

# Nyari NEWS

July 2015

Chairman Ghassmi Presenting his report

Photo Courtesy of Dr Neal Aggarwal



## The incoming [new] committee

Photo Courtesy of Dr Neal Aggarwal



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## Another great AGM!

The Nyari AGM was the huge success that it always has been year after year. Fully and carefully created, audited and presented accounts were discussed at the meeting and explained to the members in attendance. Nyari's finances are in fairly good shape and should see us through another year if ALL members pay their dues on time. We thank the many members who have paid up the entire year in advance and those members who have contributed extra in cash and kind to support us through all our projects that we've carried out this year to better our estate and lives.

We had a small turnout which is disappointing considering that we have more than 230 households in Nyari now. Most of the committee was unanimously voted back in to another year of service. Some members left while some 'new' blood has joined us and we look forward to working with them. We extend a warm welcome to all new and old members; come see how we run Nyari!

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## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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### Head Nyari Security:

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### POLICE:

Nairobi Area Control Room  
+254 20 355 6771  
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### ORC - Operation Reduce Crime:

+254 733 621 999  
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+254 719 778 899

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Estate finances are in good shape. Reserves currently stand at enough to give us a six month breathing period if we were to lose all income. More importantly these reserves serve to cushion all our members against a catastrophe made or of natures doing

# Estate Finances

The amounts that we receive in advance help us keep Nyari running but closer inspection reveals that we're actually on a very tight string and must keep chasing members if we're to survive WHILE holding down the subscription rates.

Think about this:

A few members have paid up for the entire year. That has given us a bunch of cash that makes it look like we're cash-rich. Keep in mind that what we have set as the subscription charge is almost

par with what we need to keep running month-to-month; we're not trying to make a profit from our members. From those funds we pay the wages, maintenance bills, clean the environment and so on. Now let's get back to running from the sums that we've collected from generous members who've paid their dues upfront and well in advance. As we approach the latter parts of any year we 'know' we're going to run out of money and are not going to see too much in additional inflows as those that were going to pay up early have already done so and the rest have



enjoyed the privileges the estate provides as a result of riding on those early-paying shoulders. So as the year wears on we find ourselves slowly beginning to panick. This is why you find Karanja and members of the various committees coming round to your homes asking that you pay up as much as you can as soon as you can. Folks this is burdensome indeed and that a few are being asked to repeatedly do this so that we can keep subs low is not fair on them. Do a little research of your own and you'll find that other

estates are charging far more than Nyari just to stay afloat. Were we to raise the subs to double what it is today we'd also be able to take it a little easy and not ask you to pay on time or indeed to pay up as much as you can in advance.

Do you want to pay double the current subscription rate? We're sure you don't want to. So, please pay up NOW. Pay as much as you can, ideally for the remainder of this fiscal year so that you don't have to worry about Nyari subs until the end of April next year.



## Finances at a glance

### What we need money for:

- 1** PRIMARY USE is security. 34 guards wages, radio network, police post, emergency response vehicle
- 2** MAINTENANCE - repairing roads, replacing light posts and light fittings, cleaning drains, paint the police posts, auditing etc
- 3** IMPROVING THE ESTATE - tree planting, installing gates and barriers, numbering houses, installing CCTV.
- 4** DEALING WITH LEGAL ISSUES - land disputes, court cases, stopping illegal constructions

## Nyari Committee

CHAIRMAN	- Mr Rahmat Ghassmi +254 733 783 305
VICE CHAIR	- Mr Richard Kariuki +254 721 549 449
SECRETARY	- Ms Salima Tejani + 254 733 786 161

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LANDS & UTILITIES	- Joseph okello +254 722 595 900
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YOUTH	- Mr Paul Opondo +254 722 644 995
SOCIAL	- Ms Maleeha Ali +254 787 402 012
ICT	- Dr Neal Aggarwal z+254 733 788 501



Lake Oroville California (Left - 2011, Right - Today)

## Environmental Matters

The pictures say it all. Above is the situation in California. A quick search on the internet can only bring tears. Global warming is real folks. We're losing the planet and if we don't do something about it soon -- we're going to lose it all. Contemplate these images and do your own research. Google is your friend -- try a few search terms -- try 'California Drought' and 'Global Warming.' Watch the documentary below.



# A letter from the chairman

Dear residents,

Greetings to all members and thank you for continuous support of the Nyari executive committee who have been discharging their work and setting high benchmarks to make Nyari one of the best residential estates in Nairobi.

