

Rethink global food production strategies

By DANIEL OTUNGE

A New report on challenges facing agricultural production concludes that transforming agricultural sector to meet the challenges of climate change, high population growth, and global financial crisis will require radical changes.

This is even more imperative in sub-Saharan Africa, the only region where

agricultural productivity has been on the decline due to poor soils, less use of fertilizers, low adoption of innovative seeds, lack of access to credit and general poor investments in agricultural research and development.

The report calls for urgent reforming of the current “fragmented global system of research and development,” in order to better serve the small-scale farmers, while making food production more sus-

tainable and more resilient to future climatic and energy shocks.

Funded by various development agencies, including the World Bank, European Commission, and the UK Department for International Development, the report was a befitting curtain raiser for the first Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development

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Fish farms answer to declining stock

By FAITH MUIRURI



Construction of fish ponds under the ESP programme gains momentum. Already 13,444 fish ponds have been constructed in a bid to stimulate rural economies.

THE decline of fish stock in the country over the past decade has rekindled efforts geared towards revamping the sector. And in what is seen as a paradigm shift from over reliance on fresh water fish, the government is now implementing an elaborate programme under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP), which aims at increasing aquaculture productivity and raising the income of farmers and other stakeholders.

The ESP sponsored fish farming enterprise programme however comes in the backdrop of grim statistics which show significant reduction in fish and fish species diversity in Lake Victoria, which provides 90 percent of the annual national production. This has largely been attributed to the degradation of the fish habitat, and the spread of aquatic weeds, such as the water hyacinth, which have been cited as the major causes of the decline in per capita supply of fish.

In addition, over-fishing caused by an influx of fishermen to the country's lakes because of unemployment has been blamed for the bad state of affairs. A recent report on Lake Victoria released by the Kenyan Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development indicates that the Kenyan part of the lake, which is only 6 percent of the lake's area, has 199,242 fishermen, which is more than double the recommended figure.



Dr Otuoma

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Already, Fisheries Minister Dr. Paul Otuoma, is ringing an alarm over the possible collapse of the sector if the number of fishermen in Lake Victoria is not controlled.

“Overfishing and illegal fishing carried out in the Lake are adversely affecting the resource,” warns the minister.

That is why the fish farming enterprise program under the ESP is highly anticipated, as it is likely to ease pressure on the lake.

Currently 13,444 fish ponds have been constructed in the first phase of the program which is anticipated to boost fish production in the country to 7,560 Metric Tonnes from the current 4,250 Metric Tonnes.

This, analysts say, is poised to raise the profile of the aquaculture sector in the national landscape and allow it to compete effectively with other key sectors of the economy.

According to the Chief Fisheries Officer, Mr. Sammy Macharia, the department is projecting a substantive Kshs 4 billion to be generated from the sector in next three years.

The timely launch of the Fish project has guaranteed prolific results and is set to increase farmers' earnings with a significant margin. A total of Kshs 1.134 billion is anticipated at the initial phase where each of the 28,000 newly constructed fish ponds is likely to produce at least 270Kgs of fish. The government is expected to save an equivalent amount in imports

Farmers who had ventured into fish farming prior to the launch of the ESP last year are reaping highly from the project. A majority of these farmers are now supplying fingerlings to the newly established ponds. Susan Njeri Kuria who is the

Fish farms answer to declining stock



A woman sells fish to her customers. The dwindling fish stock in the country has resulted in depletion of rare species.

proprietor of Kamiti Fish Integrated Farm is a testimony of how farmers who have ventured in the initiative are tapping from the unexploited potential.

She is among private hatcheries who have been listed by the government to breed and supply quality fingerling to the clusters that have been formed under the ESP. She is currently supplying the fingerlings to farmers in far flung areas of Kakamega, Embu, Meru and Kiambu. She says plans are underway to start exporting fish in Zambia and Southern Sudan

“The demand is high and the

returns are quite impressive. I am able supply about 1 million fingerlings in a month at Kshs3 per piece,” she adds during a tour of fish farming projects under ESP.

Domiciano Maingi who owns Fish Paradise Farm supplies fingerlings in Eastern, Central and sections of Rift Valley while Dominion farms have been slated for Nyanza area.

The government is at the moment pushing for the establishment of an aquaculture certification scheme which will allow farmers to export fish both at the regional and international

market.

Mr. Macharia says the scheme will outline procedures to be followed at all levels of production to ensure that they meet the required international standards.

The scheme will also focus on packaging of Fish produced locally to allow for traceability of the product at the international market.

“The certification will make sure that they follow certified processes and approved packaging modalities to allow for traceability of Kenyan Fish,” he explains.

This will be done under the

guidance of the Directorate of Fish Inspection and Quality Assurance. The Directorate is to ensure that fish farming practices adhere to the fish quality assurance requirement for the farmed fish to be acceptable at the local and international markets.

The Ministry is also emphasizing formation of Farmers Cluster Associations and cooperative movements to enhance coordination of the clusters activities for easy inputs supply and marketing of aquaculture products.

“Through the clusters farmers will synchronize stocking and harvesting of fish in tandem with the market demands,” he adds. Currently around 7,000 farmers are under aquaculture and the number is expected to go up to 28,000 with the ESP program.

The government also intends to increase production of fingerlings at the Sagana Aquaculture center. The Ministry of Fisheries is encouraging establishment of private fingerling production and fish production enterprises as a way of addressing the limitations currently being experienced in the stocking of fish ponds.

Mr. Macharia says that the Ministry plans to stock all the completed ponds at the end of this month.

A total of Kshs623 million was spent during the first phase and the allocation went into financing the construction of the fish ponds in 140 constituencies, stocking them with fingerlings and buying feeds. A similar allocation is expected in the next financial year to finance the second phase which is expected to take a shorter period.

Macharia says that a huge chunk of the second allocation will go towards marketing and value addition.

Rift Valley Province leads in the number of completed ponds with 2,731 followed by Nyanza province which has a total of 2,561 completed ponds while Central comes third with 2,546. Western Province has 2,336, Eastern Province has 1,640 ponds while Coast has the least with 319 ponds complete.

The programme is however faced with a number of challenges which include inadequate transportation facilities, delays in disbursement of funds by treasury and identification of beneficiaries.

Fisheries department now wants treasury to consider allocating funds to facilitate the purchase of at least one vehicle and two motor cycles in the 140 constituencies where the programme is being implemented to facilitate extension work.



Local fishermen try their luck at Lake Victoria.



Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta

Fish ponds' construction progress report (22nd March 2010)

Below is a status report on the ongoing construction of fish ponds in 140 constituencies under ESP.

Province	District	Constituency	Targeted No.	No. of ponds completed	No. of ponds under construction	No. pending	No. of ponds stocked
Central	Nyeri	Nyeri Town	100	100	0	0	0
		Mathira	100	80	20	0	0
		Othaya	100	91	9	0	0
		Mukurweini	100	72	28	0	0
		Kieni	100	89	11	0	0
		Tetu	100	75	25	0	0
	Kirinyaga	Kerugoya /Kutus	100	100	0	0	19
		Mwea	100	99	1	0	19
		Ndia	100	81	19	0	14
	Muranga	Gichugu	100	95	5	0	19
		Kangema	100	80	20	0	0
		Maragua	100	81	19	0	0
		Kandara	100	75	25	0	0
		Kigumo	100	80	20	0	0
		Kiharu	100	70	30	0	0
		Mathioya	100	78	22	0	0
	Thika	Gatanga	100	100	0	0	23
		Juja	100	100	0	0	7
		Gatundu South	100	100	0	0	34
	Gatundu North		100	100	0	0	0
			100	100	0	0	0
	Kiambu	Lari	100	99	1	0	17
		Githunguri	100	97	3	0	10
		Limuru	100	100	0	0	6
		Kikuyu	100	100	0	0	23
	Nyandarua	Kiambaa	100	98	2	0	23
		Kinangop	100	69	31	0	0
		Ndaragwa	100	85	15	0	0
		Oi Kalou	100	86	14	0	0
Kipipiri		100	66	34	0	0	
TOTAL			2900	2546	354	0	214
Provincial % progress			100	88	12	0	7
Nyanza	Kisumu	Kisumu Rural	100	93	7	0	0
		Bondo	100	100	0	0	20
	Nyando	Rarieda	100	41	59	0	9
		Nyando	100	99	1	0	5
		Muhoroni	100	100	0	0	0
	Rachuonyo	Nyakach	100	100	0	0	0
		Karachuonyo	100	100	0	0	38
	Homa Bay	Kasipul Kabondo	100	100	0	0	42
		Rangwe	100	100	0	0	0
	Suba	Ndhiwa	100	88	12	0	0
		Mbita	100	90	10	0	0
	Migori	Rongo	100	100	0	0	47
		Uriri	100	90	10	0	0
		Migori	100	70	30	0	0
	Siaya	Nyatike	100	9	21	70	0
		Alego Usonga	100	100	0	0	0
		Gem	100	100	0	0	33
	Kuria	Ugenya	100	100	0	0	1
		Kuria	100	76	24	0	0
	Nyamira	Kitutu Masaba	100	88	12	0	0
		North Mugirango	100	85	15	0	0
	Kisii	West Mugirango	100	79	21	0	0
		Bonchari	100	95	5	0	14
		Nyaribari Chache	100	100	0	0	33
	Gucha	Kitutu Chache	100	96	4	0	0
		Nyaribari Masaba	100	74	26	0	0
		Bobasi	100	100	0	0	27
		Bomachoge	100	100	0	0	26
		South Mugirango	100	88	12	0	0
TOTAL			2900	2561	269	70	295
Provincial % progress			100	88	9	2	10
Western	Bungoma	Webuye	100	100	0	0	0
		Kimilili	100	100	0	0	0

Kieni East DC livid over poor education standards

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

Kieni East District Commissioner Mr Daniel Odambu has blamed education officials for failing to address the declining standards of education in the district.

The DC said that in the recent years, the district has been registering poor performances in national examinations and added that something needed to be done to reclaim the lost glory.

"I'm very worried over the declining standards of education in this district of Kieni East. I want to know what the education officials are doing since it has reached an alarming stage," says the DC.

Speaking in Kieni when he presented a cheque worth Kshs 200,000 to the chairman of the Graceland Girls Secondary school, Mr Wachira Nderitu, the DC noted that in last year's results of the primary school national examination, the district highest mark was 267 while the last pupil got a mere 74 marks out of the 500.

He said that if the trend continues, the district will fail to produce professionals considering the fact most occupations require higher grades. The DC also called upon the education stakeholders in the area to jointly work together to help uplift the standards.

The cheque which was donated by the Kenya Charity sweepstakes will help to complete a multi-million library that is being constructed at the school.

Once completed, the library will serve the neighboring schools as well as the larger community since the whole district does not have a public library.

The plight of poor students

One month since the release of the 2009 KCSE results, the country has already forgotten the plight of all those Kenyans who have just graduated from Secondary Education. With results slips issued by the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC), many of these young Kenyans are eager to pursue higher education. Some lucky ones are already enrolled in higher institutions of learning either locally or abroad.

In as much as many aspire to access University Education, only 24.27% of the candidates scored a mean grade of C+ and hence qualified for University Education. The other 75.73% (over 300,000) students scored below C+ and hence would not get direct admissions to Universities. However, this is not the first time we are getting into such a situation as a country. Every year, hundreds of thousands of candidates do not qualify for University Education.

Kenya has a history of unequal educational opportunities among its people right from the primary to University levels. Whereas it is widely acknowledged that access to quality education by all citizens would empower everyone with the knowledge and skills that would be useful in poverty eradication, we are yet to put sufficient

COMMENT

By DON BONYO



focus in addressing educational disparities in the country. Otherwise, how do you explain the low transition levels from Secondary Education to University Education?

The trend has been that very few students from poor families perform well; many do poorly in their households and hence will be affected in schools despite the efforts they make while studying. The difficulties that the children undergo back at home; poor housing structures, minimal food, lack of protection, child abuse incidences, and effects of HIV& AIDS among other poverty related factors continue to impact negatively on their performance in schools.

The equipment and facilities in many of the secondary schools equally are in poor conditions. The learning environment often is not conducive for many children while some travel long distances to schools. Student teacher relationship is also a challenge in some circumstance and thus affects learning outcomes. In a nutshell,

the playing ground is not levelled for secondary school students in Kenya; it is no wonder the "Big schools" continue to excel and produce good grades. If all our secondary school teachers went through the same Universities, what explains why all of them cannot produce good grades like the teachers in the "Big schools?" Is it only to do with the school and teacher management as is always argued? Are we saying that all our schools that perform poorly have poor school and teacher managers? How about the learning environment and the role of communities in education provision?

Whatever reasons we may want to attribute to poor performance in secondary schools and hence few students qualifying for University education; the back stops squarely with the state. Policy development and implementation is a key government function and any failures to develop and implement policies that will enhance quality education in secondary schools should be first blamed on the government, followed by any blames on communities wherever they have failed.

Having observed that over 300,000 students would miss University opportunities and going by this average, over 1.5 million Kenyans in a period of

the last 5 years have been missing opportunities for higher levels of learning, what does this mean for us as a nation? Is this the group that continues to be targeted for Kazi Kwa Vijana? And how about those who miss the Kazi Kwa Vijana opportunities? At whose mercy are they?

The current government and all persons in leadership in this country must urgently review Education policies in place with a view to eradicating disparities both at primary and secondary education levels; ensure equal opportunities for both boys and girls.

Considering that some of those who miss University opportunities would enrol in certificate and diploma colleges in various parts of the country, whose costs are evidently high, we must also review the policies targeting provision of education at this level. Some colleges could be in business, exploiting the poor while providing very poor quality education. Indeed middle level colleges are necessary, but standards should not be compromised at all. Failure to deliberately review education policies at this point in time implies many more poor Kenyans will miss out of higher educational opportunities next year.

donbonyo@gmail.com

Fish ponds' construction progress report

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61		Sirisia	100	100	0	0	0	
62		Kanduyi	100	100	0	0	0	
63		Bumula	100	100	0	0	30	
64	Butere/Mumias	Khwisero	100	100	0	0	0	
65		Butere	100	100	0	0	0	
66		Mumias	100	100	0	0	0	
67		Matungu	100	100	0	0	0	
68	Kakamega	Ikolomani	100	96	4	0	0	
69		Lurambi	100	100	0	0	0	
70		Malava	100	100	0	0	0	
71		Shinyalu	100	100	0	0	0	
72	Lugari	Lugari	100	95	5	0	0	
73	Mt Elgon	Mt Elgon	100	100	0	0	0	
74	Vihiga	Emuhaya	100	100	0	0	0	
75		Vihiga	100	98	2	0	0	
76		Sabatia	100	94	6	0	0	
77		Hamisi	100	58	29	13	0	
78	Busia	Funyula	100	100	0	0	42	
79		Bundalangi	100	95	5	0	0	
80		Nambale	100	100	0	0	54	
81		Butula	100	100	0	0	0	
82	Teso	Amagoro	100	100	0	0	0	
TOTAL			2400	2336	51	13	126	
Provincial % progress			100	97	2	1	5	
Eastern	83	Machakos	Machakos Town	100	50	35	15	2
	84	Matungulu	Kangundo	100	80	20	0	3
	85	Athi River/Kathiani	Kathiani	100	62	38	0	0
	86	Mwala	Mwala	100	92	8	0	0

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P1 teachers to be phased out

By PETER MUTUKU

The fate of the P1 teacher training course for primary school teachers hangs in the balance. This follows revelations by Education Minister, Prof Sam Onger, that P1 training institutes would be phased out and upgraded to Diploma training institutes.

The Minister spoke as a journal compiled by the Commission of Higher Education (CHE), hinted on a possible dissolution of the P1 course based on recommendations by stakeholders during a two day consultative workshop on co-ordination of primary teacher training and university education, organized by the Commission mid last year.

The workshop dubbed "Linking Primary Teacher Training to University Education" underscored the need for the Primary school teacher to be equipped with higher education with focus on specialized skills to enable them provide

a solid foundation in the Children's formative years.

Participants recommended that the curriculum for primary teacher education be tailored to suit the needs of the primary school teaching environment.

Teacher training institutions were told to continuously link up with relevant stakeholders, including employers, to enhance relevance in primary teacher training institutions.

Participants proposed the formulation of a standardized policy guideline to cover training of teachers, training programmes, employment, deployment, promotion and career advancement.

It was resolved that the admission criteria at all levels of primary teacher education be harmonized.

A director at the Ministry of Higher Education, Agnes Sila observed that the move to link primary teacher training with university education had been a slow, often controversial process.

She said as universities engage with Primary school teacher training institutions, they must view their partners as critical friends. She notes that teachers were uniquely important to universities and suggested that attitudes as well as programmes and practices should reflect this.

The Commission Secretary Prof Everette Standa pointed out that continuing education remained an integral part of teacher education.

He thus called for flexibility on admission procedures for primary teachers seeking career advancement.

"Liberalization and demand for quality higher education has contributed substantially in encouraging individuals to pursue further education," noted the commission secretary.

However, what remains to be seen is whether linking the P1 teachers to university education will have impact in uplifting the standards of education.



Prof. Onger

Annual varsity Fair coming soon

By PETER MUTUKU

Kenyan Universities are gearing up for the eighth universities Fair organized by the Commission for Higher Education (CHE)

This year's exhibition becomes the eighth and the fourth one to be held outside Nairobi. The first exhibition was held in 2002.

Apart from the universities showcasing the programmes and services available in their respective institutions, students will as well perform short plays, poems and song to underscore the importance of peace.

The forum provides an opportunity for strategic engagement with stakeholders to deliberate on pertinent issues in the higher education arena.

The exhibition will also serve as an avenue where Kenyan universities converge to network, exchange ideas, bond and display to the public what they have to offer.

According to the Higher Education Minister, Dr Sally Kosgei, through this forum, CHE will also be able to promote quality standards and enable universities interact with stakeholders in the higher education, research and science and technology sectors.



Dr Sally Kosgei

This year's exhibition marks eight years of successful Kenyan Universities Exhibition that was born out of the need for a forum for the public to interact with the various institutions of higher learning and get to know the opportunities at their disposal in higher education.

The exercise also provides an opportunity for universities to market themselves to the corporate world.

Last year's theme "Peace Building and Reconciliation for Sustainable Development" amplified Kenya's vision 2030 and underlined issues on sustainable development and peaceful coexistence.

"Living in harmony provides for the interaction of diversity in knowledge and promotes teamwork for progress. Thus together we can overcome challenges and progress but divided we will retrogress, tearing apart even the little that individuals would toil to achieve.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology on its part has positioned itself to meet identified higher education priority areas in line with Kenya's Vision 2030.

Among the efforts being undertaken by the Ministry, is the setting up of higher education quality assurance mechanisms, establishment of an Open University, strengthening of ICT and research, sustenance of optimum academic staffing levels and provision of equipment and materials.

"These measures are expected to meet the higher education challenges of access, equity, relevance and quality," notes the Minister.

She says such exhibitions are a great opportunity for parents, guardians, students and the public at large to obtain crucial information about universities in Kenya some of which they have never had a chance to visit.

Kiambu council in spotlight over graft

By FIDELIS KABUNYI

Residents of Kiambu are up in arms following revelations that Kiambu municipal council was secretly disposing off its assets to influential people in this area.

The council which consists of six councilors and two nominated civic leaders is on the spotlight with locals questioning how the council was able to dispose off assets without following the laid down procedures.

Among the irregularly disposed assets include the Red Nova hotel which is run by the Municipal council of Kiambu.

The area Member of Parliament Stanely Githunguri has written to the Minister for Local Government Musalia Mudavadi asking him to intervene and stop the sale of the hotel as it generates up to Kshs150,000 every month to the council.

Reliable sources told The Link that the Hotel was sold at Kshs100 million. They say the councilors in the area are using the hotel as a bait to solicit for money from potential buyers for them to be considered in the sale.

However, Kiambu Town Clerk Michael Kimwele denies any irregularities in the sale, saying he has sought a written approval from the Minister Musalia Mudavadi and is still waiting for his response.

"We are selling the assets to enable us generate revenue for the council which is currently operating on deficit in line with a directive by the government that councils are now free to dispose off some of their assets in order to offset outstanding debts,"

he explains. He says that all councils in the country including Kiambu municipal council have up to June next year to clear all their debts or miss out on their LATF allocation in the next financial year.

The Kiambu Municipal Council has debts running to Kshs34 million.

Kimwele assured potential buyers that once the Minister has approved the sale, the council will advertise the sale in both electronic and print media after evaluation, the facility will go to the highest bidder.

Other controversial allocations include plot number 28/29 which is located opposite Kiambu Police Station belonging to an 80 year old woman Rose Wanjiku Kariuki who has since moved to court.

Kimwele however says the plot had extended to the Kiambu prison which Rose has denied saying that the council plans to dispossess due to her old age.

Another plot that was irregularly disposed off is located next to Kiambu primary school and has been sold to Freb Pharmaceuticals in Kiambu at Kshs 6 million.

The move by the residents came as the Minister for Local Government revealed that local authorities in the country were reeling in debts amounting to Kshs 12 billion.

The Minister revealed that the City Council of Nairobi had the highest debt which currently stands at Kshs8billion. The Minister said that the government had released Kshs10.4 billion during the 2009/2010 financial year, 10 percent of which was supposed to service outstanding debts.

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

Kimathi University College of Technology (KUCT) will soon start offering degree programmes in Nyeri town.

KUCT principal Mr Ndirangu Kioni says the move was in response to the high demand for degree courses which now dictates that the university introduces evening and weekend programmes to tap on the large number of students within Nyeri town.

"We shall start MBA courses, tourism courses and bachelor of purchasing and supplies among others," adds the principal.

The principal says that a centre will be set up within the town to ease congestion at the University which is four kilometers away. Already two professors have been assigned to oversee the new programmes in the town.

Kioni was speaking during the opening of Consolidated Bank Automated Teller Machine (ATM) which was opened in the institution recently.

