

INSIDE

Teachers key to Education
— Pg 4

Swedish premier adopts school
— Pg 6

USAID funds Sorghum
— Pg 22

Finland funds project
— Pg 31

ECONOMIC STIMULUS NEEDS STIMULATING

Most constituencies lack capacity to manage ESP and other funds

By THE LINK TEAM

Doubts emerge over whether there was adequate planning before the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) was launched by the Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta last year.

Countrywide survey by *The Link* (see stories inside) shows that very little has been done in terms of implementation of the programme which was supposed to last just about six months.

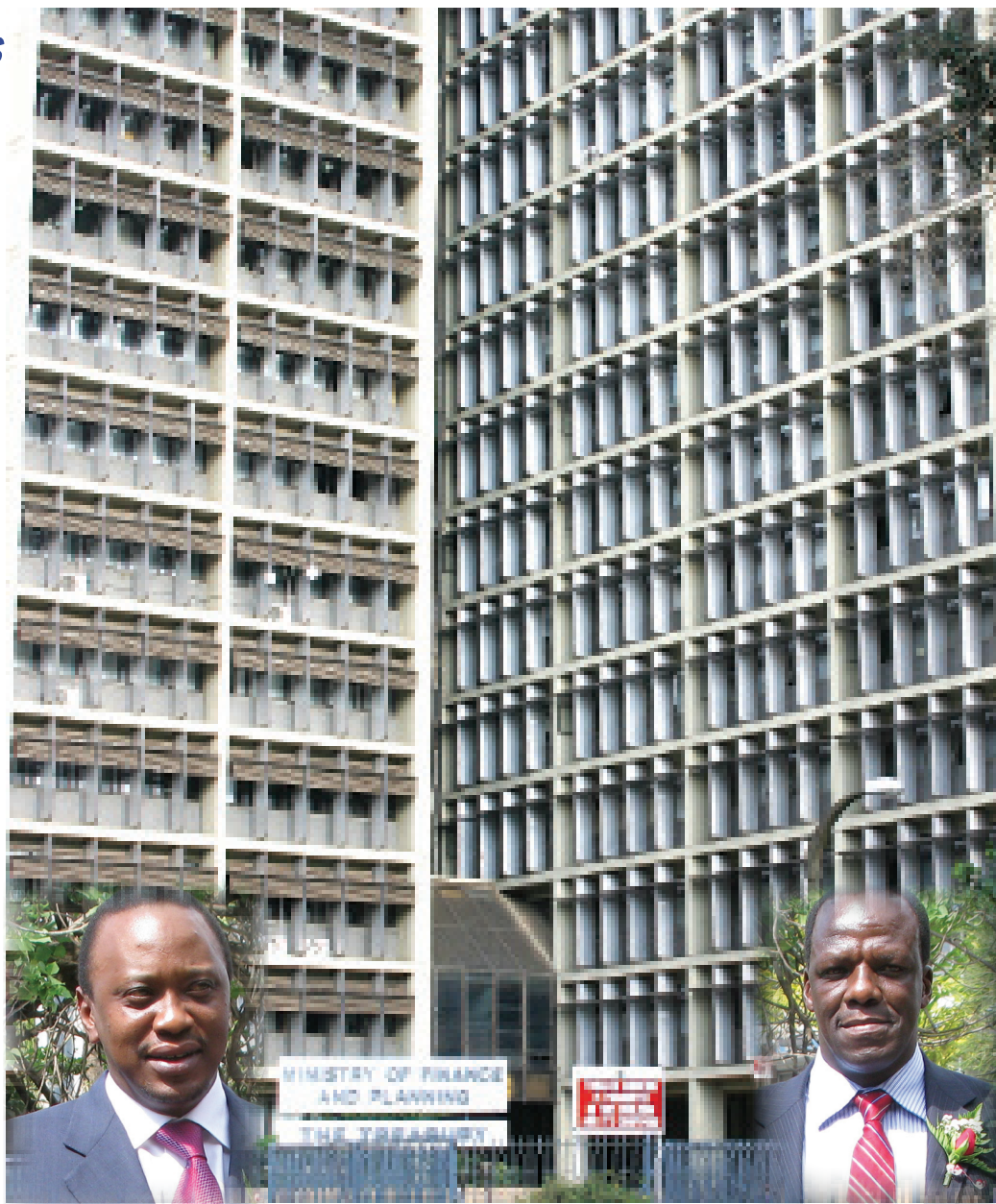
Observers now wonder if the constituencies have adequate capacity and skills to effectively and efficiently manage the projects under ESP among others. The programme is running behind schedule due to delays in project identification and release of Kshs22billion that Treasury earmarked the projects.

Records show that only Kshs3.25billion has so far been disbursed from the treasury contrary to the initial roll out plan that was set to cover a six month period starting from July to December 2009.

Although Kenyatta says more than Kshs17 billion of ESP money will have been released for use before the end of the current financial year, a spot check by *The Link* has established that most projects are at the initial stages of implementation and many are yet to be identified or agreed on in the various constituencies.

And from the look of it, other than the irrigation projects, the implementation period will spill over to the next financial year. Already the Minister has alluded to the fact that the government may factor in additional economic stimulus funds in the next national budget to support the nascent economic growth recovery.

The minister says the government is currently formulating a credible resource



Treasury Building where Ministry of Finance have offices. Inset: Finance minister Uhuru Kenyatta (left) and Minister for Planning and Vision 2030 Wycliffe Oparanya (right)

distribution channel that can be used as a blueprint for devolving economic resources in future.

“As the government embarked on the implementation of the stimulus package, it became clear that a robust implementation framework would be required so as to serve in subsequent years if found

necessary,” says Mr. Kenyatta.

Under the package premised on a short term strategy and geared towards jumpstarting the economy for long-term growth and development, each

Time to rethink devolution of funds

By WANJIRU GIKONYO

MOST Kenyans interviewed on how devolved funds could be harmonized have sited interference from the political class as a major obstruction to the funds effective management. Respondents in a survey titled Harmonization of Decentralized Development in Kenya: Towards Alignment, Citizen Engagement and Accountability, also indicated the need to enhance transparency and accountability in the administration of the funds.

The study, conducted by Social and Public Accountability Network and Kenya Human Rights Commission (SPAN-KHRC), also reveals that despite significant improvements in service delivery by decentralized funds over the past six years, most devolved units face a widening gap between demand and supply of services. This has resulted in citizens losing confidence in decentralized development in Kenya as an institution that can meet their needs and respond effectively to the challenges they face.

The report, reviews the current uncertainties associated with decentralisation in the attainment of sustainable human development goals where their development and commercialisation is outpacing government oversight, risk management and public debate. It examines regulatory initiatives and responses, voluntary codes and practices and the progress of cooperation in coordinating decentralised development governance.

There are numerous decentralisation mechanisms in operation, the district development committees, local authorities, the constituency development fund, and numerous direct funds numbering over ten.

Although the mechanisms are aimed at bringing services closer to the people, citizens remain sidelined from local development. There is also no common planning framework for these funds and those budgetary allocations are often influenced by political interests and patronage. Mechanisms to ensure the funds add incremental value to each other are non-existent. In any case numerous cases of duplication have been noted.

There is a duplication of decentralisation efforts between Local Authorities, CDF and District Development Committees which has caused an unhealthy competition between the three. Yet all face the same common problems, namely, a shortage of competent technical staff, they are all underfunded and

Turn to Page 2, Col. 2

Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

Economic Stimulus needs stimulating

From page 1

of the 210 constituencies will receive Kshs105 million for various projects.

They include the construction of two primary schools in each constituency and the conversion of one secondary school in each constituency into a "centre of excellence".

Besides reviving irrigation schemes, farmers in 180 constituencies would benefit from newly built wholesale and fresh produce markets, jua kali (informal) artisans would benefit from the construction of sheds and purchase of equipment and 140 constituencies were marked for the construction of 200 fish ponds at a cost of KSh1 billion.

However questions are being raised on government's capacity to sustain the programme owing to the tight budgetary constraints bedeviling most sectors of the economy.

At the constituency level, The Link has established that most proposed projects touching on crucial sectors have not started.

In Busia, the implementation of projects under the education sector has not kicked off due to lack of funds. The Link established that even though the school management committees in selected primary and secondary schools are through with the tendering process, treasury has not availed funds to facilitate the implementation of the programme.

"Tendering process has already been done and we are only waiting for funds from the government," the Busia District Education Officer John Owino said.

In Bunyala district, the story is similar. Implementation has been delayed for lack of funds. The District Education department has identified two model primary schools namely Port Victoria Mixed (Urban) in Bunyala North and Mubwayo in Bunyala South to be upgraded at Kshs3.5million while Bunyala Mixed High School, Nayera, which was identified for upgrading as the centre of excellence will get Kshs30million.

"Apart from identifying two model primary schools and one secondary school for upgrading," another 20 primary schools have also been identified to participate in tree planting programme," the Bunyala District Education Officer Maurice Jayoro says, adding that each school would get Kshs60,000 for the tree planting programme once funds are available.



A Fish pond under construction.

In Bahari constituency, the District Education Officer Mr. Dickson Ole Keis laments that although stakeholders have unanimously agreed to put up model secondary school in Ngombeni area, nothing has been implemented as yet.

The DEO says that they are still waiting for funds before any implementation can take place.

A source at the CDF office who sought anonymity says that though the tendering process for the proposed projects has been completed, money is not available to kick start the next phase.

Leaders in the area have settled for Kibarani boarding and Mbuyuni primary schools for upgrading.

In the neighbouring Ganze constituency implementation process has stalled until such a time when funds can be availed.

At the Ganze CDF office, The Link established that most contractors have failed to take up the jobs due to cost implications. Contractors feel that the government's budget was unrealistic and very little to put up any solid

project.

A source revealed that most contractors had quoted up to about Kshs 50 million to put up a secondary school which would serve as a centre of excellence in line with the programme. This was in sharp contrast with the approved budget of Kshs 30 million for each of the targeted model secondary school to be put up in each constituency.

In Murang'a District, the implementation process has just began after residents agreed on Kiria-ini Girls (Mathioya), Kangema Boys (Kangema) and Mugoiri Girls (Kandara) which will be elevated to centres of excellence.

Also running late is the equipping of fish ponds constructed under the programme to make them operational.

The Link has established that most of the completed fish ponds are yet to become operational as beneficiaries are awaiting for allocations in the second phase.

In Bungoma District, the 480 completed fish ponds are yet to become operational. One of the beneficiaries

Mr. Isaac Waswa says he has nothing to comment since he is yet to see the fruits of the fish pond. "As I speak to you now I have not received the fish though the pond is complete," he says.

However, Bungoma District Fisheries Officer (DFO) Mr. Kiarie Kahareri, says that the stocking of the fish ponds will be done in phase two of the programme, which is set to begin anytime in this month.

He says that District received a total of Kshs.17, 011, 500 under the Economic Stimulus Programme. "The amount was meant for construction of fish ponds under phase one of the programme which is almost complete," he explains.

Under phase I programme, the DFO reveals that the district's five constituencies had completed 100 fish ponds each save for Webuye constituency which had completed 80 ponds out of the expected 100 fish ponds.

In Muhoroni constituency political pressure threatens the smooth implementation of the programme.

The process of identifying farmers and areas to establish the fish ponds

is replete with political maneuvers. The local civic leaders and the area Member of Parliament have put political pressure on the district economic stimulus committee to allocate ponds in areas and farmers allied to them politically.

"We have also experienced political interference even in recruitment of youths for construction of fish ponds," says Tom Osambo who is the secretary of Muhoroni Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Economic Stimulus committee.

The government has however disbursed the first tranche of Kshs4 million to facilitate ongoing establishment of fish ponds in the district while another equivalent disbursement is expected in the second tranche.

"Currently, 53 fish ponds have been built in the 10 locations and 12 wards of Muhoroni district using the first tranche of Kshs4 million. A total of 200 fish ponds will be developed under the economic stimulus package," Osambo says.

"The 53 fish ponds are ready and beneficiaries are only waiting for fingerlings to grow in them," Osambo says.

Locations and wards where fish ponds have been developed include Koru, Mutwala in Muhoroni, God Nyithindo, Tamu, Chemelil, Ombeyi South and North locations and North East Kano-Kabar, Masogo wards.

But even as implementation of most projects got underway, not all funds that were originally factored in the plan are expected to be used up as some projects such as the hiring of intern teachers per each constituency have since met legal hurdles after the Kenya National Union of teachers moved to court to block employment of teachers on contract basis.

Further the purchase of a mobile digital laboratory for secondary schools per constituency has been suspended indefinitely after legislators felt that the project would not realize the set objective especially in vast constituencies.

The ESP raises a number of issues. It is still not clear yet what happens to the funds when the financial year ends. Will the funds be returned to the treasury as is the normal government practice or the remaining funds be ploughed back to the projects as it happens in CDF? Are there any mechanisms in place to ensure the projects are completed within the stipulated time frame?

From page 1

cannot deliver comprehensive services or development. None have a functional monitoring and evaluation framework. Lastly there is no common citizen engagement framework.

Specifically Local Authorities (LAs) received Kshs. 10.4billion in 2009/10 financial year for 175 LA's, while the constituency received Kshs. 33 billion through CDF and the Economic Stimulus Package. Yet CDF does not have any technical capacity, the viability of 210 constituencies as units of development is under question as the ministry of Local government has established that only 100 Local Authorities are viable as service delivery units.

By spreading resources across the three, the effectiveness of local development expenditure is undermined. Local authorities have several good practices such as the LASDAP framework, a superior information manage-

ment system, and inbuilt service delivery enforcement mechanism.

The report is categorical that Kenyans must decide which single decentralisation mechanism is viable and effective and get rid of all the others. This will enable a consolidation of existing staff into one structure based on needed competencies. It will also allow the incorporation of the best practices of each of the funds into one common structure.

With particular emphasis on the MP in CDF, the study findings indicate that the role of politicians in implementation directly undermines oversight and accountability and promotes political patronage over development goals.

It is high time the role of the executive and legislature be separated by giving MP's and councillors strong oversight tools and granting the implementation arm of local governance

freedom from political interference.

MP's need to get out of the implementation role of CDF, councillors out of the implementation role of LAF, ministerial positions insulated from political influence by the parliamentary appointment of technocrats and the provincial administration be seriously reconfigured and removed entirely from local development.

By failing to provide safeguards for inclusivity and widespread citizen involvement, local elites have captured the benefits of local development in Kenya. Citizens lack access to information, are sidelined from planning and implementation. Hence, a citizen charter should be developed to safeguard citizen involvement through proactive information dissemination, right to official records upon request, regular reporting meetings, an effective citizen budgeting process and dis-

ciplinary measures taken against errant officials, among others.

It is high time for a comprehensive policy on decentralisation, and the constitutional protection of the same. An overarching decentralisation policy on decentralisation needs to identify a national institution in charge of decentralisation, and detail other existing structures and their basis of creation and removal. It should be empowered to compel performance. The policy would also clarify the aspects of budgeting and finance to protect local spending priorities and provide a framework for negotiation of the budget between national and local levels.

The policy will need to be informed by the existing data to determine the viability number of development units, staffing levels, accountability mechanism and so forth. The policy will seek as far as possible to retain, retrain

and reallocate existing staff and assets. Lastly the policy needs to give a detailed transitional framework to enable the effective transformation of the present institutions.

Whereas some of the needed reforms in the decentralisation sector will require constitutional amendments and could be dealt with through the upcoming new constitution, many of the provisions required are of a statutory nature.

Given the desperate need for transformative development in Kenya to redress deforestation, famine, inequality, and insecurity now is the time for politicians to put their selfish political ambitions aside and professionalize local development. Citizens' in turn must shun political warlords and go for leaders of vision, dedication and integrity.

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Coast lags in stimulus project

Contractors demand more money to start work

By LINK CORRESPONDENT

IN Coast province the implementation of community development projects under the Economic Stimulus Program in Coast province has been delayed by logistical problems.

The projects which were supposed to have been implemented three months ago are yet to take off.