It has become necessary for me to write to you regarding foreseeable challenges that the society may experience in the near future. As you are all aware, your monthly subscriptions go towards the payments of salaries of 35 staff comprising 1 manager, 1 maintenance officer, 2 gardeners and 31 guards. In addition the society maintains on a regular and ongoing basis street lights, cable replacements, road markings, painting of amenities bumps and buildings, repair, maintenance and replacement of CCTV cameras, monthly payments of internet charges for the cameras, repair and maintenance of radios & communication systems, repair and maintenance of the rapid response car and motorbikes as well as maintenance of the road network to list but a few of the jobs done. Other payments made by the society include insurance for the staff, annual communication license fees, auditor payments, purchase of uniforms and maintenance of the police post.

All the above is done via the low subscription fee of Kshs. 4000 per month paid by our members. Many of us have friends and acquaintances who live in gated communities and are aware of the fee structures they have nearly all of them being far, far higher than ours. Our Nyari subs are one of the lowest in the city.

Currently, we have about 20 residents who do not pay at all and have opted not to join the society. Add to this the approximately 20 houses that are currently vacant. This non-paying load places additional pressure on the limited funds we have.

At the point intime we are eight months through the year with only 30% of the residents having made full payment or part contribution towards this year's subscription. If the current trend continues, the committee will be forced to limit the number of guards

and this will have a direct bearing on our security. In addition all maintenance work will be halted and police patrols will be minimized. I am therefore requesting all members to settle their dues at the earliest. As you will appreciate, we cannot work on credit and the society does not have any other source of income.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the members below (by house number) who have made their contributions for the year and have cleared their outstanding dues:

16 NC, 199 NC, 106 NC, 136 NC, 157 NC, 34 NC, 239 B, 164 NC, 38 NC, 31 NC, 68 NC, 26 NC, 79 NC, 181 NC, 133 NC, 13B NC, 17 NC, 39 NC, 151 NC, 78 NC, 192 NC, 258 NC, 166 NC, 249 NC, 32 NC, 195 NC, 128 NC, 30 NC, 21 NC, 132 NC, 199 NC, 117 NC, 236 NC, 19 NC, 12 NC, 72 NC, 58 NC, 14 NC, 70 NC, 179 NC, 94 NC, 113 NC, 147 NC, 8 NC, 185 NC, 138 NC, 94 NC, 36 NC, 165 NC, 120 NC, 177 NC, 139 NC, 183 NC, 156 NC, 61 NC, 172 NC, 97 NC, 7 NC, 94 NC, 20 NC, 236 NC, 176 NC, 217NC.

103NW, 91 NW, 84 NW, 83 NW, 112 NW, 54 NW, 108 NW, 95 NW, 236 NW, 57 UN, 30 UN, 40 UN, 41 UN, 7 UN, 61 NC, 48 UN, 35 UN, 62 UN, 7GN, 32 GN, 41 GN, 50 GN, 26 GN, 49 GN, 52 GN, 25 GN, 27 GN, 35 GN, 6 GN, 47GN, 48 GN, 33 GN.

To those who have made part payment, please bring your accounts up to date.

## **I cannot over-emphasize the gravity of the situation.**

Please assist the committee to continue with their work. We are volunteers and we do all that we can to ensure the smooth running of the estate. Without your support, this is not possible. You can further assist us by talking to other residents who are not paying or not members of the society to help too.

Yours sincerely,

Rahmat Ghassmi  
Chairman

# Security

In the month of June we had an incident at Nyari West, Mr Mahmood's house No. 327. Six thugs jumped over the electric fence from Ngecha road. The fence was off at the time; someone had turned it off (an 'inside job as usual'). Mr Mahmood suspected his workers organised this incident. The thugs were with the family for several hours (which you can imagine was very uncomfortable & frightening), tied them up and took away their laptops, money and mobile phones. They escaped by jumping over the fence onto Ngecha road.

Mr Mahmood's guard informed our Nyari office and Securex security. Nyari responded with police.

The following day the security committee visited the family. Since then we have intensified police patrols within the estate.

It is CRITICALLY important that you vet your staff thoroughly, be street and neighbourhood-smart and report any suspicious behaviour to the security office with no delay whatsoever.

