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KDHC blossoms into a forum for investment, growth, idea sharing, and industry 10 years later



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THE KENYA

DIASPORA

NEWSLETTER

A publication of the *Kenya Diaspora Alliance* - September - October, 2023

Special Edition_Issue 02

A note from the Editor

Celebrating a Decade of Diaspora Excellence at KDHC 2023

Dear Esteemed Members of the *Kenya Diaspora Alliance* Community,

With great excitement and pride, we extend a warm welcome as we embark on a remarkable journey to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Convention (KDHC) 2023.

A Decade of Resilience and Achievements: In this special edition, Barrack takes us on a captivating journey through the history of KDHC, marking our ten years of resilience, growth, and incredible achievements. Join us as we reflect on the milestones that have shaped our vibrant diaspora community.

Under the insightful leadership of Gloria, we are delighted to present the prestigious Diaspora Awards. These awards recognize and celebrate the excellence within our community, serving as an inspiration to us all.

Sir Errol and Ambassador Bramwel delve into the collaborative spirit of the Diaspora Investment Technical Working Group (TWG). Together, we



Photo of Nairobi city by (Antony Trivet)

are shaping the future of diaspora affairs, fostering innovation and synergy.

Cizarina brings us insights into our presence at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Side Event and the latest developments in ASAP Tickets (USA). Our global reach is expanding, and we're proud to represent the diaspora on the world stage.

Jeddy, as the editor, is ensuring that the content is engaging, informative, and true to the spirit of our community. She takes through their journey to the artisanal mines in the Lake Victoria Region.

As you delve into the pages of this newsletter, we invite you to relive our journey, celebrate our achievements, and anticipate the exciting future that awaits us. KDHC-2023 promises to be a grand celebration of our unity, resilience, and vision for a brighter tomorrow.

We encourage you to actively participate in this year's Convention, share your stories, and engage with our community. Together, we are crafting the next chapter of our remarkable diaspora story.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Kenya Diaspora Alliance.

Together, we are unstoppable.

Warm regards,

Adhiambo Gloria
Editor in Chief
Kenya Diaspora Alliance

The Diaspora Newsletter

THE Kenya Diaspora Newsletter is a bimonthly publication of the Kenya Diaspora community and on behalf of associations and organizations of Kenyans in the Diaspora. Contributions are welcomed from the Kenyan Diaspora community, international and Kenyan organizations, businesses, and other transnational Diaspora interest groups.

The publication is a collection of news, views and reviews on issues, perspectives, events, and emerging horizons on the Diaspora scene compiled by a dedicated Diaspora editorial team.

The Diaspora Newsletter Editorial Board encourages members of the Kenya Diaspora community to submit items of interest, including article suggestions and photographs, to the Editor for consideration. The Newsletter Editorial Board will consider submissions related to Diaspora issues from non-members. Moreover, government, business, non-profit and corporate advertisements will be included in each edition of the Newsletter, providing readers with timely information on essential products, services, and events.

We also invite submissions from guest columnists and scholars who wish to contribute on discourses on Diaspora affairs, in general, and with the Kenyan Diaspora, in particular.

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KDHC's Journey Living the Dreams of Diasporans

From the first convention at Daystar University themed “Kenya Diaspora Networking Conference” to this year’s meeting themed “Leveraging Diaspora Resources for Inclusive Growth,”

By Barack Oduor
(nyakwaradede@gmail.com)

The Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Convention has been a rich platform for Kenyans living abroad to interact, engage, and share experiences with themselves and Kenyans back home for the last nine consecutive years it has been held. The convention has blossomed into a forum for investment, growth, idea sharing, and industry.

From the first convention held on 19th December, 2014 at Daystar University themed “Kenya Diaspora Networking Conference” to this year’s meeting themed “Leveraging Diaspora Resources for Inclusive Growth,” the convention has earned its place in Kenya and beyond as the annual premier assembly for diasporans.