A survey by The Link further established that proposed projects touching on crucial sectors such as education, health, agriculture and fisheries have not started.

Bahari district education officer Mr Dickson Ole Keis said although stakeholders had unanimously agreed to put up the model secondary school in Ngombeni area, nothing has been implemented as yet.

The DEO says that schools set to benefit from the project include Kibarani boarding and Mbuyuni primary schools which will receive the constituency's allocation of Kshs 7 Million after they were selected by leaders with the support of area MP Mr Benedict Fondo Gunda.

In Ganze constituency leaders have picked Kachoroni CDF started secondary school for upgrading to a center of excellence while Mwarindinda primary has been picked in the primary sector.

However, at the CDF office, a source who sought anonymity said that though the tendering process for the proposed projects has been completed, most contractors have failed to take up the jobs due to cost implications. Contractors feel that the government's budget was unrealistic and very little to put up any solid project.

The source indicate that calls to revise the budget upwards have been ignored as the Deputy Prime Minister, who is also the Minister for Finance Uhuru Kenyatta, is adamant on working with the proposed budget.

The sources revealed that most contractors had quoted up to about Kshs 50 million to put up a secondary school which would serve as a centre of excellence in line with the programme. This was in sharp contrast with the approved budget of Kshs 30 million for each of the targeted model secondary school to be put up in each constituency.

But the good news is that a tree fund has been set up in 10 primary schools in Bahari and Ganze constituencies as espoused under the stimulus programme.

The schools earmarked to benefit from the tree fund include Kilifi, Mnarani, St. Thomas, Kibaoni, Ezamaoyo, Gandani, Kitsoeni and Katikiri primary schools in Bahari while Ganze has Vitengeni and Dida primary schools.

Projects under the fund are currently being implemented with support from National Environment Management Authority in collaboration with the education office.

Kilifi county council has also been working with the implementing ministries to ensure that the Economic Stimulus Programme is successful.

According to the council clerk Mr Leboo Ole Morintat, the council was at the moment working in liaison with the Ministry of Education, Forest Department and NEMA under the tree fund project.

Kisii constituencies get fish ponds

By BOB OMBATI

Kshs. 14.2 m already released for construction of the ponds

FISH pond projects, under the Economic Stimulus Programmes (ESP) have taken off in earnest in four Gusii constituencies to alleviate poverty, a District Fisheries officer has disclosed.

Edwin Muga, who covers Kisii Central, larger Masaba and Kisii South districts says that the government has channeled Kshs. 14.2 million to the area's four constituencies-Kitutu Chache, Nyaribari Chache, Bonchari and Nyaribari Masaba to oversee the construction of 200 fish ponds in each constituency.

He says that Kshs. 3,569,942.50 has been allocated for each constituency for the construction of 100 fish ponds in phase one while a similar amount will be released for phase two, adding each pond will cost Kshs. 40,000 to construct including training of farmers and stocking.

The funds, notes the officer are for the first phase, while the government would also release Kshs. 14.2 million for the four constituencies in phase two to aid the construction of the 200 fish ponds.

He says that 10 fish ponds have been completed and stocked with 9000 tilapia fingerlings, adding that

the government constructs the ponds, trains beneficiaries on fish farming, buys feeds for the fish and hands the project to individual farmers.

Muga observes that the construction of ponds in the area are in various stages with some on-going while others are ready and are awaiting stocking.

In Kitutu Chache, 71 fish ponds are ready but are not stocked while 29 are on-going, says Muga, adding, the stocking officers are waiting for the water in ponds to stabilize while others are fed with fish food which is being regenerated before they are stocked.

60 ponds are ready in Bonchari in Kisii South district while 40 are on-going, says the office, none has been stocked in Nyaribari Masaba and Masaba South districts, while 75 are on-going.

In Nyaribari Chache, Kisii central district, 12 fish ponds are ready while 88 are under construction says Muga, adding, none has been stocked and, overall, 244 fish ponds have been completed while 156 are under construction in the four constituencies.

The officer told the Link in his office that all the ponds will be ready and stocked before the end of the year, observing the government has engaged 960 youths to construct the ponds and has paid them Ksh. 2.4 million.

"We want to fully engage the youths we have trained so that they can construct the ponds for other farmers to increase fish production for consumption and sale" says the officer.

Muga says that beneficiaries are fully in charge of the ponds but are assisted by technical officers from the ministry of Fisheries development who help them in stocking and marketing of the fish to reap maximum profits.

He challenges local people to embrace the culture of eating fish, saying, once the farmers start fishing, the supply and the demand will be high for the farmers to gain.

Currently, Gusii residents get fish from lake Victoria at exorbitant prices save for fingerlings which are relatively cheap.

The officer challenges unemployed youths to venture into fish

farming and do it as a business to boost production and sale to generate income to uplift their standard of living.

Muga says that the water level in many lakes keep on receding, affecting the breeding of fish, which leads to low supply, high demand and prices beyond the reach of poor people who also need them healthy growth and development of bones.

Fish farmers, says Muga should plant environmentally friendly trees near the fish ponds instead of water guzzlers which would dry up the ponds, hamper breeding and production.

He lauds the government's initiatives of promoting aquaculture in 140 constituencies nationally, noting with each constituency having 200 fish ponds, there will be 28,000 fish ponds economically empowering a similar number of farmers in various households.

Muga urges more farmers to learn from others and construct more fish ponds individually, saying fisheries officers at the grass roots will equip them with skills to boost their farming and enhance fish production.

480 Fish ponds built in Bongoma

By AGGREY BUCHUNJU

But they are yet to be stocked with fish

UNDER the economic stimulus package, 480 completed fish ponds have been built in Bungoma District. But, they are yet to become operational.

An interview with beneficiaries indicated that the fish ponds are yet to be equipped with fish.

One of the beneficiaries Mr. Isaac Waswa says he has nothing to comment since he is yet to see the fruits of the fish pond. "As I speak to you now I have not received the fish though the pond is complete," he says.

However, Bungoma District Fisheries Officer (DFO) Mr. Kiarie Kahareri, says that the stocking of the fish ponds will be done in the phase two of the programme, which is set to begin anytime in March.

He says that District received a total of Kshs.17, 011, 500 under the Economic Stimulus Programme.

"The amount was meant for construction of fish ponds under phase one of the programme which is almost complete," he explains.

Under phase I programme, the DFO reveals that the district's five constituencies had completed 100 fish ponds each save for Webuye constituency which had completed 80 ponds out of the expected 100 fish ponds.

According to the DFO, the unfinished 20 fish ponds in Webuye constituency are expected to be completed at the beginning of this month.

Kiarie points out that the district needs an equal amount of money for phase 2 programme which he adds is set to kick off anytime now.

Kiarie adds that the programme targets 200 ponds per constituency at the total cost of Kshs. 34,023 per fish pond.

The district fisheries boss says the allocation would go towards financ-



One of the 480 completed fish ponds which have been built in Bungoma District.

ing the construction costs per fish pond at Kshs.25, 000, stocking of 1,000 fish per fish pond at Kshs.3, 000, Manure per fish pond Kshs.960 and purchase of fish feeds per fish pond at Kshs.5063

The DFO discloses that his area of jurisdiction has seven districts and five constituencies. The constituencies under his area of jurisdiction, the former larger Bungoma district are Kanduyi, Bumula, Kimilili, Webuye, and Sirisia.

He however, points out that the programme which is aimed at reducing poverty is based at the constituency level.

The DFO says that the beneficiaries were identified through vetting by

the line ministries, provincial administrators and the constituency development fund committees (CDFCs).

He however, quickly points out that the criteria for selection was based on the availability of land and water, willingness to own the project and already existing fish farmers.

Kiarie further points out that the youth to dig the fish ponds must according to the economic stimulus programme come from the constituency.

"Each constituency recruited 400 youths to do the manual Labour and the number was supposed to be shared out equally among all the locations that form up the constituency," he says.

The recruited youth and the beneficiaries were inducted into the fish farming skills.

Kiarie, however, laments that most youth after realizing that the job they have been recruited to do was manual never turned up for the induction course or left the training mid way.

This he claims affected the implementation of the programme in terms of extra costs and delayed completion of the fish ponds.

Another challenge the DFO points out is lack of enough technical staff and inadequate means of transport. The each of the five constituencies in the area have been able to put up 100 fish ponds as stipulated

Teachers key to quality education

Education is the foundation for change and at the same time maintains the best qualities of the present. Every new generation must learn how to improve and develop society and also be able to base these changes on the traditions and achievements already established in society. This is only possible through the provision of quality education.

In various local and international Education forums, it is always appreciated that quality education implies - Learners who are healthy, well-nourished and ready to participate and learn, and supported in learning by their families and communities; Learning environments that are healthy, safe, protective and gender-sensitive, and provide adequate resources and facilities; Content that is reflected in relevant curricula and materials for the acquisition of basic skills, especially in the areas of literacy, numeracy and skills for life, and knowledge in such areas as gender, health, nutrition, HIV/Aids and peace; Processes through which trained teachers use child-centered teaching approaches in well-managed classrooms and schools and skilful assessment to facilitate learning and reduce disparities; Outcomes that encompass knowledge, skills and attitudes, and are linked to national goals for education and positive participation in society.

Quality education requires a holistic approach in which learner, teacher and parents support is a key aspect. Community involvement and the community's relationship with

COMMENT

By DON BONYO



the teachers are equally important to successful learning. It has to encourage the capacities of young people in a society and has to recognize all these capacities before using them. Also it should provide students with the tools to deal with and find solutions to the challenges confronting the society today.

Values, such as democracy and human rights should be understood as basic fundamentals for quality education. Teachers should teach about these values through the use of teaching methods, which integrate democracy, interaction, equality, respect and co-operation as part of the work in learning institutions.

This is only possible when teachers' professional status are recognized and when they are given the appropriate support to fulfill their tasks. Teachers play a significant role in achieving the goals of education for all. Without good teachers, other resources of education are all of limited value. Teachers are indispensable resources for promoting quality education.

With teachers as key players at the school levels, we should understand that it is here where all learning inputs come together and interact; thus understanding what is happening in schools and in classrooms is a necessary precondition for addressing quality and developing effective quality improve-

ment strategies.

Enhancement of quality education requires that teachers play the central role of organising student learning opportunities; managing student learning progression, dealing with student heterogeneity, developing student commitment to working and learning, working in teams, participating in school curriculum and organization development, promoting parent and community commitment to school, using new technologies in their daily practice, tackling professional duties and ethical dilemmas, and managing their own professional development. Those who perform these functions are the good teachers.

Teachers have a key position in all kinds of education. No measures are possible to improve education if the teachers are not thought of. Most reforms and improvement strategies have to deal with what is going on in the classroom, which means, the everyday work of the teachers. Advance in education depends largely on the qualifications and ability of the teaching profession generally and on the human, pedagogic and technical qualities of the individual teacher.

Good teachers are skilled not only in instructional methods, but also in evaluation and assessment practices that allow them to gauge individual student learning and adapt activities according to student needs. This process should include both performance assessment and assessment of factual knowledge. In order to enhance the quality of education provided in Kenyan schools, there is a need to de-

velop and highlight alternative methods for evaluation which allow for the consideration of the complexity of the school environment and which give teachers a possibility to be part of the process. One useful concept would be the school-based evaluation, meaning a process by which teachers discuss their own school as a group of professionals in such a way as to improve the quality of education.

To improve the quality of education, the government needs to provide professional development to the teachers; provide teachers and schools with the resources necessary to offer quality education; ensure that teachers have a salary comparable with other professions requiring the same level of qualifications and responsibility; and ensure that teachers receive the moral recognition appropriate to their level of qualifications and responsibilities. Policies intended to improve education quality therefore need to focus on schools and teachers, supported by strong supervision, flexible policies, efficient administration and community involvement.

Among the Kenyan teaching fraternity, are there those who are yet to fulfill the ideals of a good teacher? How many are they? Who are they and where could they be? Is the current investment in teachers' remuneration producing proportionate outcomes? Would it be necessary to conduct a teachers' capacity audit in Kenya as a strategy for enhancing quality education?

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Muhoroni residents agree on schools

St Rita Ramula and Achege to be Centers of Academic Excellence

By JONES MAGARE

THE government under its economic stimulus package has allocated Kshs30 million to oversee the transformation of St Rita Ramula Girls and Achege Girls secondary schools in Muhoroni district, into Centers of Academic Excellence (CAE).

Acting Muhoroni Deputy District Education Officer (DDEO) Joyce Oweke says under the economic stimulus programme St. Rita Ramula which has been earmarked as one of the centers of academic excellence in Muhoroni will be built by the government as a new school.

Construction of the school is currently ongoing in Ombeyi location in Miwani division, Muhoroni district.

Incidentally, the site for the establishment of St. Rita Ramula is home to Education Assistant Minister Prof. Ayiecho Olweny, who also serves as Muhoroni Member of Parliament (MP).

Under the programme, St. Rita Ramula Girls will benefit from a new school administration block, classrooms, dormitories, laboratories and toilets, among other physical facilities.

"However, to maintain its status as a center of academic excellence St. Rita Ramula Girls staff, management and students of the school have to work hard to maintain academic standards required of such an institution," says Oweke.

Also set to benefit from the initiative is Achege Girls secondary school which already exists and is located a stone throw away from Chemelil Sugar Company, which students can easily access for industrial tours and attachments.

Achege nestling in Chemelil location within the Nyando Sugar-belt zone is set to benefit from construction of new classrooms, a laboratory and other physical facilities.

Additionally, under the government's economic stimulus package two primary schools Ombeyi and Makindu are being constructed.

Ombeyi primary school is being constructed as a new rural school within Muhoroni under the economic stimulus package while Makindu serves as an urban school.

Ms. Oweke, who is also the Muhoroni District Quality Assurance Officer (QAO), says the move by the government to establish two schools as CAEs and construct two new rural and urban primary schools will greatly improve standards of education in Muhoroni.

However, education officials in Muhoroni led by Oweke urged the government to consider developing more centers of excellence and improving physical facilities of schools within Muhoroni district to enhance education standards and make institutions of learning accessible to more students.

By GILBERT OCHIENG

Busia programme running late

Government yet to release funds for building the centers of excellence

EDUCATION projects being implemented under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) in the greater Busia district are running behind schedule.

Although the school management committees in selected primary and secondary schools are through with the tendering process, our share of allocation from the treasury has not been availed to facilitate the implementation of the programme.

"Tendering process has already been done and we are only waiting for the funds from the government," the Busia District Education Officer John Owino said.

In Bunyala district, the district education department had identified two model primary schools namely Port Victoria Mixed, (Urban) in Bunyala North and Mubwayo in Bunyala South with each school being allocated Kshs3.5million whereas Bunyala Mixed High School, Nayera, which was identified for upgrading as the centre of excellence will get Kshs30million.

"Apart from identifying two model primary schools and one secondary school for upgrading," another 20 primary schools have also been identified to participate in tree plant-



A school funded project under construction in Busia.
Photo/Gilbert Ochieng

ing programme," the Bunyala District Education Officer Maurice Jayoro said, adding that each school would

get Kshs60,000 for the tree planting programme.

In Busia district, the district edu-

cation department identified Nambale Boys High School for upgrading as a centre of excellence at a cost of Kshs30million, two primary schools namely Sikinga, a rural school and Bulanda, an urban school within Busia municipality each allocated Kshs3.5million.

The district education department has also identified 20 primary schools each of which would get Kshs60,000 for the tree planting programme in their respective schools.

In Butula district, the district education department has identified Butula Boys High School for upgrading as a centre of excellence and Kshs30million allocated for the same. The education office at the same time identified two model primary schools namely Sikarira, an urban school and a rural one known as Bukhwakhu. The two primary schools will get Kshs3.5million each for upgrading.

The District Education Officer Maina Wangatho said tendering process has been done adding that the school management committees from the respective schools are awaiting the funds from the government for the implementation of the same.

By JONES MAGARE

Politicking delays Muhoroni fish project

Area MP is accused of meddling and cronyism

IN Muhoroni constituency political pressure threatens the smooth implementation of the programme.