## **Security is a combined, team effort. You can help us keep you safe by observing some simple guidelines:**

1. Vet all staff, casuals and maintenance technicians
2. Beware of meter readers & others requiring entry into your home/compound.
3. Light your house with perimeter security lights - make sure you have no dark corners in which a person could hide.
4. Become more aware of your surroundings especially when coming home at night. Be 'street smart' when out and about.
5. Install a burglar alarm with passive infrared sensors and/or ultrasonic sensors.
6. Fit reed switches to your window grills and link these to your burglar alarm.
7. Install CCTV if you can. These days you can buy at reasonable prices CCTV units that you can monitor on your phone over the internet.
8. Keep a small dog (inside your house if you can) especially at night.
9. Avoid frequently changing staff/guards.
10. Minimize movement especially at night and limit yourself to essential trips.

# Nyari's Augur Buzzards

The Augur buzzard (*Buteo augur*) is a 55–60 cm long African bird of prey. The taxonomy on this species is confusing, with some taxonomists considering this species, the Jackal buzzard, and the Archer's buzzard to be the same superspecies. Many taxonomists consider them all to be distinct, having different calls, different home ranges and variations in plumage. This is a species of mountains (most typically at about 2000 m altitude, but up to 5000 m), and adjacent savannah and grassland. It is resident and non-migratory throughout its range. In Nyari we have several pairs often seen flying over the lakes or hovering over our open fields.

The adult Augur buzzard is strikingly plumaged. It is almost black above with a rufous tail. The primary flight feathers are blackish and the secondaries off-white, both barred with black. Below the chin and around the throat is mainly white, and the rest of the underparts and the underwing coverts are rich rufous. The flight feathers from below are white, tipped with black to form a dark trailing edge to the wing.

The juvenile Augur buzzard is mainly brown above and rufous brown below and on the tail. It can be confused with wintering Steppe buzzard, but has broader wings and an unbarred undertail.

The adult Augur buzzard has white underparts and underwings. The female has black on the lower throat. Juveniles are brown above and buff below, the underparts later becoming white. There is a melanistic form of Augur buzzard, all black, except for grey and black-barred flight feathers and a chestnut tail. About 10% of birds are melanistic, but the proportion rises in forested areas with high rainfall to as much as 50% in some areas. There is a 'well known' resident of Karura Forest that some of our members have asked about from time to time.

Pairs have noisy aerial displays, including outside the breeding season. The large (up to 1 m wide) stick nest is built in a tree or on a crag, and is often reused and enlarged in subsequent seasons. When in season a large nest in the tall trees at the bottom of Dr and Mrs Aggarwals plot on the lake is often occupied. Over the past 18 years a consistent pair of Augurs and perhaps even their offspring have raised young there. Two creamy or bluish white eggs are laid and incubated by the female only, although food is brought to her on the nest by the male.

The eggs hatch in about 40 days, and after a further 56–60 days they young can attempt flight. At 70 days they become independent of the nest, but young birds may then be seen with the adult pair for some time.

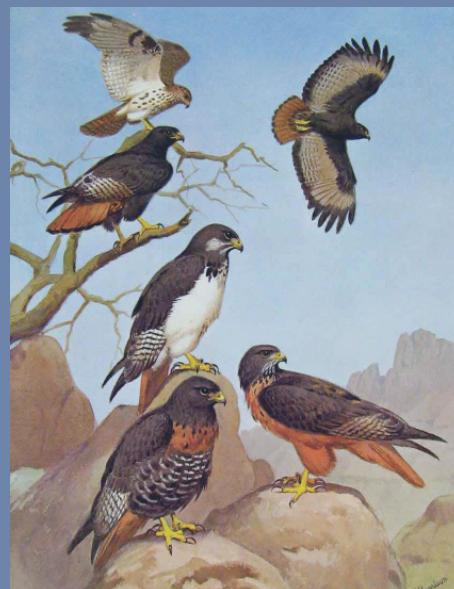
The diet of the Augur buzzard is mainly small ground mammals, but snakes, lizards, small ground birds, insects, and road-kill are also



**Augur buzzard (*Buteo augur*) as they are often seen above Nyari**

**Photo:** Wikimedia Commons

taken. They have been key in Nyari in keeping our environmental pests (mostly rats) in check. Unfortunately in recent years some members have resorted to baiting their fences with poison which will probably kill off our Augurs should they ingest the poisoned rats. Typically, the raptor drops on its prey from a perch or hover. This hover is one of the joys of many a drive in Nyari. Look over the lake or above one of the open fields and you can often catch a glimpse of a pair just as in the photo above screeching that truly East African call that will put you almost at once right back into nature and send your mind succumbing off to the peace of Nakuru National Park or the wide open plains of Tsavo.