Present during the function included the Consolidated Bank MD Mr Wachira Ndegwa and the chairman of the Council Mr James Waibochi. So far the institution has a population of 2,300 but targets to have 3,500 students by the end of this year. The institution is targeting to have over 10,000 in the next 10 years.

Waibochi who was the chief guest during the function said the university would want to establish closer ties with consolidated bank by partnering in various projects adding, "as part of our corporate social responsibility, we would like to collaborate in initiatives that empower the ordinary Kenyans."

The university appealed to the

Kimathi to offer degrees in Nyeri



Kimathi University receives a delegation of well wishers.

bank to consider establishing a scheme to motivate the students from the institution especially those pursuing business programmes. This can be in form of employ-

ment, scholarships and internship.

"Your decision to establish the ATM facility in this university is a clear demonstration of the confidence you have in us. I have no

doubt your decision was informed by the high regard you have for us as trusted clients and community leaders." The chairman told the bank.

Njiiri School gets new board of governors

By MORRIS GITHENYA

Ministry of education has appointed a new board to manage the affairs of the troubled Njiiri Boys School in Kigumo.

The new board chaired by Henry Mwangi, a former secondary school principal, has been appointed by Education Minister Prof Sam Ongeru after stakeholders expressed their dissatisfaction with the performance of the former board under Mr Reuben Njuguna.

The board also comprises of S. Mbugua and E. M Karuiuki, who are former provincial directors of education.

Former Nginda Girls Principal, Mrs Wanjiku Gitu, has also been appointed as a member of the board to help run the institution and enable it reclaim its former academic glory.

Last year the school suffered huge losses after students went on the rampage to demand reinstatement of their former headteacher Mr Peter Njanga, who was replaced by G. Githuka from Baricho Boys High school in Kirinyaga.

However despite the challenges, the school managed to post improved performance in the last year's KCSE as compared to the previous year.

Ministry of education has since appointed a team that will visit several former giant schools to look into what is ailing the institutions.

Sources close to the school said the institution was faced with serious financial crisis and had a debt of Kshs 16 million.

Teacher shortage continues to bite

By AGGREY BUCHUNJU

The Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) move to block the government from hiring teachers on contract to bridge the shortage remains injurious to schools in Bungoma South District.

Under the economic stimulus programme (ESP) the ministry of Education would have hired 10 secondary and 50 primary schools, teachers in each of the 210 constituencies had KNUT not blocked the move through a court injunction.

According to the Bungoma South

District Education Officer (DEO) Mr. Japheth Shitubi the district's primary schools are understaffed by 197 teachers while secondary schools are under staffed by 47 teachers.

However, Mr. Shitubi points out that these figures are based on last year's assessment adding that the numbers might have gone up following increased enrollment in the district's schools this year.

Due to an acute shortage of teachers, schools in the district have continued to perform dismally in National exams.

For instance in Kanduyi constitu-

ency only eight per cent of students who sat for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examination (KCSE) last year qualified for direct university entry.

Kanduyi's 28 secondary schools enrolled a total of 1,844 students for last year's KCSE and out of these only 150 students scored grade B+ and above.

There was one straight A, 28 A- and 121 B+ achieved from only 12 schools out of the 28 secondary schools in the constituency.

The number of students from the constituency who scored between

grade C+ and B plain was 509 students.

Kibabii High School had 63 direct university entrants, this being the highest number followed by Bungoma High school with 29 direct entrants.

Namachanja High school had 20 direct university entrants, while Cardinal Otunga Girls had 16 direct. Kimugui had six and Bungoma Baptist has five entrants.

Other schools with direct university entrants included Musikoma 3, Mwibale 2, Bukembe 1, Sikalame 1, Kongoli 1 and Misanga 1.

By LUKE KAPCHANGA

Ndivisi to benefit from ESP

Ndivisi Boys Secondary School will be developed into a centre of excellence under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) currently being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The District Education Officer, Charles Angiela, says the resolve to upgrade the school came as Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology pledged to assist develop Pan Paper High School which had initially been earmarked for a facelift under the ESP programme.

The DEO, said the board decided to pick the school because of its strategic location in the rural district.

Primary schools picked under the ESP initiative include Sango DEB and Lutacho Primary School.

At Ndivisi, 12 classrooms are to be upgraded, while four new classrooms, a dormitory and dining hall are to be built. Two laboratories are to be improved together with the teachers' houses.

The school located in Ndivisi location of Webuye constituency opened its doors to students in 1965 as a Harambee Mixed School.

Mr. Simon Musungu was the first head teacher but since then it has been served by 11 school heads.

The government took over one stream in 1973 when Mr. Hezron Busiyila was heading the school.

According to Mr. Robert Musuto who is the current principal, the school was registered as a three

stream school in 1989.

Musuto took over the mantle of the school leadership in 2006 and presided over the split of the Mixed school into a Boys School in 2008.

The school's performance has been improving steadily since 2006, when it had a mean score of 4.61 to last year when the mean score increased to 5.694. The school whose motto is "Hard work rewards", has never produced an A student but has been having students scoring B+.

The deputy head teacher, Henry Simiyu, hopes that the expected improvements in infrastructure would impact positively on performance.

The deputy, however, said that the school was faced with a shortage of teachers and currently has 11 TSC teachers against the required 30 to post impressive results.

The shortage, he added, was mostly being felt in CRE, Kiswahili, Business studies, Agriculture, English, Computer and chemistry subjects. The school is owed Kshs.2.6 million in fees arrears, due to the prevailing poverty in the area.

State ordered to produce chief

By LUKE KAPCHANGA

A Bungoma court has ordered the Attorney General, police commissioner, the chief of general staff, and the Administration police commandant to institute an inquest into the disappearance of a chief in Mt. Elgon district.

The order followed an application filed by Phylis Temnai Kipteyo, who sought to have her husband released from custody.

The application was however rejected by Justice F N Muchemi, who instead directed that the Attorney General, the Chief of General Staff and the Police Commissioner initiate an inquest into the disappearance of the said Patrick Kipteyo Sewui with a view to bringing culprits to book.

The four, through the Bungoma senior principal state counsel are supposed to present the inquest report in 90 days to the court.

In her application, Mrs. Kipteyo urges that her husband was the assistant chief of Chebwek sub-location, and was arrested from their home on 25/4/2008, almost a month after the military started the operation to flush out the Sabaot Land Defense Forces.

After being arrested around 11.00 pm by security men, he was taken to Chepkube army base.

The army men rummaged through the house searching all corners and carried away some documents with them.

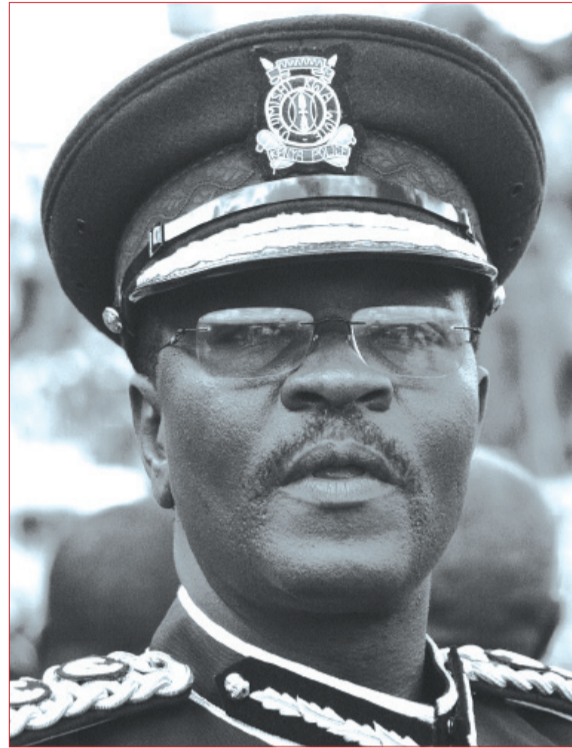
They also instructed her to look for a list of suspected criminals in the house operating in the area and hand it over to the security personnel at the army base.

Mrs. Kipteyo stated in her submissions that, she indeed found the list at around 2.00 am, that same night after they had left and took it.

The list of names was snatched from her, by one of the uniformed



Mr Wako: Attorney General



Mr Iteere: Police Commissioner

military men, when she reached the base and immediately chased out of the camp.

While at the base, she saw her husband being tortured, lying on the floor with armed military men surrounding him.

And that happened to have been the last day she saw her husband alive as a spirited search that followed proved in vain.

But as the family grappled with the pain of losing their kin, the government threatened to sack him for desertion of duty.

In a letter dated July 8, 2009 and copied to the Provincial Commissioner Western and District commissioner Mt. Elgon district, Kipteyo is accused of absenting himself from duty with effect from 26th August without permission.

“As you are aware, absence from duty without permission or reasonable course is a serious breach of civil service regulations

which may render an officer liable to dismissal from service with loss of all terminal benefit from Government’, the letter stated.

The letter signed by M N Kamicha on behalf of the permanent secretary in the ministry of Provincial Administration and Internal security, further said that, they were contemplating dismissing him from duty and requested his representative to contact ministry offices within 21 days after receiving the letter.

But despite all the agony the family is going through, the State Counsel on behalf of the respondents denied the allegations, however admitting that Kipteyo, was working for the government as a senior assistant chief.

He dismissed claims that that the senior assistant chief was arrested, detained and tortured.

Arrest begins the process of detention and should occur when

authorized by law. It must always be subject to judicial control or supervision to ensure that it is legal.

The Universal Declaration on human rights, article 9, states that, “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile”.

There are supposed to have accurate records of arrests which are vital for effective judicial supervision and prevention of disappearance.

At the time of the arrest, the military officers acted in gross violation of law and order and should have targeted the activities of the Sabaot Land Defense Forces (SDLF).

The SDLF, was an armed gang who caused terror by abducting and killing residents of Mt. Elgon district claiming to defend the land rights of the community.

The government launched a crackdown of the group, through a military operation “Okao Mai-

sha’, in March 2008.

In his ruling the Judge laments that “unfortunately, it is in the process of government security forces operations that the victim was arrested, and subsequently disappeared and never returned to his home”.

He added that, people who took him away have not been specifically identified, it may therefore be an exercise in futility to order the respondents to produce the victim in court as prayed by the applicant.

The life of the victim and interests of the family are protected by the constitution and Human rights statutes, hence it is the duty of the state to inquire into any crime or suspected crime affecting any of its subjects, the Judge said.

He further went on that, the family of the victim is entitled to know where the victim is and his current status in regard to his life, health and security.

The Covenant on Civil and Political rights, requires that arrested persons informed of the reasons for their arrest.

The arrested persons need this information in order for them, to begin preparing defence and petition for release, if the reasons do not support detention.

It further says, anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a Judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial powers, and be entitled to trial within reasonable time or release.

In every place where persons are imprisoned there shall be kept a registration book, where particulars of each person arrested are entered.

The information concerning his identity, reasons for his commitment, the day and hour of his admission and release are recorded.

Fish ponds’ construction progress report

From page 4							
87	Masinga	Masinga	100	43	5	42	2
88	Yatta	Yatta	100	68	32	0	0
89	Makueni	Makueni	100	95	5	0	0
90		Kaiti	100	25	21	54	0
91	Kitui	Kitui Central	100	24	6	70	0
92	Mutumo	Kitui South	100	0	5	95	0
93	Mutitu	Mutito	100	10	2	88	0
94	Embu	Manyatta	100	100	0	0	18
95		Runyenjes	100	77	23	0	16
96	Mbeere	Gachoka	100	87	8	5	3
97		Siakago	100	100	0	0	23
98	Meru South	Tharaka	100	65	35	0	30
99		Nithi	100	100	0	0	81
100	Meru Central	Imenti South	100	100	0	0	10
101		Imenti North	100	100	0	0	8
102		Imenti Central	100	100	0	0	25
103	Meru North	Ntonyiri	100	62	38	0	0
104		Igembe South	100	100	0	0	0
105		Tigania East	100	20	32	48	0

Turn to Page 10, Col. 0

The Link

Enhancing governance for all

Speed up ESP's implementation

Recently, MPs rightly demanded to know from the PM Raila Odinga, who is the coordinator and supervisor of government ministries, why implementation of the KShs 22 billion Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) programme was moving too slowly. One wonders why the MPs were asking such a question yet they are the overall supervisors of all devolved funds at the constituency level, including ESP.

What the government needs to know, however, is that starting any programme or project, even under emergency, requires some form of planning and preparation. As the saying goes, failing to plan is planning to fail. The most urgent challenge to the government as the new budget beckons is how to speed up the implementation of the ESP so that people can start feeling its impact before new programmes are unveiled to overshadow this critically important initiative.

There is urgent need to train implementers of the projects at the constituency levels and also to find ways of overcoming cumbersome procurement procedures that contribute to the delay of the programme. For instance, close to 15,000 fish ponds have been built in 140 constituencies yet most of them have not been stocked with fish.

This calls into questions the pace at which funds are released to the projects. It is imperative for the finance minister, Uhuru Kenyatta, the PM, Raila Odinga, and the various line ministers involved to ensure that ESP succeeds; otherwise it will be a double tragedy for all of us. We say so because the whole theory behind ESP is that when you put in more money in projects in an economy, you stimulate aggregate demand, hence spur growth. If so, then it follows that if the stimulus fails then the public will end up with huge debts to pay and no project to stimulate the economy.

The government had already lost a lot of time before getting the programme off the ground due to grandstanding in parliament over the controversial reappointment of two directors of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission. We were of the opinion that once the government got the go-ahead, it would henceforth move with Godspeed in implementing ESP. In fact, Kenyans are so used the government projects becoming white elephants that when the ESP was announced they viewed it with jaundiced eyes. They have learnt that a government promise is one thing and delivery is quite another. After all, they have been reduced to onlookers as their MPs squander millions of shillings of CDF.



COMMENTARY

Time for new constitution is here

The noisy debate inside and outside parliament over the new constitution notwithstanding, most Kenyans want nothing less than a new constitutional dispensation before the next general elections. They are eagerly waiting for the draft to be subjected to a referendum so that they can pass it.

Whereas the proposed amendments are not entirely wrong, we should not entertain those who would like the draft to be mutilated for selfish reasons. It is notable that quite a number of MPs want the draft to be passed the way it was presented by the Committee of Experts (CoE) and amendments made later.

What should interest most Kenyan's is that there is unanimity that the time for a new constitution has come. Even those who want to have the document amended agree that even if the amendments do not pass the new draft should still be adopted. So far the only voice that seems to be going against the grain is that of Hon. Wilfred Machage. He warned that his constituents will reject the draft of his Kuria people are not given a county of their own in the draft.

Proposals by certain parties to create 25 regional governments and increase the number of counties to 80, will drastically change the levels of devolution from two to three tiers. But before such changes are made, serious cost-benefit analysis should be done. Other proposed amendments such as that seeking to delete the requirement that the prime minister is consulted in key appointment by the president, should be dis-

CONSTITUTION

By ROBERT OYIEMBO

missed beforehand, because they are purely driven by malice and personal vendetta.

In a coalition government, why should a partner not be consulted when changes are to be made? Another change seeks to remove the Khadhi's court from the constitution. This is popular with the Kenyan Clergy.

For starters, the Khadhi's court was entrenched in the constitution for historical reasons and to protect Muslims who are a minority. It deals with cases of Muslim law in which both parties are Muslims and only in matters of marriage, divorce and inheritance. It is notable that unlike the Bible the Koran has a distinct way of solving disputes which the Khadhi's court enforces.

An interesting amendment proposed is about abortion and when life starts. The first draft did not define when life starts. This caused uproar, especially among the clergy; prompting the PSC to recommend a wide definition that triggered even more protests. The new draft is an amalgam of the first draft and the PSC definition. It is clear that there shall be no consensus on this issue.

Despite the different voices seeking different changes and some rejecting any change unequivocally, it is clear that the draft is a major improvement on what we have currently. It contains very innovative clauses. For example, it allows the amendment of the constitution

by popular initiative in the form of a general of formulated draft bill.

The draft has a wide bill of rights which clearly sets out the obligations of state organs to ensure respect and protect human rights. It also has more remedies for breach of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which include declarations, injunctions, and conservatories orders, compensation and judicial review. It has rules that the court must consider in cases involving breach of human rights. Lastly the bill of rights declares some rights that might not be limited at all.

The draft recognizes the right to stand for elections as an independent candidate, the right to recall MP's, right to petition parliament to enact amend or repeal a law and, for the first time, rest judicial authority in the courts.

It protects the judiciary from other state organs and gives it financial and operational autonomy. For lawyers it mandates the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) to nominate two members to the Judicial Service Commission which recommends persons for appointment as judges.

This draft is miles ahead of the constitution we have. Fortunately the amendments proposed do not affect the fundamental changes the draft will effect. With the near unanimity we have that a new constitution must be passed this year, Kenyans will have a better constitution.

The challenge that will follow is the faithful implementation of the new constitution. Whether leaders will fully implement the provisions which have a potential to enable us to achieve the Vision 2030 is another question.



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P.O. Box 7438, 00200 Nairobi.
Tel: 020 601776 / 020 601274
Email: thelink@wananchi.com

The Link

Enhancing governance for all

EDITOR
DANIEL OTUNGE

SUB-EDITOR
FAITH MUIRURI

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
OLOO JANAK

WRITERS

ANDERSON MURENJE Coast
0727 582135

BOB OMBATI Nyanza
0728 435255

NYAKWAR ODAWO Western
0726264153

MORRIS GITHENYA Central
0735855586

JONES MAGARE Nyanza
0721127511

BILL ESSAU Western
0721761408

BEKADZO TONDO Coast
0728341240

NEVINS BIKO Rift Valley
0723932857

JOSEPH MUKUBWA Central
0724 039787

LUKE KAPCHANGA Western
0723622136

AGGREY BUCHUNJU Western
0733 537002

OJWANG OGOCH Nyanza
0734 971205

SAMUEL OTIENO Nyanza
0723 757112

PETER MUTUKU Eastern
0721 455048

LAYOUT AND DESIGN:
WALTON GRAPHICS
0725 903 938



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All correspondence and enquiries to the editor, P.O. Box 7438, 00200, Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 020 601274

Telefax: 020 601776

E-mail:
thelink@wananchi.com

Nambale CDF spends Sh52.8 million on projects

By NYAKWAR ODAWO

THE Nambale Constituency Development Fund Committee (CDFC) spent a total of Kshs52.8 million on various development projects within the constituency during the 2008/2009 financial year.

According to the data availed to *The Link* recently, the committee spent a total of Kshs14.6 million in the rehabilitation of twenty four existing secondary schools and the construction of additional classrooms in a move that was aimed at decongesting learning institutions whereas thirty six primary schools were allocated a total of sh16.6 million for the same.

The CDF committee at the same time allocated a total of Kshs1.9 million to assist in the rehabilitation and construction of water points. The water points done included Kayenga'I shallow well, Bukokho shallow well, Buluma spring, Ouma spring, Ndambakana water project, Budokomi water project, Bulanda-Mjini water project, Bulanda shallow well and Mabale shallow well.

Other projects undertaken included the expansion and development of 12 health facilities to the tune of Kshs5.7 million. The health facilities done include Nambale health centre, Lupida dispensary, Madende dispensary, Mudemba dispensary, Musokoto

dispensary, Igara dispensary, Luli-ba dispensary, Bukalama dispensary, Munongo dispensary, Nasira dispensary, Malanga dispensary and Lwanyange dispensary.

A total of Kshs6.1 million went towards the construction and completion of administration offices in the area. The administration offices done included Mayenje police patrol base within Busia municipality, Lwanya chief's office, Mundika Assistant chief's office and Nambale CDF office.

The grading of roads and installation of culvert rings was done at a cost of Kshs1.8 million. The roads done included Ikondokhera bridge, Nayombe bridge, Lupida-Kapina railway crossing and Elwanikha -Bigambo Makutano access culvert bridge among others.

The Nambale Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Committee chairman Joshua Mulesi said the distribution of the funds in the entire constituency had been done in all the eleven 11 locations based on the geographical coverage, population and poverty index as spelt out by the CDF National Management Board.

"Once the tendering process is finalized and work on the identified projects takes off immediately," the CDF chairman said, adding that the project monitoring and evaluation (M/E) committee is going round assessing the projects concerned aimed at ensuring that

they are properly done before any payment is made.

Meanwhile the Nambale CDF committee embarked on the construction of a new boys primary school within Busia municipality to balance the number of girls and boys primary schools in the area.

According to the information availed to *The Link* by the CDF accounts office recently, the CDF committee has so far disbursed a total of Kshs1.5million to facilitate the construction of the new learning institution to be called St Stephen's Lukonyi Boys primary school.

During the 2006/2007 financial year, a total of Kshs280,000 was disbursed towards the project. This was followed by another allocation of Kshs0.7million during the financial year 2007/2008, Ksh0.4 million during the financial year 2008/2009 whereas Ksh200,000 was disbursed to the new school during the financial year 2009/2010.

The school management committee led by the chairman Frederick Nadebu commended the Nambale CDF committee for allocating the funds towards the establishment of the new school saying it was timely as there are no boys' primary schools within the municipality.

There is no boys' primary school within Busia municipality,"

the committee chairman said, adding that the nearest one is situated at Mundika area which is 10 kilometres away from Busia town.

The head teacher of the newly established primary school Mrs Florida Malachi expressed gratitude to the Committee saying Lukonyi residents, especially parents whose children had been compelled to trek long distances to school, have every reason to smile as their children will now have education at their door step. The institution head further said the school's population currently stands at 250.

"The school management committee has so far constructed classes one up to three which have been built on a land donated by the local community," the school head said, adding that the school has a total of 6 teachers of which five are employees of the Teachers Service Commission [TSC] whereas one has been employed by the school management board.

The Nambale Constituency Development Fund Committee chairman Joshua Mulesi on his part told *The Link* that the development committee would continue to allocate more funds from the CDF kitty to facilitate the construction of adequate infrastructure at the learning institution aimed at accommodating more pupils from the local community.

