

Subject:

Obama Family Updates

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The ministry of national heritage this month hosted a cultural festival in Kogelo and commissioned a cultural museum on a plot donated by a member of the Kogelo community. The cultural festival was attended by minister for national heritage, William ole Ntimama and US ambassador, Michael Ranneberger.

This was to honour the birthplace of President Barack Obama and re-dedicate the tomb of Barack Hussein Obama, Sr., the president's late father. But the project had been delayed because of ownership wrangles surrounding the plot.

Since the last bulletin (#9037/2009/04) on this subject, the government has provided additional assistance to Mama Sarah Obama including additional security and a small government stipend of Ksh 50,000 per month. Ministry of public works has commissioned a 12km new tarmac road that will link Kogelo village with Ndori market in Bondo district and Ng'iya market in Siaya district.

The road was commissioned by Prime Minister, Raila Odinga and minister for roads, Franklin Bett in the presence of other government officials and representatives of the Obama family.

Mama Sarah is on record that she speaks occasionally with President Obama but we have not verified the frequency of these calls or whether they are secure enough to avoid any diversions or tapping over the internet.