The conventions have also brought together diasporans for the purpose of engaging and caucusing among themselves, and also with stakeholders from the private and public sectors, civil society, the media, and academia. Recognizing that the youth are the drivers of economies, the Kenya Diaspora Alliance has been keen on tapping the potential of young people.

Each convention has hosted more than 1000 participants attending physically and virtually across the globe. Kenyans domiciled in Europe, the United States, Canada (the Americas), Australia, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, among others, congregate in Nairobi to deliberate



on a wide range of important national, regional and global issues.

The idea to come up with the convention was birthed by Kenyan Diasporans' belief that the Kenyan government (including devolved structures) and the corporate sector should open up clear and well-defined engagement strategies to harness the various academic and professional skills possessed by the country's overseas professionals for the common good.

The Kenya Diaspora Alliance has also organized workshops and meetings in partnership with state and non-state actors such as Voluntary Services Organization (VSO-Kenya) to harness the potential of remittances. The series of roundtable meetings and workshops have proved vital in discussions around diaspora engagement strategies.

While the overall objective of the conference has been to sensitize

diasporans on the opportunities available for them to invest back home as opposed to just sending money for consumption and subsistence, the annual meeting has also been a perfect platform for exhibitors to showcase, pitch, and sell their offers to an interested and able audience.

The availability of live-streaming and web-casting of the conference to tens of thousands across the globe, with over 20 exhibition hours dedicated to showcasing to diaspora industry stakeholders, is a boost to corporates, firms, and startups.

The spirit of the convention has been in tandem with the vision of the founders of the Alliance who trace their roots to the reform efforts dating back to the late 1990s during which time the diaspora became more actively involved in their home country affairs.

Through the conventions, the Kenya Diaspora Alliance has consistently

KDHC's Journey Living the Dreams of Diasporans

Cont. from pg. 3

championed issues on behalf of Kenyans living abroad as a federation of over 50 registered diaspora organizations, with a combined nominal membership of over 300,000 Kenyans across the globe. There has been a lot of pressure by the Kenyan Diaspora community to hold the Government of the day to account and lobby concerned Government offices to understand that all Kenyans, regardless of their physical location remain passionate about the homeland, and have inalienable rights to inclusion, representation, and participation in national affairs.

The Kenya Diaspora policy was developed in recognition of the urgent need to mainstream the Kenyan Diaspora into national development processes in line with the aspirations and goals of the Kenya Vision 2030. The Vision recognizes Diaspora contributions as a critical component of the growth of our economy and also towards the achievement of our overarching vision of a globally

competitive and prosperous Kenya by the year 2030.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs has sought the inputs of Diaspora formations such as KDA in the development of the Diaspora Policy.

KDA has constantly encouraged all Diaspora Kenyans and their over 1,000 organizations to contribute to the building of progressive Diaspora programs that can ensure that the estimated 3 million diaspora Kenyans become part and parcel of the social, political, economic, and cultural fabric of Kenya.

Throughout the years, the convention has invited and hosted high-profile speakers and guests to drive discussions of progress in the diaspora agenda. Some of the special guests have been former Director-General of UNCTAD Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Central Bank of Kenya Governor Patrick Njoroge, former Chief Justices David Maraga and Dr Willy Mutunga, Cabinet Secretary Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr Alfred Mutua, US Ambassador

to Kenya, Meg Whitman, and renowned philanthropist and industrialist Dr. Manu Chandaria.

The Annual Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Conference (KDHC-2023) slated for 6th to 8th December, 2023 will be the 10th in an unbroken series. This networking and partnership event will bring together Kenyans living and working abroad to celebrate the year that has passed, network, make projections, and receive updates on upcoming opportunities and activities. The event is a double-hybrid (ConfExpo, virtual/in-person), with about 1,000 participants expected in person and thousands more engaging virtually from all over the world, and over 100 organizations exhibiting or otherwise participating in some form.

The theme for this year's conference is Innovation, FinTech, and Investments Towards the One Trillion Shilling Remittance.

Highlights form A walk through KDHC, 2022 in pictures



Exploring Investment Opportunities:

KDA Visits Artisanal Mines in Lake Victoria Region

By Jeddy Ochuodho

The Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA) is dedicated to seeking new safe investment avenues for its global members, and one of the exciting opportunities it now promotes is artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM).