98 fish ponds built in Bungoma East

By LUKE KAPCHANGA

A total of 93 fish ponds have been constructed in Bungoma East district under the economic stimulus programme.

The ponds, which are spread out in 4 locations of the two divisions of Webuye and Ndivisi are almost complete.

Mr. Wafula Wanyonyi, the official from the ministry of fisheries coordinating the exercise says plans are underway to stock the ponds in the first phase.

Wanyonyi adds that the stocking will include procurement of feeds, liners and manure.

The official notes that at the end of the project, about 200 fish ponds for individual farmers and one for the institution will be constructed. The Economic Stimulus Committee has identified Bokoli high school as the institution to benefit from the fish pond project.

A spot check by *The Link* established that Chetanbe location has had the lions share of the ponds, with 38 having been completed followed by both Bokoli and Sitikho locations at 24 ponds each, the least being Lukusi location which has only



A fish pond constructed under ESP programme in Bungoma.

7 ponds.

A total of Kshs.1,875,000 has been paid to the youths who are involved in the construction of 75 ponds. However the department is yet to pay for additional 18 fish ponds, which have been completed while 7 are still under construction.

The farmers who benefited

are those either practicing fish farming and have available land with water source throughout the year. Wanyonyi says farmers are optimistic that the project will be a success and have shown willingness to engage in fish farming.

In Mathira constituency, about 100 fish ponds have been

completed. The area MP said that the project was currently being implemented at Karatina and Mung'aria Youth polytechnics.

He also revealed that Kirimara and Ruthagati secondary schools have been earmarked for upgrading as centres of excellence.

Fish ponds' construction progress report

From page 7								
	106	Tigania West		100	80	20	0	0
TOTAL				2400	1640	333	417	221
Provincial % progress				100	68	14	17	9
Rift Valley	107	Nandi	Tinderet	100	100	0	0	0
	108		Emgwen	100	85	15	0	0
	109		Mosop	100	100	0	0	0
	110		Aldai	100	80	20	0	0
	111	Laikipia	Laikipia East	100	100	0	0	0
	112		Laikipia West	100	100	0	0	0
	113	Kajiado	Kajiado North	100	80	20	0	0
	114	Nakuru	Naivasha	100	76	24	0	0
	115		Molo	100	100	0	0	0
	116		Subukia	100	100	0	0	0
	117		Kuresoi	100	100	0	0	0
	118	Kericho	Ainamoi	100	100	0	0	67
	119		Bureti	100	100	0	0	19
	120		Kipkelion	100	100	0	0	0
	121		Konoin	100	100	0	0	14
	122		Belgut	100	100	0	0	60
	123	Uasin Gishu	Eldoret East	100	100	0	0	40
	124		Eldoret North	100	80	20	0	16
	125		Eldoret South	100	94	6	0	0
	126	Keiyo	Keiyo North	100	100	0	0	0
	127	Bomet	Bomet	100	100	0	0	21
	128		Chepalungu	100	100	0	0	0
	129		Sotik	100	91	9	0	21
	130	Trans Mara	Kilgoris	100	45	55	0	0
	131	Trans Nzoia	Cherangani	100	100	0	0	0
	132		Kwanza	100	100	0	0	0
	133		Saboti	100	100	0	0	0
	134	Baringo	Mogotio	100	100	0	0	25
	135	Koibatek	Eldama Ravine	100	100	0	0	25
TOTAL				2900	2731	169	0	308
Provincial % progress				100	94	6	0	11
Coast	136	Taita Taveta	Taveta	100	99	1	0	69
	137		Wundanyi	100	72	28	0	0
	138	Tana Delta	Bura	100	37	31	32	0
	139		Galole	100	62	34	4	0
	140		Garsen	100	49	41	10	0
TOTAL				500	319	135	46	69
% completion				100	64	27	9	14
GRAND TOTAL				14000	12133	1311	546	1233
National % progress				100	87	9	4	9

Ugenya DC accused of awarding tender irregularly

By GWEYA KOWET

Corruption and partisan political interests threaten to derail construction of Ugenya District headquarters.

Already controversy is brewing following the irregular issuance of Kshs.30 Million tender to a firm that had allegedly been disqualified at the initial stages of the tendering process.

The District Tender Committee has accused the provincial administration of conspiring with a clique of politicians to award the tender to a firm that had been disqualified, contrary to the public procurement Act.

Ministry of works officials and some members of the district tender committee accuse the Ugenya District Commissioner, Mrs. Caroline Onchoka, and local politicians of ignoring their recommendations by

awarding the firm that they had disqualified for failing to register with the government.

The firm in question has been issued with the letter of acceptance and moved to the site to undertake construction works being financed by the government under the economic stimulus package.

The works officer, Mr. Ayub Owuor, told the Press that the tender committee had disqualified M/s. Market Focus after it emerged that the company had attached a fake registration certificate as it had not been registered with the ministry of public works and had further not produced a tax compliance certificate at the time of tendering.

Mr. Owuor revealed that the tender committee short listed three firms but later settled for M/s Tanga Enterprises which was to be issued with a

letter of acceptance as per the public procurement regulations.

But to the surprise of the DTC members, the company that was not even among the three short listed firms, M/s. Market focus ended up at the site even before the official handing over as specified by the regulations, he said.

Mr. Owuor said that when he enquired about the development, he established that the company had applied for registration with the Ministry of Public works on January 12, 2010 and got registration on 14 January.

"I was surprised because this is an exercise that can take up to six months but he got it in two days," he said adding that the DTC had sat and opened the tender on December 11, 2009 when the company was disqualified.

The works officer said minutes and documents related to the whole process, including the fake registration certificate, were with the Permanent Secretary in the ministry of works and the public procurement oversight authority and his office was yet to receive any communication challenging the awarding of the tender to M/s. Tanga Enterprises.

Mr. Owuor said that he has written to the Nyanza Provincial Police officer seeking protection to enable him hand over the site to the rightful contractor after the local police failed to protect him when he was roughed up by local politicians at the district headquarters.

The chairman of Ukwala town council, Councillor Sylvester Wire had engaged Mr. Owuor in a fist fight as he waited to meet the DC over the matter.

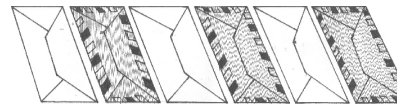
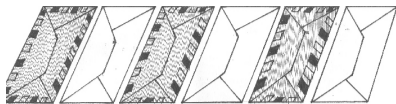
The chairman vowed to ensure that they will not let the works officer bring in a contractor of his choice since there was already one on the site.

"This man has promised different contractors to award them the tender but we reject this as local leaders," said Mr. Wire.

Contacted, Ugenya DC Mrs. Onchoka denied any underhand dealings and maintained that everything was done above the board.

"There are minutes and correspondences to that effect," she said when reached over the phone and instead accused the district works officer of trying to frustrate the project.

The Link learnt that local politicians and civil servants are trying to push for contractors of choice, hence the bad blood that led to the humiliation of the public official.



Politicians need civic education on Proposed Constitution

THE Tenth Parliament is one that will perhaps be credited for re-writing the history of the country, should it endorse a new constitution. But a closer look at Parliament and how the legislators discuss the outcomes of the various laws that they pass shows a House that does not know what it is debating.

Law making, from the introduction of a Bill, to the presidential assent, should serve some purposes. It is supposed to give the legislators and the public a chance to engage with the Proposed Constitution, interrogate its ramifications, and hopefully give a critique making possible amendments at the various stages before the Bill becomes law. MPs have passed or rejected a couple of laws in the past few months, which they did not bother to understand. The passing of the Constitution Review Act 2008 as well as the National Accord together with the rejection of the Local Tribunal Bills leave a lot of question marks on whether Parliament merits its role.

In the last couple of days, MPs have waded taxpayers' money in retreats in Naivasha and Kabete, retreats that would not benefit anyone but themselves, while the residents of Coast Province died of preventable diseases such as cholera. If the MPs cared to read the provisions of the Review Act 2008, they should have known their power to make any changes to the Proposed Constitution lay in them working together to attain 65 per cent of the vote of the House to cause such an amendment. They should have known that no amounts of 'Kamukunji' resolutions or no number of retreats outside the house would be useful.

They should also have known that they abdicated their role in having a say in the constitution when they passed the law that provided for the Committee of Experts meeting with the reference group to iron out any matters contentious should Parliament fail to agree.

The best the MPs can do to stop us from having a new constitution is to be nice to us and divide us along tribal lines and propagate their lies that the Proposed Constitution favours certain regions.

Having shown that they do not understand the nature of the laws they pass, it is right to say they do not appreciate the content of the Proposed Constitution and the cost effects that are going to result with the new law coming into effect. One is persuaded to think that most of them do not understand what two-tier or three-tier form of devolution is going to entail. It is for this reason that the counties keep changing from 25, 47, 74 and now 80, and that the senate needs to be more powerful than the regional governments.

The Committee of Experts should do the country a favour and conduct civic education among the legislators on the content of the Proposed Constitution, and let them appreciate it; we would like a peaceful referendum and a new constitution.

Neto Agostinho,
Nairobi.

Known people stole cemetery fund, not Mudavadi

WHEN a non-descript organisation — Justice and Development (Kejude) — issued a press statement on March 15, it was signed by one Neto Agostino as national convenor. The same statement appears as an opinion now by Okiya Omtatah Okoiti.

I assumed "Triple O" had acquaintance with plagiarism — a fraudster stealing someone's written material and impersonating it as theirs — the vilest intellectual dishonesty and moral deceit you can commit. Surely, the statement material belonged to Kejude.

I am equally disturbed that the same Okoiti has turned into a purveyor of a fake opinion poll purporting it to have been done by a leading agency. In his forwarding note, Okoiti writes: "Mudavadi is part of a cabal who are damaging the standing of the PM in the eyes of the public."

"This will be a liability as we head to 2012 and I honestly believe it will strengthen ODM and Raila if Mudavadi courageously steps down..." He is striking at ODM through disinformation.

I do not know what has happened to Okoiti in the years since our university days when we fought for just causes while maintaining high moral standards. I am not sure who pays the piper now that Okoiti markets comic relief antics for what appear (to be) staged demo concerts. Okoiti must be careful not to earn civil society the lable of political guns for hire.

As to the venom directed at Musalia Mudavadi, one cannot fail to notice the sarcasm of an errand boy.



Demonstrators carry coffin and placards along City Hall, Nairobi. They were demonstrating against the sale of cemetery in Athi River.

Why else would Okoiti ask the most relevant questions to the wrong person? The logic is that Musalia has been a victim of treachery, where the cemetery scam plotters did not want him to know. Maybe Okoiti knows someone in the world of crime where a thief forewarns the would-be captor. Okoiti should know — he was a civil servant — the pecking order in ministries; information flows vertically from the junior officer onwards to the PS then to the minister, and visa versa. Ministers cannot by law participate in procurement processes. Musalia is a victim of not being informed and not the illogical "Did he demand to see a valuation...?" How was he supposed to demand

something he was no aware was being cooked?

Even in the darkest corner of a political conspirator's mind, the question should be: "Why didn't the minister know?" Answer: The thieves didn't want him to. When he got to know through Parliament, he became the whistle blower. Okoiti may want a mistaken heroic pursuit of the political blood of Musalia, but known people stole KShs259 million or more of public money. It was not Musalia.

Kenyans must be guided by facts for justice to be done rather than perceptions of guilt. Crass as the KACC leakage has been, it is shocking that Okoiti's statement does not at all call

for speedy prosecution and recovery of stolen money from those identified by KACC to have benefitted. The list is there. Lack of focus on those liable could be by design.

Lest we lose focus, the scam was plotted way back and perpetuated over the years by plotters spread across the ministries of Finance and Local Government, as well as the City Council and the private sector. Since then, the ministries and council have been under different political administrations. It would be objective were Okoiti to call into question the "political oversight" of all administrations rather than target one minister who is the whistle blower.

Okoiti must understand that KACC has admitted to the "regrettable incident" of leading an incomplete report and pleads with the AG to investigate and "prosecute those found to have violated the law". The laws include the constitutional rights of individuals, to which the rights activism in Okoiti seems averse.

Okoiti wants to know the "preventive measures" the DPM "put in place to ensure he was not kept in the dark". Why isn't Okoiti gunning for recovery of the stolen millions? Under section 144 of the Local Government Act, the minister is required to approve any land transactions by local authorities. Administratively, a minister receives briefings from his officers for that action. None came to his attention and he approved nothing — because he was not meant to know. Who then purported to "approve"?

Former private secretary and director of public communication, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Local Government.



The editor welcomes letters and comments on a variety of issues. The letters should be brief, topical and issue based.

The editor reserves the right to edit for brevity or clarity.

Write to:
The Editor,
The Link,
P.O. Box 7438
– 00200, Nairobi.
E-mail:
thelink@wananchi.com

Mwingi Church joins anti-graft campaign

By KAVYU KURA

The clergy has been incorporated in an initiative geared towards attaining a corruption free zone in Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka's Mwingi North constituency and ensure prudent use of government devolved funds.

The Mwingi Pastors Associations has been enjoined in a social audit campaign currently being spearheaded by the Mwingi based Centre for Human Rights and Civic Education (CHRCE) to check and guard against the misappropriation of resources.

The agreement was sealed during a meeting at the CHRCE offices where the clergy was represented by Rev. John Muli of the International Revival Evangelical Church and Moses Ngei of the Breakthrough International Church.

At the Mwingi Human Rights Networks meeting co-chaired by CHRCE officials Daniel Muoti and Ms. Florence Ndeti, the Church representatives expressed concern that use of government funds in Mwingi North was neither transparent nor prudent enough. Rev. Muli and Pastor Ngei concurred that there was a general lack of accountability in the way government funds like Constituency Development Funds (CDF) and Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) in Mwingi north were utilized and thus the need for monitoring.

Rev. Muli said the local clergymen who were grassroots leaders would in the agreed arrangement, mobilize their faithful to demand transparency in the implementation of projects funded through CDF and LATF within their areas and also engage leaders to ensure accountability.

"I would like to assure you of our support as Pastors both within and without our own churches in the campaign to ensure the CDF and LATF monies were not diverted into personal use. We have a network that extends to all corners," pledged Rev. Muli.

Pastor Ngei told the meeting that also included representatives of



VP Kalonzo Musyoka speaks to the DC of Mwingi Central and other mourners.

Non-governmental organization and Community based groups involved in human rights that councilors were notorious for not accounting for LATF projects monies in their respective wards.

"The spotlight should be directed to Councilors who are notorious in failing to account the use of LATF projects money," said pastor Ngei.

The clergyman also pointed out that there was need to also audit and investigate how the monies meant for People living with HIV/AIDS were spent as there were many briefcase organizations that diverted the funds to other use.

"I know of people with briefcase Anti-AIDS non-governmental organizations who seat in hotels, draw fictitious lists of would be beneficiaries and then submit proposals to National Aids Control Council (NACC). Once

they get the money they share among themselves," pointed the clergyman.

Ms. Ndeti had earlier noted that although millions of devolved funds were disbursed by the government in Mwingi north among other constituencies, queries abound on the way they are managed and who were the ultimate beneficiaries.

"The communities are in most cases in the dark about how projects are identified, allocated money and managed, a scenario which has led to diversion of resources, project duplication or stalling of projects. There is need to sensitize communities to get actively involved and monitor projects," she said.

Mr. Muoti said there was need to investigate a possible cash scandal involving the rehabilitation of the Mwingi Town sports ground which was allegedly allocated funds by both

the Mwingi North and Mwingi South CDF committees as well as the department of sports.

"We demand a proper audit on the Stadium rehabilitation project which was not only being financed by both the Mwingi North and Mwingi CDF kitties but has also received a further allocation from the Ministry of Sports," declared Mr. Muoti.

The meeting was unanimous that the project be audited to expose any anomalies in the way the stadium improvement funds were disbursed and used as well as find out what had happened to Kshs.1.5 allocated to the Mwingi district hospital by Mwingi North CDF. The cheque is said not to have reached the hospital.

The group also agreed to push for the enactment of the National Land Policy Bill which was currently awaiting presidential assent.

Kilifi Residents' forum launches strategic plan

By BEKADZO TONDO

The newly inaugurated Kilifi Residents Forum has launched a five-year strategic work plan 2010-2014.

According to forum administrative officer Mr Kashero Chinyaka, the plan aims at giving the residents a clear guideline on how to initiate development projects in the area.

Chinyaka says the forum will seek to educate members of the public on their rights in different fields and unite them with different devolved units such as the Kilifi town council to help make sure that projects initiated work in tandem to realize the set development goals.

"The strategic plan spells out medium term measures to be implemented to complement government's efforts geared towards the realization of Vision 2030," adds Chinyaka

Chinyaka says most successful development work plans are premised on existing frameworks to help realize meaningful results.

He spoke during a sensitization workshop to facilitate the formulation of the Strategic Plan. The forum will focus on four major issues namely eradication of illiteracy, environmental conservation, poverty and hunger alleviation within the targeted communities.

Chinyaka said ignorance was a big hindrance to development and therefore members of the KRF will spearhead civic education programs to sensitize the public on their rights.

He said the forum will also conduct social audits on development programs currently being implemented using devolved funds like LATF, CDF, Constituency Bursary Fund, Road levies funds usage among many others.

The forum board has been mandated to come up with a short term strategy which will form the basis of initiating long term development projects.

By LUKE KAPCHANGA

Education sector received the lion's share of the Webuye Constituency Development Fund kitty.

The education sector was allocated Kshs21,265,000 for construction of classrooms and purchase of land for schools.

Health got the second largest allocation of Kshs.2.2million while Kshs 1.6 million was channeled towards the support of security projects and agriculture received a paltry Kshs. 750,000.

Bokoli location received a whopping Kshs7,215,000 to finance educational projects followed by Misikhu location which received Kshs4,250,000, Lukusi location got Kshs3million, Sitikho location benefitted from an allocation of Kshs 2,900,000, Webuye location got Kshs.1,700,000 and Ndivisi location was given Kshs.1.2million.

However, queries emerged on the mode of allocations. A section of civic leaders strongly criticized the criteria used in allocation of

Webuye CDF allocates more funds to education sector

resources and claimed that funding was pegged on political considerations with areas where the area MP enjoy a larger following benefitting from huge allocations.

Webuye deputy mayor Wekesa Karandini and councilor Eric Soita alleged that as much as money had gone to locations, a close analysis had revealed that one sub-location had received a larger share in comparison to the other areas.

Mr. Karandini cited Webuye location, which is the only Township sub-location that benefitted from the funding leaving out Maraka and Matulo sub-locations.

He accused the area MP Alfred Sambu of influencing the allocations to suit his political interests at

the expense of development.

He claimed that project identification by the CDC does not take cognizance of people's needs, as the MP gives orders on who to get the money and what project is to be funded.

"The constituency development committee should be disbanded as members only sit to get allowances and rubber stamp proposals which did not reflect aspirations of the people," he said.

On his part, Soita faulted the MP, for playing politics with public money and ignoring peoples development needs".

"The MP needs to be told that CDF is not part of his private funding and neither is it an avenue to

gather his political support nor influence people's political stand", he said.

Mr. Soita pointed out that in his Sitikho location only one sub-location had been favored against the other two.

He wondered why projects identified from Milo and Khalumuli had been sidelined in the funding, when the CDF chairman comes from the same area.

"I wonder if the CDF officials are really in charge of the allocation, because the chairman comes from Milo sub-location which has missed out, yet he should be taking part in the funding of projects from his own backyard", he added.

The MP when contacted for

comment declined to speak.

Mr. George Shibanda, who is the accounts manager, said Bokoli RC primary school was the biggest beneficiary with an allocation of Kshs.3 million, which had been earmarked for construction of new classrooms and renovation of some of the aging buildings.

Other schools who got biggest shares were, Sirisia Sec, Kshs.2.6m, Lukuku primary Kshs.1.8m, Froi Primary Kshs. 1.8m and Khalala primary Kshs. 1.2 million.

The only agriculture funded projects were Lugulu support group Kshs.300,000, Sinoko Nachula Kshs.300,000 and Mwan-gaza Women group Kshs.150,000.

Lugari CDF accounts risk freeze

By JOHN NALIANYA

Lugari Constituency Development Fund (CDF) accounts risk being frozen following delays by senior management officials to surrender accumulated imprest totaling to over Kshs.2.5 million in the past six months.

District Accountant Lucas Kaunda has invited a team of forensic auditors from the Government to unravel the circumstances under which the monies have remained unsurrendered.

"The auditors have already reported and are likely to commence the exercise any time from now," said Kaunda.

He said the officers from Nairobi would team up with their colleagues from the office of the Provincial Internal Auditor, Kakamega. Kaunda said he decided to seek the intervention of the auditors after the committee defied his directive that the imprests be accounted for.

"We shall accord the auditors maximum cooperation to enable them arrive at the crux of the matter and suggest punitive action that would lead to the recovery of the funds," he said.

A letter from the chief executive, signed by a Wilfred Buyema dated 29 January this year, addressed to chairperson Jared Nahando and copied to area MP and patron to the fund, Mr. Cyrus Jirongo, gives the officials 14 days to pay up or have their names forwarded to the Kenya anti-corruption commission for further action.

Among those listed, are the treasurer Canute Butonyi and Treasurer Kisaka Nangalama both holding over Kshs.2.3 million. The District Development Officer, Mr. James Nyabochoa, has held Kshs90,000 since October last year advanced for purchase of laptop computer, camera and printer for use at the local CDF office. A senior official of the fund said the continued holding of the imprests by the officials have adversely affected the general financial flow of the funds.

"The policy on public finances is very clear. No further pre-funding is done until all imprests are surrendered," he said.

Chairperson Jared Nahando confirmed the existence of the unsurrendered imprests adding that he had already instructed those mentioned to ensure they accounted for the monies within the stipulated period. CDF Fund manager Bongonko Bitange also confirmed to be in possession of the letter and the deployment of auditors but declined to divulge further details.