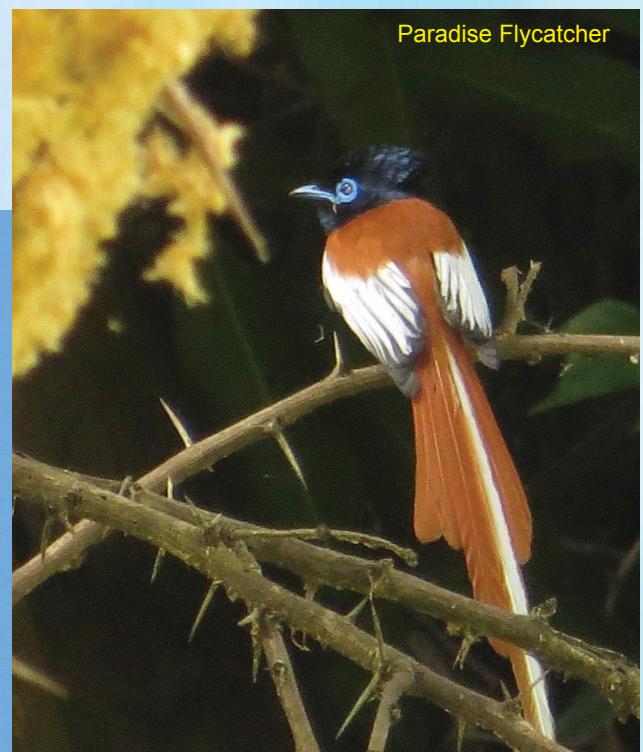


# Nyari Image Gallery

House Sparrow



A collection of photographs taken by Mr David Hastie in his garden in Nyari



House Sparrow

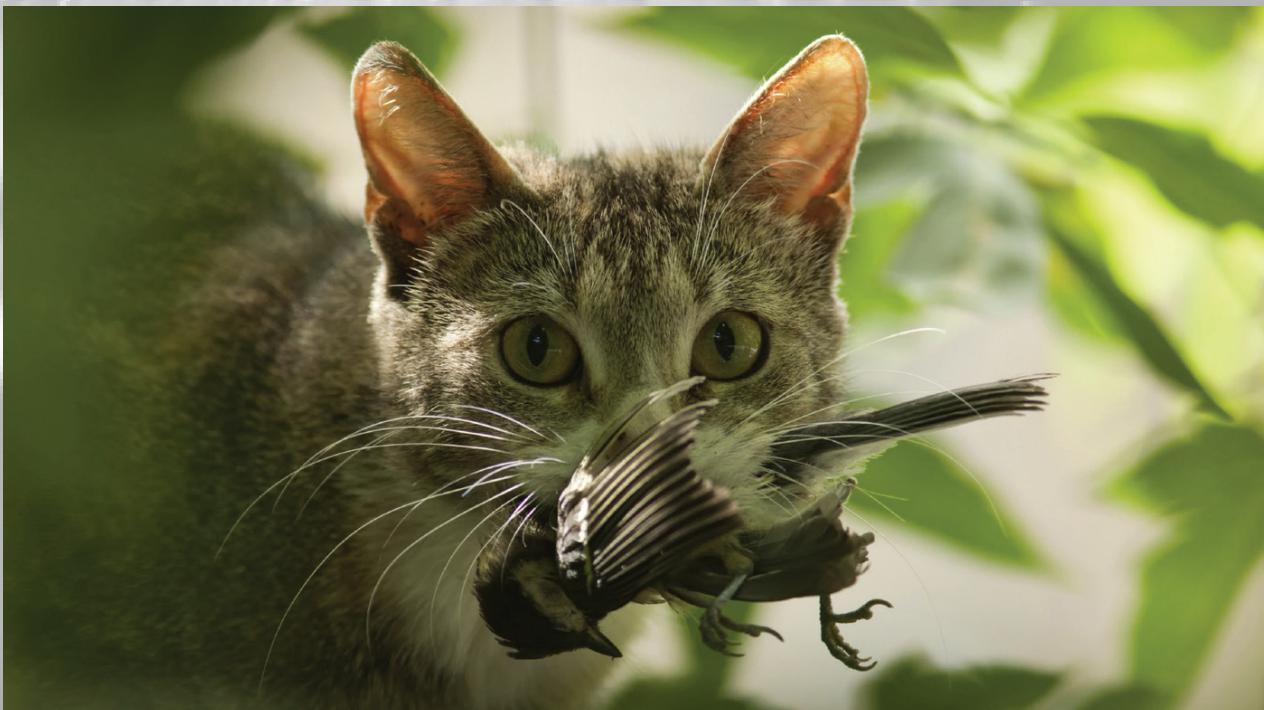
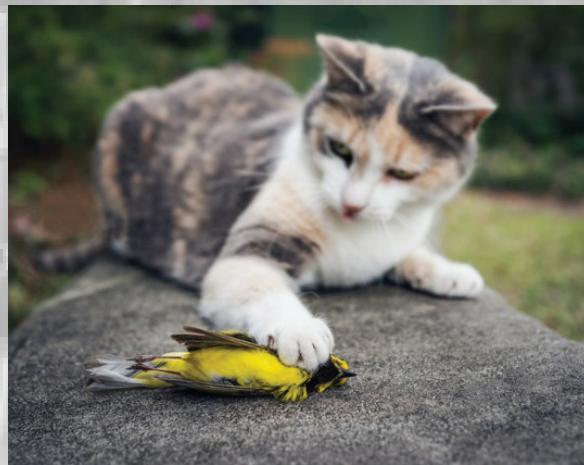
# Maintenance