Traditionally, ASM operated underground with minimal formal structure. Fortunately, the Kenya Mining and Minerals Policy, and the Mining Act (2016) ushered in significant reforms, redefining the legal status and governance of artisanal mining. For the first time, the government officially recognized ASM, offering a pathway to legitimize and formalize an industry estimated to employ around 800,000 individuals.

Despite its potential, the ASM sector faces numerous challenges, including informality, limited access to financing, and a lack of business expertise. Additionally, issues such as subpar health and safety standards, limited geo-data access, and inefficient, environmentally harmful extraction techniques hinder progress.

In a bid to address these challenges and make ASM more appealing to the diaspora, KDA has teamed up with The Impact Facility (TIF), among other partners. TIF adopts an inclusive business-led approach, facilitating access to equipment and working capital through on-site improvements. This initiative, fueled by donor contributions and investments, supports well-structured and well-researched mines. The aim is to improve working conditions, enhance health and safety standards, and ultimately empower miners to break the cycle of poverty.



In July 2023, TIF organized a field trip to mines in the Lake Victoria region, welcoming KDA and Solidaridad. During this visit, which took place from July 10th to 15th, the team explored various mines and processing plants in Migori County, Kenya, as well as Mwanza and Geita in Tanzania. Highlights included witnessing mercury-free processing at the Antelope Mine in Migori and observing improved shafts with concrete steps in Geita. The team also had the opportunity to engage with two investors from England and the Netherlands.

This eye-opening excursion underscores the burgeoning potential of the artisanal mining sector. Members of the diaspora are encouraged to consider investing in this rapidly growing industry.

Promoting Diaspora Involvement in Wealth Creation While in Host Countries and for Families In Kenya

By Ambassador Bramwel Kisuya



In recognition of the immense opportunities the Kenyan Diaspora can tap into and actively contribute to the national development of our Country, the Kenya Diaspora Alliance is mobilizing the diverse and huge reservoir of knowledge, skills, natural resources, technology, and appropriate policy frameworks to ease the participation in National development of Diaspora across strategic host countries.

Foremost KDA is working with relevant ministries particularly the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs; Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investments, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Cooperatives Development, Small and Medium Enterprises, and the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs to open up and widen the doors of opportunities.

Noting that different types of Cooperatives contributed more than 45

percent of Gross Domestic Product in the 1970s and early 1980s, and appreciating that the Diaspora could once again use cooperatives to boost their competitive advantage in international trade and investments, KDA is rigorously partnering with professionals in the sector and the State Department of Cooperative Development to sharpen policy and legal framework for different types of cooperatives that enable diaspora to pool resources together and invest in various ventures. Such types of cooperatives include, particularly, the Housing Cooperatives, Mining Cooperatives, Building and Construction Cooperatives, Consumer Cooperatives, Multipurpose Cooperatives, Savings and Credit Cooperatives, Specific Single commodity-based cooperatives and many others. It is KDA's desire that the Kenyan diaspora adequately familiarize with how such cooperatives are structured and managed according to the principles of cooperation. Such information is well explained in the

contents of the handbook titled: "The Power of Values Based Cooperatives for Workers". VISIT

<https://bit.ly/ThePowerofValues> for more guidance on how to best use cooperatives for the prosperity of the Diaspora and their families at the Ward level in Kenya.

Cooperative interactions have numerous benefits such as reduced dependency of families in Kenya on welfare funds from diaspora, creation of job opportunities, increased incomes, production of export quality commodities, enhanced foreign exchange inflows from consumers in the diaspora including their networks such as Afro descendants in America, UK, Australia, Dubai and Diaspora from African Countries. Most importantly the diaspora will have a better bargaining and control power of a significant piece of the world's wealth, while placing Kenya's economy in a better position on the world stage.