Economic stimulus gets thumbs up from Murang'a residents

By MORRIS GITHENYA

The Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) in Murang'a has received overwhelming support with members of the public rushing to take part in the programme.

Residents have secured unutilised public land in order to set up fish ponds without considering the requirements outlined by the implementing ministry.

Coffee factories on the upper part of the district have been affected with some sections being allocated to the youth who intend to take part in the project.

In Kiharu, at least 26 ponds have been constructed and are currently awaiting to be supplied with fingerlings.

Local MP Muturi Mwangi said factories with idle land after coffee production went under in the last ten years should consider the fish project to jumpstart their economic activity.

Muturi said those involved in construction of fish ponds have been paid Kshs 25,000 for every complete unit.

In Kangema district, over 26 fish ponds are under construction. Idle land around rivers has been identified for the project.

In Kigumo district, the DC



Some of the fish ponds in Mathira district which have already been completed under the Government Economic Stimulus Programme.

Omar Salat has moved a step higher and was currently targeting the reformed Mungiki sect members who will be employed in the construction of fish ponds. The youth, he said, are likely to benefit if they embrace the governments' vision in pursuing development.

The administrator said leaders of the constituency have turned in large number support-

ing the youth after disowning their former bad ways.

Already, a sixteen man group comprising of the reformed youth in Muthithi area has been assisted to start a poultry projects.

The DC appreciates role played by church in offering a solution to the youth who over the years have regarded government as their enemy.

Webuye MP in self-defense

By LUKE KAPCHANGA

Webuye Member of Parliament Alfred Sambu has defended the controversial payment of Kshs.3million by the constituency development committee for the purchase of 24 brick making machines.

Sambu explained that Makiga engineering services which supplied the machines was the only firm in the country dealing in them.

The MP said, "We advertised and three companies applied, but because they are the only ones approved by the government to supply the machines we took them".

Sambu added that there are documents to support his claims on the award of tenders but declined to produce them.

The tendering process was clear and open, he went on, saying that the price was the cheapest according to the received quotations.

However this was a gross violation of the CDF Act which stipulates that open tendering should be used for purchases which attract more than Kshs.3million, by inviting at least 10 firms selected from the list



Mr Sambu

of suppliers developed after notification.

To ensure competition and fairness, procurement procedures notices of requirements are displayed at public places including chiefs offices, market centres or any other public place.

A list of registered firms is drawn based on responses and presented to the district project committee.

It is in respect to this provisions

that the District tendering committee shelved the idea of awarding supply of the brick machines to Makiga in November last year.

But they were forced to overturn their decision and approve the supply when an influential personality asked them to tone down.

There were allegations that the CDF was to loss Kshs250,000 if the company was awarded the tender without going through the open tendering system.

Mr. Sambu on his part dismissed the tendering committee for lack of understanding on the procedure by making false claims.

"These people are ignorant and have no idea about the tendering process, the due process was followed", he said.

The manual brick making machines were purchased at Kshs98,000 each. But according to sources they are sold at Kshs.87,000 elsewhere.

Again it emerged that the company was introduced to the CDF members by the MP, and he directed that they approve the award before the due process was in place.

Delays in release of funds mar ESP in Gusii region

By BOB OMBATI

SEVERAL projects under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) are yet to take off in Gusii region due to delays in the release of funds by the Treasury. Kisii Central Field Operations officer, Mr. Steve Siso, says besides the headways made in fish pond projects in Nyaribari Chache and Kitutu Chache constituencies, majority of other proposed projects have not taken off as they were still waiting for funds.

Under the package, Nayakoe and Marani markets have been earmarked for construction in Kitutu Chache while Isecha, Iranda and Matongo Health facilities will be upgraded. The constituency Development committee has also listed Marani, Kenyoro and Nyatieko as model schools to be improved.

In Nyaribari Chache, Kegati and Amasago secondary schools and Irondi and Kakari primary school have been earmarked for face lifting while Menyinkwa and Keumbu markets have been identified for the Jua Kali sheds.

According to Keumbu Ward civic leader-cum-Gusii county council chairman, Kennedy Nyakundi, a model Health centre would be built at Kiogoro, Nyaribari Chache constituency. The councillor says Kshs10 million has been allocated for Amasago and Kegati secondary schools each while Kari and Irondi primary schools will each take Kshs3.5 million.

Nyakundi observes that Kiogoro health Centre would take Kshs 20 million, adding that the projects have been evenly and fairly spread out within the constituency's three divisions of Keumbu, Kegati and Kiogoro.

PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE

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The gift of cultural diversity

Culture is a word that is used in many different contexts. In peacebuilding, I would define culture as beliefs, customs, practices, values and social behavior of a particular group of people. A social environment's culture is nothing that is learnt consciously. It is cultivated in the childhood in the social environment a person grows up in. Therefore, it is usually very hard to explain why you practice certain customs, or have certain values and behaviors.

Symbols

Cultural differences are manifested in different ways. Some cultural conditions are very shallow within us, while others are deeper. To explain this, the terms symbols, heroes, rituals and values can be used. An onion can be used as an illustrator. Symbols represent the most superficial cultural manifestations and are the onion's outermost layer.

These symbols have a purpose for those people sharing the same culture, but can easily be duplicated by other cultural groupings. Examples of symbols are cloths, haircuts, and the drink Coca Cola. For instance, the typical African fabric "kangas" or "kitenge" is used by women both in Kenya and in Nigeria. These women are both Africans but do not consider themselves to have the same culture.

Heroes

Under the first layer of the onion we find heroes. These are people, living or dead, real or imaginary, which possess trait of character that is highly praised in a culture and therefore serves as models of behavior. In Kenya, the late Tom

MANAGER'S COLUMN



In this issue, the International Project Manager HANNA CARLSSON (Pictured), discusses conflict and identity (see page 17). In the next issue, she will look at other themes that are related to peace and conflict.

Mboya would be defined as a hero and J.M.Kariuki while in South Africa Nelson Mandela is a living proof hero for black people. You probably have your own living hero.

Rituals

When we peel off the "hero peel" on our cultural onion we reach to the ritual level. In this level, belong among others different ways to show respect for others or how you greet a person. In some cultures a woman will kneel when greeting a man.

In Kenya it is very common when shaking hands that the person who wants to show respect holds its wrist. Other manifestations which belong to the level of rituals are the possibility for a leader to maintain one's position in a gathering. Kenyans maybe think it is rational that a political leader should sit on the podium in a meeting but usually it is because of rituals. In other cultures the political leader will for example sit on the first row. Symbols, heroes and rituals are visible through customs in a culture, though their cultural meaning is discreet, but the interpretation is in agreement with the culture.

Values

Finally, we reach the innermost of our onion which is values. Values are the deepest in a culture and are not expressed through customs. Values are about what is of importance, what is considered to

be right and wrong, good or bad, true or false, important or not. Values are aimed emotions at certain states. Values tell who we are, what we believe in and how we will act in a certain situation. For instance, when some people in East Africa witness a person pick pocketing they will alert the crowd around who will try to catch and sometimes maybe lynch the pickpocket. The action manifests the values these people possess. Values guide our perceptions in different questions but it is hard to understand people's values from their behavior.

Diversity

With a better understanding of how your culture is composed and manifested it is easier to respect and accept other cultures. In Kenya, you will experience different cultures depending on where you are in the country. To be exposed to different cultures is enriching and as a Kenyan you should take advantage of it. It will minimize misconception and suspicion and at the same time help you to understand not only yourself but also foreign cultures.

This cultural diversity is a blessing but can also create problems. There may be customs in a culture which are hard to be accepted as Female Genital Mutilation or wife inheritance. From a different cultural perspective it can be considered to be an awful practice at the same time it does not mean that it is right because it is a cultural custom. In this context we also need to bear in mind that a culture is not static but changes continually and the same applies to customs in a culture.

Supplement

With an open mindset and respect to cultural differences it is possible

for people with different cultural backgrounds to live together in harmony.

In the capacity trainings, which are taking place in the provinces at the moment, one evening is set aside for cultural sharing. The evenings are very energizing and bring a lot of laughter but at the same time we learn something about our fellow countrymen

We get a deeper understanding of the cultural differences between tribes and how, despite the differences, we can live in one accord. I would like to challenge you to organize cultural activities in your area. Why don't you invite your neighboring community and organize a day where you share your cultural songs, poems, and maybe even food that is specific for your community. Invite us or send us a few lines that we can share with other readers of the supplement.

Finally, do not forget it is possible to live in harmony because in the end of the day we are all human beings with the only small difference that we were brought up in different social environments.

Contact:
ms.hannacarlsson@gmail.com

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Project conducts training for Rift Valley CSOs

The Partnership for Peace Project last month held a four-day training on peace-building and conflict transformation for civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Rift Valley Province.

The training, which took place at Sotik Pastoral Centre in Sotik, brought together 20 like-minded individuals from CSOs in the area eager to acquire skills and learn strategies to help mitigate conflict in their communities.

The Partnership for Peace Project is an initiative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and the European Union. The project is implemented in partnership with Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (CJPC), Mount Elgon Resident Association (MERA) and Community Initiative Action Group – Kenya (CIAG-K) representing Rift Valley, Western and Nyanza respectively.

The training called “Non-State Actors’ Capacity Training in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation” is part of Partnership for



By **SHUBHA CHANDRA**

Peace Project’s capacity building initiative aiming to strengthen the role of non-state actors to prevent and resolve conflict in the three provinces most affected by post-election violence: Rift Valley, Nyanza and Western.

The workshop in Sotik was conducted by Mr. Babu Ayindo and Dr. David Steele, facilitators, and overseen by Mr. James Kimisoi, the project’s provincial coordinator for Rift Valley, and Jane Murutu, co-manager of the project.

The workshop commenced on the morning of 15th March with self introduction by participants who also wrote down their expectations from the training. The participants were excited about the opportunity to attend the training and learn first-hand about issues confronting communities in the Rift Valley province. During the course of the four days the participants, who were of varying ages and backgrounds, shared their experiences and knowledge with each other. It was a great learning

experience for all of us! On the first day, the facilitators discussed the concepts of peace and conflict and asked the participants about the peacebuilding process occurring in their communities. The discussion revealed that poverty, marginalization of people based on political and ethnic differences and land disputes were the principal contributors of the post-election violence in the Rift Valley province. One of the participants, Mr. Kosgei from Sigowet, described the land dispute between the Kipsigis and Gusii communities. He explained that “the inheritance of land brings problems since the older men sold their land long time before their deaths.” What resulted is a clash between the sons of the landowners, who claim their deceased father’s land and the individual who purchased the land from the deceased without documentation. Addressing the general theme of conflict analysis, Mr. Ayindo explained the steps taken when analyzing a conflict using the example of the political differences that divide the political parties, ODM and PNU. He asked the participants to identify the positions—what is being said by the parties, interests—



Breakout session during the peacebuilding training for Rift Valley CSOs.

Photo: Courtesy of Shubha Chandra

what the parties want to achieve from a particular situation and finally, the needs –what the parties need. The participants used this framework for conflict analysis for the duration of the workshop.

Ms. Rebecca Malel, concluded our first day by displaying a beautifully crafted cultural program. Each participant shared an aspect of his or her culture such as a song, dance or story. Mr. Ayindo charmed the group with a Luo song and Dr. Steele’s South African song captured the attention of the participants as many of them joined in song and dance. The enthusiasm was infectious and helped establish a sense of unity among the participants.

In addition to lectures and small group discussions, the facilitators actively involved participants in role-plays. Dr. Steele with the help of three participants used role-playing to illustrate the mistrust and lack of understanding that often marks local and national politics. The scenario involved a Financial Officer (FO) from Kericho inquiring as to why the Minister for Finance denied funding for a project in Kericho.

In the first role-play, an irate FO



Participants display their certificates after completing capacity building training on peace building and conflict transformation.

Photo: Courtesy of Shubha Chandra

Turn to Page 17



This project is funded by the European Union

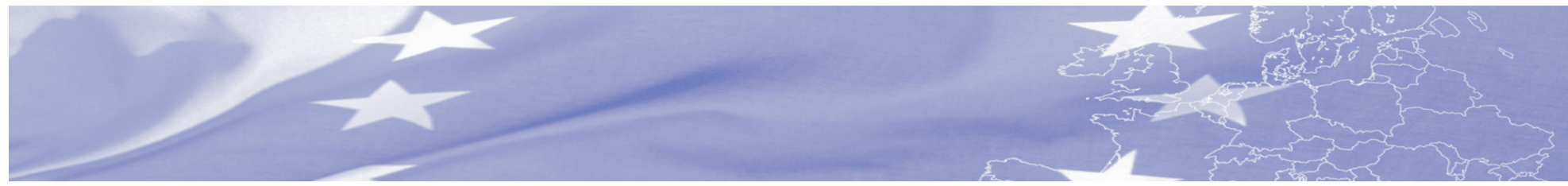


Internationale Zusammenarbeit



This project is implemented by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and her partners and associate





From Page 16

Project conducts training for Rift Valley CSOs

approaches a calm Minister for Finance. The resentment and anger that consumes the FO leads to an escalating of tension, resulting in the FO accusing the Minister of corruption and ethnic discrimination. The FO walks out and no appeal for funding is made. When the role-play was re-done with the FO approaching the Minister with respect, there was a stark difference between the interactions although the outcome remained the same. The role-play effectively displayed the importance of communication in mitigating conflict.

During the course of the workshop, the facilitators discussed topics such as the cycle of victimhood and transformation, third party intervention and early warning mechanisms. Given the important role ethnicity plays in Kenya, the participants were asked to consider the identities they defined themselves by and the identities most often recognized by others. The harmonizing of both perspectives was emphasized as being vital for peacebuilding.

In a session devoted to problem solving, participants were asked to consider a conflict, map out the actors involved and develop an action plan that could be utilized to resolve the conflict. This activity was a precursor for the action plans that the participants



Ms. Jane N. Murutu, Co-Manager, Partnership for Peace Project



Mr. James Kimisoi, Coordinator, Rift Valley Province

developed at the culmination of the workshop addressing the real problems facing their communities.

Over the course of the workshop, three optional films were shown. The first two films focused on uniting community members

through religion and sports in Kericho and Nairobi after the post-election violence. The third film, which took place in the 1990s and involved inter-clan conflict among the Kenyan-Somalis in Wajir, displayed how women mobilized their communities, reaching out to their counterparts in the opposing clan in order to bring an end to the conflict. The films were uplifting and served as excellent examples of successful peacebuilding in Kenya.

The workshop was an enlightening experience. The conversations I had with participants were astonishing and inspiring. I spoke with a woman whose home was destroyed by members of her own community in retaliation for her political affiliation and position as a counselor in the local government. Despite her hardship, she remains resilient, seeking to return to politics to rectify the injustice she and hundreds of others suffered as a result of their political beliefs.

I was told about the work of organizations such as Asubuhi Njema, who had five members attend the workshop, each of whom represented a different ethnic group. Using their ethnic identities, the members reach out to the leaders of their respective ethnic groups in order to bring together different ethnic communities. These stories are examples of the important changes the participants are already making in their communities.

The workshop wrapped up with a closing prayer and remarks by both facilitators, Ms. Murutu and Mr. Kimisoi. As I watched groups formulate their action plans addressing a specific conflict in their communities, I felt hopeful that if implemented, such plans will repair and rejuvenate relations between warring ethnic groups and promote peace and unity.

The writer is an intern with KAS

Defining my Identity

'What are we?' was a question that many raised after the post-election violence. And it is probably a question that many people in Kenya still ask themselves when they recall the memories of the post-election violence. What we know is that we are human beings defined by our psychological entities: we have memories; we are capable of reasoning; we are able to use a language; we have emotions and desires. Our psychological entities separate us from animals.

Psychological entities can only develop if there is an intense interaction with other

human beings. Interaction happens among other places in our families, in our communities, or in a church group, or maybe in a political party. These mentioned places are cultural contexts. All of us belong to different groups or you could say different cultural contexts which help us to form our identity.

This process happens automatically and is usually nothing we reflect upon. Though, sometimes it is important to take a moment and think about whom you are and how people perceive you. An easy exercise to identify your various identities is to write them down on a paper. The list of identities forms your personal

identity. When you know who you are it is easier to accept and respect others who are not like you.

Most Kenyans have at least one identity in common: you are Kenyan. Consequently, the post-election violence caught many by surprise because we were attacking someone that we shared an identity with. Let us respect that we have different identities, though, at the same time we have identities in common. At the end of the day no identity is more important than another and therefore we should be able to live peacefully.

—By Hanna Carlsson



This project is funded by the European Union



This project is implemented by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and her partners and associate



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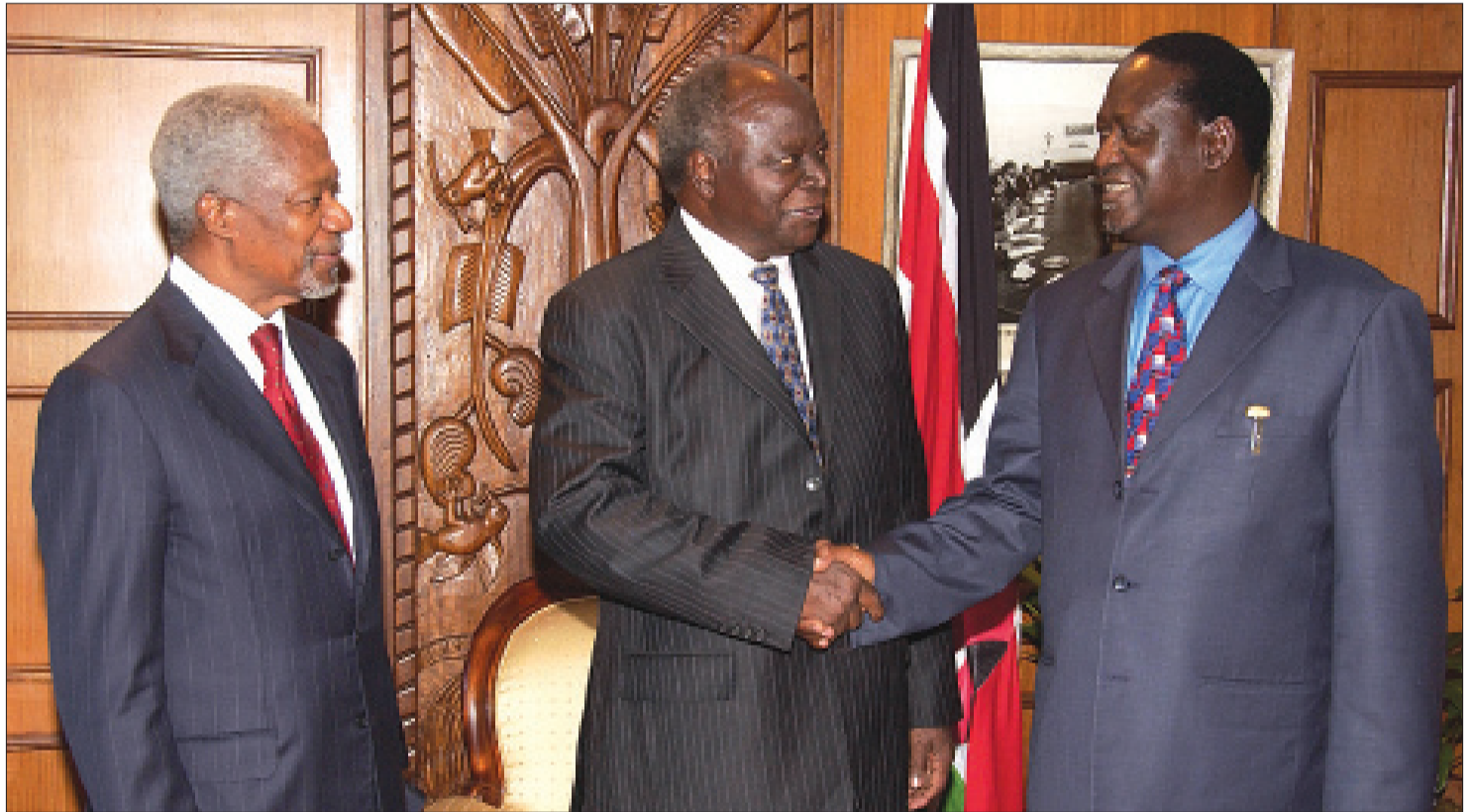
By **SHUBHA CHANDRA**

The Journey of Reconciliation

There were many victims of the post-election violence in 2007/2008. Many compelling stories have been told and the victims' experiences have left them feeling distrustful of members of their own community and scared that others will also turn their backs on them. Most of them have not received an apology or seen remorse on the faces of individuals who have changed their lives. What is needed is healing and reconciliation.

Reconciliation is a multi-step process by which people or groups of people who are on different sides of an issue unite towards a common goal of repairing their relationship. The process often brings together parties who are both guilty of contributing to each other's pain and suffering. Although the definition of reconciliation varies from context to context, three steps are necessary to provide the foundation for a way forward. They include coming to terms with past events, building confidence and trust and forgiving others.

If you recognized yourself in the beginning of this article, Partnership for Peace Project would like to hear your story and experiences from the post-election violence.



President Kibaki and PM Raila Odinga reconcile after the post-election violence in 2007/8. Looking on is Chief Mediator Kofi Annan.

We, therefore, ask you to send your story to the project office in Kisumu (see contacts below). With

your permission, some of the stories will be published in the next issue of this supplement together

with a detailed article on reconciliation and how you can come to terms with the past.