## Cats are destructive

Cats! When I lived in New Zealand I tried time and again to find a Kiwi - the national bird - in the wild. In all my time there I never did find any and only saw one in a zoo in Auckland. The reason? 1,420,000 cats - domestic cats.

And we're noticing a trend in Nyari too. Many members have taken to keeping cats and they're killing off our bird life. We currently have 167 species of birds on our bird list (maintained by Dr Aggarwal) and as you can see from these photos here they're going to dwindle fast if we keep increasing the number of cats in our estate. Also some members have taken to having pest control companies seed their fences with 1080 poison which has led to death of the natural predators (snakes, owls and birds of prey) as well as to the deaths of several members dogs.

At one time we had thousands of rats in our fences, eating up the wiring in our cars and coming into our kitchens contaminating food and the environs. Today we have nearly ZERO rats - why? Because of the squirrels, owls and snakes that have been making a slow but sure comeback. These predators KILL and eat rats - cats do not contrary to what most people think. Cats may kill a few rats but they also kill a large number of birds, snakes and squirrels. Please don't bring any more cats into Nyari.



## Strong Passwords

Passwords provide the first line of defense against unauthorized access to your computer. The stronger your password, the more protected your computer will be from hackers and malicious software. You should make sure you have strong passwords for all accounts on your computer. If you're using a corporate network, your network administrator might require you to use a strong password.

### What makes a password strong (or weak)?

A strong password:

- Is at least eight characters long.
- Does not contain your user name, real name, or company name.
- Does not contain a complete word.
- Is significantly different from previous passwords.
- Contains characters from each of the following four categories:
- Character category

### Examples

Uppercase letters - A, B, C

Lowercase letters - a, b, c

Numbers - 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Symbols found on the keyboard (all keyboard characters not defined as letters or numerals) and spaces

' ~ ! @ # \$ % ^ & \* ( ) \_ - + = { } [ ] \ | : ; " ' < > , . ? /

A password might meet all the criteria above and still be a weak password. For example, Hello2U! meets all the criteria for a strong password listed above, but is still weak because it contains a complete word. H3llo 2 U! is a stronger alternative because it replaces some of the letters in the complete word with numbers and also includes spaces.

Help yourself remember your strong password by following these tips:

Create an acronym from an easy-to-remember piece of information. For example, pick a phrase that is meaningful to you, such as My son's birthday is 12 December, 2004. Using that phrase as your guide, you might use Msbi12/Dec,4 for your password.

Substitute numbers, symbols, and misspellings for letters or words in an easy-to-remember phrase. For example, My son's birthday is 12 December, 2004 could become Mi\$un's Brthd8iz 12124 (it's OK to use spaces in your password).

Relate your password to a favorite hobby or sport. For example, I love to play badminton could become

ILuv2PlayB@dm1nt().n.

If you feel you must write down your password in order to remember it, make sure you don't label it as your password, and keep it in a safe place. Many security experts now agree that it's actually a good thing to write down your passwords as long as you keep them in a safe place.

It is critically important that you don't use the same password across important sites like bank and brokerage accounts. If you do share passwords in this manner a hacker getting hold of one of your passwords would have access to multiple sites of yours and will be able to unleash much more damage on you.

### Creating stronger passwords using ASCII characters

You can also create passwords that use extended ASCII characters. Using extended ASCII characters helps make your password more secure by increasing the number of characters

you can choose from to create a strong password. Before using extended ASCII characters in your password, make sure that passwords containing them are compatible with the programs that are used by you or your organization. Be especially cautious about using extended ASCII characters in passwords if your organization uses several different operating systems or versions of Windows.