The process of identifying suitable farmers and areas to establish the fish ponds is replete with political maneuvers, with local civic leaders and the area Member of Parliament putting political pressure on the district economic stimulus committee to allocate ponds in areas and farmers allied to them politically.

"We have also experienced political interference even in recruitment of youths for construction of fish ponds," says Tom Osambo who is the secretary of Muhoroni Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Economic Stimulus committee.

Other challenges include lack of appropriate technical skills and knowledge in fish farming "Therefore there is need for the government to organize seminars for fish farmers where they can gain requisite skills in fish farming," Osambo says.

Under the programme, 200 fish ponds will be constructed in the area. Already, the government has disbursed the first tranche of Kshs4 million to facilitate ongoing establishment of fish ponds in the district while another equivalent disbursement is expected as the second tranche

"Currently, 53 fish ponds have been built in the 10 locations and 12 wards of Muhoroni district using the first tranche of Kshs4 million. A total of 200 fish ponds will be developed under the economic stimulus package," Osambo says.



One of the fish ponds in Muhoroni.

"The 53 fish ponds are ready and beneficiaries are only waiting for fingerlings to grow in them," Osambo says.

Locations and wards where fish ponds have been devel-

oped include Koru, Mutwala in Muhoroni, God Nyithindo, Tamu, Chemelil, Ombeyi South and North locations and North East Kano-Kabar, Masogo wards.

In Koru 5 fish ponds have

been developed and paid for while 3 are under construction, while in neighbouring Mutwala in Muhoroni, 1 fish pond has been built and construction of 2 is ongoing.

The break down for the other areas is as follows: God Nyithindo 8 on-going but yet to be paid for, Tamu 3 developed and construction costs paid, 5 under construction, Chemelil 6 built and paid for, while 2 on-going, Ombeyi South and Ombeyi North 2 fish ponds built and costs paid, while over 10 fish ponds have been dug out in Kabar and Masogo wards.

Identification of the areas and farmers where the 53 fish ponds have been established has been done by the Greater Nyando Fisheries Officer in liaison with supervisors in the area's three other newly created districts Muhoroni, Nyakach and Nyando.

Farmers where fish ponds have been built will be supplied with fingerlings procured from the Lake Basin Development Authority (LABDA) fish farm in Kibos, next to Kisumu city.

Each farmer is expected to get 900 fingerlings. Marketing of the mature fish will initially be done locally before outside markets are explored.

"Some of the requirements to benefit from the programme include availability of water and land and suitability of site," Osambo says.

The district economic stimulus committee is comprised of 2 youth representatives, 2 male representatives, 1 religious leader, CDF manager, District Development Officer (DDO), Procurement Officer and all district ministry departmental heads.

And, the Procurement Officer chairs the committee's tender committee, while the economic stimulus committee is chaired by a CDF official.

By NYAKWAR ODAWO and GILBERT OCHIENG

Queries over use of Nambale CDF

Committee chair orders external audit

BUSIA Mjini civic leader Tony Opondo wants the Nambale Constituency Development Fund (CDF) committee to account for funds that were allocated to a stalled project three years ago.

The civic leader says that the proposed Busia Mjini Ward library had been allocated a total of Kshs 0.6million during the 2007/2008 financial year but has since stalled despite the fact that the funds had been approved and disbursed to the locational development committee.

He also disputed the location of the proposed project saying that putting up the facility within the compound of a local mosque meant that it was only accessible to the Muslim faithful. "The project was supposed to have been constructed at a site that would be accessed by the general public irrespective of religious affiliation," he adds.

The civic leader further claimed that part of the project fund had been diverted towards the completion of an unnamed project within the compound where the mosque stands at the expense of the information facility.

Addressing stakeholders at St Joseph Busia Girls primary school during a fundraising ceremony that was also attended by the area Member of Parliament Chris Okemo to raise funds for the renovation of

a dormitory destroyed by fire recently, the civic leader accused the legislator saying he has appointed persons of questionable integrity in the CDF committee.

"The area member of parliament has incorporated people of questionable integrity as members of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) committee who are to blame for failure to implement the proposed projects due to lack of transparency and accountability," the civic leader said.

However, the area legislator differed with the civic leader saying he was making unfounded allegations aimed at discrediting the constituency development fund committee and himself as the area MP in order to earn political mileage.

Contacted for comment on the same, the committee chairman Joshua Mulesi said auditors have already been sent on the ground to audit all the projects including those that have stalled and thereafter submit their findings to the secretariat for appropriate action.

"As the chairman of this committee, I have, on behalf of area MP who is also the patron of the CDF committee, dispatched a team of auditors on the ground to audit all the CDF projects," he said. The decision to deploy auditors was reached following numerous com-

plaints from the constituents that there was rampant embezzlement of project funds by some committee members.

Recent independent monitoring and evaluation of projects undertaken by CDF within the constituency, especially Busia municipality has, however, revealed that most projects have either stalled midway or were shoddily done.

One such project that has raised eyebrows is none other than Burumba Dispensary which has stalled despite the colossal amounts of money pumped into the same.

According to data in our possession, the Nambale CDF committee disbursed two million shillings for construction of the health facility. An additional Kshs 0.8million was disbursed for the same project during the 2007/2008 financial year followed by another Kshs0.9million allocated during the 2008/ 2009 financial year and Kshs0.3million allocated during the 2009/2010 financial year.

However, under unexplained circumstances, the local CDF development committee is yet to resume work on the stalled health

facility, a factor that has raised concern on the part of the local community.

At the same time the construction of a Jua Kali shed is yet to take off since the community has refused to part with land to pave way for the construction of the facility until they are compensated.

According to the Nambale CDF Accounts Manager Philip Odida, the constituency is yet to identify an ideal site for the construction of a Jua Kali shed which has been allocated Kshs 2.5 million.

"Our hands are tied because the CDF Act does not allow the CDF committee to buy land with CDF kitty," the CDF Accounts Manager said, adding that provision of land for the establishment of the Jua Kali sheds was the prerogative of the local community.

The Accounts manager who spoke during a District Executive Committee (DEC) said the implementation process has been characterized by delays in the identification of site for the establishment of the proposed key projects, lack of clear policy guidelines and communication, lack of facilitation for the team members in the governance structure and the diversity na-

ture of the constituency.

The Busia DC Gitonga Mwian-di, who is also the chairman of the DEC, appealed to the community to develop a positive attitude towards the proposed development projects in their respective areas as they were aimed at improving their living standards.

"It is unfortunate to note that the local community has declined to volunteer land for the establishment of this important project which when completed would empower the youth to be self-reliant," the provincial administrator lamented, adding that local leaders should grab the opportunity and do everything at their disposal to ensure land is made available for such a noble course.

The CDF official said the projects under the ESP will be implemented in phases and that the initial allocation would go towards the construction of a model health centre and a Jua Kali shed as premised in the programme.

He said that Madende dispensary in Nambale division will be upgraded into a model health centre at a cost of Kshs.15.7 million, with Kshs 3.8 million going towards the purchase hospital equipments.

Swedish princess adopts local school

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

Kisima farm behind establishment of the public school

IN a rare occasion, a royal family from Sweden recently found interest in a day school in Meru and offered to support it.

H.R.H Crown princess Victoria visited the day school in Timau in North Imenti Constituency and spent the better part of the day interacting with students, parents and teachers of the three-year-old school.

The princess, who was accompanied by Swedish Ambassador, Mrs Ann Dismorr, former Education PS Mr Karega Mutahi, Eastern PC Mrs Claire Omollo, later toured the learning institution. Others people in the entourage were North Imenti MP Mr Silas Muriuki and area DC Mr Samuel Mwati.

The mixed day school, which is a public school situated near Ex-lewa market, Kisima Location, Buuri district was started almost three years ago by a Swedish donor Charlie Dyer. Dyer is also the manager of Kisima Farm Limited.

The princess in her three minute speech lauded the good work of the school and urged students to strive for excellence and exploit the ample facilities in the learning institution.

"I'm indeed very happy for this big auspicious occasion of my visit in this school. Thanks for your hard work which will ensure students excel academically," she said.

She assured the government that Sweden will continue supporting such projects which will guarantee that youths benefits.

Using a light aircraft, the princess landed next to the school at the Kisima Farm, Ex-Lewa before she was driven to the learning institution.

With welcoming soft tunes and waving miniature Swedish flags, the joyful school's students and pupils of Ex-Lewa Primary School lined up to welcome the princess who was arriving in the school for the first time. She waved back unto the students happily smiling.

"I shall ensure that the Teachers Service Commission post teachers here in order for the school to benefit. This is a good work done," added immediate former PS for Education Prof Karega Mutahi.

The mixed day secondary school is a successful community based project which was started in February 2007 and supported by donors from Sweden courtesy of Mr Charles Dyer, Manager Kisima farm Ltd and Charles Meru who is the chairman of the community.

Through the initiative of the chairman of the school's board, Mr Charles Dyer and the sponsor, the school was registered on 14th May 2008. The Government deployed the current principal Mr Martin Mwiti. The school is currently steered by the elected executive committee incorporating local community, administration, political and church leaders.

Kisima Farm supports the project as well as channeling the donor funds to desired development. The Government has also been sending tuition money for buying school text



H.R.H Crown princess Victoria of Sweden arrives at Gundua Secondary School with Education PS Mr Karega Mutahi.

books and other stationeries and operations money which supports non-teaching staff and facilitates the smooth running of the school.

"The school is strategically located to accommodate students from the four primary schools situated within the radius of approximately three kilometers. Other students from the surrounding schools outside its catchments areas would also be admitted," said the principal.

The learning institution is Catholic sponsored, standing on an area measuring 3.64 hectares (Ex-lewa settlement scheme) with a spacious playground next to it. It is located approximately 3Km off Meru-Nanyuki road and neighbours Ex-lewa primary school and Kisima farm.

By the end of last year, the learning institution had 155 students with 60 students in Form I, Form II (52 students) and Form III 43 students. "Academic performance since 2007 has been very impressive with Form I's getting a mean score of 5.234 in year 2007 and in year 2008, they got 4.924. The Form II's got 5.462 mean score," said the principal.

Their mission has been to provide, promote, co-ordinate Quality Education through training and imparting knowledge and skills that facilitate virtues which produce competent, reliable and responsible citizens. They want to meet their vision which is to be the fountain of academic excellence in the society and produce whole rounded person

geared towards Kenyan's sustainable development.

When the principal was asked where they have been getting the strength, he said this was due to the cooperation and supportive community surrounding the school, understanding parents who encourage their daughters and sons to undertake their studies in this school.

Supportive provincial administration and government through the Ministry of Education focused on B.O.G and P.T.A body and hardworking support staff have contributed largely to strengths of the school.

However, there are also many challenges including lack of T.S.C teachers, hence heavy burden on do-

nor to pay teachers, escalating food prices especially maize and beans.

Other challenges include rise in schools dropout where girls leave to get married or seek employment and boys drop out of school to plant French peas and seek casual employment from the surrounding farms.

There are good opportunities for the school as there is a willing donor, good learning environment and the parents support potentials in schools academic programmes.

The learning institution has many objectives which includes attaining an aggregate of C (plain), acquire 30 per cent university and own a permanent water storage tank. The school has several departments which include Science, Humanities, Technical and Games departments.

The institution has also planned a five-year development plan which includes the equipping of the school laboratory as the donor Charles Dyer (representing Swedish donors) will assist to construct an additional laboratory equipments and water systems inside the laboratory.

"The school also needs a library, since day school students need access to learning materials instead of carrying text books from their homes. A water tank to facilitate proper water storages for the new modern student's toilets, cleaning of all the schools areas and to be used in the dining hall will also be built," he added.

Staff houses will also be built in the schools as this will assist the teachers to be near the school to assist learners over the weekends and also provide security to the school. These are the 10 interim committee members who founded the school; after the Government initiative for education for all.

These includes Mr Charles Meru – chairman (Gundua Day secondary), Mr Charles Dyer – donor representative, Father Mutwiri – sponsor Buuri parish, Mr Julius Kirigiah – secretary (head teacher ex-lewa primary school) and Mr S. Muriithi – vice chairman school (head teacher Mbuju primary school).

Others members includes Mr Sammy Kinoti – chairman (ex-lewa pry school), Mr Purity Nkatha-treasurer (ex-lewa pry school), Mr Charles Muthomi – vice secretary, Mr Simon Kinigeni – treasurer and Mrs Susan Nthioni- member.

There are also several Ex-officials who includes Mr Hellen Kinyua – Chief (Buuri sub-location), Mr Geoffrey Memeu – area councilor and area MP Mr Silas Muriuki

KUPPET in fresh salary demand

By LINK CORRESPONDENT

KENYA Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (Kuppet) is pushing the government to pay principals not less than Kshs100,000 per month.

Kuppet National Treasurer Njenga Mwathi said in Nyeri that the Government has enough resources to sustain the proposed increment since the economy has since stabilized.

The treasurer who was accompanied by Nyeri district Executive Secretary Muriuki Nyamu said the Government has no reason to drag

its feet on the harmonization of salaries and should now implement all the remaining phases at once.

The two were addressing over 1,500 principals at Nyeri Technical Institute during the Form Ones selections.

Nyamu appealed unto the Government to allocate more budgets for the Education Ministry.

He decried of level of illiteracy in education matters saying about 14per cent of males and 31 per cent of females are illiterate in the country.

The executive secretary added that every primary school should have a

secondary school and a high school like he witnessed in Gatundu district recently.

Meanwhile Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) has decried the glaring variance between the private and public primary schools in the last year's KCPE exams.

Central Province KNUT chairman Chege Karatasi who was accompanied by KNUT Nyeri branch official Edward Kimunyi wondered why private schools continued to excel in the national examinations while public institutions perform dismally.

During the Form Ones selection

exercise held at Nyeri Technical Institute where over 1,500 principals attended the function, Karatasi called upon every stakeholder to put more effort to narrow this gap.

He said efforts by stakeholders including that of political leaders will be infused this year to ensure that public schools performs well.

The chairman called upon teachers to give good services to their students and pupils in the schools.

On the boy child, the chairman said the boy child is still endangered since many have put more emphasis on the girl child and forgot the boy child.

Muslims urged to educate girls

By AGGREY BUCHUNGU

The Muslim Community has been challenged to treat both boys and girls equally when it comes to matters pertaining to education.

Addressing hundreds of Imams at Eshisuru Islamic Daa'wa centre in Kakamega central recently, the National Chair of Saviour Charitable Trust Fund (SCTF) Shiekh Said Ali urged Muslims to send all their children to school irrespective of gender.

Ali underscored the importance of gender balance in families and communities adding that in Islamic teaching abandoning or discrimination against girls amounted to ignorance.

He said that the teaching of the Holy Prophet Mohamed (Peace be upon Him) did not prescribe giving unfair treatment to girls.

The chair noted with regrets that some Muslim parents harboured tendencies which discriminate against girls when it comes to education and inheritance.

"It is quite unfortunate that some Muslim parents do not recognize their girl child while budgeting for family education or making wills", he lamented.

Ali urged Muslim parents to ensure that all their children grow up in line with the teaching of the Qur'an and the traditions of the prophet Mohammed in order to be responsible and God fearing citizens.

The SCTF chair at the same time asked the Imams to identify land with title deeds for construction of Islamic education institutions throughout the country.

"We want to invest heavily in both normal and Islamic education by setting up schools, colleges and even universities", he disclosed.

Njiiri School in leadership row

By MORRIS GITHENYA

IRATE parents at the troubled Njiiri Boys High School in Kigumo have called for the immediate disbandment of school board of governors accusing it of being ineffective in management.

They said the board had failed in their mandate to restore order in the school and cited ugly incidents in the school which occurred after three strikes in two months.

They told immediate former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education Prof Karega Mutahi they had lost confidence with the board and demanded the appointment of new members.

The unanimous resolve came shortly after an audit report made public implicated the board and old boys association members in irregular tendering and procurement deals.

But the board chairman Reuben Njuguna said the findings were misleading as his team was never involved in procurement.

Karega had visited the school to help establish what had caused the students to go on rampage leaving a trail of destruction valued at Kshs.2.1 million.

