

NEWS: AROUND AND ABOUT KAMPALA _ IN NOVEMBER

By Mercy Mirembe Ntangaare

What makes most memories of a place are the people and experiences one has with or among them. In this column, we endeavor to bring you news around and about our Conference City, Kampala, through the different months until the Conference dates in March and April 2023.

Of course, Kampala is the biggest and, until recently, the only city for Uganda. It is the capital City of Uganda. Originally, the city sat on seven hills but has expanded to cover 22 or more in the past 30 years. I will write about 'Kampala original and present' in one of the updates. Today, I want to bring you 'the news of the month', which is November. I will also endeavour to stay close to 'Ugandan English' that we call *Ugalish* – as part of the experience – but stay intelligible at the same time.



Traditionally, the month of November in Uganda is known for two things: torrential rains and grasshoppers. Everywhere you move it is raining heavily. It rains in the morning, at



noon, in the evening, and sometimes throughout the night. Uganda is well known for beautiful sunsets. You need not only covering shoes



but good ones at that, to avoid sliding and splashing yourself with mud! In November, you'll likely get to see gray or cloudy sunsets. Sometimes, the sky stays gray and the sun very weak. You'll also see lots of grasshoppers. The insects are farmed - read trapped – at night using strong light. If you fly in at night, you may think Kampala is the most lit city in the region!! In the day, you'll look for where all those lights

were coming from and you may not get to know until someone talks about or shows you the massive grasshopper traps – and of course the grasshoppers lying wingless on huge paper boxes cut out to look like trays. Hours into the new day, the air fills with a somewhat sweet aroma as the insects are flied, soon to disappear from people’s plates. If you ever get a chance to taste, please do! You’ll have your own story to tell. Moreover, it is said grasshopper protein and fats are among the healthiest options. This season, you’ll also most likely see lots of motorcycles being driven by young men in reflector jackets of a melee of colours: bright orange, green, and some in blue and purple. These are boda boda riders – remember that word is now accepted English in Uganda to describe the nature of service the vehicles can give: transport you in the shortest time possible from one end of the city to another, even across regions. In their assumed efficiency also lies the most -deadly risks. Boda boda accidents could easily top all the casualties on hospital emergency wards and the deaths are quite many. We want you to come, go back and tell the stories. So, you don’t have to travel by boda boda because a number of options are available. The public commuter taxis and buses (for longer journeys) are safer. You can also ask our Conference Committee in charge of Transport or the Conference Organizers about the best travel options available to your preferred destination.

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND ENJOYABLE STAY IN UGANDA!

