, spare batteries, blankets).

### Nairobi Sectors