The PS however ordered Central Provincial director of education Patrick Nyagosia to convene a meeting with teachers and students in efforts to find a lasting solution to matters that have been causing disturbances.

Shortage of nurses in Mwingi North

By KAVYU KURA

As constituencies country wide embark on an exercise to locally recruit 20 nurses through the economic stimulus arrangement, it has emerged that Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka's Mwingi North constituency is unable to raise the requisite number of recruits.

We established recently that the VP's constituency has very few people trained in the medical field as only 5 people from the area that comprise Kyuso, Mumoni and Tseikuru districts availed themselves for interviews and were offered jobs.

The Kyuso district commissioner Mr. Peter Maina who was the chairman of the interviewing panel said that for lack of qualified personnel locally, they had to recruit the additional 15 nurses from other areas. "We made every effort to publicize the vacancies throughout the constituency but only 5 qualified people availed themselves for interviews and we recruited them for the posts," said the DC when we reached him over the phone.

Mr. Maina said because Mwingi north could not raise enough recruits for the nurses job, the extra vacancies were filled in by people from the neighboring Tharaka and Meru area.

Mwingi north for which Mr. Musyoka has been the MP for the last 25 years does not have any national level college. Even the local youth and village polytechnics available are ill-equipped to produce dependable skilled workmanship.

The failure by the constituency to avail adequate qualified personnel for the nurses position have provoked criticism on Mr. Musyoka's failure to initiate the establishment of middle level

Only five nurses available for job interview out of 20 needed



Nurses preparing to do some work

collages in his political turf.

A catholic priest bases at Kyuso market Fr. George Marete said it was shameful that an entire constituency could not raise enough recruits for the nurses' job pointing to the broader picture of lack of professionals from the area.

"If our MP had initiated the setting up of tertiary and middle level colleges in our area like other places, raising the required number for the nurses' jobs could not have been a problem," lamented Fr. Marete.

The clergy's sentiments were echoed by Ms. Martha Mati a lecturer at a Nairobi based college who hails from Mwingi North added that unless efforts were made to establish colleges in that constituency, the area would continue lagging behind in development.

"No one expects an area like ours that lacks tertiary and middle level colleges that churn out professionals in diverse to develop. Our leaders should wake up and initiate such institutions for our area to start developing," said the academician.

Kimilili Mayor survives Coup attempt

By LUKE KAPCHANGA

MAYOR Makhapila Mwangale of Kimilili Municipal Council has survived a major political test in his career yet.

Confusion and chaos decedended on the council following attempts by some councilors to oust the mayor.

However, calm has returned to council, after wrangling civic leaders unanimously agreed to resolve their differences amicable and allow the Mwangale to resume duty.

The stalemate rocked the council for the better part of last year, leading to the transfer of the town clerk and treasurer, as councilors resorted to the courts in a bid to see the back of the mayor.

It took the intervention of area MP Dr. Esemi Simiyu to cool down tempers, save the mayor's political skin.

Speaking to the press in his office, Mwangale said they have buried their differences and are now going to work as a team to improve on service delivery to the people of Kimilili.

The mayor vowed to continue with his fight against corruption in the council. "My major concern, as we start working together, is to root out corruption from this council," he declared.

He hinted that the differences which saw his deputy topple him arose from

the stand he had taken on corrupt practices among senior council employees.

"I have directed that comprehensive financial report about the council be compiled, as I suspect more than Kshs.6million has been misused", the mayor affirmed.

However, the reconciliation did not come without a price, as the former deputy John Masinde was forced to step down from his position.

Mr. Masinde who led more than five councilors to rebel, and has been occupying the office on and off, with the court solidifying his action, bowed out and swapped positions with councilor Florence Wekesa.

Speaking after Mrs. Wekesa was sworn in as the new deputy mayor, Masinde said the problem was the running of council affairs single handedly without consultations.

"We were simply against dictatorial powers, and our concern was to go as a team". He added.

Mr. Masinde was sworn in as the town planning chairman as he declared support to the mayor.

But this was dismissed by the mayor, who complained that his colleagues were slow, and frustrated his efforts when he tried to expose corruption.

He said with the posting of the new clerk Henry Momanyi, service delivery

will soon be streamlined and the public was going to be served better.

The council which was started in 1991, depends on service charge, LATE, grants and donations as the major source of income.

The young council with no accrued liabilities requires strategic financial planning to make a breakthrough in provisions of services.

For the past year, it has been seeking assistance from the ministry to carry out revenue potential study to identify extra sources of revenue and possible improvement in collection.

The leaders believe that with improved collection, which has to be about enforcement and supervision, the capital base will be strengthened.

The processing of the valuation roll and tying the land rates collection to licenses, is set to improve on finances further.

The town started as a local market serving the Friends missionaries at Kamusinga and the local residents under the influence of Dini Ya Msambwa.

It used to host a radio station and library in 1932-1956, and also acted as a milk centre for Western province.

The major development focus is on the functioning of the market, which is one of the largest open air markets in the province, and it attracts small traders.

CSOs want role in peace building

By LUKE KAPCHANGA

The government has been urged to do more to include non-state actors in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts in Mt. Elgon region.

Speaking at a workshop organized by the Mt. Elgon Residents Association (MERA) aimed at strengthening local civil society organizations, participants said they felt sidelined by the government on matters to do with conflict management.

"We need to be empowered to participate in conflict and security activities that continue to bedevil this area," they said.

The inauguration meeting was part of the on-going implementation of the Partnership for Peace Project (PPP) funded by the European Union and implemented by Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) and MERA among others representing Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces.

The meeting brought together civil society groups from Western province that was selected to join the EU/KAS peace project, said Mr Chem Ngeywo, the PPP coordinator for Western Province. The participants were sensitized on ways through which they can create harmony among the communities.

The civil society leaders said that land disputes and lack of defined boundaries between communities were the major causes of tension and conflict in Western Kenya.

Regional disparities in wealth distribution and poverty levels, too, were identified as significant contributory factors to conflicts not only in Western province, but in the whole country.

"The effects of poverty have made it possible for idle youths to easily fan conflict in a scenario where even the employed are poor and vulnerable," they said.

In Mt. Elgon for instance, residents complained of being neglected by the government in terms of allocation of resources, especially when they still part of Bungoma district. The Teso community, too, complained of being marginalized by the state.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr. Wesaya Maina, a consultant for PPP, called on area civil society organizations to urge area leaders to use peace pacts to end conflicts.

Wesaya gave the example of the late 1940 peace pact between the Teso and Bukusu communities that brought lasting peace between the hitherto two warring communities.

The Link

Enhancing governance for all

Policy needed to guide use of devolved funds

For many years, The Link has been following the use and management of devolved funds in all constituencies and in most of them we have unearthed stories of graft and more graft. Citizens everywhere are crying foul over lack of consultation and involvement in the utilization of the funds

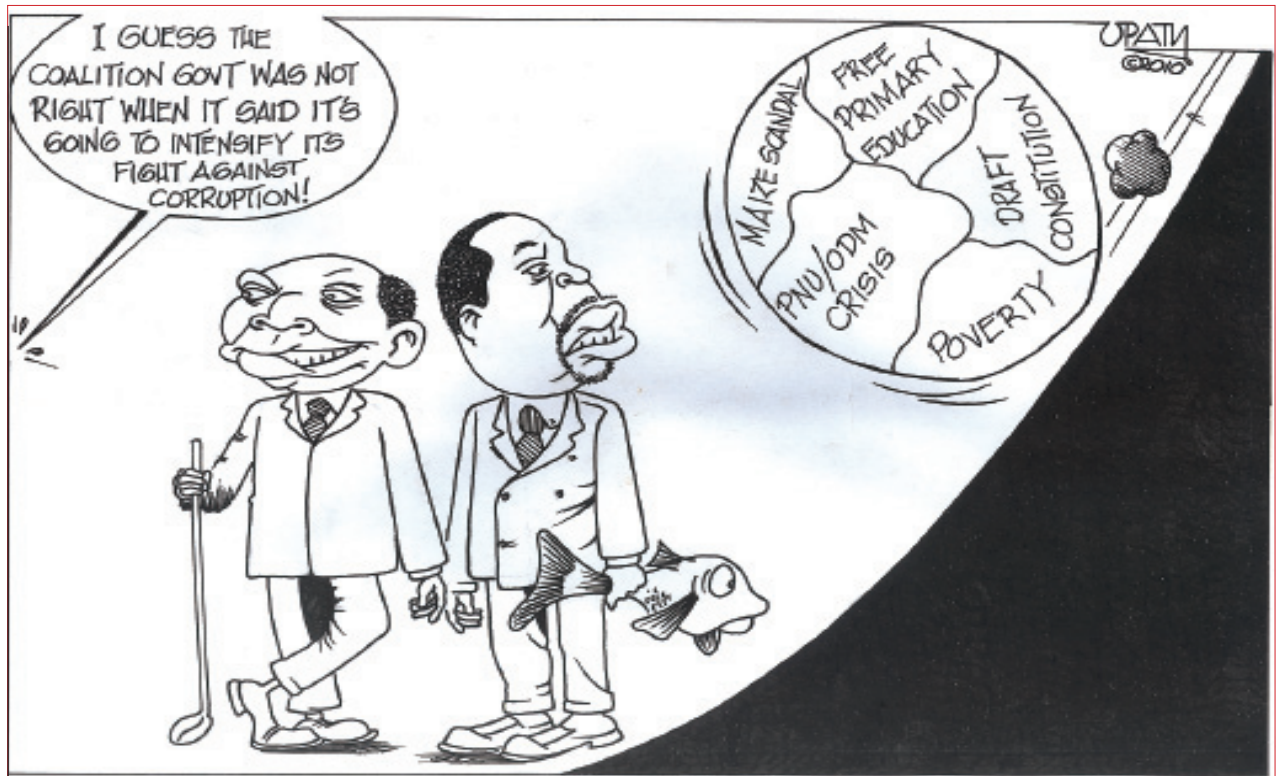
But the MPs and the civic leaders who are largely involved in deciding how the funds are appropriated have been dismissive of such claims arguing that they are orchestrated by disgruntled political opponents.

Even so, we stand by the people of Kenya in saying that enough is enough. There must be deliberate efforts towards citizen engagement and accountability by the managers of the numerous funds. A timely study by the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and the Social and Public Accountability Network (SPAN) and associates titled *Harmonization of Decentralized Development in Kenya: Towards Alignment, Citizen Engagement and Accountability* has also added a strong criticism to the way the funds are managed.

The Study findings rekindled our deep concern at the ad hoc and chaotic manner in which local development in the country is approached. Whereas we strongly support grassroots approach to development, we are against the government simply throwing money into pockets of MPs and their cronies at the expense of taxpayers.

Most constituencies are littered with unfinished projects. We join the calls for a comprehensive policy that should also create a citizens' charter to democratize management of funds. The policy should be clear on capacity building mechanisms to ensure that there are competent staffs on the ground to handle implementation and monitoring of the funds.

The policy must also create a basket fund to consolidate the billions of shillings that are given annually to the Local Authorities (LAs), CDF and the Economic Stimulus Package, among others. This will secure effectiveness of local development expenditure.



COMMENTARY

State not using its own data

AS broadly structured, the government is abound with institutions upon institutions that regulate, control and direct lives albeit for the good of all. In these efforts, tonnes of money is used regularly on institutions, task forces and 'persons' that do not have direct tangible output but do process information in the name of research, surveys, planning, monitoring and evaluation, etc that are to guide direct tangible outputs. Leading in this pack is the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) – a powerhouse in the continent. It has all manner of imaginable data. It knows who the poor are and where they call them poverty pockets. CBS is in the same ministry where visions are conceived and economic planning perimeters drawn. The ministry also houses the monitoring and evaluation portfolio. Added in the string is a galaxy of research efforts by Kipra and public universities. My humble question is, what are all these for, when the same government that all these efforts are part of does not use them? What sense is it when parliament votes for money to go to these institutions and itself does not use their output? Why should CDF national allocation be based on poverty ranking of constituencies done by CBS yet MPs do not use the same rankings to target poverty pockets in their constituencies?

Still using CDF as an example, task forces, surveys and all manner of monitoring has gone into looking into its operations. The verdict has remained constant. It is a marvelous idea and a real change driver that needs to exclude politics. The recommendations have been that the fund should be re-engineered.

But, treasury as the source of funds does not heed this an inch. In its Economic Stimulus Package, it has placed in the current financial year an additional Kshs 20 billion to go to constituencies alongside the CDF's Kshs 12 billion committing the same constituency CDF committees.

The funds are supposed to be

spent on upgrading two schools (Kshs.14 million) per constituency, one secondary school (Kshs 30 million) in 200 constituencies, tree fund (Kshs.60,000) for 20 schools in each constituency, digital laboratory (Kshs.6million) in all constituencies, construct a maternity/children's wing (Kshs.25.3 million) in every constituency, 200 fish ponds in 140 constituencies (one pond is Kshs.40,000 or Kshs. 8million/constituency), wholesale farm markets in 180 constituencies at Kshs.10million/constituency and jua kali sheds, each costing Kshs.2.5million for every constituency. All these projects are supposed to be in place by end of next month (March 2010).

As at mid February, some constituencies do not even have the right information about the economic stimulus programme while many are still politicking over which schools, dispensaries, markets, etc. When will the projects ever be done?

At the creation of CDF in 2003, district government officials were thoroughly chastised as one of the causes of underdevelopment in the country. They were blamed for red tape, bureaucratic tendencies, corruption, lethargy and returning funds back to treasury. Notwithstanding these, all the fiscal decentralization efforts are pleading for their inclusion. District treasury is back in full gear with the economic stimulus just as other line ministry district officials.

The government or policy makers in government have depths of material as in what causes poverty, how poverty spirals and how it can be tackled. Public fiscal approach ordinarily scores the least in the books and in practice. In fact, under the economic stimulus programme,

it is only the fish pond approach if well handled, that is a realistic poverty eradication strategy. It is directed to the individual who is enabled to participate in the economy. Bingu's Malawi is doing it with a lot of success.

All the other public ventures will go down as they have done before. The multi purpose irrigation approach is not new. It was revamped and of course a quick success. But where is it? The good produce can not be bought from farmers as at now. What will they do next? May be ignore the schemes once again. Jua kali sheds have been done before. Voluntary national tree planting arrangements for all schools died and might not resurrect just with only 20 schools/constituency in payroll.

Taking a complete departure from the economics, our nation is melting down under the heat of tribalism. Its root causes are known and are documented. Nation building was only looked through the economic prism. It is work, work and work. The underlying values that make work build a nation has been abandoned officially in policy and in administration of the state. The school system is one sure source of building cohesion, enhancing integration, right attitudes and appreciation of diversity. Work without some of these destroys rather than build a nation. Our school system has completely gone tribal. It has been followed by public service posting, our safety and security. All our lives now gravitate around tribal politics for it is where solace is. But this is not news. Why don't we take a walk to Tanzania if we are lazy in referring to what we have. In Tanzania, you are only a villager in kindergarten and primary school grades. From there on, entrance to secondary school is entrance to the national arena. You do not step back to your village/district school the rest of your schooling. The higher one goes the more you move away from your village.

What practical lessons can we take when we still want to create village centres of excellence?



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The Link

Enhancing governance for all

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New book showcases best approaches to fight hunger

A new book pulls together – for the first time – major successes in agricultural development that have brought millions of people out of hunger over the past 50 years. The book, Millions Fed: Proven Successes in Agricultural Development, was commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to determine what works in agriculture – what sorts of programs, policies, and investments have had a proven impact on hunger and food security.

Millions Fed, the culmination of a major research project led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), presents 20 case studies – not pilot projects or short-lived experiments – but large-scale initiatives that are documented to have substantial, long-term effects. These stories include achievements not just in increasing the yields and production of staple food crops, but also in expanding markets, developing better policies, conserving natural resources, and improving nutrition.

“I am enthused about this book, as it presents stories of proven successes in a tangible way, so that people can understand and learn from what actually happened,” said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Gates Foundation.