CONTACT ADDRESSES:

**EU-KAS Project Office in Kisumu, Varsity Apartments 3rd Floor,
P.O. Box 668, 40100 Kisumu,
Telephone. +254 057 2023484
+254 711 358 013.**

PARTNERS

Mt. Elgon Residents Association (MERA)
Chem Ngeywo, Project Coordinator
Western Province
P.O Box 21-50201, Cheptais-Mt. Elgon
Mobile : 0720-744827; 0734-517489.
Email: pchem2007@yahoo.com

Community Initiative Action-Group (CIAG-K)
Mr. Chrispin Owalla, Project Coordinator
Nyanza Province
Varsity Apartments 3rd Floor,
P.O. Box 668, 40100 Kisumu.
Tel: 0737-470558/0716-384135
grassrootlink@yahoo.com or
ciag-kenya@hotmail.com

Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (CJPC)
Mr. James Kimisoi, Project Coordinator
Rift Valley Province
The Catholic Diocese of Eldoret
P.O. Box 842 -30100, Eldoret.
Tel 2031272; 0722 448110
E-mail: jameskimisoi@yahoo.com



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Sambu comes to the aid of school

By AGGREY BUCHUNJU

It was a blessing in disguise for a Primary school in Bungoma East District which had its roof blown off by a storm last year.

The school, Khalala Primary, in Sitikho location is now a beneficiary of the constituency Development Fund (CDF) emergency head vote.

Webuye MP Mr. Alfred Sambu and his CDF Committee recently allocated and disbursed a total of Kshs. 1.5 million to the school to give it a facelift. The money is earmarked for the construction of 3 modern classrooms in order to decongest pupils in the populous school.

To reduce construction costs, the MP has at the same time donated two interlocking soil blocks press machines to a local Youth self-help group. The beneficiary, Musikukha Youth self-help Group has consequently been contracted by the project management committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Mayabi Mutupa to bake 8,000 bricks. Musikukha youth self-help group draws its 40 membership from the adjacent villages thus, Sitikho, Kuywa, Mukite and Khalala.

The group received the 2 machines from the area legislator through the youth Empowerment programme which is aimed at reducing poverty through job creation for the youth. Under normal circumstances one machine if properly utilized can bake over 500 bricks per day.

It can also work with all types of soil except black cotton soil and the bricks are allegedly approved by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (K E B S) for construction of Permanent walls. Unlike the commonly used bricks no mortar is required in joints when one uses bricks produced by the interlocking soil block press machines.

If the two machines given to Musikukha youth self-help group can be utilized properly then the youth will be able to bake 1,000 bricks per day. This therefore, means that the 8,000 target number of bricks can be baked within 8 days at a cost of Kshs. 11,000 since according to the project chair the group is to be paid Kshs 1,500 per day.

Given that the local market price for 1 brick is Kshs.6, the school is most likely to save up to Kshs 37,000 through the current brick baking process, leave alone reduction in construction costs.

Mwatela, Makoka in battle over CDF

By BEKADZO TONDO

Two senior politicians from Coast Province are embroiled in a tussle over the alleged misuse of Kshs 1.2 million meant for the construction of CDF offices.

Mwatate MP Clarist Mwatela want a former MP Mr. Marsden Madoka to account for the funds allocated during his tenure to oversee the construction of the CDF offices.

However, Madoka claims that the constituency was never allocated any such funds during his term in office and accuses the area MP of spearheading a political scheme to malign his name. Mwatela on the other hand insists that he has solid evidence to show that the money had been set aside for the project.

"The former MP for Mwatate Mr Madoka should fully account for the Kshs 1.2 disbursed by the National Constituency Development Fund office to help construct the CDF offices during his tenure because no such project exists on the ground while records show that the money was spent," argues Mwatela.

Mwatela further accuses the former cabinet minister of sabotaging development programs in the area and asked him to keep off.

Lamu residents want CDF treasurer sacked



By BEKADZO TONDO

Residents of Lamu West Constituency are demanding for immediate removal of a senior CDF official who they accuse of engaging in malpractices which have allegedly cost the kitty Kshs.30 millions.

The residents led by the chairman of Mpeketoni Leaders forum Mr

Mica Ng'ang'a and six councillors from Lamu county council recently stormed the CDF offices to forcibly eject the treasurer, Mr. Mohammed Galalalo Bute, who they claim remains in office illegally even after being charged in court with flouting procurement procedures as spelt out in the CDF Act.

"The law states that anybody

who has been arraigned in court for criminal activities should step aside until such a case is concluded by the court and we wonder why Mr Bute is still in the office," Ng'ang'a said.

The residents complained that over Kshs30 million was used to purchase eight farm tractors without following the laid government procurement procedures.

Fear engulfs Coast civic leaders

By LINK CORRESPONDENT

Panic has gripped workers and civic leaders in some local authorities in Coast Province following indications that non-performing councils will be scrapped once the proposed Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2009 becomes law.

Workers and civic leaders in some of non-viable entities are now appealing to the Local Government Minister to consider shelving the bill.

Most workers and civic leaders are anxious that they will be rendered jobless in the new dispensation and want the government to specify their fate before any action is taken against non-performing entities.

At Lamu County council six councillors appealed to the minister for local government to spare the council from the intended plans to scrap non viable entities.

The councillors who include Francis Chenge, Ruben Karanja Kirimi Gagihirwa and Susan Gaitho argue that scrapping or merging the local authority with that of Malindi county

council will deny area residents services currently being offered by the local authority.

The civic leaders also notes that Malindi county is very far from Lamu and felt it will be unfair to merge their Lamu county council with it. Others who expressed similar fears include Mariakani town council and Malindi county council.

However, local authorities with strong capital base were optimistic that their councils will not be among those to be affected once the bill becomes law. Kilifi county council clerk Mr Leboo Ole Morintat says the council will survive the exercise as it had a strong capital base and was ranked highly after taking the 11th position out of the 175 local authorities in the country.

The clerk said apart from offering the necessary services to members of the public, the council has also been paying its councillors and staff on time and that was a clear sign the council was on the right track as far as services delivery is concerned.

The council chairman Mr Anthony Kingi echoed similar sentiments adding that the



A section of civic leaders panic following indications that non-performers will be scrapped once the proposed Local Government Amendment Bill 2009 becomes law.

council was there to stay as it has been giving proper services to the members of the public.

At Kilifi town council, the local authority clerk Mr William Jilani is optimistic that the council will be spared the axe once the new law becomes effective.

They said the tractors bought two years ago were second hand machines which have been grounded without having done any work in the constituency.

They also accused the treasurer of having diverted funds meant for a water project which they say was supposed to supply clean water to the residents of Koreni in the constituency and used the funds to rehabilitate a cattle dip which benefitted him alone as he was the only person who keeps cattle at the Koreni village.

Hongwe ward councillor Mr Francis Chenge complained of favouritism in the disbursement of bursary funds with very few needy cases benefiting from the funds.

Chenge claimed the treasurer has been awarding the funds to well connected students with some of them getting as much as Kshs20,000 at the expense of needy cases majority of whom are orphans.

Councillors Ruben Karanja of Baharini ward and his Kiongwe ward counterpart councillor Kimiri Gathurwa said there was no transparency in the management of CDF funds and urged their MP to disband the CDF committee and appoint another one.

The Mpeketoni Leaders forum chairman Mr Nganga at the same time said that Uziwa secondary school started 20 years ago was still in bad shape because the area CDF office had failed to allocate any resources to oversee its development.

A member of the community Mr George Rugoi appealed to the government to intervene and ensure the school gets funding to expand it.

Rugoi argued that the school has no enough classrooms, lacks laboratory, dining hall administration block among other crucial facilities.

Mr Jilani argues that Kilifi town council is among the three town councils in the country earmarked for development into resort cities by 2030. Others slated for development into resort cities by 2030 include Kwale town council and Isiolo town council.

Butula MP threatens to sue his CDF officials

By GILBERT OCHIENG

Butula MP, Alfred Odhiambo, has vowed to take stern action against any project management committee in his constituency found embezzling project funds.

Speaking in Butula when disbursing CDF cheques totaling to Kshs15.5million recently, Odhiambo called for transparency and accountability in the implementation of the CDF projects.

“The CDF kitty is taxpayers money and should, therefore, be utilized towards the purpose to which it was intended,” the MP said, adding that those who fail to comply with the directive will not be funded.

The legislator says that the CDF committee had earmarked a huge chunk of the constituency’s CDF kitty towards the construction of additional classrooms so as to create room for more pupils following the introduction of Free Primary Education (FPE) programme that had led to overcrowding in most learning institutions in the district.

Other projects undertaken include the construction of health centres, construction of administration police lines, extension of electricity, the construction of water springs and the construction of

chiefs’ offices among others.

However, the area legislator said that in the next financial year, the constituency development fund committee will channel the entire fund towards the improvement of the existing health facilities especially Khunyangu Sub-district hospital which he said had no paediatric ward, theatre and enough medical personnel to provide effective service delivery to both in and outpatients.

The Medical Officer In-charge of Khunyangu Sub-District hospital Dr Benjamin Bonyo on his part expressed concern over the rising rate of insecurity in the area saying that the hospital staff houses have been subjected to frequent break-ins at night after the medical personnel have gone on night duty.

However, Odhiambo assured the affected medical staff that the situation will be contained once the administration police camp currently under construction is completed.

“We are doing everything at our disposal to ensure that the administration police camp currently under construction is completed as a matter of urgency,” he said.

The details of the projects funded are as follows;

PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT
Kalalani primary school	500,000
Masendebale primary school	450,000
Tingolo primary school	150,000
Musibiriri primary school	350,000
Esiribiro secondary school	300,000
Bumala B secondary school	250,000
Mungambwa primary school	300,000
Bulemia Namusala Health Centre	450,000
Extension of Electricity	5,000,000
Butula Boys primary school/Omondi Water Spring/Kanjala Spring	100,000
Butula AP line	1,200,000
Elugulu Chief Centre/Madangi spring/Bumakhudu spring	150,000
Bulwani Health Centre	500,000
Lugulu secondary school	600,000
Bumutiru Health Centre	300,000
Bumutiru RC primary school	300,000
Magombe Primary school/spring	250,000
Khunyangu Sub-district hospital	250,000
Nyalwanda primary school	250,000
Busibi ECD	200,000
Bukhalalire secondary school	300,000
Bukhalalire Health Centre	250,000
Agola spring	450,000
Bujumba secondary school/Lwanya spring	200,000
Buriya Girls secondary school/Ogwaro spring	150,000
Masebula secondary school	350,000
Bumala Chief’s Centre/Ugaji spring	300,000
Bumala A Health Centre	300,000
Bukhalalire primary school/Osogo spring	450,000
Elukhari secondary school	700,000
Busiada primary	300,000

Ugenya CDF adopts new management system

By JONES MAGARE

UGENYA Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Managers and officials have established a Geographical Information System (GIS) to facilitate effective planning and implementation of CDF funded projects in the area.

The Constituency CDF monitoring and evaluation committee chairman Aggrey Omondi says the establishment of the GIS has been done by the newly formed CDF team of officials and fund managers to streamline implementation of projects.

“When we came on board we did not find anything from the previous team of CDF officials, apart from inheriting a paper punch. We decided to go round the constituency to assess the state of CDF projects,” Omondi says.

He says the new team found out that most CDF projects had not been completed and had stalled in various areas within the constituency.

“Our team also realized that although most of the projects had stalled they were interestingly still classified as on-going, yet they had already guzzled millions of shillings beyond the budgeted and allocated amount” he says.

He cites examples of projects which had initially been allocated Kshs2 million but which instead consumed over Kshs5 million in CDF funding.

The chairman says the assessment tour also revealed that the workmanship on the projects was very poor.

“We also noted prevalence in the duplication of projects in many areas of the constituency which could have been



Mr Orendo

avoided if there was proper planning and coordination of projects being financed through other devolved funds,” Omondi reveals.

Omondi says based on the findings of the assessment tour the newly established CDF committee decided to put in place a Geographical Information System (GIS).

“The GIS helps the CDF committee to effectively plan and monitor the implementation of projects within the constituency,” he says.

He says the GIS is able to indicate the distribution of CDF projects in the entire constituency and also reveal if there is a concentration of projects in particular areas and places where gaps exist.

“Since CDF is highly politicized, the GIS enables us to counter claims of biased allocation of funds and projects from a section of constituents,” the chairman says.

The chairman says data from the GIS also enables the committee to identify new CDF projects within the constituency and ensure at least with a measure of certainty that funds for project implementation have been well allocated.

He says the move to install the GIS has also raised the level of awareness among residents about the use of devolved funds like CDF within the constituency.

“Previously before our team came into office CDF project managers used to dish out funds as handouts and pocket money from their pockets,” he recalls.

Omondi says residents had also developed a culture of expecting their leaders or area Member of Parliament to come over for them to present their project wish lists adding that “this bottom-up approach has changed with the election of James Orendo as area MP and with establishment of the new CDF committee.”

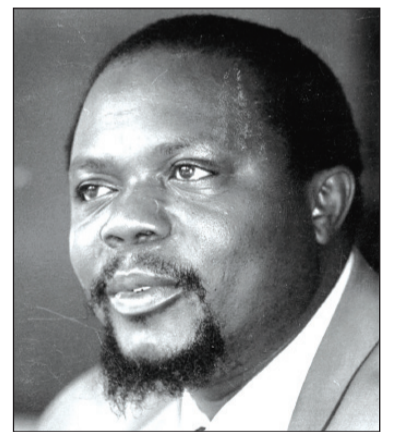
Additionally, Omondi says the GIS has helped the CDF team to conduct advocacy campaigns on various issues such as environment.

“Through data and information displayed on the GIS you can show residents some of their CDF project activities that impact negatively on the environment. This way residents are able to appreciate the importance of environmental conservation,” Omondi says.

The chairman says establishment of the GIS has also enabled them to generate and engage in objective CDF project planning debates with residents within the constituency.

Stop misuse of CDF, says Wamunyinyi

By AGREY BUCHUNJU



Mr. Wamunyinyi

THE National cake should be distributed to all regions without bias, the Deputy Special representative of African Union (AU) Mission for Somalia Mr. Wafula Wamunyinyi says.

Mr. Wamunyinyi points out that all people or regions regardless of their political affiliations should benefit from the government resources equally.

“Distribution of government resources should not be pegged on the voting patterns during the last general elections since all people pay taxes to the government,” the diplomat says.

Wamunyinyi, who is the former MP for Kanduyi Constituency alleges that devolved funds in the area especially the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) were being misappropriated with impunity.

This, he adds was happening in the area because people entrusted with the funds are close allies of the present political leadership. He accuses the area Constituency Development Fund Committee (CDFC) of allocating funds in a discriminatory manner and of lacking transparency and accountability.

The special envoy claims that Kanduyi CDFC is totally insensitive to the residents’ aspirations and needs.

Wamunyinyi notes with bitterness that the CDF in the area had been turned into an avenue of settling political scores, a scenario which had led to the collapse of projects initiated by past political leadership including some of the projects he had started when he served as the area MP.

He observes that no citizen or region has more rights than another when it comes to allocation of public resources.

Saying that all citizens have a right to access devolved funds without discrimination Wamunyinyi praises people who question use of public monies in the constituency. “To demand to know how CDF is being used in the constituency is not politicking but a right”, he asserts.

The former MP at the same time censures the politicians for allegedly derailing Kazi Kwa vijana programme.

He claims that the programme was not sustainable because of the political leaders’ interferences and their failure to identify viable projects. “Kazi kwa vijana programme was a noble initiative but it soon failed because politicians hijacked it and pushed for their own selfish interests in the programme,” he adds.

Wamunyinyi alleges that in some areas people who have benefited from the programme are not youths by any definition but old people who are out to milk dry the programme coffers at the expense of the youth.

Dairy Goat farmers are all smiles

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

Dairy goat farmers from Mt Kenya region earned Kshs 23.3 million last year.

Farmers sold 1, 944 goats through the Dairy Goat Association of Kenya (DGAK). The returns were higher compared to the Kshs 15 million they earned the previous year where they sold 1,750 goats.

Speaking during the 16th annual general meeting at Nyamachaki PCEA hall in Nyeri town recently, the association chairman Mr Julius Kang'ee said the goats were sold to various institutions in the country.

The main buyers were Catholic diocese of Embu and Nakuru, World Vision Maragwa and Kisii, Community Based Organisations based in Mumias, Emuhaya and Vihiga. Others were Arid Land Resource Management project of Nyeri and Transmara.

The farmers also sold 31, 835 liters of milk in year 2009 worth Kshs 1.1 million compared to 20, 330 liters worth Kshs 711, 550 sold the previous year. The rate of payment went up from 1st July last year up from Kshs 35 to Kshs40.

DGAK has a membership of about 16,000 farmers from 1, 250 member groups. It has several branches in Nyeri, Murang'a, Kiambu, Embu, Nakuru, Kirinyaga and Mbale districts in Western Kenya.

"About 294 bucks were rotated last year and 96 bucks were replaced within the year due to death or lack of libido. The association was able to replace all the bucks that were reported." The chairman told over 500 farmers who attended the AGM.

However, the farmers are faced with many challenges including the modalities of collecting milk from the farms to the collection centres as farmers walk for long distances.

"Due to lack of skills on quality of fodder production and conservation, our farmers need to be trained on quality of fodder production and conservation. This will improve the quality of the goats and have a uniform production of milk throughout the year." Kang'ee added.

Central provincial deputy director veterinary officer Mr William Impwi lauded the good work the association has been doing to eradicate poverty saying this has been emphasized in the Vision 2030.

The association is now planning to open more branches and equipping them. "We shall also train more assistants to cope with the increased number of farmer groups and also elect branch officials as per the revised election guidelines," the farmers heard.

The association is also planning to import semen and if possible life goats, in order to increase the genetically variable to the breeding stock.



Many tea factories are resorting to firewood due to high cost of power.

Murang'a tea farmers to produce own power

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

DUE to the high power tariffs, tea factories in the larger Murang'a district are exploring possibilities of producing their own power to reduce costs.

The tea factories have earmarked Kshs 600 million to finance a hydro project to cut on production costs. The Metumi Hydro Power project is expected to take two years before completion and will serve Kiru, Gatunguru, Kanyenya-ini and Githambo tea factories.

In the recent annual general meeting held at Kiru Tea Factory, the factory chairman Mr Geoffrey Kirundi revealed to farmers that a feasibility study has been finalized and the factories covered in the project are now in the process of hiring the contractors.

"In the current year, this zone will commence a hydro project and to do so, the shareholders will be required to pay Kshs 2 per kilogramme of green leaf as equity.

The project will generate three Mega Watts of power. This generator hydro will be adequate for the four factories in the zone and the surplus will

be released to the National grid at a price," the chairman told over 500 farmers who attended the AGM.

The project will start at Mathioya River which flows from Aberdare forest to Murang'a areas.

The chairman accompanied by the director Mr Esau Kioni added that this project will minimize the manufacturing costs to zero once it is complete as they will own the project.

He lamented that the costs of energy had been very high despite the fact that some of them were using firewood.

In year 2008, the factory paid a bill of Kshs 25 million for electricity while last year they paid Kshs 30 million.

"There was an increase in the manufacturing cost by Kshs 0.97 per every kilogramme. This manufacturing cost includes the monthly green leaf payment at Kshs 41.43 per kg of made tea for the year which is lower than Kshs 41.73 per kg for the previous year." He says.

In the neighboring Nyeri district, the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) and the tea factories re-evaluated possibilities and means of re-

ducing costs of production last year.

Gathuthi, Gitugi, Iria-ini and Chinga Tea Factories in the larger Nyeri district which are some of the factories which took the first step noted that energy costs in the production cycle of the made tea consume approximately four per cent of its revenue.

Hydro power generation had been identified as a major alternative that could reduce costs of production from the current four per cent to approximately one per cent of revenue. A programme has been started to look unto this issue.

The Gura small hydro power is part of the programme "Green the Tea Industry in East Africa" (GTIEA) small hydro power initiative approved by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) council. The programme is co-implemented by UNEP and African Development Bank (ADB) and executed by East Africa Trade Tea Association (EATTA).

A feasibility study of the small Hydro power project was carried out by UNEP and ADB at a cost of Kshs 8.4 million and from the report, a site on

the slope of Aberdares mountain with potential to generate 17,866 Megawatt Hour/ Year has been identified and would serve the four tea factories.

"This is a major opportunity to reduce the production costs whilst making additional revenue from the same. It will be a long term cost energy cutting strategy," the chairman of Gitugi tea factory Mr Nderitu Mugi says.

He adds that the excess power generated above the required approximately 8,599 megawatt hour/year, will be sold to Kenya Power and Lightning Company and other providers.

The estimated cost of the project is Kshs 635.1 million which would be chaired amongst the four factories companies. The financing for the project will be done on a 65: 35 loan and equity contribution.

"Our 35 per cent share of equity contribution of approximately Kshs 55.5 million will be raised from our second payment spread out in two years. All our investment would have an estimated payback period of five years and four months." The chairman says.

Othaya tea growers urged to diversify activities

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

Tea farmers in Othaya have been urged to adopt other income generating activities to supplement revenue generated from tea earnings and maximize on opportunities.

Speaking recently during the annual general meeting at Iria-ini Tea Factory, Fair Trade secretary Mr Mathew Ng'enda said it is high time tea farmers adopted other ways of income generation other than over relying on tea.

He said fair trade has partnered with Kenya Tea Development Agency to start a bee keeping project which will also create employment to youths in the area who spend most of their time idling at shopping centers.

Ng'enda who is also the Factory Unit Manager – Iriaini Tea Factory said though tea is the main crop that sustains the company, their partnership with Fair Trade was meant to assist other people who may want to feature in other forms of income generation in the area.

"The bee keeping project which is to be started in Muringato in Nyeri has been equipped with 20 beehives



Tea growers in Othaya venture into bee keeping to make more money.

with a target of establishing 200 hives. This project is a success and people have also started to establish beehives in their homes," added Ng'enda.

He urged farmers to embrace this project which has a ready market for their produce.

One bee hive is expected

to produce at least eight Kgs of honey after every four months.

Fair Trade has also partnered with Techno Serve Company in another project where farmers will grow passion fruits that will be sold to the Coca Cola Company for fruit juice production.

in the area.

Last year, Fair Trade had earmarked for Kshs 4.5 million to finance various projects but was only able to raise Kshs 3.6 million due to reduced tea earnings in the markets.