Towards making it possible for effective Diaspora involvement, the Government has set a goal for realizing at least One Trillion Kenyan Shillings in diaspora remittance annually. At least 50 percent of this would be for direct investments in Agriculture, Housing, Universal health, and Digital and creative economy, and actualized through Cooperatives, small and medium enterprises. This will encourage the diaspora to promote the Public, Private Partnerships (PPPs) and special purpose vehicles jointly with their networks in the host countries to eventually exceed the personal development and National development targets. Welcome aboard, valued diaspora, whichever part of the world you live and work!!!



Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Convention (KDHC) Unveils the Prestigious Diaspora Awards 2023

By Gloria Adhiambo

The Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Convention (KDHC), thrilled to announce the launch of the highly anticipated 2023 Diaspora Awards. This monumental event is set to celebrate and recognize the remarkable contributions and achievements of individuals from diverse Kenyan diaspora communities across the world.

The Diaspora Awards stand as a beacon of acknowledgement for individuals who have not only demonstrated excellence, innovation, and impact but have also showcased the positive influence of diaspora communities on a global scale. This prestigious event brings together exceptional individuals from various fields, highlighting the invaluable contributions of diaspora communities worldwide.

The 2023 Diaspora Awards are designed to recognize outstanding achievements in a diverse range of categories. From Arts and Culture to Science and Technology, Entrepreneurship to Philanthropy, and many more, these categories celebrate the incredible talents and passions within the Kenyan diaspora. The Awards serve as a testament to the multifaceted brilliance of diaspora individuals.

Beyond recognizing the achievements of today, the Diaspora Awards hold a vital mission to inspire and motivate the next generation. By sharing

- success stories and innovative endeavors, this event encourages individuals within diaspora communities to aspire to greatness, reminding them that no dream is too big and no goal is out of reach.

Moreover, the Diaspora Awards underscore the significant influence of diaspora communities in fostering global understanding, cultural exchange, diplomacy, and socioeconomic development. By uniting exceptional individuals, professionals, and organizations, the event offers networking and collaboration opportunities that can further advance cross-cultural exchanges.

As we eagerly anticipate the 2023 Diaspora Awards, we look forward to an evening filled with celebration, inspiration, and a profound sense of unity that transcends borders. This event reaffirms the vital role of diaspora communities in shaping our world and demonstrates that their contributions are not just commendable but indispensable.

WIDU.Africa will also be awarding various entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence in their projects as well as celebrating best innovations. Stay tuned for more updates, details on nominations, and information on the upcoming 2023 Diaspora Awards—an event that will leave a lasting legacy.



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Unlocking Africa's Potential

Insights and Calls to Action from the Kenya Diaspora Alliance Investment Forum in New York

By Cizarina Nasirumbi and Rosemary Musumba



KDA Delegation and speakers at UNGA Delegation and UN Global Compact Building, New York

As always New York City was buzzing with visitors from different parts of the world. They were all in town to attend the annual 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, and so were the many side events, from the Clinton Global Initiative to UN Global Compact an arm of the UN that engages the private sector to address the Sustainable Development Goals.

Kenya Diaspora Alliance joined in the fray and hosted a historic 1st global investment event with speakers from various sectors held at the UN Global Compact Offices in New York to discuss investment opportunities, network among a global population for Kenya, in other parts of Africa and the world.

The enthusiasm at the event was palpable as majority raced to get a seat, and others online. As it aimed to expose Kenyan and African Diasporans to the potential for growth and development in their home countries.

The forum witnessed influential individuals from all cadres sharing their perspectives on how to tap into Africa's vast opportunities.

Dr. James Mwangi, the Group CEO of Equity Bank Group, emphasized that Africa holds immense potential in agriculture for food security, green energy, and strategic minerals. He shed light on the investment opportunities available in these sectors, urging individuals to harness innovation to capitalize on them. With the right focus and strategies, he believes that the risks associated with investing in Africa can be effectively managed.

Craig Hatkoff, the Co-founder of Tribeca Festival, addressed the audience on how to tell compelling stories that create awareness and understanding of Kenya's potential as he seeks opportunities to collaborate to address the myriad of issues geared towards SDGs.