These successes have played an important role in the last 50 years, helping to reduce the proportion of people in the world suffering from malnutrition from about one third to one sixth. But progress has slowed,

COMMENT

By A CORRESPONDENT

and the challenge of meeting future food needs is exacerbated by factors such as stagnating yields, climate change, and population growth.

“Learning from past achievements in agricultural development is now more urgent than ever,” stressed Rajul Pandya-Lorch, head of IFPRI’s 2020 Vision Initiative, and co-editor of the book. “These successes provide valuable lessons about how to put agriculture to work to solve hunger and malnutrition. Until now, however, relatively little evidence has been available on where, why, and how these interventions succeeded.”

The case studies were chosen through a rigorous process that included an open call for nominations, an extensive literature review, and expert interviews. Nominations were evaluated using criteria that prioritized initiatives that were long-lasting and sustainable, with well-documented evidence of real impact. Initiatives also had to be large-scale, reaching hundreds of thousands or millions.

Of the 20 case studies selected, more than half come from Asia, five are from Africa, one is from South America, and two are global in scope. Examples include:

- Breeding of rust-resistant wheat varieties in Mexico

spawned a global effort to fight the deadly fungi that threatened global wheat production in the 1950s. As a result, 117 million hectares of land under cultivation were protected from wheat rust, ensuring the food security of 60-120 million rural households.

- Market liberalization in Bangladesh during the mid-1980s to ease restrictions on the importation and sale of irrigation equipment stimulated the growth of irrigated rice farming. Rice production nearly doubled, benefitting about 22 million people a year.

- Improved environmental practices in Burkina Faso and Niger led to the rehabilitation of millions of hectares of farmland, producing enough food to sustain about 3 million people in the region.

- Between 1978 and 1984, China returned more than 95 percent of the nation’s total farmland to some 160 million farm households. These reforms directly contributed to an increase in rural incomes by 137 percent, a reduction in rural poverty by 22 percent, and a 34 percent rise in grain production.

“Each of these cases tells a different story of what worked, how, and why,” explained David Spielman, IFPRI research fellow and book co-editor. “While no single story offers a complete solution to ending hunger, each one illustrates the importance of combined approaches to achieve success, including good science, collaboration, visionary leadership, community action,

and progressive policies.”

The release of this book comes at a critical time. After about two decades of neglect, decision-makers are recognizing the central importance of agriculture for development. The G-20 recently committed an additional \$22 billion for agriculture, and the U.S. government is currently leading an initiative to spur action, ‘Partnering for Food Security: Moving Forward.’

“Agricultural development is a powerful driver in reducing poverty, and the success stories in Millions Fed prove that sustained public investment can make a difference and help small farmers in the developing world lift themselves out of hunger and poverty,” commented Prabhu Pingali, deputy director of the Agricultural Development initiative at the Gates Foundation. “We believe that Millions Fed will invigorate a lively debate about agricultural successes, and provide a valuable guide to the donor community in determining where best to focus resources.”

Despite the progress that has been made over the past decades, there are still about one billion people worldwide who are undernourished.

“It is heartening to know – even in this time of great need – that proven, large-scale successes do exist. The lessons learned from these accomplishments can point the way to making major new strides in ending hunger worldwide,” said Joachim von Braun, director general of IFPRI.

Busia IDPs demand payments

By NYAKWAR ODAWO

HUNDREDS of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Busia District have appealed to the government to consider paying them their dues.

Led by their spokesperson, Mrs. Regina Omonge, the IDPs who were evicted from their homes in Nakuru and Naivasha districts at the height of the skirmishes accused the government of ignoring their plight as internally displaced persons from other regions had been paid their dues long time ago and are currently going about their daily businesses.

“We fail to understand why the government is dragging its feet when it comes to paying us

(returnees) who had been expelled from Nakuru and Naivasha districts yet IDPs from other regions had already been paid their dues,” they argued, adding that they were also entitled to benefit from the said funds as the same was meant to benefit all the post election violence victims irrespective of one’s ethnic background.

“Our lives have totally been reduced to nothing as a result of the post election violence as we had lost all our properties and the businesses we had relied upon as our source of livelihood,” the irate returnees argued, adding that it was high time the government considered paying them their dues to enable them begin life afresh.



An IDP camp in Eldoret.

LSK chapter boycotts court

By AGGREY BUCHUNJU

CJ under fire for failure to deploy more judges to clear backlog of cases

BUSINESS at the Bungoma High Court recently came to a halt when lawyers boycotted proceedings to protest the backlog of cases in the court.

The lawyers under their umbrella body, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) Bungoma chapter downed, their tools in protest at the Chief Justice's (CJ) failure to deploy more judges at the High Court to help clear the backlog.

Led by LSK Bungoma Chapter chairman Mr. Amos Simiyu Makokha and Vice Secretary Mr. Peter Wanyama Wanyonyi, the lawyers accused the CJ Evans Gicheru of reneging on his promise to post one more judge at the station.

Mr. Makokha, speaking to the press at the court's precinct disclosed that as at January 31 this year there were 4,930 outstanding cases, thus both criminal and civil, at the High Court.

The area LSK Chapter chair observed that for the backlog of cases to be expeditiously heard and determined the CJ must make good his promise and post one or two more judges to the law court.

He asserted that the lawyers will not step in the High Court to represent litigants until the CJ posts another judge to the station.

"The lawyers and litigants feel abused when they go to the High

Court only to be told that their cases cannot be heard now or in the near future due to the backlog of the cases in the court", Mr. Makokha said.

Saying that justice delayed is justice denied Mr. Makokha, appealed to the CJ to urgently post another judge for quick disposal of the outstanding cases at the station.

And on his part Mr. Wanyama disclosed that cases being filed in the High Court now have no chances of being mentioned this year, leave alone being heard, since the High Court diary is full.

According to the summary statistical return of the High Court cases for the month of January 2010, out of the 4,995 outstanding cases only 157 cases were completed during the month.

During the same month a total of 85 cases were filed, 15 being criminal cases and 70 being civil cases.

Given the rate at which cases are being heard and determined by the High Court one can easily deduce that a case filed now may be completed after 5 years.

However, Mr. Aneriko Waswa claims that his case has stayed for over 10 years without being heard.

And Mr. John Wanami one of the litigants, also accuses the government of being responsi-

Details of the cases at the Bungoma High Court during the month of January are as follows:

Type of case	Outstanding cases at the start of the month	Filed cases during the month	Completed cases during the month	Outstanding cases at the end of the month
Criminal cases				
Miscellaneous applications	115	2	3	114
Murder	202	4	5	201
Ordinary criminal appeals	627	5	2	630
Capital appeals	35	2	Nil	37
Criminal revisions	58	2	2	60
Total criminals	1037	15	12	1042
CIVIL CASES				
P&A	1576	38	99	1515
Civil appeals	556	3	16	552
Miscellaneous applications	1037	19	Nil	1056
Bankrupt and winding up	1	Nil	Nil	1
Other civil cases	789	10	32	767
Total civil cases	3958	70	147	3890
Grand total	4995	85	157	4932

ble for the backlog of cases and urges it to move with speed and employ more judges.

It is imperative to note that the Bungoma High court currently

serves the larger Bungoma district, Mt. Elgon and the former larger Busia district.

By the time of going to press the High court had remained

closed for two days following the lawyers protest and we could not reach the presiding Judge Mrs. Florence Muchemi for comment.

Western leaders want Trans Nzoia back

By JOEL JUMA

RELIGIOUS leaders have challenged MPs from Western province to pressurize the Interim Independent Boundary Review Commission to revert Trans Nzoia District to the province.

The leaders argue that boundary injustices that were committed during the Kanu regime should be rectified to allow Trans-Nzoia revert back to Western.

Led by Bishop Titus Khamala, the leaders explained that unity for residents in the province will be achieved by having the district returned to the province.

MPs who include Ikolomani Dr Bonny Khalwale have in the past called on the Government to consider putting the district in Western Province during the formation of the new constitution.

Khalwale and Lugari MP Cyrus Jirongo explained that Maseno should also be part of the areas to be re-located to Western during the review of the boundaries by the commission.

Speaking to the press in Kakamega, Khamala vowed to mobilize the residents to demand for the areas relocation during the commission's sittings in Kakamega.

Andrew Ligale commission is set to visit the province soon.

MPs Manyala Keya, Ben Washiali and Sospeter Ojaamong have vowed to demand for splitting of their constituencies before the next General Elections.

Keya is demanding that his Lurambi constituency be split into three while Washiali and Ojaamong want Mumias and Amagoro be subdivided into two respectively.

Murang'a ready to roll out plan

By MORRIS GITHENYA

PLANS are at an advanced stage in Murang'a region to roll out the implementation of Economic Stimulus Programme.

Already Kiria-ini Girls, Kangema Boys and Mugoiri Girls have been identified for upgrading as centres of excellence.

However in Kigumo leaders have proposed construction of Kirere Girls secondary due to lack of a girls school in the area.

In tree planting, twenty primary schools per constituency would benefit from funding geared towards conservation of environment.

Each of the selected primary schools will be funded to the tune of Kshs60,000 to establish a tree nursery and help to install water harvesting techniques.

However the site where the Jua Kali sheds will be built is yet to be identified owing to lack of land. But for a modern market, the Mukuyu Municipal Council of Murang'a has de-

cidated to upgrade the existing facilities to match the government guidelines. On construction of fish ponds, department of fisheries is in top gear educating farmers on the best strategies to make a living out of the programme.

On health, a committee has been set up to help recruit 20 nurses per constituency in efforts to address the raging shortage of staff at health facilities.

Kigumo DC Omar Salat and his Murang'a East counterpart

George Ntembeya have been chairing a series of meeting in efforts to establish vibrant programmes targeting mostly the youth.

In Kigumo and Mathioya constituencies a series of forums have been held to educate the public on what is expected from the economic stimulus programme. The district education board has been mandated to work modalities for the construction of infrastructure at the centers of academic excellence in the constituencies.

Lucky schools in Bungoma South

By AGGREY BUCHUNJU

BUMULA and Siboti primary schools have been identified to be made into model primary schools in Bumula constituency.

St Jude's Napara secondary school has also been identified as a centre of excellence in the same constituency whose legislator is Mr. Bifwoli Wakoli.

In the neighboring Kanduyi constituency Sinoko primary school and Bukananachi primary

school have been identified as model primary schools. While Friends Lwanda Secondary School is the chosen centre of excellence in Kanduyi constituency.

However, Bungoma south Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) branch executive secretary Mr. Smith Waswa is opposed to the choice of the secondary schools in the two constituencies.

Waswa says that choosing of St. Jude's Napara Secondary school in Bumula constituency and Friends Lwanda secondary

school in Kanduyi constituency by the area MPs went against the constituents' expectations

According to Waswa, in Bumula constituency the MP should have chosen Khasoko secondary school while in Kanduyi constituency the MP should have settled on either Bungoma Boys High school or Kibabii Boys high school.

He accused the two MPs of basing the choices of the schools on personal selfish-interests other than on merit.

However, Khang'ati has since

dismissed the criticism as malicious aimed at alienating him from the voters and vowed not to rescind his decision.

Bungoma south District Education Officer (DEO) Mr. Japheth Shitubi has come to the rescue of the MPs accusing Waswa of peddling lies in order to remain popular among the teaching fraternity.

The DEO said Waswa supported the choice of the two schools during the District Education Board (DEB) meeting.



State may use force to mop illegal fire arms

The amnesty period to voluntarily surrender illegal small arms and light weapons ended in February.

A forceful disarmament operation is now expected to start soon.

Latest statistics from the Ministry of Provincial administration and Internal Security indicate that more than 2,000 firearms and 60,000 bullets had been voluntarily surrendered by pastoralists in North Rift and Upper Eastern regions as at the end of the amnesty period that was twice extended by Internal Security minister George Saitoti.

While taking part in UNDP and Arid Lands Resource Management Project supported public campaigns in Garbatula District that resulted in surrendere of more than 70 guns within four days, one question kept lingering in the minds of the communities; will the government secure its citizens as well as their property?

An while attempting to answer this question, the various government officials who have been championing voluntary surrender of illegal arms, have been quick to promise that the government has put in place adequate mechanisms to secure its citizenry or dare doubt the government.

These assurances are contained in the Dumisha Amani II blueprint that is expected to inform the subsequent forceful disarmament process that would include an ambitious development phase that seeks to radically transform lives and economic livelihoods in the arid and semi-arid areas.

The other promises include livestock marketing, branding, provision of water, establishment of educational 'centres of excellence' in the ASALs and infrastructural improvement.

In the unlikely event that some communities are attacked after surrendering their weapons, somebody should be prepared to take political responsibility for duping communities that the government will provide security to all and sundry.

Kenyan,
Via e-mail.

TJRC chairman should resign honourably

What will it take to convince Mr Bethuel Kiplagat that Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission?

How can he defy even Archbishop Desmond tutu, who has asked him to step aside because of the complaints made against him by the civil society and Kenyans in general?

Archbishop Tutu chaired a similar commission in South Africa and knows the pitfalls but Mr Kiplagat is still adamant and sees no reason why he should quit.

What is left is to either ignore what is being said about Mr Kiplagat on the issue or institute yet another commission to investigate him. With all due respect, it would seem that Mr Kiplagat has a question or two to answer.

Does he want to assume that all those raising concern about his past are wrong?

These concerns should not be ignored and those raising them should be listened to. The issues they are raising should be proven right or wrong before we move forward with the truth commission.

Concerned Kenyan,
Via E-mail

Going by the latest debate and demands from the public for the chair of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission to resign, I suppose he should call it a day.

Integrity and credibility are virtues that work together. The calls have been reinforced by eminent persons who have chaired similar commissions elsewhere in the world led by South Africa's Desmond Tutu. The chair's integrity has been



Mr Kiplagat under pressure to resign.

injured by the public perception of him.

I believe the commission will collect vital information through public hearings, but if the commission is denied audience by the public then there is a serious problem.

Mr Kiplagat is a career diplomat and one of the faces of former President Moi's government.

There might not be any evidence on what the public is saying.

But for the sake of the integrity of the truth commission's work, he should act like a gentleman and quit honourably.

This will allow the commission to proceed without baggage.

Judging by the kind of events that took place in Mombasa, I believe the commission needs to save face and correct the public perception towards its leaders.

I urge the commissioners to bear

in mind that the public is spending a lot of money on them. Please we need results.

Kenya is one unique country that forms many commissions of inquiries yet the outcomes are never made public.

But I do believe that for us to be stable and have proper healing the public should freely contribute their views and these should be well received and made public.

Kenyan,
Kisumu.



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.

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Embrace youth polytechnics

By LINK WRITER

THE Government has called upon the youths to change their attitude towards youth polytechnics saying the youth viewed the polytechnics as dumping grounds for academic failures.

Central Provincial Director of Youth Affairs Mr Francis Kariu speaking recently when he toured Rukira, Gachika and Karatina Youth Polytechnics in the larger Nyeri district, Kariu said the institutions have in the past produced individuals who have contributed positively to the country's economy and so youths should shun such negative attitudes.

"Youths should not have negative attitudes towards village polytechnics and instead should view them as developing grounds to acquire skills and technologies for the better tomorrow," said Kariu.

He said unlike previous years, the government has spent millions of money refurbishing the youth polytechnics and modernizing them into vocational centres for the benefit of youths.

The director said the vocational centres have also been equipped with technically trained personnel and gave an example of Rukira youth polytechnic in Othaya which the government has equipped with tools amounting to Kshs 1 million for the institutions rehabilitation.

Kariu said youth polytechnics are meant to absorb the youth who drop out of school by providing them with vocational training which enables them to be self-reliant.

He however said polytechnics were slowly but gradually increasing their enrolment figures and cited Rukira youth polytechnic which had only three trainees last year but has recorded an improved enrolment of 350 trainees this year.

The director also toured Karatina Youth Polytechnic in Mathira East district for a familiarization tour.

Costs of producing tea up



Tea pickers in a tea farm.

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

THE cost of manufacturing tea increased at Ragati Tea Factory Company Ltd in Mathira district during the last financial year.