You can find extended ASCII characters in Character Map. Some extended ASCII characters should not be used in passwords. Do not use a character if a keystroke is not defined for it in the lower-right corner of the Character Map dialog box. For more information, see Using special characters (Character Map): frequently asked questions.

Windows passwords can be much longer than the eight characters recommended above. In fact, you can make a password up to 127 characters long. However, if you are on a network that also has computers running Windows 95 or Windows 98, consider using a password that is no longer than 14 characters. If your password is longer than 14 characters, you might not be able to log on to your network from computers running those operating systems.

## How Big is Your Haystack?

... and how well hidden is YOUR needle?

So what can you do to test if your password is strong enough or to learn more about passwords? Click on the above image to visit [www.grc.com](http://www.grc.com) and read what one of the leading security experts has to say about this very important topic.

Every password you use can be thought of as a needle hiding in a haystack. After all searches of common passwords and dictionaries have failed, an attacker must resort to a "brute force" search – ultimately trying every possible combination of letters, numbers and then symbols until the combination you chose, is discovered. If every possible password is tried, sooner or later yours will be found.

The question is: Will that be too soon . . . or later?

At the link above the interactive brute force search space calculator allows you to experiment with password length and composition to develop an accurate and quantified sense for the safety of using passwords that can only be found through exhaustive search. It is NOT a "Password Strength Meter."

The #1 most commonly used password is "123456", and the 4th most common is "Password." So any password attacker and cracker would try those two passwords immediately. The Search Space Calculator shows the time to search for those two passwords online (assuming a very fast online rate of 1,000 guesses per second) as 18.52 minutes and 17.33 centuries respectively! If "123456" is the first password that's guessed, that wouldn't take 18.52 minutes. And no password cracker would wait 17.33 centuries before checking to see whether "Password" is the magic phrase. So the "Search Space Calculator" is designed to help users understand how many passwords can be created from different combinations of character sets (lowercase only, mixed case, with or without digits and special characters, etc.) and password lengths. The calculator then puts the resulting large numbers (with lots of digits or large powers of ten) into a real world context of the time that would be required (assuming differing search speeds) to exhaustively search every password up through that length, assuming the use of the chosen alphabet.

### How can I apply this to my daily life?

Answering that question is the reason that webpage exists. The whole point of using padded passwords is to adopt a much

more you-friendly approach to password design. So the question then becomes - why should I pad my passwords. Try this little quiz ...

Which of these two passwords is stronger?

D0g.....

PrXyc.N(n4k77#L!eVdAfp9

If you said "The bottom one" you're actually wrong! Why? Well we're going to leave that to the website we linked to above and ask you to go visit that site and read up if you interested in learning more about this.

# Email Self-Defense

## GNU Privacy Guard

Bulk surveillance violates our fundamental rights and makes free speech risky. This guide will teach you a basic surveillance self-defense skill: email encryption. Once you've finished, you'll be able to send and receive emails that are coded to make sure a surveillance agent or thief intercepting your email can't read it. All you need is a computer with an Internet connection, an email account, and about half an hour.

Even if you have nothing to hide, using encryption helps protect the privacy of people you communicate with, and makes life difficult for bulk surveillance systems. If you do have something important to hide, you're in good company; these are the same tools that Edward Snowden used to share his famous secrets about the NSA.

In addition to using encryption, standing up to surveillance requires fighting politically for a reduction in the amount of data collected on us, but the essential first step is to protect yourself and make surveillance of your communication as difficult as possible. Let's get started!

On the web you can find a guide that relies on software which is freely licensed;

