



ACS Newsletter– November 2011 American Citizens Services



Welcome Letter From Ambassador Gration

Table of Contents

Letter from the Ambassador	1
Emergency Message For U.S. Citizens in Kenya	2
Amazing Facts You Never Knew About ACS	2
New ACS Walk in Hours and Upcoming Closures	3
New Visa Application Procedures	3
Famine Relief in Kenya: How You Can Help	4
News from Department of State Mission Human Resources Office	4
Coming in the Next Issue!	5

It's great to be able to communicate with our American community in Kenya as the United States Ambassador to this great country. When I first set foot on Kenyan soil, I had no way of knowing how often I would be called upon to return to Kenya in the service to America. How could I? I wasn't even two years old! My parents were missionary teachers, who arrived in Kenya in 1952, en route to Congo. Over the years, I have gotten to know this country very well, living here as a teenager, working in northern Kenya in 1974, returning as an F-5 instructor pilot assigned to the Kenya Air Force at Laikipia Air Base in Nanyuki in 1980, and visiting Kenya on personal and professional business. My wife, Judy, likewise has a deep connection to Kenya. She was born right here in Nairobi, lived in Kijabe, and attended Rift Valley Academy.

It has taken us a few months to settle into our new roles here, to renew old friendships and to make new ones as we work to promote partnership and friendship between the United States and Kenya. This is an exciting time to be in Kenya and to be able to witness this country's historic transition. Last year's peaceful referendum ushered in a new era of hope. The progressive constitution passed by the Kenyan people embodies a new dream for the next generation of Kenyans—the dream of living in a land free of corruption and negative ethnicity, a land whose tremendous potential has been realized.

Kenya has a great reservoir of untapped potential and opportunity. This country has an abundance of smart, well-educated young people who speak English well, who want and need jobs. It has the fiber-optic infrastructure that is crucial to accelerated economic growth. It's blessed with a strategic location that makes Kenya the trade and transportation hub for East Africa. I have met with representatives from numerous American firms and I tell them all the same thing, "This is a great time to be in Kenya—smart companies should position themselves for the future by investing in Kenya right now."

As I strive to strengthen the bonds between our two countries, I will also work with Kenya's leaders to address the challenges ahead. Kenya's leaders must embrace and lead the reforms that are underway. Successful implementation of the constitution; fair, peaceful, transparent elections; and resolute and visible efforts to fight corruption and impunity are indispensable milestones that will demonstrate to the world that Kenya is a reliable partner and a desirable destination for international investment. Kenya must also redouble its commitment to border security to ensure that the unfortunate events that recently took place in Kiwayu and Lamu are never repeated.

I am excited about the future. Looking back on the progress Kenya has made over the course of the last two years, I'm heartened that change can often occur more quickly than anyone expects. During my tenure as Ambassador, I will do everything I can to ensure Kenya progresses rapidly towards achieving the brighter future its people deserve. I'm confident that I can count on the entire American community to help make Kenya an even better place and a safer environment to live, work, and play.



Emergency Message For U.S. Citizens in Kenya

This is to inform U.S. citizens residing in or visiting Kenya that the U.S. Embassy in Kenya has received credible information of an imminent threat of terrorist attacks directed at prominent Kenyan facilities and areas where foreigners are known to congregate, such as malls and night clubs. The Embassy has taken measures to limit official U.S. government travel to Kenya and U.S. citizens should take this information into account when planning travel and consider deferring travel at this time. The U.S. Embassy will continue to monitor the security situation in Kenya and provide updated information as it becomes available. This notice expires on December 1, 2011.

If you are going to live in or travel to Kenya, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Nairobi website. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warning, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

You can also download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your fingertips.

Have you ever wondered how many services ACS provides each year?

In the past fiscal year.....

- 253 Consular Reports of Birth Abroad certificates were issued
- 1,023 passports were issued in 2010
- 24,457 U.S. citizens enrolled with us

Our office also performs visits to U.S. citizens imprisoned in Kenya, performs welfare and whereabouts visits and visits those who are hospitalized.



New ACS Walk-In Hours And How to Contact Us

In order to streamline services, the American Citizen Services Unit has introduced the following walk in hours. These are on **Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-10 a.m.** Please note that we remain closed on Kenyan and American public holidays and the last Wednesday of the month.

Email: Kenya_ACS@state.gov

Telephone Number: +254-(0)20-363-6622

After-hours Emergencies: +254-(0) 20-363-6170

Upcoming Holidays and ACS Office Closures:

Veterans Day	November 11(Friday)
Thanksgiving Day	November 24 (Thursday)
Christmas	December 26 (Monday)
New Year's Day	January 2 (Monday)

New Visa Application Procedures

The U.S. Embassy in Nairobi has introduced new visa application procedures designed to simplify and streamline the visa application process for those travelling to the U.S. for business or pleasure. Applicants who wish to schedule a non-immigrant visa appointment now do so via http://usvisa-info.com/en-KE/selfservice/ss_country_welcome or through the assistance of our call center at +254205006656 or +254205006655.

Both the new website and call center are managed by CSC Visa Information Services. Applicants can also access the service by using our Skype name USVISAKENYA. If you are calling from within the United States, please dial (703)439-2302.

Travelers will need to pay the applicable visa fees by Mpesa (account 100202) or at any branch of Post Bank before booking an appointment.

At no extra charge, travelers will be able to make inquiries on the full range of visa categories, requirements, and procedures to a live person by phone between 8:00 am – 6:00 pm local time every Monday through Friday through the call center.

In addition, approved visas will be delivered to DHL locations around Kenya so travelers do not have to make return trips to the U.S. Embassy. This service is free of charge within Kenya.



Famine Relief in Kenya: How You Can Help

To donate money to the Kenya Red Cross, go to the “Safaricom” menu and select “M-PESA”

1. Select Pay Bill from your M-PESA menu
2. Enter “Business Number”-input “10,000”
3. Enter the account number: - leave blank or select OK
4. Enter the amount you wish to send and confirm your PIN
5. You and the recipient will receive an SMS confirming the transaction



News from the Embassy’s Human Resources Office

Interested in working at the U.S. Embassy?

The Embassy’s Human Resources Office has contracted an online recruitment service provider to facilitate awareness of open vacancies.

Effective October 1, 2011, the Embassy’s *Human Resources* Office will only accept applications received from the on-line recruitment service “My Jobs in Kenya.” This is for Locally Employed Staff (LES) positions that are available to the public.

Please visit the website below to peruse the open vacancies if you are interested.

<http://americanembassy.myjobsinkenya.com>



Coming in the next issue.....

“Ask ACS”

Do you have a question about services provided for American citizens at the Embassy? If you would like to have your question published and answered in a subsequent issue of the ACS newsletter, please send it to Kenya_ACS@state.gov. We will try to answer all questions we receive!

“Profiles of Americans in Kenya”

We are interested in sharing profiles of Americans working and living in Kenya with the American community. If you or someone you know would like to be profiled, please send a brief article (300 words, maximum) along with a photo to Kenya_ACS@state.gov.

THANKSGIVING FUN FACTS!

- The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days.
- Mashed potatoes, pumpkin pies, popcorn, milk, corn on the cob, and cranberries were not foods present on the first Thanksgiving's feast table.
- Turkey has more protein than chicken or beef
- The annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade tradition began in the 1920's.
- Although, Thanksgiving is widely considered an American holiday, it is also celebrated on the second Monday in October in Canada
- Turkeys have poor night vision