According to the chairman Mr Eustace Karanja, the average manufacturing cost for the year was Kshs 60.63 for every kilogramme of processed tea against the average cost of Kshs 59.83 per Kilogramme in the previous year.

"There was an increase in the manufacturing cost by Kshs 0.80 per every Kg. This manufacturing cost includes monthly green leaf payment at Kshs 40.70 per Kg of processed tea for the year which is lower than Kshs 42.64 per Kg for the previous year," said the chairman.

Speaking at the annual general meeting held at the factory which was attended by over 500 tea farmers, the chairman said crop production in the last season was lower

than that of the previous year of green leaf which was delivered for processing at the company's factory.

Karanja however said there was a marked increase in tea prices during the year. "The average price realized per Kg of made tea sold was Kshs 193.12. This was a huge increase in price compared to the price of Kshs 137.43 in year 2008. This price therefore increased per Kg of sold tea," he added.

The company has embarked on a major investment that aims at overseeing continuous modernization and replacement of machinery to pave for automation of processes and cost cutting.

"The company has just invested heavily on the steam system upgrade geared towards efficient energy usage and conservation. In a bid to enhance leaf collection efficiency and cut down cost related costs a new leaf carrier has been added and the company will endeavor to

further modernize its fleet, to fully meet both the short and long term demands," The chairman told the tea farmers.

The company was however able to make a payment to the farmers of Kshs 335.4 million for the green leaf delivered. This payment was higher than last year's payment of Kshs 321.9 million.

"As a long-term cost cutting strategy, the company completed the staff rationalization programme aimed at achieving optimal staff levels commensurate with the ongoing machinery replacement modernization and process automation.

The company has further put in place continuous and elaborate human resource development procedures through training aimed at enhancing performance and efficiency levels." He concluded.

Meanwhile most directors of the tea bodies in the larger Nyeri district were re-elected in Kenya Tea Devel-

opment Agency (KTDA) polls held recently.

In Chinga Tea Factory in Othaya, Mr William Thiong'o Wambugu of Mumbu-ini East Electoral area was re-elected for the third term to serve farmers of the area after he beat his closest rival Mr Stephen Wachira. Wambugu garnered 13, 261 votes against Wachira who only managed 2,081 votes. Mr Arthur Mukira of Gikigie was elected unopposed to be the director of the same factory.

Most of the elections were peacefully conducted as the outgoing directors retained their seats.

KTDA was electing one-third of their directors. The directors of factory companies retire on rotation after their third year in office and are subjected to the nomination exercise as per their respective company articles.

At Ragati Tea Factory in Mathira district, Kenya Tea Board chairman Mr Dunstan Magu Ngumo retained his seat to represent Magutu Central electoral area while Evan Mwai was also re-elected to serve the Chehe area.

At the neighbouring Ndima Tea Factory, Mr John Maina Kanja of Lower Kiine area also retained his seat while Mr Nicholas Muriithi of Kaguyu area was elected as a new director. He floored Mr Francis Njogu and two others after he garnered 12, 681 votes against Njogu's 5, 797 votes.

At Iria-ini Tea Factory, Mr Maina Kahuthia was re-elected for another three years while Hutchison Wanjohi from Ihuririo was elected unopposed for the same factory.

Mrs Dorcas Muhoro of Gathumbi electoral area in Othaya who is the only woman in the larger Nyeri district was re-elected as a director of Gitugi Tea Factory. He counterpart Mr Peter Muchiri Mwangi of Kabebero area in the same factory was also re-elected.

Mr Jeremiah Minjire and Mr John Muthui from Gathuthi Tea Factory were the only new directors in one factory who were elected on the same day.

Out of the 106 electoral areas that went to the polls, 30 had their candidates elected unopposed.

Reshuffle local police - Kilifi residents

By BEKDAZO TONDO

Residents of Kilifi have called for a complete overhaul of the entire security team in the area citing rising cases of criminal activities.

The angry residents accused police officers of abetting crime in the area adding that they have been left at the mercy of criminals as the officers take too long to respond to their distress call.

The residents led by an official of Kenya National

Rising crime rate blamed on police laxity

Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Kilifi Mr. Samson Rimba said that police had abdicated their responsibility and focused more on soliciting for bribes from brewers of illicit liquor at the expense of providing security.

"Police in full uniforms invade Mnazi drinking dens just to arrest patrons and collect bribes from the poor women doing the business but when

you call them to arrest criminals, they never come or the come late," complained Rimba.

Similar concerns were shared by Pastor Weston Wachu of Shelter Warship Center who said he was not happy with the way police officers in Kilifi have been conducting their jobs.

Wachu argued that most police officers in Kilifi had become complacent as they had

overstayed in their respective working stations.

The clergyman called on the newly appointed task force to oversee reforms to look into their grievances and rid the force of corrupt elements.

"The deteriorating standards of security in Kilifi town and its environs has been caused by lazy police officers who had overstayed in the station and for the situation to improve

the commissioner of police should immediately transfer them to other stations," suggested pastor Wachu.

Pastor Wachu made reference to a recent incident where a gang raided the house of a missionary couple and stole assorted items before they attacked them and injured them.

However Kilifi OCPD Grace Kakai defended police against the claims and instead said the officers were committed to their duties despite the numerous challenges they faced such as transport.

Jiggers invade Kisii Central

By BOB OMBATI and JOSEPH WAMBUGU

JIGGER infestations among pupils and villagers are posing a threat to the gains made in the Free Primary Education in Kisii Central District.

According to Risa Manaka, who is a social worker with Japan International Development Agency (JICA), impoverished parents living in muddy and dust houses are unable to control the breeding of jiggers in their households which infest their children's feet and hands.

She says schools also contribute to the multiplication of the parasites which are spread from one child to another owing to the dusty floors which harbor the jiggers.

Manaka observes that JICA, jointly with the Ministry of public Health and Sanitation and community members are concerting efforts to treat the affected children, spray schools and homesteads to eradicate the parasites.

The health worker notes that children are unable to concentrate in learning, saying some skip school to nurse jigger wounds, a scenario that was affecting their academic standards and performance in national examinations.

A survey by The Link in some schools Kisii Central district revealed that majority of children in public primary schools go to school barefooted unlike their counterparts in private institutions, increasing the chances and number of children affected by the parasites.

The survey, in Mosoch, Kisii central district also showed that the victims feel uneasy and stigmatized, forcing them to keep off other pupils and stay in isolation besides suffering psychologically.

Recently, Manaka and Bernard Matoke, a community Health worker from Iranda dispensary treated 50 jigger victims at Kianyabinge primary school, attracting villagers who flocked the school for the free services.

The school's Head teacher, Joshua Moseti admitted that the jiggers were affecting learning at the school, resulting in a sharp decline of the education standards and performance in national examinations.

He disclosed that some victims kept off the school, missing vital lessons which were important for their better performance in examinations besides raising the school's overall performance.

Flanked by his school chairman, Fidelis Ongiri, Moseti said poor parents ignored their affected children, adding only those aged above 10 could remove the jiggers while those below 5 years endured the suffering.

He said totally orphaned children and those from single parent families were most vulnerable and bore the brunt of the jigger menace, observing that even some aged parents were victims and hampered efforts to fully eradicate them from homesteads.

The Head teacher said he was approaching Non governmental organizations, Public Health and sanitation ministry officials and other stakeholders to visit affected homes, treat villagers and educate them on proper hygiene to eliminate the jiggers.

"We want all the residents to smear their houses properly to keep the jiggers off. It is not poverty but the commitment to maintain proper sanitation in homesteads" said Moseti, adding spraying and treatment were temporary measures towards long term solutions.

Moseti appealed to the area member of Parliament who is also Foreign affairs assistant minister, Richard Onyonka, to avail adequate funds from the Constituency Development kitty to cement some floors at the school to curb the spread of the jiggers.

He said the school, has 24 committed teachers whose effort to improve the education standard and performance were being threatened with the jigger infestation, which affected learners adversely.

By BOB OMBATI

An assistant chief, John Nchore from Bomwanda sub-location, Kisii South District, who deserted duty and fled in 2002 following the brutal killings of his two colleagues- Ombasa Ombeta and Ouru Barini, will be replaced this year.

Area District Commissioner, Mohamed Mohamud says that the residents have been trekking long distances for services after Nchore ran away after the killings of Ombeta the then chief of Bomorenda and Barini, an assistant chief for Bokeira sub-location.

The DC says it has taken long to replace the chief despite making several recommendations to the government to advertise the job, saying, the process of replacing the chief has started.

He challenges qualified women to apply and compete with their male counterparts as part of the government's reforms requires that at least women occupy a third of the government post for equity.

Chiefdom, observes the DC is not a preserve of men, saying the traditional notion that women are incapable of leading men is wrong and misguided since women are equally educated like men and can do any job.

Mohamud says the chief, who fled with his family to unknown destination has been fired after he was given enough time to resume duty but failed, leading to automatic and summary dismissal.

Recently, fed up residents took to the streets to pressurize the government appoint them another administrator.

The chief, who was adversely mentioned in the killings of his colleagues went underground hastily with his family after irate villagers, baying for his blood raided his home, flattened it and looted his property, leaving the homestead a desolate scene and ghost of its former self.

Nchore, who escaped death narrowly feared for his life as word went round that he was behind the killings whose verdict was instant lynching like his colleagues who lost their lives in cold blood after people believed to

Bomwanda to get sub-Chief

The old one fled after brutal murder of his colleagues



A section of DCs during an installation of chiefs.

be members of a terror gang silenced them.

The District community policing chairman Charles Mitika says the two administrators were butchered due to their stance to eliminate the gangs that had unleashed terror to their subjects despite their effort to stop them, maintain peace and security.

Mitika says that Njore allegedly supported the terror gang reason why the villagers teamed up to raid his family to teach him a bitter lesson only to find the homestead deserted, prompting them to vent their anger on his properties.

The community policing chairman says that before community polic-

ing was constituted, Suneka town in the area was a crime and no go zone, stressing the community policing members have helped reduce the high level of crime in the area owing to their close working relationship with the police.

John Onchoke, a resident of Suneka says that the members and the police have beefed security through night patrols, forcing potential criminals to flee the area.

Onchoke says that even consumers of illicit brew have been disciplined, noting, after taking the liquor, they go to their homes quietly and sleep, adding those found making noise are warned and eventually disciplined if

they fail to heed the warning.

He says that domestic violence has also been reduced considerably, adding, harsh husbands have stopped battering their wives over trivial domestic problems and instead resorted to dialogue to resolve family conflicts.

Cattle rustlers, says the resident are no more, saying once found, they are frog marched with the animals to the nearest police station where they are left to face the law, adding, cattle stolen from elsewhere and recovered in the area are also taken to the police stations where their owners identify them.

A survey by The Link revealed that the rate of crimes has drastically gone down in areas where community policing has been implemented with revelations that criminals have fled the area while others have stopped their criminal activities.

Those arrested, judged, jailed and completed their terms in prison are unwanted by members of the public who still see them as unreformed prompting the victims to relocate to other urban areas to settle lest they are lynched by their clansmen.

The spirit of lynching suspected witches and criminals has found its home in Gusii region where at least over 10 victims are killed every year despite the government's plea to the unheeding and relentless residents to hand the suspects to the police for action.

Old and people are wrongly taken to be witches or wizards and lynched by young men, who are also guilty of taking away the innocent lives and risk facing murder charges.

Kisii elders urged to broker peace

By BOB OMBATI

Marauding youth threaten peace in the district

KISII South DC, Mohamed Mohamud wants elders from two locations- Iyabe and Riana- reconcile and broker peace after Iyabe youths torched houses and destroyed properties at Boiyeki village in Riana over the killing of their clansman.

Mohamed blames the provincial administration from both locations and members of community policing for failing to thwart the arsonists who stormed the village, harassed residents and burnt 20 houses, rendering innocent people homeless and poor.

Armed youths from Riana traveled on foot and motorbikes to the village on a revenge mission after the body of a mutilated and decomposing businessman, Ezekiel Ombonyi was found dumped along a footpath.

Ombonyi is said to have gone to the village to buy brown sugar when he was attacked, robbed and his remains dumped a week after he had gone missing.

In a hurriedly convened meeting at Chisaro buying centre where the victims are putting up, the DC told the chiefs from both locations to quickly mobilize the elders to reconcile the people from the two locations to avert retaliation by the victims.

He directed the police and community policing members to pursue the killers, who residents said torched their houses and fled after killing the businessman. Mohamed, who is the District security chairman lamented that villagers failed to regroup to repulse the raiders who unleashed terror on the innocent residents with impunity.

Villagers who lost properties including newly harvested maize said that the heavily armed raiders attacked them at around 8.P.m and started burning houses, destroying and looting properties and the residents fled to safe places for their safety.

They said they tried to call security agents and chiefs to help them but it took too long for the officers to respond to their distress call, saying even screams could not scare away the youths who sang war songs as they flattened properties.

A 32-year old businessman, Joash Nyakina whose cafeteria and residential house were burnt narrated how the attackers, armed with pangas, rungs and other crude weapons threatened to kill anybody who dared stop them.

Nyakina, accompanied with his distraught wife Rose Kerubo said he had been reduced into a pauper after

his motorbike, sewing machine and hotel facilities were burnt, adding he had nothing to feed his family.

"My children's books also went up in flames. I have no home and now I rely on handouts contrary to my lifestyle of self reliance" said Nyakina sobbing as he watched smoke billow from his flattened house. The victim, who is among over 300 displaced persons said it had taken him a long time to build the house and start business, adding, he was confused on where to start from after all his children's properties were burnt, traumatizing them. Beatrice Kerubo Omambia was crying next to her daughter, Doris Moraa, a form one student whose admission letter was burnt during the attack.

She said all her foodstuffs which she had set aside to sell and raise fees for her daughter went up in flames, saying her daughter's hopes of furthering her education beyond primary had been dashed. Riana ward councilor, Michael Masese challenged the police and members of community policing to intensify night patrols to protect unarmed vulnerable villagers from marauding youths.

Masese said the villagers had lost foodstuff and going without food at Chisaro buying center and appealed to

well wishers and Non governmental organizations to help them with foodstuff and money to rebuild their houses.

The DC, said the government would channel tents to help families spending in the cold and urged Riana chief, Bernard Maiko to mobilize residents to avail food and nonfood items to the victims as they awaited relief food from the government.

He urged location peace committee officials to meet periodically and resolve potential conflicts to enhance peace and avert killings and destruction of properties, which, he says impoverishes people, negating the government's anti-poverty eradication campaign.

Accompanied by Kisii central officer commanding police division (OCPD), mohamud warned he would not tolerate lazy chiefs telling them to use their intelligence networks to pro-act to avert such incidences geared towards revenge.

The victims who talked to the Link said they will continue sleeping at the buying centres and learning institutions until they were helped construct their houses, asserting, according to their traditions, it was a taboo to seek shelter in their neighbours or friends houses.

PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE

A monthly supplement funded by European Union and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

The Partnership for Peace's project office is located in downtown Kisumu.

Some of the lucky ones in the office can see Lake Victoria, while others, like me stare into a big tree. But what we all have in common is that we can hear the noises from the street outside. The noises are the same everyday; music that is playing, tuk-tuk's puffing sound, ringing bells from bodabodas, cars hooting, and people shouting.

When you work with peace and conflict issues your mind can easily be tricked to think that there are conflicts and tensions everywhere. The national papers for the last days have reported about the spat between President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga. The quarrel is based on who has the legal right of the two principles, according to the National Accord, to make certain calls, in this case, to suspend two ministers while alleged corruption investigations is un-

Political wrangles worrying

MANAGER'S COLUMN



By **HANNA CARLSSON**

dertaken. The articles captures different views from the principles themselves, but also views from Members of Parliament,

political parties, religious leaders, civil society organizations, diplomats and other opinion makers in the country. Some of them take hard stand positions in the matter while others are more diplomatic. Some focus more on persons and tribe than the issue at hand while others make it political. Of course these articles raise my concern and I wonder how useful and necessary it is for me but also other people to digest. I can easily identify myself with or support any of the opinion makers named above and by so make the problem very personal. I start to reflect over the role of the media and if they bare any kind of responsibility when it comes to incitement and by so may lay the foundation for more conflicts. Furthermore, I reflect upon if it would

be right for media to tone down some opinions or not report some opinions at all. Though, in the end of the day the media is a very important component in an open democratic society. Thankfully, despite all the wrangle on the national level it seems like business continues as usual on the street outside which is very comforting.