However, Ng'enda is confident that the production will be better this year and they will be able to raise the required Kshs 4.5 million for this year's budget. The budget, he said will mainly focus on completing projects stipulated in the five year strategic plan which will end this year before starting new projects.

During the AGM, Fair Trade Premium Committee members retained their seats in a less contested election.

Other members are Mr Githinji Wanjohi- treasurer, Mrs Beatrice Omari-accountant, Mrs Mary Chege, Mr Joseph Githiri and Mrs Charity Wangui who serve as committee members.

Ng'enda was however quick to advise farmers not to uproot their tea bushes since the projects they are pioneering would only cover small areas of their land.

Cheap sugar imports hurting local industry

Debt ridden Nzoia Company unable to sell 120,000 bags of sugar worth Kshs400 million

By JOHN NALIANYA

Nzoia Sugar Company is now grappling with 120,000 bags of sugar valued at Kshs400 million following the saturation of the local market by cheap imports, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Saul Wasilwa, says.

Briefing journalists in his boardroom, Wasilwa who was accompanied by the Marketing Manager, Mr. Cliff Mabele, claimed sugar on transit along with duty free consignments from neighbouring countries was flooding the local market to the detriment of Nzoia sugar sales in Western and the North Rift regions.

The two officials called on the Kenya Revenue Authority to move with speed and arrest those involved in offloading sugar on transit and flooding the market with cheap sugar from neighbouring countries.

"We are selling our sugar at Ksh3,800 per 50kg bag but we have learnt that cheaper options are selling at between Ksh3,000 and Ksh3,400 per 50 kg bag," Mabele said.

Wasilwa said the management was awaiting the appointment of the new chairman by the head of state following the gazettelement of five new directors by Agriculture Minister William



Sugarcane workers in one of the farms

Ruto.

The five directors include Rosalinda Simiyu, Daniel Mumiukha, Boniface Otsiula, Kakai Wamocho and John Munyasia whose appointment follows the dissolution of the former board that was chaired by Burudi Nabwera.

"We are awaiting the substantive appointment of the chairman and his gazettelement by the president before the new board can be inaugurated," Wasilwa said.

Nzoia is among the sugar milling firms earmarked for privatization by the government and has a Kshs19.4 billion debt which local leaders want written off.

Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetang'ula and Kimilili MP Dr Eseli Simiyu have in the past petitioned the government to waive the huge debt and allow farmers to own 75 per cent of the company with workers being slotted 10 per cent of the shares while strategic partners get the balance.

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Additional VCTs needed in Western province

By JOHN NALIANYA

About 230,000 people in Western Province are HIV positive but only 35,000 of them access Anti Retroviral (ARV) drugs.

The Western Provincial Aids and STI Control Co-ordinator (PASC), Dr John Aswani, says that in view of the large number of Aids cases in the province the Government had set up 92 Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) centres in the area.

He told a National Aids/STI Control Programme (NAS COP) sensitization workshop for Aids counselors drawn from the province that the Government had availed enough Aids testing kits to all public health institutions.

"Once put on ARVs, one can live for as long as 27 years if the dosage of the life prolonging drugs is maintained," he explains adding that statistics show most affected districts border Uganda such as Teso and Busia where fishing business thrives.

Obtaining the region's representative estimates on behavior change and biological indicators for HIV/Aids, is critical for evaluating the areas' response to the Aids pandemic.

Available HIV/Aids statistics indicate that the most af-



Procession during World Aids Day. PHOTO/FILE

ected age bracket is of people aged between 15-19 years who translate to 3.5 per cent, 20-24 years 7.4 per cent, 25-29 years 10.2 per cent, 45-49 years 8.8 per cent, while 55-64 years 4.7 per cent respectively.

Aswani points out that population based survey with HIV testing provide regional level prevalence estimates

and opportunity to link the HIV status with social and demographic information.

He says Aids disease surveillance would be stepped up to provide comprehensive information on HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

"The data would provide information needed for advoca-

cacy and for planning appropriate interventions for HIV prevention, treatment and care," he said.

Aswani says HIV counseling and testing are key elements in a comprehensive response to the 15-64 age bracket which is highly affected with majority of them being women.

Nyanza still leading in HIV cases

By JOHN NALIANYA

The Government has launched a series of road shows to sensitize communities in Nyanza on the benefits of voluntary medical male circumcision for HIV prevention.

Nyanza Provincial Commissioner Francis Mutie set off the caravan in Kisumu. The procession will traverse 11 districts in Luo Nyanza before ending at Homa Bay Stadium.

Mutie says Nyanza still has the country's highest HIV prevalence rate. He says statistics by the Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey (KAIS) of 2007, reveals that 15 per cent of Nyanza's adults are infected with HIV.

The figure is more than double the national rate of seven per cent.

"Nyanza needs to double its HIV prevention efforts," he adds noting that the Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) in addition to Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) are vital HIV interventions that directly target the family. "Both men and women should be actively involved in ensuring that they access and use information that will help them make better choices," he said.

The PC said the services were voluntary. Studies have shown being circumcised reduces a man's chances of becoming infected with HIV by more than half. If 80 per cent of uncircumcised men in Nyanza undergo the rite, an estimated 900,000 infections could be prevented in men and women over a 20-year period.

The benefits of PMTCT are dramatic and without such interventions, 38 out of 100 children who are born to HIV-infected women are likely to be infected, compared with two HIV infections out of 100 with PMTCT.

Provincial Director of Public Health and Sanitation, Dr Jackson Kioko, explains that the two interventions require community involvement to be effective. "We believe effective community engagement can produce desired health outcomes," he adds.

The Luo Council of Elders chairperson, Ker Riaga Ogalo, told participants voluntary medical male circumcision for HIV prevention was vital for the community but warned youth against engaging in risky sexual behavior. He warns that circumcision does not provide full protection against HIV, adding that abstinence was the ultimate assurance of remaining HIV free.

Provincial Director of Medical Services, Dr Ojwang' Lusi, asked men to practice abstinence, be faithful and ensure correct and consistent condom use even after getting circumcised.

Speakers urged men to be involved in prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme.

Kioko asked men to form support groups for PMTCT "and to seek to have more men accompanying spouses to the antenatal clinics and knowing their HIV status."

During the PMTCT sessions, both partners are given health information on safer sex practices, HIV counseling and testing, and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, Mutie said.

Public hospitals to become autonomous

By PETER MUTUKU

All public hospitals will soon be made semi-autonomous for better service delivery and revenue generation.

According to the Medical Services Permanent Secretary, Prof. James Kiyapi, the ministry is working on a paper that will see all Government hospitals run like independent institutions, with chief executive officers and human resource departments among others.

"To achieve this, all government health facilities must run like organizations with all relevant departments," he said. "Our responsibility is to ensure that in the next five to ten years, the provision of health services is the best in Africa," he adds.

Currently, most government health facilities lack vital facilities and the first priority will be to improve them before making them semi autonomous. "We want to improve all hospitals in the country by ensuring every hospital has at least two operational theatres and has well



Mr. Ole Kiyapi, PS addressing the press in a past function

equipped wards so that people can get better services than in private hospitals," says PS.

For instance plans are underway to upgrade the Coast Provincial General Hospital to

a teaching and referral hospital while Malindi District Hospital would be elevated to level five. "We are in the process of entering an agreement with Pwani University College,

which wants to use the provincial hospital as a teaching and referral hospital," Kiyapi said.

The ministry is also working towards improving the welfare of its workers in order to motivate them and ensure better service delivery. The PS called for patriotism, adding that soon, the ministry will announcing good tidings to all its workers.

He urged medical practitioners not to run away from public service saying the Ministry was in the process of harmonizing work conditions to be at par or even better than the private sector.

"It is true that we have a challenge of improving the welfare of our workers, but this is expected from such a big ministry with over 36,000 workers.

He explains that was why the Ministry was working towards decentralization of services so that the welfare of workers can be handled by human resource officers at the hospital level.

Tree planting continues in Western Province

By JOEL OKWAYO

Over 300,000 trees will be planted in Western province by the government and other stakeholders in order to improve the forest cover this season.

According to area Provincial Commissioner, Mr. Samuel Kilele, 200,000 tree seedlings are set to be planted in Kakamega district soon. This follows another 100,000 seedlings that were planted in Mt Elgon District in last month February.

The PC, who is coordinating the reforestation exercise in the province, told The Link that the on-going tree planting programme was part of the Government's bid to create employment opportunities for the youth in the country.

Kilele also discloses that over Kshs 4 billion will be spend on improvement of water services and drainage systems in the province.

He says that the World Bank and other partners, who include water companies, were spearheading initiatives geared towards improving sanitation and drainage system in the area.

The PC says the move is aimed at ensuring that there is no water shortage among the residents. He adds that part of the strategy is to improve the forest cover of the province in order to reclaim the depleted water catchments areas.

Kilele warned that wanton destruction of trees in Mt Elgon and Kakamega forests will not



A section of Mau Forest which has been destroyed. Inset: Tree planting.

be tolerated. He said the forest department will intensify its network to ensure that there is no destruction of the resources.

The PC was speaking during the launch of tree planting exercise at the Kakamega's rehabilitation school during the

planting of 60,000 trees seedlings.

The occasion was also addressed by the National Environmental Management Authority (Nema) officer in charge of Kakamega district Anthony Aura and the area DC

Chege Mwangi.

Kilele explains that the Government will soon resettle residents displaced from the Chebyuk settlements scheme before the end of the year.

"We shall not allow controversies during the exercise as

the Government wants to finish up the third phase of the three settlement exercises," says Kilele. He says politicians will not be allowed to interfere with the exercise as the resettlement programme which is being supported by UNDP and UNEP.

Raw sewerage drained into Kirigu River



This is the sewerage system which is adjacent to River Kirigu in Karatina town.

Lives of 40,000 residents in danger due to action by Mathira Water and Sewerage Company

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

GREEN BELT Movement has put Karatina residents on high alert after the movement discovered that a local sewerage company is draining its waste in Kirigu River.

The local coordinator Mr Kahuhu Maathai says over 40,000 residents who depend on this river are at risk of contracting water borne diseases like typhoid.

"The condition has been like this since September last year. The Mathira Water and Sewerage Company (Mawasco) which is responsible says that the machine broke down five months ago," adds Maathai. "The company says they have ordered another machine from Nairobi but this has not been forthcoming," says

Maathai. The river which drains to Sagana River is also used by coffee factories like Gatomboya, Gaturiri, Kiamabara and Kirigu factories.

"This water is used for drinking, feeding cattle, and clothing and even for growing food crops. It is high time the Government intervenes to forestall a catastrophe," he says.

The coordinator said he has visited the offices of Ministry of Public health but no help has been forthcoming.

Efforts to get comments from the Mawasco official in charge of the sewerage system Mr S. Karechu were fruitless as his phone was switched off and the local public officer was not in the office when the press visited their offices in Karatina town.

Is Kenya serious about tackling climate change?

By LUKE KAPCHANGA

President Mwai Kibaki's New Year message was candid: "Let us make 2010 the green year for Kenya".

The president added that his government was set to spearhead campaigns aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change as well as foster economic practices that are less harmful to the environment.

The president went further to urge the public to play their role in boosting the government efforts to implement the National Climate Change Response Strategy.

But hardly few days later, the president disagreed with the Prime Minister Raila Odinga on the Mau reforestation programme.

He did not attend the tree planting function as politics took centre stage.

There is no doubt that climate change is the most significant challenge facing the world today.

It affects everyone, regardless of geographical location or socio-economic status.

This may determine the way we produce food, our access to water, our health, where we live, and the diversity of plant and animal species.

However, our political leadership and more so the head of state have shown little regard for environmental conservation.

The biggest challenge the government at large faces when it comes to climate change is at the policy level. While the country prides itself with impressive policies, they are hardly implemented and will in utter contrast of existing laws offer a buffer to the culprits who are never brought to account.

The mere fact that the President says there is in place a National Climate Change Response Strategy, is not guarantee at all that this will translate into effective implementation on the ground.

The country's political undertones on climate change have shifted focus and attention to Mau Forest.

The political bigwigs have taken upon themselves to be authorities on environmental



Government officials tour one of the affected areas due to climate change.

concern but limiting their focus on Mau water catchments area.

Yet what is required is for the government to empower its agents on environment at Provincial and district levels to be able to explain to the public more about climate change.

The rural folks do not at most understand what the Kyoto Protocol, mitigation, cap & trade, carbon credit, carbon debt, adaptation, emission trading, Global environment Facility or green house gases means to them.

What is needed in a country where public servants steal money with impunity is to have committed people behind the implementation of environmental policies.

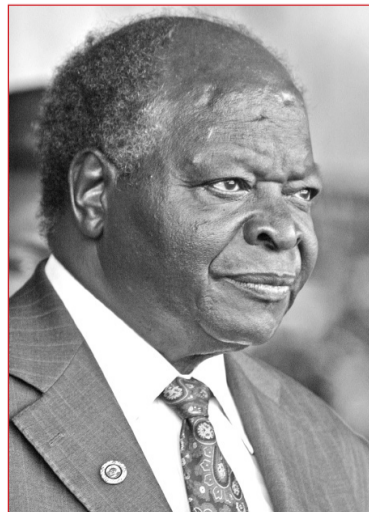
Public servants not necessarily the President nor Prime Minister, should be seeking audience with the public explaining issues such as climate change effectively and imbue upon on them on realities such as high population growths, poor health, lack of water & sanitation, vulnerable employment and political instability.

The public has to know

about the three common results of the above as deterioration in the pace and quality of development, migration as people are forced to move and insecurity as people cornered by lack of options struggle for basic subsistence.

In the area of food security and agriculture, an estimated 1.02 billion people globally are suffering from malnutrition due to problems in production and distribution of food, worsened by impacts of the world economic crisis as well as climate change.

The common person has



President Kibaki

to be told that through water stress and temperature increases, climate change will reduce the output of staple crops.

Even if food is available, people may not access to it due to other impacts from climate change, such as diminished livelihoods due to the destruction of natural resources and general economic instability.

In the supply of food, subsistence farmers who are the majority in this country, will be most vulnerable to climate shifts, as they have fewer resources to adapt to them.

As farmers in urban centers switch to greenhouse farming with the available technology, they need to know that world wide, agriculture has substantial contribution to green house gases comprising 14%.

Water at the same time, is one of the worlds most basic and increasingly contested resources.

It is critical to agriculture, health & sanitation, manufacturing, power generation and daily house hold use – and a major element in climate change.

It is said, current usage of

fresh water exceeds a sustainable level by 25% in the world, but over a billion people still lack access to safe drinking water.

Fresh water supplies may decline due to climate shifts, and indications are that by 2025, 1.8 billion people may be living in areas experiencing water scarcity.

The people have to shift their understanding away from politics to environment where they know that, water impacts on development will come from floods and droughts.

Those who are poor will have few defenses against these changes, since managing them generally requires large investments in infrastructure.

Poorer quality of water and air and higher temperatures will combine to threaten health through increased diarrhea, infectious and cardiovascular diseases.

Studies indicate that existing poor health, often linked to poverty, makes people less equipped to survive physical stress.

What leaders should be informing the populace that, development depends on energy, which partly explains the strong resistance to emissions control by the developed countries?

Energy fuels have a direct impact on human development, productivity, health, education, communication and transport.

No country has substantially reduced poverty without a large increase in energy use and more efficient energy sources.

Studies show that people who lack modern energy sources – an estimated 2 billion world wide resort to fuels such as wood and dung, which harms health, turns basic tasks as cooking into time-consuming activities, and contribute to deforestation and desertification.

Therefore, both adaptation and mitigation activities, either spearheaded by the President or Prime Minister, should be carried out under the well established development and human rights frame work.

Climate change can not be reversed at the expense of poverty eradication or by thwarting the right to development or be replaced by political side shows.

Concerted advocacy should explain to the public in non-technical ways what is happening and what is at stake for them, their societies and the world.

Group offers lifeline to widows

By ALLAN OBIERO

In the remote rocky village of Katolo, East Kano Location in Nyando district, 42 year old Mary Adhiambo Ademba beams with joy as she watches a group of men lay poles on the roof top of her new house, thanks to Serve Ministry International.

Mary, a widowed mother of six children, is among the hundreds of needy and widowed women in Nyando district who are set to benefit from a noble initiative by Serve Ministries which involves the putting up of new houses after years of suffering as single parents after the demise of their husbands.

The joy in Mary's heart is written all over her face as she stares at the new house after spending months in a makeshift structure after her house collapsed after being eaten by termites and blown away by heavy wind.

"My husband died in 1998 and a few years after his death my house collapsed and since then I put up the makeshift structure under this tree where we have been living with my children," says Mary.

The mother of six narrates how she has had to contend with chilly nights, oblivious of any danger, under the makeshift house with her two children aged between 10 and five respectively after the collapse of the house her husband had built.

But not anymore as Serve Ministries International based in Atlanta Georgia in the United States has offered to reconstruct houses for hundreds of needy widows in Nyando District.

Country Director of the Ministry Mr. Jared Okello says they have already built a total of 65 houses for such widows in the area and they are targeting to build 120 more houses before the end of this year.

Okello says they will collaborate with the Baptist Church in the program dubbed "House of Hope" to undertake the activity adding that they has set a side a total of Kshs40,000 to build each house.

As a church ministry we want to ensure that we put up over 1000 houses in the next 10 years in Nyando so as to address the plight of widows some of whom are living with HIV/AIDS," says Okello at the site.

He says the church is responding to the needs of the community based on thorough assessments and recommendations by community members who are charged with the responsibility of identifying the



Mary shows what used to be the roof of her house. Inset: Jared Okoth, the country director also gives a helping hand.

needy widowed women.

Okello says the drive was in recognition of a verse in the Holy Bible which underscores the need to Love your neighbour as you love yourself adding that it is in vain to spread the word of God to people who are suffering without responding to their needs.

Mzee Joseph Ochieng Agumba who is the chairman on Kaloo self help group in the area says they welcome the initiative which he describes as a good gesture from the church and that it go will along way in addressing housing needs of the widowed in the area.

"What Serve Ministry International is doing here in Nyando is good and does not negate our traditional beliefs as others may want us to believe," says Mzee Joseph as he helps out Mary to put up the house.

He says as community members they intervene by providing free labour and other manual work when the houses are being put up.

Okello who was accompanied at the site by Baptist church members from the United States who are also supporting the project said they are still looking forward for long term engagement with the community to address other emerging issues.

Serve Ministries International has also in the recent past held free medical camps

in Nyando and participated in the distribution of relief food in a bid to alleviate poverty. They have also funded projects to economically empower the youths.

The likes of Mary Adhiambo Ademba and other women in Nyando district of Nyanza province who have benefited from the program now have a reason to smile with the new

found permanent shelters which were like a dream to most of them after the demise of their breadwinners coupled with other challenges like HIV/AIDS scourge.

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Bungoma town set for facelift

By AGGREY BUCHUNJU

Bungoma Town has been earmarked for a digital mapping exercise which will pave way for the preparation of an integrated strategic urban development plan.

Other towns set to benefit from the exercise include Eldoret town in Rift Valley Province, Garissa in North Eastern Province, Othaya in Central Province and Mtwapa in Coast Province.

The five towns were identified by the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Local Government.

The exceptional programme was officially launched in January last year by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government, Mr. Musalia Mudavadi, at Funika Grounds in Mtwapa town.

Since the launch there has been a series of consultative workshops for the preparation of 2009 – 2030 strategic urban development plans for Bungoma town.

The workshops have been facilitated by Matrix Consultant Company, a company that was contracted by the government to do the mapping of Bungoma town and its environs.

During the fourth and the most recent consultative workshop held at a local hotel in Bungoma, the stakeholders were updated on the status of the mapping and planning exercise for the Town.

The stakeholders were also engaged in discussions aimed at validating the town's strategic struc-



Mr Mudavadi

ture plan and zoning plan and the way forward.

Mr. Agil Saleh from Matrix presented two blueprints to the stakeholders specifying the intended spatial structure and the alternative development models.

Saleh says the blue print was a translation of the various elements of spatial structure into broad policy orientations and the attainable programmes and action.

In his blueprint Saleh suggested to segregate traffic inflow into the Central Business District (CBD)

by developing various by passes.

This he says is aimed at decongesting the CBD, which has insufficient parking space, deteriorating infrastructure, decaying facilities and general environmental degradation.

"There is also need to redesign and reserve specific roads for non – motorized transport and regulate hawking in the streets and redirect hawkers to the market stalls which are underutilized in order to decongest the town", he observed.

He at the same time urged the

council to structure and improve the existing bus park and the adjacent spaces to create efficient accessibility and also to provide adequate sanitation facilities at the bus park on a "pay as you use" basis.

The stakeholders were also told that there was urgent need to displace the inhabitants of Sinoko and Sio Wetlands in order to conserve the wetland and turn it into a botanical garden with planting of indigenous trees.

After the demarcation and survey of the boundary limits of the wetlands, Saleh suggests that the council should come up with a re-settlement plan for those to be displaced from the wetland.

To make Bungoma an agro-based industrial centre, Saleh proposes that a new sewer line be constructed to serve the Western and Southern parts of the municipality, provide water reticulation system to serve the areas, step down the electricity supply from the Sibembe substation to adequate levels to serve the industrial park and to improve all roads to bitumen or all weather standards.

And for Bungoma to be an eco-tourist centre the consultant disclosed that there was need to develop Namasanda dam into a multi purpose centre by setting up a cultural centre and conference facilities and providing adequate parking area for the facility.

The one day workshop was also attended by Bungoma Municipal Council civic leaders led by the Mayor Barasa Mbinga and town clerk Mr. William Chepkwony.

Panic over loss of firearm

By KAVYU-KURA

A wave of panic has hit security officers in Mwingi following the disappearance of firearms entrusted to an administration police officer and two prisons warders.

Police are anxious that the three lethal Ceska pistols that were stolen alongside nearly 45 rounds of ammunitions could end up in the hands of local criminals who were likely to unleash mayhem in the area.