He stressed the importance of showcasing the essence of Kenya, its history, and its aspirations, while embracing innovation to effectively communicate these narratives to the world.

Former Mayor of New York City, Bill De Blasio, highlighted the significance of the event, noting that New York is an essential hub for developing investments in both Kenya and the United States. He commended the entrepreneurial activity and energy present in the city (and the room), and encouraged individuals to tap into this for the benefit of both countries.

The forum also featured Dr Paula Kahumbu a renowned conservationist from Kenya, who emphasized the need to use storytelling and creativity to inspire and engage the youth. By harnessing Africa's knowledge, traditions, and scientific advancements, she believes that the creative industry can flourish and become a catalyst for positive change. She stressed the importance of partnerships and collaboration to amplify the impact of these stories.

To achieve economic freedom, the Reverend Dennis Dillon highlighted the need for Kenya to strengthen its commitment to branding itself globally. He urged the country to promote itself as a leading destination and market its airline, emphasizing its strength in facilitating travel to and across Africa. To become economically independent, the Rev Dillon suggested leveraging economic

Unlocking Africa's Potential

(Cont. from pg. 9)

tourism and granting citizenship to historical diasporans.

Rev. Dr. Dennis Dillon is the CEO of the New York Christian Times advocating for Africans to prioritize purchasing products made in Kenya and Africa. He called on governments to facilitate and promote business opportunities, stating that their role is to open doors and create an enabling environment for individuals to do business with more access and freely.

The Kenya Diaspora Alliance Investment Forum at the UN Global Compact Offices in New York provided a platform for speakers to discuss investment opportunities in Kenya. Through their insights and calls to action, individuals were inspired to tap into Africa's potential, leverage innovation, and embrace collaboration to drive positive change and economic growth.



Part of the delegation in New York led by the NSE Chair Mr. Kiprono Kittony & CEO Jeff Odundo paid a Courtesy Call to the UN Assistant Secretary General @Sanda Ojiambo at UN Global Compact in Manhattan

Professor Teiji Kimball of PHIRST Labs Global in North Carolina and accompanied by Hon Anne Gathecha a former Kenyan legislator emphasized that the time is now for Africa. Africans should stop thinking outside the box but caused laughter when he stated, "they should tear the box"

The KDA delegates led by the Interim Chair from Dallas, Bob Nyangweso, Patricia Njogu, Rosemary Musumba, Mechah Mosoti also attended various events around town that included the UNGC event "Unstoppable Africa", Clinton Global Initiative, ARDN, Forbes Africa, among many others.

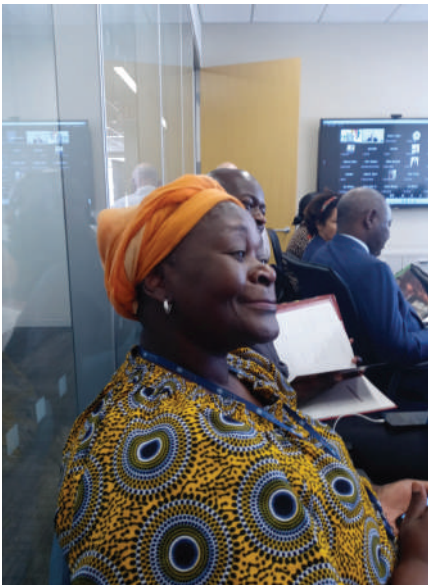


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Ms Rosemary Musumba, KDA Delegate



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Craig Hatkoff, the Co-founder, Tribeca Festival,



Rev. Dr. Dennis Dillon-CEO, New York Christian Times



Professor Teiji Kimball of PHIRST in South Carolina



Dr Paula Kahumbu a renowned conservationist from Kenya,



Former Mayor of New York City, Bill De Blasio



Rosemary Musumba - KDA Global US Executive gives her key note speech at UNGA



(from left) Kwasi Twum-Ampofo (KTA) - Founder/CEO of KTA Mobile Communications, Mechah Mosoti - KDA Global USA Executive member, Terry Afram - MD of Bridges Partners and owner of Luxury clothing GINGA, Richard Ng'ong'a- Kenya Trade Attache and Bob Nyangweso - KDA Global USA interim Chair.