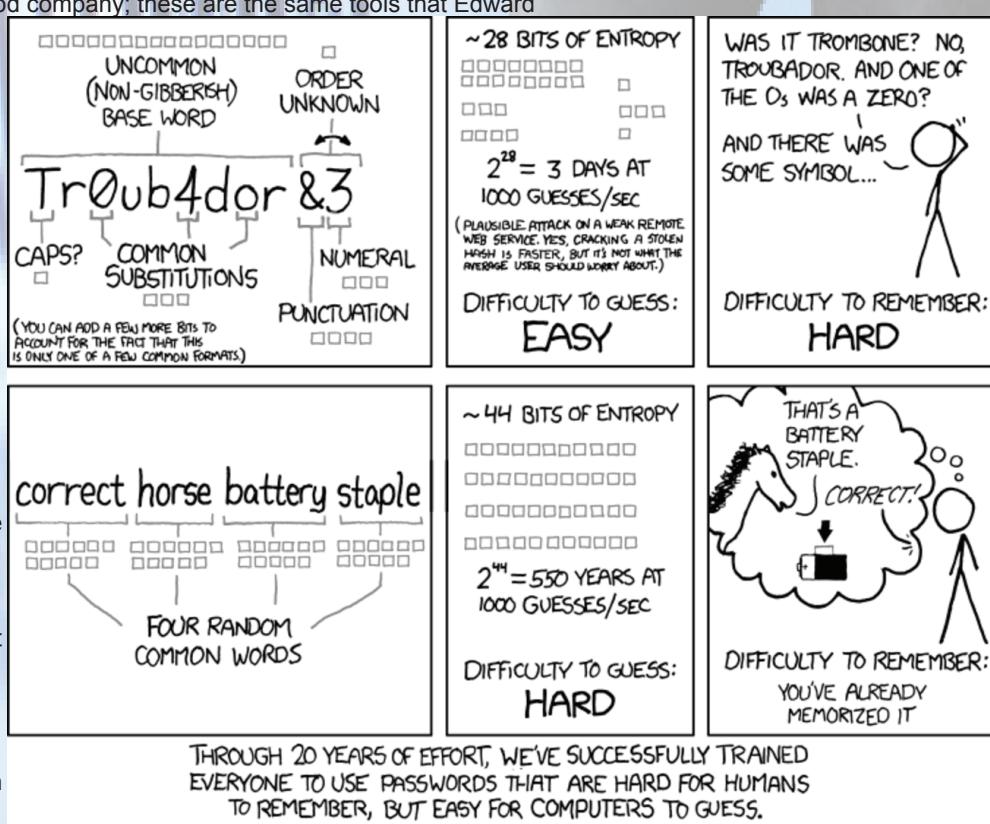
it's completely transparent and anyone can copy it or make their own version. This makes it safer from surveillance than proprietary software (like Mac OS). To defend your freedom as well as protect yourself from surveillance, we recommend you switch to a free software operating system like GNU/Linux. Learn more about free software at fsf.org.

It's not difficult to do - you just need to follow a few simple steps and you'll be done in a short time and communicating securely with friends and colleagues. Here is a summary of what you need to do:

- Setup your email program with your email account
- Get GnuPG by downloading GPGTools
- Install the Enigmail plugin for your email program
- Make a keypair
- Upload your public key to a keyserver
- Send a test encrypted email - you can encrypt and send to me at dr.neal.aggarwal@gmail.com (get [my public key](#) from the MIT Keyserver).
- Learn the Web of Trust
- Send encrypted mail ALL the time & to everyone you communicate with!

Read more about this here >> <https://emailselfdefense.fsf.org/en/mac.html>

**and if this is all too much you could click the LastPass logo below to see where THAT takes you!**



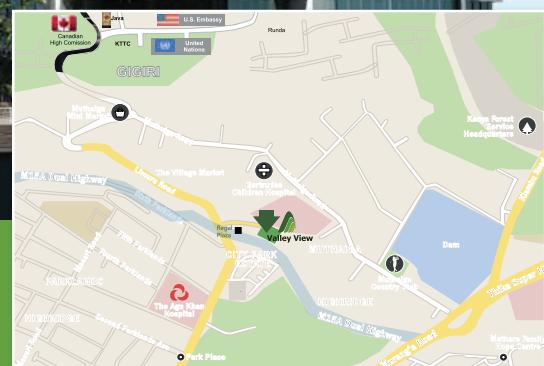
**LastPass** \*\*\*\*  
The Last Password You'll Ever Need.

Send encrypted mail to [dr.neal.aggarwal@gmail.com](mailto:dr.neal.aggarwal@gmail.com) to test your systems!



**Valley View**

O F F I C E   P A R K



**Living in Muthaiga, Runda, Gigiri, Nyari?  
Looking for office space?**

## FEATURES & DESIGN

Within close proximity ✓  
Lush green surrounding ✓  
Away from TRAFFIC ✓

1. Roof top revolving restaurant
2. 550 parkings
3. Situated off Limuru Road along the new M15A Highway
4. Top of the range finishes
5. 6 high speed elevators
6. Professional gym with heated swimming pool
7. Uninterrupted view of Muthaiga Valley
8. Back up generator
9. On site borehole
10. Intercom & high speed fibre connectivity
11. State of the art CCTV surveillance