The Mwingi criminal investigations boss Mr. Leonard Lutta Namatsi says he just hopes that the firearms are not used to commit criminal activities within his area of jurisdiction.

"I hope that the firearms will not be used by criminals within Mwingi. Anytime I hear there has been an exchange of fire between the police and criminals, I call the officers at that end to find out whether the recovered firearms have similar serial numbers with those stolen from Mwingi," said the DCIO.

He however says that action had been taken against the officers. "When a firearm loaded with rounds of ammunition is stolen or is misplaced, the concerned officers have to be sacked without any mercy as the loss poses a grave danger to peace loving residents," says Mwingi DC Mr. Peter Kinuthia who is chairman of the district security committee.

He said that although efforts had been made to recover guns stolen on diverse dates between January and February, no tangible progress had been realized.

The Mwingi Officer Commanding Police Division Mr. Kenneth Kimani sent an appeal to local residents to come forward and volunteer any information that could lead to the recovery of the guns before the worse happens.

Two of the pistols were stolen from two prison warders attached to the Mwingi GK Prison who were guarding a sick prisoner at the Mwingi district hospital when robbers struck at the facility in mid January. They were loaded with 30 rounds of ammunition.

The other pistol was stolen in early February when an administration police officer who was on night duty went drinking ended up losing the firearm that was loaded with 15 rounds of ammunition.

The AP constable Hezron Otieno has already been charged before the Mwingi senior resident magistrate Mr. Hezron Nyaberi with the loss of the gun and was realized on a Kshs. 50,000 bond. In the meantime, Mr. Otieno who was only recruited in the Administration police formation in 2008 has already been relieved of his duties in connection with the disappearance of the gun.

The Mwingi Administration police commandant Mr. Charles Okech confirmed that the AP constable who lost his Ceska pistol loaded with 15 rounds of ammunition in early February had been sacked.

"There was no two way about it. Once an officer loses a firearm in his custody, he knows he has no choice but to go home even in college they are told as much," said Mr. Okech recently.

By AGGREY BUCHUNJU

SABOTI MP Mr. Eugene Wamalwa has appealed to the two principals to embrace the National Accord and dialogue for this country to move in the correct direction.

Wamalwa noted with regrets that the contradictory statements being issued by President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga on matters of National importance was a sign of a divided government.

He observed that this country can no longer afford to plunge into the chaos witnessed immediately after the last general election.

Wamalwa, consequently pleaded with the two principals to respect each other's office, embrace dialogue and issue statements that can promote national cohesion and tranquility.

The youthful legislator declared that he is going to vie for the presidency come 2012 general elections.

He asked the present leaders who are above 60 years to honorably pave way for the young adding that it was now time for generational change in leadership.

"Those saying Wamalwa is too young to rule this country are infringing the legal rights of 30 million young Kenyans," he said a mid applaud by a huge crowd ever seen in Bungoma town.

Wamalwa declares presidential candidacy

The Rift valley MP with ancestral roots in western province lamented bitterly that corruption in the country was being perpetuated by the present elderly leaders who have chosen to remain adamant.

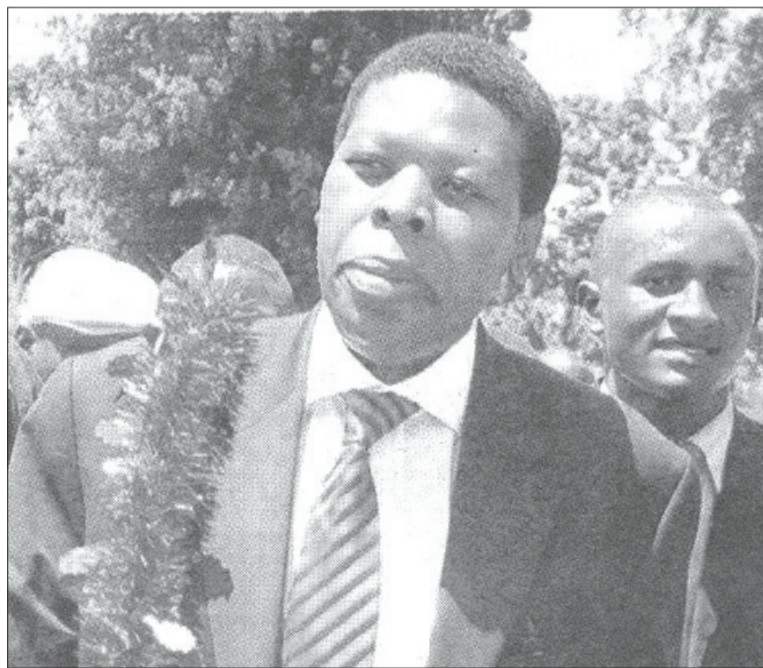
"Whereas it is courteous for us to solute the present leaders for making certain changes we should also censure them for refusing to change themselves," the MP said.

Saying that the draft constitution vests a lot of powers in the presidency Wamalwa appealed to Kenyans to vet all presidential candidates in the 2012 general elections and elect one who is trustworthy and not dictatorial.

He also called for strong and independent institutions to be put in place for checks and balances.

Former Kanduyi mp Mr. Maurice Makhanu concurred with Wamalwa that the old generation in leadership messed up this country and urged them to step aside.

Wamalwa was speaking recently in Bungoma's posta ground where he officially launched his presidential bid a head of 2012



Mr Eugene Wamalwa

general elections.

Other speakers at the rally were Cherengany Mp Mr. Joshua Kuttuny, Eldoret South Mp M/S Peris Simam, former cabinet min-

ister Moses Akaranga, former Budalang'i Mp Mr. Raphael Wanjala, civil leaders from Rift valley and western province and political activist Mr. Tony Gachoka.

Maragua town divided over parking fee

By MORRIS GITHENYA

A row is simmering between civic leaders of the cash strapped Maragua town council over the newly introduced parking levy. A section of councillors are sharply opposed to the move and term the introduction of Kshs30 levy as detrimental to the development of the town.

The councillors led by John Wanyoike argue that the implementation of the levy had undermined the growth of business enterprises in the area as many motorists were bypassing Maragua town to evade such levies.

Wanyoike says the decision to start charging parking fee was not unanimous and had been pushed by authorities despite opposition from some councillors.

The town over the past five years witnessed stagnation after many of the matatu plying along the Nairobi-Murang'a route started avoiding Maragua route after the council imposed a Kshs 40 levy for matatu.

Maragua MP Elias Mbau who had convened the meeting said the council had agreed to review the parking levy owing to public outcry.

Japan to fund health sector in Nyanza

By JOSEPH OJWANG

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is to fund a health project in Nyanza province to the tune of USD 4.1 million.

JICA country chief advisor Dr. Tomohiko Sugishita said the four year project dubbed strengthening management for health in Nyanza province is aimed at facilitating individual and institutional capacity development of health management.

Sugishita said project focuses on attitude change by all health managers mainly through conducting innovative management trainings.

"The project aims to facilitate individual and institutional capacity development both

at the Provincial and District health management levels in Nyanza province so that quality of primary health care services will be improved," he said during the launch of the project in Kisumu.

He said the project is at the initial and important preparatory stage and was currently being implemented on a pilot basis at the Nyanza provincial hospital, Siaya district hospital and Kombewa district hospital.

Sugishita pilot phase set to last for one year, will then be replicated to other district hospitals in the province and the neighboring provinces.

Nyanza provincial director of public health and sanitation Dr. Jackson Kioko said the project will surely strengthen the overall

health system in Nyanza province and the country as a whole.

Kioko said the trend of health indicators in the province over the last three years has been worrying and expressed optimism that the project will reduce case of child mortality rate, TB, HIV and maternal deaths amongst others.

The Director of Administration, ministry of Public Health and Sanitation Amb. Bruce Madete appealed to the health facilities to disburse drugs to the beneficiaries without delay.

"We have received information in the past that drugs disbursed for district hospitals end up in the markets. We want to seal such lop holes to ensure the drugs reach the intended beneficiaries," he said.

Mt Elgon IDPs finally get state compensation

By GEOFFREY NDIWA

Residents of Mt Elgon affected by the post poll skirmishes have finally been compensated by the Government.

Each individual received Kshs.25,000 in the package disbursed through the ministry of special programs headed by Dr. Naomi Shaban. The payments were in an addition to another Kshs.10,000 they received from the government in October last year.

The persons who benefited were vetted by the then District Officer for Kopsiro Division, Mr. Sylvester Mwangulu, assisted by the clerks Mr. Geoffrey Ndiwa of Kopsiro Division, Mr. Shem Chemoywo of Cheptais Division, and Mr. Herbert Kwalia of Kapsokwony Division.

The move comes in the wake of corruption allegations leveled against the Ministry of special programmes with victims claiming that they were being forced to part with Kshs5,000 in order to get their share. Others alleged that their names have been replaced with undeserving cases who were not affected by the skirmishes.

Civic leaders call for increase of LATF allocation

By JOEL OKWAYO

Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya (ALGAK) is seeking to have the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) increased by 150 percent in the next financial year.

The association has already written a proposal to the Local Government Minister Musalia Mudavadi demanding that the LATF kitty be increased to reflect the prevailing economic situation in the country.

Algak National Vice Chairman Joseph Serenge says the current allocation of 8 percent was not enough to finance the projects undertaken by the councilors at their respective wards.

"In fact many projects in the wards being financed through LATF have stalled due to lack of funds and therefore the fund should not be left to stagnate at 8 percent when the budget is read by Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta," adds Serenge.

He says that MPs should instead push for LATF increment in the same way they were lobby-



Deputy Prime Minister and minister for Local Government Musalia Mudavadi (left) and ALGAK chairman Mr Taariya Kores in a past function. PHOTO/FILE

ing for a double allocation on the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in the budget.

Serenge who was speaking from his Kakamega office says the proposal need to be implemented in the budget to curb stalling of projects initiated by councilors in wards.

Serenge who is the mayor, Kakamega Municipal Council, also discloses that the Government has released Kshs50 million for the construction of a fresh produce market in Kakamega town.

He said that a contractor was being sought to undertake the project.

He also demanded that an audit of housing in Milimani Estate be carried out to ascertain the occupants. "Many civil servants have been displaced in the Estate by traders and this must be investigated," says Serenge.

He explains that the National Housing Cooperation (NHC) plans to put up more than 150 houses in town to curb congestion among the residents.

He says the council has allocated the cooperation a piece of land in Amalemba and Lurambi for construction of the housing units.

He spoke as the Government issued a directive to have non civil servants occupying houses in Milimani to vacate.

Area DC Chege Mwangi ordered that non civil servants to vacate the Estate to pave way for the settlement of Government workers.

Chege argued that lecturers at the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) were not part of the civil service and should vacate the Government houses too.

Canadian charity to help poor children

By JOHN NALIANYA

About 5,000 poor children in Kenya are set to get aid from a Canadian charitable organization.

According to the country director of Action for Children in Conflict, Ms. Eleanor Harrison, the organization will spend over Kshs 17 million to help the children live a better life.

To begin with the group will provide them with mattresses, mosquito nets, bed sheets, blankets and clothing to shield them from malaria and cold. The charity also plans to give the children school items like bags, books, pens and pencils.

Harrison says areas that are slated to benefit from the programme include Thika, Kijabe, Narok, Nakuru, Nairobi slums, Gilgil and Naivasha.

Targeted children include orphans, HIV/AIDS affected and infected, children affected by conflict, and street urchins.

Makuyu town council in money row with EU

By MORRIS GITHENYA

European Union has launched a spirited campaign to push the trouble ridden Makuyu Town council to repay a Kshs 1.2 million grant, awarded for the construction of a market near Kenol market.

Sources revealed that the EU has raised concern after it emerged that a contractor who was contracted by the council to carry out the Kshs 4 million project had disappeared without completing the work.

The move came as Maragua Constituency development fund withheld Kshs750,000 support set for construction of the market. The money has since been reallocated to another project in Makuyu division.

The donor had released first tranche of Kshs1.8 million to oversee the purchase of land and start of the project which has since stalled after the contractor abandoned it.

The revelations have since sparked a series of condemnation with stakeholders saying that action must taken

against those responsible of the scam. They expressed anger after it emerged that the council was planning to raise the amount in question by asking traders interested with the 42 stalls constructed at the controversial project to apply at a non refundable fee of Kshs2,000.

Contacted for comment, clerk to the council Benson Njehia confirmed the council was in the process of allocating the stalls to traders who pay a non refundable fee of Kshs2,000.

The council vice chairman Daniel

Mwaura on the other hand confirmed the EU demand.

"It's no longer a secret that EU is demanding explanation on how the funds were spent after the project stalled shortly after it started," said Mwaura also Kambiti ward councillor. The contractor, he said disappeared after he was paid in excess for a job he had not done.

Sources at the council say the contractor was irregularly allocated the project as politicians ignored requirements spelt out by the donor.

Civil Servants Union to form committees

By GILBERT OCHIENG

THE Kenya Union of Civil Servants is rooting for the formation of provincial consultative committees to champion and address issues affecting its members.

According to the Secretary General, Mr. Tom Mboya Odege, the union will work with the committees to safeguard and protect the interest of the civil servants.

In the past scores of innocent civil servants have been sacked due to the draconian decisions by their bosses on the basis of their affiliation.

The secretary general notes that some departmental heads do not want their staff to access the Code of Regulations as well as the Labour Laws for fear that they might be enlightened.

He appealed to all the aggrieved members to report cases affecting them at their respective work stations as a matter of urgency for redress.

Addressing the members during a one day education workshop held at the Busia Town Hall recently, the secretary general underscored the importance of the low cadre civil servants who he said acted as the wheel of development without which no meaningful development would be achieved.

"Some department heads in Busia district are using their authority to frustrate and deny the civil servants the right to attend the staff welfare forum," Odege said, adding

At the same time, the First Deputy Secretary General Benson Ambuni on his part said lack will and determination on the part of the civil servants was the root cause of the problems affecting them at their stations.

"There is urgent need for solidarity in order to face the missiles always directed at us by our bosses," he said, adding that the union has since been able to rescue a number of members from exploitative and oppressive employers. The First Deputy Secretary General at the same time appealed to other civil servants who are sitting on the fence to join the union which he said is the only avenue through which their welfare can be catered for.

"I am urging the civil servants who are still sitting on the fence to join the union as the only avenue through which their welfare can be taken care of," Ambuni said, adding that the members should become members of the Contributory Pension Scheme.

Saitoti calls for tight security along borders

By BOB OMBATI

KENYANS along the common borders have been asked to form strong peace committees and embrace community policing as a way of enhancing security and peaceful co-existence.

Internal Security Minister, Prof. George Saitoti, says criminals take advantage of the porous and insecure borders to rustle cattle thereby creating conflicts.

The Minister notes that community policing, intensified patrols by security agents along the borders and regular intertribal peace meetings will improve security and promote peace through sharing of information by residents from both sides.

The minister directed provincial administrators in the area including Nyanza provincial Commissioner, Mr. Francis Mutie, and Eastern Nyanza regional commissioner, Ms. Lydiah Muriuki, to organize regular public meetings to preach peace and re-unite Kenyans torn apart by criminal activities within and between the neighboring countries.

He lamented that Kenyan Kurias rustled cattle and handed them over to their counterparts in Tanzania, stressing security officers from both sides were teaming up to curb the vice which

threatened peace and security along the border.

Similar problems, said the minister were being experienced along Kenyan and Ethiopian borders and Uganda where heavily armed raiders invaded villages and shrunk away with herds of cattle, leaving a trail of fear among their victims.

More police stations, said the minister would be set up along the volatile borders to enable security agents respond quickly to the residents distress calls to curb cattle thefts and other crimes along the common boundaries.

Saitoti warned lynch mobs who went on the rampage and killed aged people under the guise of being witches in Gusii region and other parts of the country, noting the crime was heinous, illegal and perpetrators risk arrest and prosecution.

The minister urged aggrieved Kenyans to arrest suspected witches to face the law, observing that it was unacceptable that some ignorant residents were committing serious crimes under the cover of solving them.

He said he was optimistic the country will get a new constitution to address various governance and administrative issues and appealed to the provincial administrators to sensitize

the public on the same to enable them make informed choices during the referendum.

The provincial administration, noted the minister was important in resolving conflicts at the grassroots and enhancing security, and therefore a vital component that should be recognized and retained in the new constitution.

He challenged the provincial administrators to mobilize peace committees in their areas of jurisdictions and sensitize members of the public on government policies during public meetings to help them understand and take part in their implementation.

Saitoti said he supported the independence of Regular and Administration police but under a single command, saying their roles were crucial in beefing up security and promoting peace in the country.

The minister who later attended a funds drive for Abagusii Culture and development council urged Kenyans to support the Draft constitution which he described as fair and people friendly.

His Education counterpart, Prof. Sam Ongeru however differed with him, stressing the Draft had some grey areas which needed correction before the document was presented to the public for support and ownership.



Security officers on patrol.

Land search levies go up sharply

By JOEL JUMA

The Government has increased levies charged on land search by 500 per cent.

Individuals out to conduct search before purchasing land in rural areas will now be required to pay Kshs500 instead of the initial Sh100 per a form.

However, those in urban centres will pay up to Kshs 1,000 for the search. City rates apply to Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru

Individuals out to use land title deeds as surety will be the greatest casualties as courts rely on the search sheets to process bonds for suspects.

The Ministry of Lands has also raised charges for processing mutation forms by 100 per cent. Instead of paying Kshs150 to process the forms, applicants out to sub divide land will be required to pay Kshs300 to the Land Control Boards.

A circular dated January 28 this year notes that registration fees for the documents at the ministry have been revised from Kshs250 to Kshs500. The circular indicates that the certificate of lease and title deeds fees were increased starting from last month.

"For every document presented for registration, it shall be charged Kshs 500," the circular read in part.

The circular from Lands Minister James Orengo was copied to the Lands Permanent Secretary Dorothy Angote, Commissioner of Lands A. Mabea and all the District land Registrars, Adjudication officers and surveyors offices at both provincial and District level.

The document was also copied to the provincial administration and land control boards in the country.

Orengo hiked the charges for filling a claim to Kshs 2,000 while filling of an appeal in the tribunal will now be Kshs3,000.

Other levies include visitation fees of Kshs2,000, making certified copies of the proceedings at Kshs250 while issuance of attendance notice will be Kshs 250.

Charges on issuance of witness summons in a tribunal have been revised to Kshs200 while service fee in local cases is Kshs200. Service fee for cases outside the district will attract Kshs.400.

By PETER MUTUKU

Rights groups defends minorities

A COMMUNITY land tenure system should be entrenched in the constitution to safeguard the rights of indigenous and minority communities.

Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNHCR) and civil society organizations say the current legislation does not recognize land rights for such groups.

This they say, was to blame for the dispossession of the Enderois community of their ancestral land by the state leading to protracted court battles that culminated in the landmark ruling

by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

Recently, the commission ordered the restitution of Enderois ancestral land situated around Lake Bogoria in addition to adequate compensation to the community.

In the ruling, the state was directed to allow the community unrestricted access to the Lake and surrounding sites for religious and cultural rites as well as grazing their cattle.

The ruling was followed by a demand by KNHCR to the

state to act fast and implement recommendations by the African Commission.

KNHCR Vice chairman Hassan Omar feels that the land issue should be addressed comprehensively especially now that the country is in the process of enacting a new constitution.

Omar warns that failure to tackle the land problem could lead to degeneration of violence in the next general elections.

He says weaknesses within the judiciary had led to poor enforcement of land rights leading

to oppression of marginalized groups by the state.

Enderois community chairman says the ruling should serve as a wake up call to the government to reevaluate the rights and protection it accords to indigenous and minority groups.

"It should set a precedent for addressing the concerns of the marginalized communities and contribute to the wider goal of achieving national cohesion," said he. Kamuren said the trust land system as currently spelt

out in the constitution has failed to protect the rights of indigenous communities such as the Enderois, Masai, Sengwer, Burji and El Chamus among others.

He said this was to blame for the dispossession of the Enderois from their land in contravention of national and international law.

The groups say adoption of a community land tenure system would compel the state to offer compensation and restitution whenever any community or group is displaced from its land.

Israel gives green house to Nyeri Youth Poly

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

Gachika Youth Polytechnic in Nyeri Central District has acquired a green house. Israel ambassador Mr. Jacob Keidar officially commissioned the green house which will serve as a training ground for modern agricultural farming methods.

Keidar who was accompanied by Gender Minister Esther Murugi also donated an Israeli Farmer's Kit to the Polytechnic which will help in the training programme.

The Irrigation Kit will boost the Polytechnic's feeding programme, act as an income generating project as well as serve as a training facility for students pursuing agriculture.

Once operational, the Kit will be a complete Green House with a drip irrigation system, a water tank, a sprayer, gold medal seeds, fertilizers, amongst other things.

It has the ability to generate approximately Kshs 1.5 million annually. The Kit is one amongst 11 other kits that are a donation from Israel to the Government of Kenya.

"The green house will act as a demonstration farm for studying new farming methods by students and the surrounding community to ensure food security," he said.

Keidar noted that his country has several solutions to combat hunger and drought that frequently affected Kenya and would extend them to ensure the country realized food security.

The envoy who was also accompanied by his wife Osnat Keidar



Israel Ambassador Mr Jacob Keidar (right) takes a jig with students of Gachika Youth Polytechnic in Nyeri Central district recently.

urged the youth to engage in agricultural activities noting that Kenya's aged people toiled on the land while the sector had the capacity to financially empower the youth and mould them to responsible citizens.

The ambassador encouraged women to form groups and acquire green houses to empower themselves economically through grow-

ing of fast maturing and marketable crops.

"The next generation should not suffer drought and food security should be ensured," he added.

Speaking at the same function, Murugi who is also the area MP said that the institution would commence a new course on Family Planning and Nutrition to ensure a

healthy population.

Murugi said Kenya would continue to partner with Israel in all sectors to uplift the lives of the citizens.