Group MD & CEO, Equity Group Holdings PLC
With Patricia Njogu - KDA USA, Interim Treasurer.



Bob Nyangweso Interim Chair - KDA USA (left) with Tolu Kweku Lacroix Executive Director UN Global Ghana (right) and Eddy Kioni of Buenassa (middle left)



Patricia Njogu - KDA USA, Interim Treasurer with Special AU Envoy for the Youth



Bob Nyangweso Interim Chair - KDA USA, with Chris Somachi of Tony Elumelu Foundation



Bob Nyangweso Interim Chair - KDA USA, with Jean Lengo Ledy founder and CEO Ledy Groups DRC



Mr. Bob Nyangweso Interim Chair - KDA USA, with Khalil Al Ameriani - CEO VODACOM Congo

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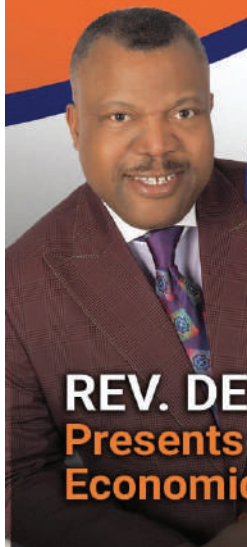
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Young KDA delegate Suubi Nambwayo with Dr Djibril Diallo, founder of ARDN in NY



KDA delegation in New York City during UNGA



Mechah Mosoti, Executive member of KDA Global US at the swahili village



Rosemary Musumba - KDA Global US Executive with Prof. Teiji Kimball of PHIRST Labs.



Rosemary Musumba - KDA Global US Executive with Mayor of Banjul, The Gambia



Bob Nyangweso Interim Chiar - KDA USA, with Henri Wanze CEO of Sofibanque



Rosemary Musumba - KDA Global US Executive member with Mt. Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard and the President of American Mayors Association (in white top) and other invited guests during the UCLG Africa event for Mayors and legislators in NYC.



Bob Nyangweso Interim Chiar - KDA USA, with with President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana



Bob Nyangweso Interim Chiar - KDA USA with Bismack Biyombo Sumba - Congolese professional NBA player



Mr. Bob Nyangweso Interim Chiar - KDA USA, with Fally Ipupa - Congo



Mr. Bob Nyangweso Interim Chiar - KDA USA, with with Head of State, Ghana H. E Nana Akufo-Addo



Bob Nyangweso Interim Chiar - KDA USA, with Dori Gurwitz of Globant



Sanda Ojiambo ASG of UN Global Compact with a friend



Bob Nyangweso Interim Chiar - KDA USA, with Tayo Oviusi CEO Paga (center) and and Victor Williams CEO NBA Africa (left)



Bob Nyangweso Interim Chiar - KDA USA, with Nairobi County Kefa Omanga Omoi. Director Economic planning and Grace Chamari



Simeon Kirui Chair - Chairman - Kenya Diaspora Association in Germany (K-DAG) with H.E Dr. William Ruto and PS, Diaspora Affairs Ms. Roseline Njogu during the President's visit to Germany.



Simeon Kirui, Chair - Chairman - Kenya Diaspora Association in Germany (K-DAG) addressing the Kenyan Diaspora in Germany during the Berlin diaspora MEET-UP with H.E Dr. William Ruto



Ms. Roseline K. Njogu - PS, State Department for Diaspora Affairs addressing the Kenyan Diaspora in Germany during the Berlin Diaspora MEET UP.



Dr. Shem Ochuodho, Global Chair, Kenya Diaspora Alliance speaking at the Global Forum on Remittances, Investments and Development (GFRID) in June.



The KDA Global Secretariat and GIZ WiDU at a visit to Ms. Roseline K. Njogu - Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs office in August following discussions on potential synergies for collaboration.

THE DIASPORA NEWSLETTER

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