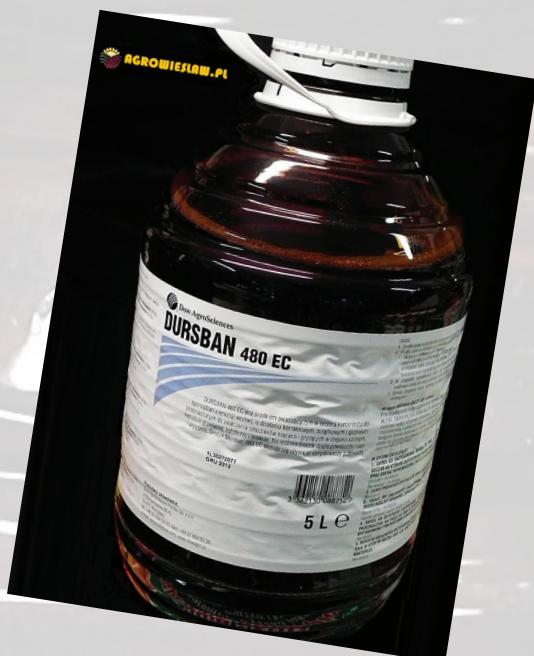


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[www.elegantproperties.co.ke](http://www.elegantproperties.co.ke)



A development by:  
**ELEGANT  
PROPERTIES**

# Durzban, Roundup & other ills



21st March, 2015 - France banned the use countrywide of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide after extensive testing in which the World Health Organisation found Roundup to contain cancer causing glyphosate. Many of our members don't know this and we often come across front yards where this chemical has been sprayed and has left a dead, burned out piece of land that we try to get away from as quickly as possible.

This is a huge, huge blow to Monsanto who had already announced Roundup ready crops which they've genetically modified to withstand the herbicide thereby giving farmers the ability to spray this on their farms, kill off the weeds while leaving the crops to grow unhindered. This led to widespread use of the herbicide in corn and soyabean fields around the world, Kenya included.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer says that it has evidence that exposure to Roundup aids in the formation of non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in humans.

Similarly Durban - an organophosphate - while very effective in killing ticks also kills indiscriminately - ALL insects in your garden. The animals and plants in your garden live in harmony with each other and need to be present as an ensemble for the proper health of your garden. So we recommend that you stop using Durban, Malathion and other organophosphates and watch this space for future organic gardening articles.

**Advertise  
In NyariNEWS**

reach more than  
285 households

Full Page .....KShs. 10,000  
Half Page .....KShs. 5,000  
Quarter Page.....KShs. 2,500

# Nyari Self-Reader Pilot Project

Nyari has been selected to participate in a pilot roll-out of self-reader electricity meters. Please read below and inform yourself as to the procedure that we will be following. This is a good thing, a very good development for us. It will mean that we don't have to allow any meter readers into our compounds which greatly enhances our security. It also eliminates the errors that members have experienced in the past that have led to them being billed exorbitant amounts. Also gone will be the days of estimated bills with a very high 'catch-up' bill coming at the end of several months.

Kenya Power is going to hold one more meeting with us and then they are going to replace your meter, FOR FREE, with a meter that is much simpler and easier to read. We will keep you posted on this but expect it to happen quite soon.

**SELF READER**



- You will have an opportunity to submit your readings - where you may not be available when the meter readers come to read your meter safely.
- You will learn more on your electricity consumption and be able to manage your power expenditure.

**BE A SELF-READER**

We are giving you the opportunity to read your own meter. You have been selected to participate in the 1st pilot Phase and will now be able to manage your bill by signing up as a Self-Reader

**BENEFITS**

The Benefits of submitting your own meter readings are:-

- Your monthly bill will be accurate as it will be an actual reading.

**REGISTRATION**

We will register you using your

- Account Number
- Mobile Number

OR

Go to Kenya Power Website and

- Register as an I-Open Reader <https://contactcentre.kplc.co.ke/KEOPEN>
- Open I-Open and Register as a self-reader



An SMS will be sent to you once you have registered giving you the dates that you will need to send your reading and where to send the reading

For any further information - Call 0703-070-707 or 0732-170-170  
[www.kenyapower.co.ke](http://www.kenyapower.co.ke)

**You will need to ensure that you submit your meter readings 3 days from the message notification date.**

**NOTE :-** For every month that your meter is not read, we must estimate your power by using your last 12 months' electricity consumption.

**Your Meter**

**HOW TO READ YOUR METER**

Check the kind of meter available in your premises from the pictures below and read instructions on how you can read your meter



Ignore the small digits marked by the red lines



Depending on the make of your meter – read only the white digits,



**SELF METER READING**



**Kenya Power**

For any further information - Call 0703-070-707 or 0732-170-170