The project has ended a three week tour of Introduction- and Inaugural meetings in the provinces of Rift Valley, Western and Nyanza. Responses from the invited CSOs have been overwhelming and as a project manager I feel honored to be a part of the partnership for peace that is created. This number of the supplement reports from some of these meetings. During these weeks we have also been

privilege to meet with some District Commissionaires and representatives of Provincial Commissionaires who have given their blessing to the project. We will continue to build on these contacts and explore synergy with state initiatives.

Within a month time we will start capacity trainings that are meant to enhance the capacity of the CSOs in conflict prevention and conflict resolving. Parallel with these activities we continue to work on the structures of the project and network with other initiatives in the field because partnership is our catchword!

The writer is the International Project Manager
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CSOs urged to promote peace

By **DANIEL OTUNGE**

The Partnership for Peace project has completed another milestone in its implementation process.

It held introductory and inaugural meetings with all the grassroots Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Nyanza, Rift Valley and Western provinces.

The CSOs were carefully selected by the project team to join the peacebuilding initiative, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) in partnership with CIAG-K (Nyanza), CJPC (Rift Valley) and MERA (Western).

The inaugural and introductory meetings were held

in Bondo, Homa Bay and Kisii in Nyanza province; Eldoret, Nakuru and Narok in Rift Valley Province and Bongoma, Kakamega and Malaba in Western Province. A total of 120 CSOs, that is, 40 from each province (see full list inside), officially joined the peace project.

According to the International Project manager (IPM), Ms Hanna Carlsson, the responses from the grassroots partners, who participated in the meetings, were quite overwhelming. Underlying Issues that contribute to conflicts in Nyanza, Rift Valley and Western provinces, which bore the brunt of the post-election violence, were identified and discussed frankly and some solutions suggested.

Imbalances in the distribution of resources, historical land injustices, tribalism, poverty, unemployment and political jingoism were identified as some of the major causes of differences, tensions and conflicts in the three provinces. Peacebuilding efforts, the participants said, must address those weaknesses if sustainable peace is to be realized.

Representatives of the CSOs urged the government to do more to involve non-state actors in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. They noted that local grassroots and cultural organizations are best placed to find lasting solutions to intra and inter-communal conflicts. For example in

Turn to Page 18

INSIDE:

List of CSOs Western



List of CSOs Nyanza



List of CSOs Rift Valley



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



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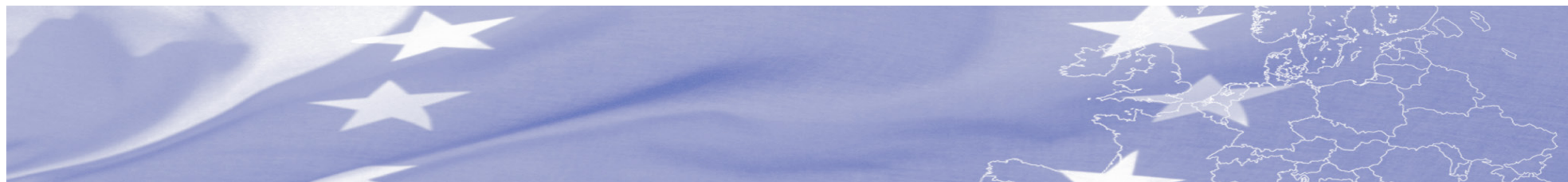
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Continued on Page 17



LIST OF CSOs FOR NYANZA PROVINCE *Continued*

From Page 16

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LIST OF THE CSOs FOR RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE

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CBO
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**Kimwarer Sugutek Community
Trust**
Keiyo, Chepkorio

Centre for Community Initiative support
CBO
Marakwet

North Rift Human Rights Network
NETWOK
Marakwet

Marakwet Council of Elders
CBO
Marakwet-Kapsowar

Tanny Poverty Reduction Programme
NGO
Nandi Central-Kapsabet

Nandi Kaburwo
CBO
Nandi Central-Kapsabet

**Centre for Community Dialogue &
Development**
NGO
Nandi Central-Kapsabet

Disability Group of Trans-Nzoia
CBO
Trans-Nzoia East Cherangany

**Rehema Community Based Organiza-
tion**

CBO
Trans-Nzoia East Cherangany

Blessed are the Peace Makers
NGO
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**Rehema Kenya Enterprise Develop-
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NGO
Uasin Gishu

ACK-Eldoret Regions/CCS
FBO
Uasin Gishu

Kenya Community Sports Foundation
CBO

Pokot

**Yangat Girls Child Potential
Senzitation Group**
CBO
West Pokot, Kapenguria

Sikom Peacenetwork for Development
NGO
West Pokot, Kapengur

CJPC – Eldoret
FBO
Eldoret

Continued on Page 18



PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE

LIST OF THE CSOs FOR RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE

From Page 17

CJPC – Kericho

FBO
Kericho

CJPC – Kitale

FBO
TransNzoia, W/Pokot

Asubuhi Njema Peace Initiative

SHG
Kipkelion

NCKK South Rift

FBO

Nakuru

Maendeleo Endelevu

NGO
Molo

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CBO
Narok

Union of Post Primary Institution

Union
Narok

CJPC- Nakuru

FBO
Nakuru

Network for Ecofarming

CBO
Nakuru

Centre for Peace Environment & Development

CBO
Molo

Rift Valley Youth for Peace & Development

CBO
Nakuru

Kerio Community Development Assistance

CBO
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Narok District AIDS Forum

CBO
Narok

The Touch of Love Development Initiatives

SHG
Narok

CSOs urged to promote peace

From Page 15

Bungoma, they gave the example of the 1940 peace pact that brought lasting peace between the Teso and Bukusu communities.

During the meetings, government representatives strongly supported close collaboration between the state and non-state actors in peacebuilding efforts.

In Kisii Centra for example, the District Officer, Mr. Mohamed Mwabudzo, urged the CSOs to

work closely with the provincial administration in resolving local conflicts.

The DO admitted that poverty and land-related conflicts had overwhelmed the provincial administrators who took too much time trying to resolve them. Hence he appealed to CSOs and other non-state actors countrywide to do more to promote harmonious co-existence among communities.

Ms Carlsson concurred with the DO, saying that peace was

imperative for development. She noted that the project's aim is to strengthen the capacities of about 120 CSOs in peacebuilding and conflict resolution so that they can supplement the government's efforts.

The two-year project targets about 16 million residents of Nyanza, Rift Valley and Western provinces that were most affected by the post-election violence, which left tens of hundreds of people dead, many more displaced and property worth billions of shillings

in shambles.

The meetings were organized by provincial coordinators of the PP project, namely Crispin Owalla of CIARG-K (Nyanza), Chem Ngeywo of MERA (Western) and James Kimisoi of CJPC (Rift Valley). Key resource persons were Dr. Titus Agwanda and Mr. Jonathan Wesaya Maina, among others.

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Alego CDF under spotlight

By AGGREY BUCHUNJU

Residents say tendering procedure is flouted with impunity

THE tendering process of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) funded projects in Alego Usonga Constituency in Siaya District is being flouted with impunity.

Rules and Regulations governing the procurement/tendering procedure of CDF projects in the constituency are not being strictly adhered to.

For starters, the CDF tendering procedures require that a project whose total cost is below Kshs. 5 million should be tendered and implemented by the Project Management Committee (PMC); a project whose total cost is over Kshs. 5 million but below Kshs. 10 million should be tendered and implemented by the Constituency Development Fund Committee (CDFC) and; a project whose estimated total cost is over Kshs. 10 million and above should be tendered and implemented by the District Project Committee (DPC).

However, most CDF funded projects in Alego Usonga constituency are directly being tendered and implemented by the CDFC in contravention of the guiding principles.

The revelations followed a recent tour of some CDF funded projects in the constituency by a high powered delegation consisting of members from the National Anti-corruption Campaign Steering Committee (NACCSC), The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA), Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA) and the media.

The group learnt that CDFC hijacked most of the projects not within its mandate for own aims and interests.

During our spot check, however, we established the projects that were implemented by the PMCs were much better compared to those implemented by the CDFC in terms of workmanship quality.

What beats logic is why the CDFC decided to implement directly so many projects including those that are supposed to be done by the PMCs when it apparently lacks the capacity to supervise the projects.

Majority of the community members who were interviewed by the local Community Based organization (CBO), thus Siaya Anti-corruption Coalition (SACC) expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of work done on projects directly implemented by the CDFC.

For instance projects at the following three (3) schools were directly implemented by the CDFC but area residents are not satisfied with the quality of work done:

1. RAKUOM PRIMARY SCHOOL

This school received Kshs. 545,200 during 2007 /2008 financial year allocated for construction of 1 classroom. Though the project was prioritized by the



One of the CDF funded projects that has failed to take off.

school Management Committee (SMC) it was directly implemented by the CDFC.

Barnabas Oduol of Sifa Moulding Company was awarded the contract to construct the classroom by the CDFC though it was the PMC, which in this case was the SMC that was supposed to tender and implement given the amount of money involved.

The classroom is complete and already in use, but most residents interviewed by SACC are dissatisfied with quality of work done.

2. BAR OLENGO SECONDARY SCHOOL

The proposed secondary school was allocated Kshs. 1,920,000 for construction of 4 classrooms during 2006 / 2007 financial year. This was an initiative of two former MPs, thus Messrs Sammy Weya and Oloo Aringo, The project which has since stalled was managed directly by the CDFC.

Pendeza Contractors was awarded the contract to build the 4 classrooms. The work was done up to roofing level and abandoned yet the community still need the school.

Majority of the community members who were interviewed by SACC allegedly expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of work done saying that the allocated money should have completed the work.

3. PAP GORI PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school received Kshs545,200 for building 1 classroom during 2006 / 2007 financial year. This was an initiative of the Locational Development Committee (LDC).

Sifa Moulding Company was awarded the contract to build the classroom directly by the CDFC.

The project is complete and in use but locals interviewed by SACC rated its workmanship as "very poor".

However, there are other projects that were implemented by the PMCs/SMCs and which the local communities said were fairly done during the interview.

Some of these fairly done projects are:-

1. AMBROSE ADEYA ADONGO SECONDARY SCHOOL

The school received Kshs. 700,000 for construction of 2 classrooms during 2005 / 2006 financial year.

This project was identified and prioritized by locational CDF committee in the year 2006. It was aimed at addressing the shortage of classrooms in the school.

The project was tendered and awarded to Silas Chweya Contractors by the School Management Committee (SMC). Construction work is complete and the classrooms are already in use.

Most members of the community who were interviewed by SACC said the workmanship is of good quality.

2. MUGANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school was awarded Kshs. 470,000 for construction of 1 classroom during 2006 / 2007 financial year. This project was initiated and managed by the SMC. The SMC tendered and awarded the Contract to George Jaugenya.

The classroom is complete and in use. All those interviewed by SACC were fairly satisfied with the quality of work done. However, the worst done project in Alego Usonga Constituency is Ting'wani Community Water Project.

The project, despite having

received a water pump from donors and allocated a total of Kshs. 1,062,188 by the CDFC has stalled and the water pump remains exposed to damage as its semi house has collapsed and left the pump naked. Ting'wani Water Project was allegedly single handedly implemented by a former CDFC chairman.

The variance in the PMC and CDFC in terms of quality work on projects could be attributed to the levels of supervision between the two development committees. While the PMCS are very close to the projects and each PMC has one project under its watch, the CDFC has several projects hence may not be able to provide effective oversight on the projects.

The other factor is that effectiveness on the part of PMCs could be due to their being answerable to local communities who are very close to these projects hence they strive to satisfy them in terms of quality and transparency for continuity in office.

CDFC on the other hand is answerable to the area MP who may not be having sufficient time to monitor projects' progress hence the high chances that they may be more relaxed in their approach towards implementation and oversight.

To enhance monitoring and evaluation of CDF projects in the constituency the CDFC chair Mr. Samuel Ochanda, claimed that the CDFC has bought a land rover for the purpose of moving the monitoring and evaluation team to projects.

Ochanda also disclosed that the CDFC employed a civil engineer who will ensure that all projects are constructed to the required standards, adding that shoddy work being witnessed now will be a thing of the past.

War on Aids gets major boost

By PETER MUTUKU

THE government expects Kshs6.84 billion from the Global Fund to help in the war against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

This will be an improvement from Kshs3.45 billion the global fund granted for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to Kenya in 2009.

In addition, the fund has pledged to send technical assistants to work with the country team in resolving any challenges that may have been experienced in the past, according to Public Health and Sanitation Minister Beth Mugo.

Mugo says the government was putting in place measures to strengthen administration of the funds to ensure efficient use.

The minister spoke after attending a retreat of the Global Fund board members held in Montreux, Switzerland held early last month. During the retreat, Mugo says members discussed fundamental principles and strategies of the fund, the operating model and strategic architecture, resource mobilization and strategic considerations for the future.

The meeting also identified sustainability of the fund, efficiency and value for money, harmonization and alignment with country systems, meeting the needs of those most in need and launch of Round 10 call for proposals as key priority areas.

"I wish to clarify that the Kenya Global Fund relationship has improved tremendously as we have taken measures to improve timeliness of reporting and accounting process.

A similar meeting was held in November 2008 where Kenya's grand portfolio was discussed. The outcome of the meeting was separation of principle recipients for government and civil society/ Non Governmental Organizations.

Mugo said the fund has agreed to continue supporting Kenya meet challenges caused by HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Meanwhile the government plans to set up two livestock disease free zones in the next five years.

The Minister for Livestock development Mohammed Kuti says the government will set up five disease free zones in the country in line with Vision 2030.

The Minister reveals that the first disease zones will be established in Laikipia/Isiolo and at the coast by 2015.

He says the Laikipia/ Isiolo zone will cover the ranching and pastoral areas while the Coastal zone will cover the general area between the Indian Ocean and Tsavo national park.

Busia farmers praise hunger programme

By GILBERT OCHIENG

Shs. 1.6 million spent in the area so far

THE ministry of agriculture has disbursed a total of Kshs1.6 m to 15 self help groups in Busia district through the "Njaa Marufuku Kenya" programme over the last five years.

Statistics at the department of agriculture revealed that benefiting groups received between Kshs 40,000 and Kshs 150,000 which went towards financing existing projects as well as the creation of new income generating activities.

Among the income generating activities being undertaken by the groups include poultry vaccination, pineapple production and bulking, horticultural farming, local poultry production, processing and value addition to cassava and sweet potato, dairy farming, soap and food processing, soya beans and groundnuts value addition, poultry keeping, tomato production, dairy keeping and water melon production among others.

The Busia district agricultural officer, Mr. Samson Khachina, said measures have already been put in place to empower the local community to venture into the growing of crops like pineapples, bananas and other drought resistant crops which he noted had a ready market.

"We want to encourage the local community to undertake the growing of pineapples, bananas and other drought resistant crops because there is a ready market for the same instead of relying only on maize," the district agricultural officer said, adding that the district only managed to harvest a total of 90,000 bags of maize during the short rains registering a deficit of between 60,000 and 70,000 bags of maize.

The district agricultural officer said that local farmers would be provided with farm inputs to enable them produce quality crops that would in the long run fetch good price in the market.

A spot check by The Link estab-

lished that beneficiaries have greatly improved under the "Njaa Marufuku Kenya" programme.

Charles Obonyo, an assistant chief of Mayenje Sub-location within Busia municipality who is a member of Bulanda Focal Area Development Committee (Bulanda FADC) says he has no regret for having made a decision to join the pineapple production common interest group (CIG).

"I have no regrets because my lifestyle has improved a great deal since I formed and joined the pineapple production project in May 2003," the area assistant chief says, adding that the proceeds from the sale of pineapples harvested from his one acre farm has enabled him to pay school fees for his five children-four in secondary school and one pursuing a diploma course at Eregi Teacher Training College.

