

# Anniversary

# New Vision

ADVERTISER SUPPLEMENT

# Dutch celebrate King's Day



King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands (second-right) with Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden (left), the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Ahmet Uzumcu (second-left) and foreign affairs minister Bert Koenders (right) after arriving at the Hall of Knights, ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention, in the Hague, Netherlands, yesterday. REUTERS

**T**oday arguably marks the biggest birthday party in the world and it happens to be a Dutch affair. April 27 is the birthday of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, and all Dutch people in the Netherlands and the world over are celebrating his birthday in what is known as the King's Day. It is a public holiday in the Netherlands.

**King Willem-Alexander** Willem-Alexander Claus George Ferdinand is the King of the Netherlands. He is married to Maxima Zorreguieta Cerruti and they have three daughters — Princesses Catharina-Amalia, Alexia and Ariane.

Willem-Alexander turns 50 today. He is currently the second youngest monarch in Europe, after Felipe VI of Spain, who is a year younger.

Willem-Alexander is the eldest of three children, his follower was Prince Friso, who passed away in 2013 and his youngest brother is Prince Constantijn.

King Willem-Alexander was born April 27, 1967 in Utrecht a city in the central Netherlands that has been a religious centre for centuries. The city also has a medieval old town, canals, Christian monuments and the respected Utrecht University.

The Utrecht born, Willem-Alexander is the oldest child of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and German diplomat Claus van Amsberg. He is the first male monarch of the Netherlands in 123 years. Willem-Alexander was the first male Dutch royal baby since the birth of Prince

**KING WILLEM-ALEXANDER WAS THE FIRST MALE DUTCH ROYAL BABY SINCE THE BIRTH OF PRINCE ALEXANDER IN 1851**

Alexander in 1851, and the first immediate male heir since Alexander's death in 1884.

He became Prince of Orange as heir apparent upon his mother's accession on 30 April 1980, and succeeded her following her abdication on 30 April 2013.

**From Queen's Day to King's Day**

The royal celebrations in the Netherlands were first held on 31 August 1885, in honour of the birth of Queen Wilhelmina. And prior to Willem-Alexander's accession to the throne in 2013, King's Day was called Queen's Day. It was held on every April 30, in honour of the former monarch Queen Beatrix, but April 30, was not actually Queen Beatrix's birthday, but that of her mother Juliana.

Beatrix decided to keep Queen's Day on April 30, in honour of her mother much to the delight of the Dutch people, since Beatrix's real birthday falls on January 31 during the winter. Having succeeded his mother Queen Beatrix, and ascending the

throne in 2013, the royal celebrations is now known as King's day and falls on April 27, the birth date of King Willem-Alexander. And to celebrate King's Day, everyone is donning orange today.

**Why orange outfits**

Orange is worn on King's Day as a show of pride for the Dutch royal family, the House of Orange-Nassau, which has its roots in the French city of Orange. The House of Orange-Nassau is a branch of the European House of Nassau.

Nassau is a historical region in present day Germany, and the noble family that provided its hereditary rulers for many centuries.

The present-day royal heads of the Netherlands and Luxembourg are all descended from the family, called the House of Nassau. Divided into two, the elder Walram line gave rise to the German Emperor Adolf, and the younger Ottonian line gave rise to the Princes of Orange and the monarchs of the Netherlands.

The House of Orange-Nassau has played a central role in the politics and government of the Netherlands and at times in Europe. And as a show of pride for the Dutch royal family today, which is King's day, everyone is wearing orange clothes and accessories from head to toe.

**Celebrations in Uganda**

Veronica Mukite, an official from the Netherlands embassy in Kampala, says Dutch people abroad share enthusiasm for the day.

She says the ambassador will host a reception at his residence later today and that the guest list includes ministers and government

officials, diplomats, business contacts and members from the Dutch community in Uganda.

For those in the

Netherlands, the party kicked off yesterday on the eve of King's Day.

Compiled Jackie Achan



**AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF TORTURE VICTIMS (ACTV)**



**HAPPY KING'S DAY, KONINGS DAG 2017**

Happy Birthday your Majesty, King Willem-Alexander of the Kingdom of the Netherlands!

#### Introduction:

On this 27th Day of April 2017, ACTV as the premier stake holder in the fight against torture in Uganda, congratulates His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on his 50th birthday. Long live the King!

Freedom from all acts of torture or cruel, inhumane and degrading is a human entitlement to all Ugandans under Article 24 of the 1995 constitution of Uganda, and a non-derogable right in Article 44(a).

The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act of Uganda. (PPTA 2012) criminalises all acts of torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.

Through support from the Democratic Governance Facility, ACTV has continued to advocate against torture and provide treatment to survivors of torture. As a result, the following have been realised;

- Four survivors alleging violation of the right to freedom from torture have so far benefitted from Public Interest Litigation.
- Seven cases so far have been prosecuted utilising the PPTA 2012 or Anti-Torture Law.

#### Forms of torture:

From ACTV statistics in 2016, the most common form of torture was physical torture, to include; kicking, beatings with truncheons, canes and specially designed instruments (systematically and non-systematically) and subjecting victims to extreme hard labour. Sexual torture was mostly reported by refugees

(both male and female) fleeing conflict majorly from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Psychological methods of torture were also employed. However, psychological torture still remains a challenge to prove in the formal courts of law.

#### Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in prisons

In 2016 a total of 15 prisons were visited; Central region (3), Western region (4) and Northern region (8). During the visits 952 (883 Male and 69 Female) clients were reached to and offered holistic services.

#### Legal Aid Services:

ACTV is formalising the registration and establishment of a legal Aid Clinic. This is aimed at ensuring that ACTV can get the legal mandate through the law council to represent their clients in courts of law.

#### Challenges in realising freedom from torture

- Funding gaps in fulfilling the Socio-economic empowerment component or Livelihoods which affects the total healing of clients due to the danger of suffering relapses out of frustration on what to do after treatment.
- The Witness Protection Bill 2014 has not been passed into law up to now!
- Insufficient medical evidence to prove psychological torture before formal courts of law..
- The delay to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture of 2006 (OPCAT) by government.

#### Ratification of OPCAT:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia have all ratified the OPCAT 2006.

#### Recommendations:

- The Government of Uganda should ratify the OPCAT 2006 to allow free and unlimited access to all detention facilities in the country to visiting Human Rights bodies.
- The process of gazetting the regulations of the PPTA 2012 should be fast tracked so that they are disseminated to all the various stakeholders. This will ease the implementation of the PPTA 2012 by legal advocates, judicial officers and other actors in the Justice, Law and Order Sector.
- Pass the witness protection bill into law. Fear by witnesses and torture survivors to testify in courts of law has frustrated the justice chain.

**Happy Kings' Day, Koningsdag 2017 and long live the King on your 50th Birthday!**

**Please accept, Your Majesty, the assurances of our highest esteem.**

#### For more information contact:

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**"FOR A TORTURE FREE WORLD."**