She called for training exchange programmes in agriculture for the institution's fraternity to learn modern farming techniques in an attempt to fight hunger.

Mt. Elgon women urged to fight child abuse

By LUKE KAPCHANGA

About 30 women from Mt. Elgon district were last month trained on paralegal activities.

The women drawn mostly from Kapsokwony division were urged to promote reconciliation among the communities, create awareness among government institution and be actively involved in development issues.

They were challenged to push for cases which require attention of the police which traditionally are handled by chiefs and the clan.

As mothers, they were told to monitor rampant cases of child abuse and campaign vigorously against wife inheritance and female genital mutilation, which was prevalent in the area.

The training was organized by the Western Kenya Human rights Watch (WKHRW). However, the executive director of WKHRW, Job Bwonya asked the women to guard against information leakages as the community is suspicious of people who work to bring changes for development.

"You need to be discreet and corrupt free in order to assist the under privileged in the community," said Bwonya.

They were also told to develop a mechanism to resolve cases locally and swiftly, as victims shy away due to a tedious legal process.

Kitutu Masaba CDF, KPLC in row

By BOB OMBATI

KITUTU Masaba Constituency Development Fund Committee wants the Kenya Power and Lighting Company to supply electricity to learning institutions in the area or refund money it was allegedly paid five years ago.

Mr. Amos Apollo, who is the CDF Manager, says the Company was paid the money to electrify various learning institutions, Health and Tea buying Centres in the constituency but has done nothing to date despite their endless pleas.

He says the project was running behind schedule and had affected the implementation of other development projects which have been suspended in favour of the electrification plan which targets learning institutions.

The manager admitted that the funds were inadequate based on the Company's requirements but noted that they were enough for KPLC to start working on the lines as more funds were sought to clear them.

Recent attempts by the committee to contract a private company to construct the lines for the Company to inspect and light up the projects aborted after KPLC officials descended on Kebobora and Kiabiraa schools, dismantled what they termed as illegally constructed power lines and hauled them away as confused residents watched in disbelief.

Apollo told The Link in his office that the CDF committee was yet to pay the contractor Kshs.801,376, for

the work, and therefore no CDF cent had been lost as the agreement was for him to complete the work and paid later.

He faulted the power supplier for dismantling the electric poles without consulting the Fund committee, saying the move only served to fan conflicts and occasion losses to the contractor. "The Company should speedily return the materials and reconstruct the power supply line or we cancel the contract and demand our money with interest" said Apollo.

He said KPLC's quotations were too high and had forced the CDF committee to share the funds equally to the area's seven locations to avoid conflicts over skewed allocation of the public monies.

Apollo revealed Rural Electrification Authority (REA), was also constructing power lines in Rural areas, and that it had been paid Kshs1.5 million from the CDF kitty.

The manager lamented that some projects initiated by former area lawmaker, Mr. Mwanicha Okioma, had stalled to pave way for new ones but added that the stalled projects will be completed gradually to avoid dotting the area with white Elephant projects.

"We appreciate that the former MP started many projects without corresponding funds. The committee is implementing them slowly alongside the new projects to ensure they are complete and benefit the constituents" said Apollo.

Area CDF Treasurer, Mr. Richard

Onyinkwa concurred with Apollo noting that the delay by KPLC to electrify schools was contributing to poor education standards and performance in national examinations. He said it was expensive and unhygienic for the learners to rely on smoke emitting and heat generating lanterns which made them uncomfortable while studying.

Citing St Paul's Nyachichi secondary school, Kemera which got a quotation of Kshs1639,000 and VAT of 262,240 at 16 percent, Onyinkwa said the Committee was unable to pay the colossal amounts of money, noting it would affect the implementation of other equally important projects.

Interestingly, said the Treasurer, the Company was demanding for full payment prior to the construction of the lines which is beyond the ability of the CDF committee.

The quotation reportedly from KPLC and signed by a Mr. Samwel Macharia for West Kenya Sub Regional distribution Engineer reads in part "Please, pay Kshs.1,639,000 to enable us prepare a detailed scheme and give you a firm quotation" says the letter dated August 14, 2007.

Onyinkwa urged the government to subsidize the cost of installing electric to institutions as the current charges were punitive and could have spill over effect on other projects to be initiated within the locality.

Manga District Commissioner, Onesmus Kyatha said the invasion by the company's security agents and the consequent dismantling of the mate-



KPLC engineers at work.

rial was done in bad faith and had put the two organizations on a collision path.

He faulted the Company for interfering with the public funded project after agreeing with the CDF committee to investigate the matter and engage in dialogue to resolve any dispute to allow the projects to continue

being implemented.

Southern Nyanza regional engineer, a Mr. Machoka who led the operation with the company's chief security officer, John Ouko accused the CDF management committee of hiring a private contractor to construct the line with KPLC's alleged stolen materials.

Rethink global food production strategies

From Page 1

(GCARD), held 28-31 March in Montpellier, France.

The conference, which was tasked by the G8 to turn priorities on future needs in agriculture into constructive actions to reshape its future, brought together nearly one thousand participants, including World Food Prize Laureates, heads of international organizations, agriculture ministers, farmers, civil society groups, community development organizations, leading scientists, and private sector innovators.

According to World Bank estimates, some 1.4 billion people were already living in poverty in 2005, well before the 2007 food price increases and the 2008 financial crisis. Since the financial crisis, an additional 100 million people are now believed to have joined the ranks of the poor and hungry, according to both FAO and World Bank estimates.

“It is clear that the Millennium Development Goal of substantially reducing the world’s hungry by 2015 will not be met. A major cause has been a steady decline in policy attention to agriculture and rural development,” said Uma Lele, the lead author of the report and Former Senior Adviser at the World Bank.

In fact little has been done by developed and developing countries alike to deal with the daunting challenge of hunger with long term-development assistance to agriculture and rural development. Although over the 1981 to 2007 period, the share of net aid flows to developing countries has become negative, less of it has been going to agriculture.

Although there has been remarkable progress in food production over the past half-century, with historically unprecedented improvements when agricultural research and development were given primacy, those benefits were spread unevenly. Substantial changes are needed to level the playing field and to enable Africa, for example to develop their suitable agricultural models.

The report predicts that the global population will likely reach 9 billion by about 2050, mostly from developing countries. Urban populations will increase from today’s 3.4 billion to well over 6 billion. With high-

Annual investments in developing countries of upto US \$210 billion gross required to get agriculture moving again



Maize plantation.

er incomes and different tastes, diets in developing countries will shift from low- to high-value cereals, poultry, meats, fruits and vegetables. While this will constitute an improvement for many, this major shift in consumer preference for nutritional security is also likely to be accompanied by hunger and poverty in the countries with the poorest populations.

The authors contend that there should be enough knowledge and resources available—or that can be mobilized—to tackle the problems of poverty and hunger, if the system for doing so could be massively overhauled. The report sets an approach for transforming the current global system of coop-

eration in agricultural research for development into “a coherent whole so as to achieve more rapid, scaled-up and sustainable impacts on food security, poverty, and the environment.”

This pattern of concentration parallels what is happening in overall science spending throughout the world, according to the report. In developed countries, agricultural R&D has also become increasingly concentrated in a handful of countries, with just four countries (the United States, Japan, France, and Germany) accounting for 66 per cent of all global public R&D conducted in 2000. Similarly, just five developing countries (China, India, Brazil, Thailand and South Africa) un-

dertook just over 53% of the developing countries’ public agricultural R&D in 2000—up from 40 percent in 1981. Meanwhile, in 2000, a total of 80 countries with a combined population of approximately 625 million people conducted only 6.3 per cent of total agricultural R&D.

To meet the backlog of underinvestment alone, the report calls increasing agricultural research investments in developing countries to 1.5 percent of agricultural GDP, more than double or triple the current investments in scientific capacity and institutions and delivery mechanisms at both the national and international levels.

Some analysts say that to meet FAO estimates of food

demand in 2050, annual investments in developing countries of about US \$210 billion gross or US \$83 billion net would be needed annually after allowing for depreciation of the existing stock of capital. This is an increase of almost 50 per cent over current levels. These needs would decline over time with increased efficiency in agriculture and decelerating demand for food, say the global authors.

Currently, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which was set up by the World Bank and wealthy country donors in the 1970s to develop new crop varieties, farm management techniques and innovations to farmers in the developing world, constitutes about 4-5% of the total global public sector expenditures on agricultural research, according to the report. The CGIAR’s Strategic Results Framework has estimated that public agricultural research and development for developing countries would need to increase from the current \$5.1 billion to \$16.4 billion by 2025 of which the \$1.6 billion would need to be the CGIAR element.

Options deployed over the previous five decades for ensuring big productivity gains to meet the enormous and diverse food needs of the future are no longer on the table or the most sustainable options, say the authors.

To get the production increases needed, the authors call for a broader approach to agricultural research for development that departs from the traditional approach that keeps scientists who develop a technology separate from the process that delivers that new technology to farmers. The report calls for greater participation amongst a broad range of stakeholders in the seed-to-table chain of events—from the rural farmer to the scientist, in addition to the players in between, including extension officers, the private sector, national and regional agricultural programs, and civil society.

It also calls for recognizing and drawing on the tremendous innovation of farmers themselves. According to the authors, agriculture is highly context-specific and needs to move away from the expectation that research advances can be applied as one recipe—or single models as silver bullets—developed globally and applied locally.

The report sets an approach for transforming the current global system of co-operation in agricultural research for development into “a coherent whole so as to achieve more rapid, scaled-up and sustainable impacts on food security, poverty, and the environment.”

Fish farming to stem de

A total of 13,444 fish ponds have

THE Fish farming project was launched last year by the Ministry of Fisheries as a critical component in the government's Kshs. 22 billion Economic Stimulus Package (ESP). The launch came in the backdrop of declining levels of fish production in the country. Official statistics indicate that in 1999, the country had a population of 1.2 million tones of Nile Perch, which have dwindled to a mere 300 metric tones.

Further, fish production from the capture fisheries has registered a marked decline. Lake Victoria fish production alone has declined from about 200,000 metric tones in 1999 to about 114,000 metric tones in 2008

However, the scenario is likely to change. Under the ESP, a total of 13,444 fish ponds have been constructed in 140 constituencies in the first phase of the project at a cost of Kshs.623 million, that is , Kshs. 4 million per constituency. An additional 14,566 will be constructed



The first phase of the fish farming project has come to a close. The second phase is expected to commence during the next financial year 2010/2011. The initial roll out plan is a resounding success and is likely to boost the dwindling fish production in the country. In this issue, FAITH MUIRURI, gives you a detailed overview of the fish farming enterprise productivity program under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP).

in the second phase as outlined in the initial target of 28,000 fish ponds.

This is poised to boost fish production from the current 4,250 Metric Tonnes to 7,560 Metric Tonnes at the farm level.

Implementation Plan

The project is currently being implemented on a pilot basis in 140 constituencies of Western Kenya, Nyanza, parts of Rift Valley, Eastern, Central Kenya and Coast Regions, which have been rated as high potential

areas.

The implementation process is being coordinated by the Ministry of Fisheries Development through a steering committee headed by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries Development.

The committee comprises of head of key departments/directorates in the Ministry. They include:

- Director of Fisheries
- Director of KMFRI
- Aquaculture Development Working Group

- Directorate of Aquaculture Development
- Directorate of Fish Inspection and Quality Assurance
- Chief Finance Officer
- The Principal Procurement Officer
- The Head of Planning

Under the package, the District Fisheries Officer (DFO) is in charge of the implementation process at the grassroot levels. The DFO also has a mandate to oversee the training of beneficiaries and extension

services. The training sessions are intended to educate beneficiaries on the desired output and objectives of the development initiative so as to internalize the government initiative. Beneficiaries are classified as co-implementers of the project Programme Secretariat

The secretariat is based in the Sagana Aquaculture Centre. The secretariat is charged with the responsibility of overseeing project implementation, operationalization, management and reporting. The secretariat monitors the projects and briefs the Ministry on proposed program schedule, events and flow of funds.

Stimulus Programme Management Committee

The District Programme Steering Committee draws its membership from all ministries implementing ESP. The DFO is a member of this committee and is in charge of the fisheries component of the stimulus, which fall under his/her jurisdiction.

The general features of the pond will look as shown in the figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 below:

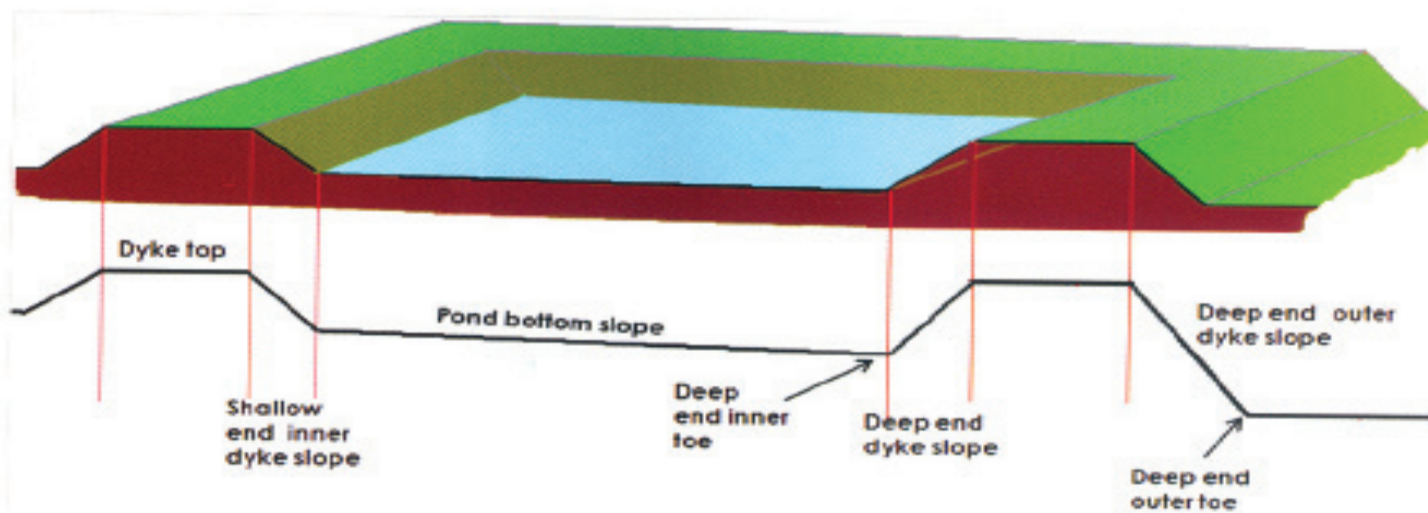


Figure 1: A cross section of an earthen fish pond showing the slopes and the dykes

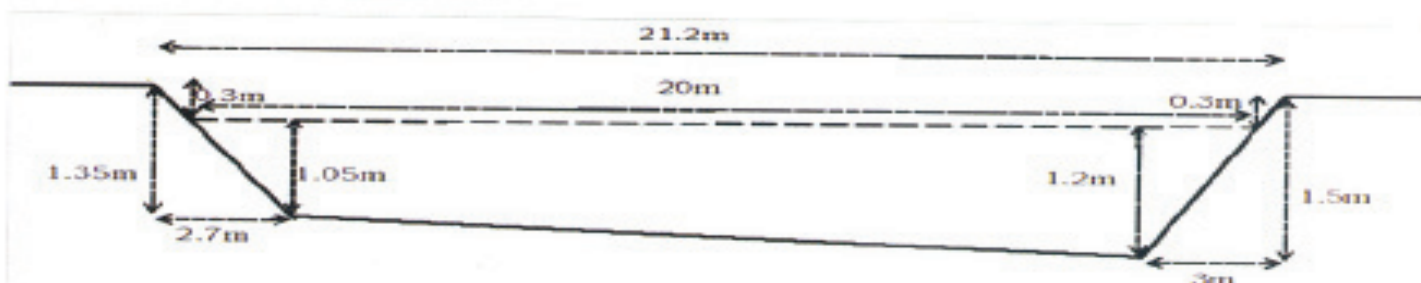


Figure 2: Length wise section of the pond showing the various measurements

Group Mobilisation and selection

The Stimulus Management Committee vets and selects beneficiaries in accordance with the laid down procedures, which include:

- Being unemployed young Kenyan, fish farmer, woman or public institutions such as schools, small local factories, and irrigation schemes.
- Have land within aquaculture suitability areas
- Be a member of registered cluster of not less than 15 members
- Be willing to construct a pond of not less than 300m square
- Be committed to fish farming during the entire production period and going forward
- Be willing to continue to manage the ponds for profit and run the activity as a small scale business enterprise

Declining local production

have been constructed in 140 constituencies

DESIGNS OF FISH PONDS

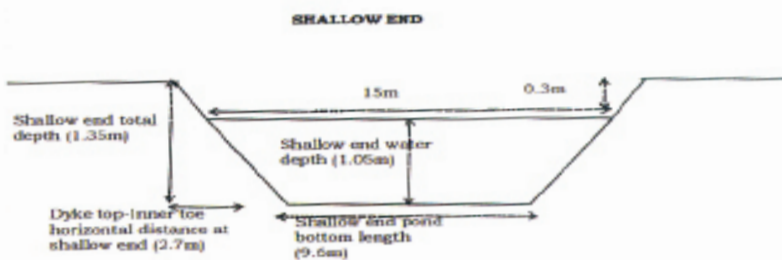


Figure 3: Width wise section of the pond at the shallow end showing the various measurements

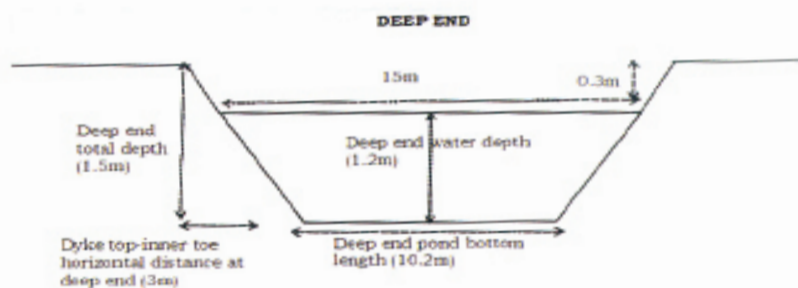


Figure 4: Width wise section of the pond at the deep end showing the various measurements



Figure 5: Plan view showing the pegging positions for a 300 m² pond

●Be ready to maintain records as advised by the Ministry's extension officers and share information with extension officers. The information will include records on stocking, sampling, feeding, harvesting and sales among others.

Pond design, construction and preparation for stocking

The ESP package favours construction of earthen ponds measuring more than 300square meters. In areas where the soil is not suitable for fish farming, farmers are advised to use the PVS pond liners at their own cost. Each pond costs Kshs 40,000 with Kshs25, 000 being channeled towards the construction of fish ponds while the remaining Kshs15,000 covers procurement of fingerlings,

fish feeds, manure, harvesting gear, training, facilitation and extension services

Pond Construction Labour

Labour is to be provided by Youth within the benefiting constituency who are to be supervised by an aquaculture extension officer from the Ministry of Fisheries Development. The youth are recruited by the DFO as stipulated in the government regulations on use of casual labour.

Supply Fingerlings and Stocking of Ponds

Each pond is to be equipped with appropriate fingerlings based on their suitability to the various ecological zones and needs of

the beneficiaries. The stocking is to be done in the appropriate rates and ratios on basis of recommendations by the aquaculture extension officer from the Ministries of Fisheries Development.

The fingerlings are to be acquired from the public/private hatcheries as specified by the Ministry of Fisheries Development. The acquisition of the fingerlings is to be done through the Constituency Programme Tender Committee (CPTC).

Acquisition and supply of fish farming inputs

Farm inputs which include fish feeds (industrial feeds of minimum 26 percent crude protein) and manure/ fertilizer are to be

supplied to individual farmers through their clusters in quantities enough to sustain them for one production season to be determined by the DFO based on the pond size and the stocking densities.

The acquisition of the feeds is to be done through the Constituency Projects Tender Committee (CPTC). Recipients are to collect the inputs in quantities enough to last a month from the identified suppliers using a specified form which is to be signed by the DFO, District Procurement Officer (DPO), the supplier and the recipient.

The form is to indicate the date, type of input and quantities collected. The form will be in quadruplicate for accounting purposes with a copy for the farmer, the supplier, the DFO and the DPO.

Acquisition of other fish farming specialized supplies and equipment

Farmers are to be supplied with a 20 meters long mounted seine net. Other equipments used during pond construction are to be procured centrally at constituency level to ensure timely delivery, specified quality and standards. They are to be supplied to the respective DFOs who are the custodian of the equipments and the equipments are to be used on borrowed basis during pond construction.

Harvesting, Post Harvesting Handling and Marketing of Fish

Farmers are to handle the aforesaid activities with the guidance of a competent aquaculture extension officer.

Farmers are to be encouraged to market their fish through clusters and or local associations /cooperative societies to maximize on benefits.

The Aquaculture Association of Kenya (AAK) is to coordinate and synchronize the handling, storage and marketing of fish with the assistance of the Directorate of Aquaculture Development.

Quality Assurance of the Aquaculture Products and Inputs

This is to be done under the guidance of the Directorate of Fish Inspection and Quality Assurance. The Directorate is to ensure that fish farming practices adhere to the fish quality assurance requirement for the farmed fish to be acceptable at the local and international markets.

Project Sustainability

To ensure sustainability, the Ministry intends to:

●Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with private fish hatcheries for the supply of quality fingerling to the clusters

●Encourage private fingerling production and quality feed production enterprises at cluster level to eventually minimize the role of the Ministry

●Encourage Cluster Associations to transform into cooperative movements to enhance coordination of the clusters activities for easy inputs supply and marketing of aquaculture products

●Encourage synchronized stocking and harvesting of fish by the clusters in tandem with the market demands.

In the first year of production this will be coordinated by the Ministry and subsequently by the Fish Farmers Association/cooperative movements.

This is noble programme that is to employ hundreds of youths directly and indirectly, if it is managed properly.