

picture story



SALVAGING KANU?

This makeshift structure in Nairobi's Mathare slums may be decked out in the symbol and colours of the almost extinct cockerel party but that hasn't stopped the office from hosting several other local activities – perhaps to help make the rent?

PHOTO | JOSEPH KANYI

toilet etiquette

Pee straight or face the law

Public toilet users in Shenzhen, China, will pay 100 yuan (Sh1,400) if found to have failed to urinate accurately in city facilities, a new law that come into effect this month dictates.

The regulations were designed to curb the “uncouth use of a public toilet”, a city government official told journalists.

Critics suggested toilet inspectors would be needed to enforce the rules. The *Beijing Times* ran an opinion piece calling into question the necessity of making a law on something that could “be simply guided by social con-



sensus”.

According to *BBC*, the laws do not specify what amount of spilled urine would be classed as a violation, but its implementation has provoked derision and debate in local newspapers and on *Weibo*,

China's version of *Twitter*.

One person wrote: “A number of new civil servant positions will be created. There will be a supervisor behind every urinating person to see whether the pee is straight”.

sniffer-in-chief

Nasa moves to keep smell in check

Nasa employs a “chief sniffer” who smells materials and components before they are used for space missions, a *Daily Telegraph* article has highlighted.

George Aldrich is the holder of that position.

The chemical specialist began working at Nasa's White Sands Test Facility in 1974. He has conducted more than 850 smell missions for the agency.

Aldrich's job is important because smells intensify in the heat and confined space of a space capsule, and once a mission has launched, astronauts “have no way of escaping” unpleasant odours, he explained to the newspaper.

Further, smelling objects can identify dangerous chemicals which could have toxic effects and pose a serious health threat.

top stories

private detective

United against 'boyfriend' tracking

Google Play, a digital application distribution platform, has withdrawn a boyfriend-spying software from sale, apparently because of complaints over privacy abuse as well as its potential to be used for extortion or stalking, international media have reported.

Rastreador de Namorados, a Brazilian application, promises to act like a “private detective in your partner's pocket”.

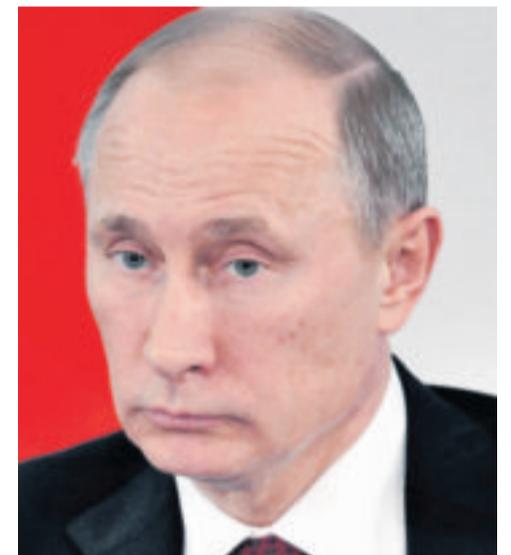
Its name is Portuguese for “boyfriend tracker”.

To install the software, suspicious partners have to get their hands on their loved one's smartphones and upload the application. A free version leaves its icon visible on the target's phone, while a version that costs \$2 (Sh174) a month masks the icon.

Matheus Grijó, a 24-year-old Sao Paulo-based developer behind the app, says it has attracted around 50,000 users since its launch about two months ago.

painting a bad picture

Wrong underwear



Police have seized a painting of Russian president Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in women's underwear, Britain's *Daily Mirror* reports.

Authorities said they took the paintings, among others, from the Museum of Power gallery in St Petersburg late on Monday after receiving reports that they were illegal.

The artworks feature lawmakers who have backed legislation banning so-called gay propaganda.

One showed President Putin wearing a tight-fitting slip and brushing the hair of the prime minister.

Alexander Donskoy, the gallery's owner, said the officers had also shut down his establishment and gave him no explanation for the removal of paintings.

— COMPILED BY CARLOS MUREITHI

obituary

Hezekiah Wepukhulu (1931-2013)

Hezekiah Wepukhulu, a pioneer African sports journalist who covered the beat for more than four decades, has died.

Wepukhulu passed away on Tuesday, August 27, at Kenyatta

National Hospital. He was 82.

Jean Simekha, his daughter, told journalists that the deceased was first admitted to Nairobi Women's Hospital on Sunday, August 11, after suffering a stroke. He was taken into the intensive care unit at Kenyatta National Hospital three days later.

Wepukhulu, popularly known as Hez, was born in Butunde Village, Bungoma County. He got into the media in 1954 after a

two-year stint as a teacher.

He first contributed to *Baraza*, a Swahili newspaper prior to working with the *East African Standard*, and *Taifa Leo* in 1960.

Wepukhulu later worked for Kenya News Agency, *Kenya Times* and *Daily Nation*.

Many who knew him offered their condolences on social media.

Hez left behind a widow and 11 children.

