

# Kenya serves up battlefield tourism on its exotic menu

TAITA TAVETA

By PHILIP MWAKIO

Kenya has added another product to its tourism menu - battlefield tours. Battlefield tourism specialises in tours of battlefields, war cemeteries, memorials and related historic sites.

Sarova Taita Hills and Salt Lick Lodges General Manager Willie Mwadillo, a certified battlefield tour guide, said an exciting itinerary has been prepared detailing battlefield tours.

This is an additional attraction to potential tourists from Poland wishing to holiday in Kenya.

"Battlefield tourism focuses on historic battlefields where the fighting is long past and is much more strongly linked to heritage and commemoration," Mr Mwadillo said when he received 30 Polish travel agents from Tui Poland.

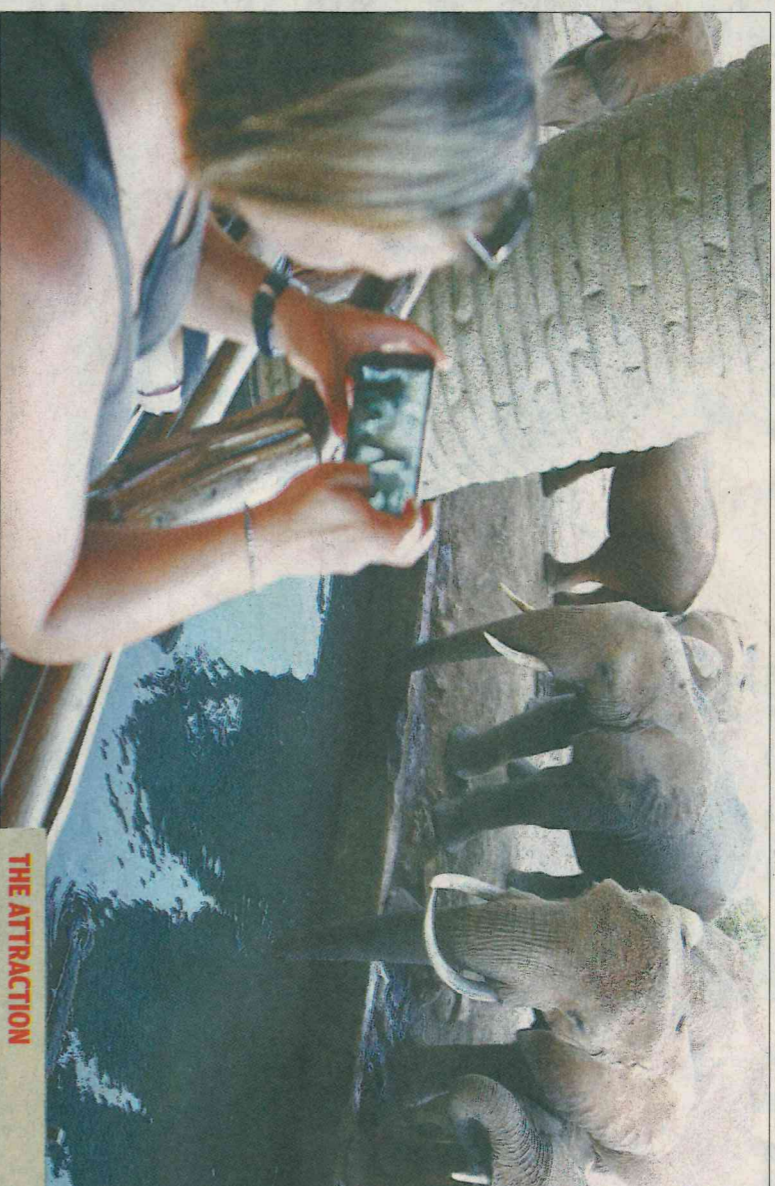
The agents were on a familiarisation tour of the Kenyan Coast. Tui Poland Product Head Mateusz Maszkiewicz said it was good to know about the rich history of World War I in Africa.

"A majority of Polish nationals do not know that the World War was also fought outside Europe. It will be interesting for mostly historians to sample what there is to offer here in terms of battlefield tourism," he said.

Another tour agent, Marta Suchanek said they were mesmerised at the exotic white sandy beaches, friendly nature of the local people they interacted with and history of World War I.

"You have a blessed destination with rich attractions that are unmatched the world over," she said.

The visit by the Polish travel agents coincided with the launch of a unique summer charter flight from War-



**A Polish tourist takes photos at the Sarova Salt Lick Game Lodge after a game drive at the Tsavo East National Park, yesterday.** (PHOTO: GIDEON MAUNDU/STANDARD)

saw, Poland to Mombasa every Thursday.

Taita Taveta County is home to several battlefield sites, remnants of the World War I, which pitted forces from German ruled Tanganyika against British Forces protecting the British colonies in British East Africa (present day Kenya and Uganda).

The first shot that signified the start of the World War I land cam-

paign in East Africa region was fired on August 15, 1914 at the border town of Taveta in present day Taita Taveta County.

Kenya Tourism Board acting Regional Marketing manager in charge of cluster markets in Poland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Czech and Russia said the Polish market had recovered fully.

## THE ATTRACTION

- Battlefield tourism has acquired relevance and a sense of urgency as the world prepares to mark 100 years since the start of World War I in Taita Taveta
- Fighting pitted forces from Germany which ruled Tanganyika against British forces protecting the British colonies in Kenya, Uganda and Somaliland
- Yesterday, 30 Polish travel agents from Tui Poland toured the Kenyan Coast

MOMBASA

## MP accuses Matiang'i of intimidation

By MWANGI MURAGURI

Jomvu MP Badi Twalib has accused Education Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i of publicly harassing and intimidating head teachers.

Mr Twalib said Dr Matiang'i should concentrate on policy formulation instead of "taking over responsibilities of his junior staff". Twalib said the CS had caused anxiety and fear, adding that this could demoralise teachers.

"Matiang'i's habit of ambushing teachers with journalists in tow is wrong. Such actions only amount to intimidation of teachers something which does not augur well for the progress of the education sector in the country," said Mr Twalib.

The Jomvu legislator, who spoke during the distribution of bursary cheques, said teachers should not be treated like criminals. He said there are better and more humane ways of dealing with teachers, without resorting to using "Rambo tactics".

"If a teacher is not performing his duties, let the Cabinet secretary deal with the issue in a consultative and not confrontational manner, which leaves the teacher feeling dejected," he said.

The lawmaker said increased cases of arson in schools called for a sober approach that would bring all players on the board.

He described Matiang'i's constant warning to parents that they will shoulder the responsibility of repairing damages left behind by arson as confrontational, and only worsened the situation.

"Being a leader means looking for answers and not making an already bad situation worse. It is sad to spend millions of taxpayers money to build schools only for it to go up in flames due to indiscipline," he said.