Obonyo said his group which comprises thirteen members received a cheque of Kshs120,000 on December 8, 2005 as a grant from the "Njaa Marufuku Kenya programme through the department of agriculture.

"The group purchased 18,000 pineapple suckers from a farmer in Burumba village within Busia municipality at a cost of Kshs2.50 per sucker totaling sh55,000 including transportation cost," Obonyo told The Link during the interview held at his pineapple farm recently.

However, he said that of the 18,000 suckers they had purchased and planted, 4,000 failed to germinate, adding that the group members had to purchase an additional 4,000 suckers for gapping at a total cost of Kshs10,000 with transport and labour costing Kshs5,000.

"In total, we purchased a total of 22,000 pineapple suckers costing a total of Kshs55,000. The three day induction course for the group members was done at a



One of the beneficiary, Charles Obonyo, with his family at their pineapple farm in Mayenje village within Busia Municipality. Photo/Gilbert Ochieng

cost of Kshs11,600 whereas transport and labour cost us a total of Kshs15,000," the assistant chief said, adding that the group was left with a balance of sh38,400

The beneficiary further explained that out of the 18,000 pineapple suckers they had purchased, 5,000 were planted in a group project. The remaining 13,000 pineapple suckers were evenly distributed to the 13 group members with each receiving 1,000 pineapple suckers.

"The group members unanimously resolved that the remaining balance of Kshs38,400 be set aside as revolving loan fund that would be loaned to the group members at a monthly interest rate of 5per cent," Obonyo said, adding that in

the year 2008, the group members got an interest of sh18,000 of which sh15,000 was divided among the group members as dividend.

The beneficiary further said that at the moment, each group member is now managing a pineapple farm as each member had been given adequate pineapple suckers.

"In my one acre farm, I have planted a total of 10,000 pineapple suckers and during the harvesting season (three seasons a year) I earn an average of sh0.3million annually which is more than enough to sustain me and my family and pay school fees for my children," Obonyo said, adding that in future the group intends to start value addition programme, sell the pineapple

suckers to the community at an affordable price, start clean banana production project as well starting a processing and marketing cooperative society.

"I am proud of the pineapple production project because it has greatly augmented the meager salary I earn as an assistant chief," the beaming provincial administrator said.

However, Obonyo appealed to the Busia District Agricultural Department to consider funding the group members a second time to enable them purchase some farm inputs so that they can be able to harvest quality pineapples that would fetch good money for the group members in future.

Defunct society pays farmers Shs.400m

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

Coffee farmers allied to the defunct Makindi, Mahoti & Jumapili Farmers Cooperative Society have finally been paid an outstanding debt of Kshs400 million.

This brings to Kshs 442.4 million, the amount paid out to over 5,400 coffee farmers affiliated to the society from last year.

The revelations were made during a special general meeting held at Othaya Catholic hall recently, where over 300 farmers who attended the meeting were told that the society had disposed off 196 acres of Jumapili farm in Thika district at a cost of



Coffee plantation.

Kshs137.2 million and the proceeds used to clear debts owed to farmers.

The chairman Mr. Wilfred Wambare Gacheru said, "We managed to pay Kshs18, 840

to every complete share. We also paid off outstanding old debt which were claimed by members.

Mahoti farm was sold off at a cost of Kshs 305.2 million with the approval of the members.

"We disbursed payments amounting to Kshs 62, 400 for every complete certificate of 60 shares. Therefore, the total amount paid for every complete share is Kshs 81, 240 for the two farms so far," said the chairman.

However, the sale of Makindi farm has hit a snag after the ownership of 28 acres of land became contentious. According to the chairman the government claims own-

ership of the disputed parcel of land.

"But we have searched and obtained all relevant documents like Kenya gazette notice, minutes from Othaya Farmers Cooperative Society, cheque forwarding letter from the commissioner, but we are not making any progress.

The MPs are now appealing to their MP who is also the Head of State President Mwai Kibaki to intervene and help them reclaim it from the hands of Government so that they can sell it out.

The society so far has the money for 700 acres in the society's account of Makindi farm.

USAID funds Sorghum project

Mwingi, Kyuso farmers to sell surplus grain at competitive prices

By KAVYU KURA

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has agreed to provide funds to buy surplus Sorghum from farmers in Mwingi and Kyuso districts.

The Mwingi district agricultural officer Mr. Haroun Goro reveals that through a programme dubbed "purchase for progress (P4P)", appointed Agro dealers will purchase a Kilogramme of Sorghum at Kshs.15 way up from the Kshs.5 that ordinary merchants pay for the crop.

Mr. Goro announced that water tight mechanisms had been put in place to ensure that the appointed dealers did not exploit the farmers by underpaying them for their crop.

He said that the proceeds of the purchased Sorghum crop would go towards financing the World Food Programme (WFP) supported school feeding programme and the Food for Work projects in both Kyuso and Mwingi districts.

Mr. Goro was speaking to the press in Kyuso town as he conducted a delegation of US and WFP officials led by the US envoy to Rome-based agencies Mr. Mike Michener in a fact-finding tour of sorghum farms in Mwingi and Kyuso.

He said the delegation that included US Deputy Chief of mission at the USA embassy in Nairobi, Mr. Lee Anthony Brudvig, and Ms. Cherly Harrison and Bezauyehu Tefera, both of the WFP was to assess whether the USAID/WFP supported sorghum Purchase initiative was viable.

He said the programme would, besides promoting Sorghum as a cash crop, ensure that the WFP sourced food supplies for the school feeding programme are availed locally as well as enhance food security in areas ravaged by drought.

"Instead of the imported white maize and split peas that the WFP currently supplies in the school feeding programme, the organization will now supply locally grown Sorghum, Cowpeas, Green grams and Pigeon peas through the P4P project," said the agricultural officer.

He said the P4P was a pilot project that had been launched in Kyuso and Mwingi district and once it proves successful, it would be replicated to other



VP Kalonzo Musyoka and Ms. Rose Mutuku in a hearty moment when they toured Sorghum farm in Thitha recently. Looking on is the CEO of Africa Harvest Dr. Florence Wambugu (centre) who was also in the entourage.

parts of Ukambani as a means of boosting the locals' economic wellbeing.

During a visit to the Enziu Commercial Bakers Farmers group, the delegation found the group harvesting mature Sorghum crop, and had an opportunity to savour sumptuous dishes including porridge, pilau and cakes prepared from the Sorghum crop.

During the stop over, Mr. Brudvig commented the local farmers for their efforts, saying that taking up Sorghum as a cash crop would go a long way in boosting their incomes besides warding off hunger.

Ms. Harrison who is also the P4P Coordinator at the WFP office in Nairobi pointed out that her organization was keen to facilitate the purchase and distribution of the Sorghum crop to schools for food.

She noted that intensive and extensive production of Sorghum by the local farmers would

guarantee the sustainability of the P4P project and urged local farmers to embrace it to ensure its success.

The role played by the P4P project in improving welfare of the local farmers is also being supplemented by another project being run in the area by the east Africa Malting Limited (EAML) that is also purchasing the Gaddam sorghum variety from local farmers.

The EAML is a subsidiary of the East African Breweries Limited (EABL) which is in the process substituting the production of barley based alcoholic drinks with the locally produced sorghum. The firm intends to substitute about three-quarters of its barley requirement with local sorghum.

The EAML had already contracted the Smart Logistics firm to buy the Gaddam sorghum crop from farmers and it's chief executive officer Rose Mutuku said in Mwingi recently that her

firm will by the end of March have paid local farmers up to Kshs. 8 million for the crop.

She said her organization would purchase a kilogramme of sorghum at Kshs. 17 way above the normal rate of Kshs. 5.

Ms. Mutuku spoke at Thitha in Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka's Mwingi north constituency where she accompanied the latter in a tour of sorghum farms in the area. She urged local farmers to embrace Sorghum growing as food crop and cash crop.

The VP said the intensive growing of sorghum would besides helping the locals improve their family income also assist in alleviating food insecurity in the areas as sorghum dishes were very nutritious.

He said the re-introduction of sorghum farming would be a sweet reprieve for the local residents as the crop was early maturing, drought resistant besides fetching good money for the farmers.

Kakamega Sacco threatens members

By LINK CORRESPONDENT

Members of Kakamega Teachers Savings and Credit Co-operative Society (KTECCO), who are reluctant to identify their next of kin on the registration form, may in future be denied loans by the society.

Speaking to The Link in Kakamega town recently the society chairman Mr. Tom Ingolo disclosed that the Sacco was considering amending some of its by-laws in order to make it compulsory for members to indicate their next of Kin in their registration forms.

This, Ingolo argued, would hasten payment of benefits to the members identified as next of Kin in the event of one's untimely death.

"Specifying as to who will be the beneficiary in the event of the Sacco members' demise, is going to be one of the conditions to be met by a member before he/she is granted a loan," adds Ingolo.

The Sacco chair regretted that the current situation where members register their names only was posing administrative challenges to the Sacco officials, especially if a member dies and leaves behind a chain of dependants.

Ingolo consequently appealed to the society members to support the proposed new rules for their on benefit and that of their next of Kin.

He observed that it is only through registration of next of Kin that the Sacco would minimize delays in releasing the deceased members' benefits and prevent the unnecessary legal tussles among family members.

"We want to avoid situations that put us in a dilemma or force us to release members' benefits to the public trustee because of minor issues that can be avoided in advance," said Ingolo.

Saying that death does not give any prior notification, the Sacco chair wondered why some members especially male teachers declined to identify their nominees in the membership registration form.

"I just do not understand why some members especially male teachers fear to identify their next of Kin when they know very well that the Sacco will not release their benefits even to their immediate family members if they are not named as nominees in the membership registration forms," he said.

He challenged the Sacco members to be bold enough and identify their beneficiaries now, reiterating that the society will not release their benefits even to their immediate family members if they are not named as nominees in the official registration forms.

By MORRIS GITHENYA

A tea farmers Sacco in Murang'a has lost Kshs 2.4 million after an employee allegedly managed to open a safe and made away with the cash.

The clerk at the Mununga branch of Muramati Sacco in Kigumo district allegedly sneaked into the strong

Sacco loses Shs. 2m

room on after the bank had closed its business for the day and opened the safe.

Kigumo DC Mr. Omar Salat confirmed the incident describing it as an

inside job.

Operations at the facility temporarily came to a halt after it emerged that the safe could only be opened after 72 hours after the alleged interfer-

ence.

The administrator said the suspected employee has gone underground leaving all indication he could have been involved in the theft.

The bank management reported the matter to the police who have launched a massive operation in search of the fleeing staff.

Terminate Nyoro contract - Michuki

Minister angered by delay in completion of road

By MORRIS GITHENYA

Environment Minister John Michuki has called for immediate termination of tender awarded to Nyoro Construction Company to build Kanyenya ini- Githiga road in Murang'a.

He said the company had taken too long to complete the road as stipulated in the contract, leading unnecessary suffering of traders and transporters.

Michuki asked his Road's counterpart Franklin Bett to ensure the contract was awarded to another firm that will complete construction within the specified timeframe.

Speaking at Kibutha ACK church in his Kangema constituency, he said the government

was concerned at the slow pace at which the company was discharging its duties despite having been paid.

He disclosed having met his road counterpart who promised to take action on the non performing road construction companies in efforts to enhance delivery of services to the nation.

"It is sad that the contractor has done only 30 percent of the project despite the fact that only a few months are remaining before the expiry of the contract period," said the tough talking Michuki.

The government, he said would not tolerate construction firms that have failed to deliver.

At the same time, Michuki called for investigations into af-



A road under construction

fairs of Kanyenyaini tea factory for allegedly paying out huge amounts of money to dubious entities.

Michuki called on Agriculture Ministry to save the factory from collapse since the management had paid out money to non existent famers.

A team should be dispatched in the area to establish the number of tea bushes each farmer under the factory has to help

expose those behind the illegal payments.

"Some people have been earning money owing to massive corruption at the factory yet the directors have failed to curb the vice," said Michuki also a tea farmer in Kiruri area of Kangema.

CCK accused of foul play

Bidding companies cry for justice over Kshs. 20 billion project

By PETER MUTUKU

THE Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) is on the spotlight for irregularly awarding a contract to a company to offer over Kshs 20 billion mobile phone number portability services.

And officials from some of the seven companies which applied for the 15 year contract urged the CCK Management to cancel their plans to open tenders for shortlisted three but whose selection they claimed was conducted unethically.

Sources say the tendering process was marred by irregularities with companies fronted by some senior official at the Ministry of Information being favoured yet they

did not merit.

They said the selection of the lead company was fraudulently done. They called on the Kenya Anti Corruption Commission to step in and launch investigations into the alleged scandal.

And a cross section of CCK workers also expressed their outrage over the manner in which the selection and short listing was done.

They said the process was manipulated by ministers and other top officials in the government which saw their preferred companies shortlisted.

"Even during the tendering and short listing process, all members of the technical subcommittee on the tender committee were sacked

the same morning and replaced by laymen.

The whole process should be cancelled and conducted afresh and we urge the KACC to intervene.

Under the lucrative contract, the successful company is expected to offer mobile phone services where subscribers will no longer have to change their lines when switching service providers.

If for instance, one wants to call on Zain, YU or Orange from his or her Safaricom line, what they will need to do is top up with credit from the preferred service provider and they get talking.

The winning company is to be paid Kshs 2 billion per year for the next fifteen years.

Rural roads fund lying idle

Constituencies fail to give names of signatories to ministry

By PETER MUTUKU

Over Kshs4 billion meant for rural roads is lying idle at the ministry of Roads due to failure by MPs to submit names of signatories to the newly created Constituency Roads Fund Account.

This is line with amendments made to the Kenya Roads Board Act following Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta's proposal in this year's budget that funds meant for maintenance of rural roads will be channeled through the Constituency Development Fund.

The money will be sent through constituency roads fund account which will have three signatories, two drawn from the Constituency Roads committee (CRC) and one from Kenya Rural Roads Author-

ity (KeRRA).

But according to Roads Minister Franklin Bett, so far none of the 210 constituencies has forwarded names of its signatories to the roads account.

Bett said that Kshs16 million meant for each constituency has been availed adding that a further Kshs3 million will be released towards the project during this financial year.

He said that the Kenya Roads Board has opened up the constituency roads fund accounts in all constituencies and was awaiting MPs to forward names of the two other signatories.

According to the Minister, the constituency roads committee shall comprise four members from CDF in addition to the area MP, DC, District Development Of-

ficer (DDO) and an official from KeRRA.

The two signatories to the roads account shall be selected from the four CDF members.

The Minister said that due to improvement in the country's economy this year, the amount for rural roads which is drawn from the fuel levy fund has been raised from 20 percent to 22 percent. The 12 percent of funds that previously were allocated to Districts for roads were removed and 10 percent from the fund distributed equally to all constituencies," he said.

He ruled out fears that the roads fund to be administered by CDF committees which are chaired by the respective MPs in the constituencies will be misappropriated.

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Mwingi council adopts new style

Rapid Results Initiative adopted to improve service delivery

By KAVYU KURA

MWINGI Town Council has adopted the government initiated Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) to improve service delivery.

Through the initial RRI projects, the council will be focusing on its capacity to internalize the concept of the Result Based Management (RBM) and thus in future be able to complete its projects within a cycle of 100 days.

The council was currently implementing the RRI projects in line with its revised five year strategic plan which lays emphasis on change in the managerial concept in order to achieve results.

According to the Town clerk Mr. Eugene Kituku the council will strive to work within the 100 days stipulated in the government initiative.

Mr. Kituku indicated that in the first batch of the RRI projects that are to be completed within the 100 days, include revenue collection, refuse collection, street lighting, accounts books updating and tree planting.

He noted that although in the initial stages the RRI projects were not getting optimum support from the residents of Mwingi town, it was highly expected that support would be availed once they understood the importance.

He says that the council projects an increase in revenue collection from the current col-



A Mwingi town council tractor and workers at work.

Photo/Kavyu Kura

lection of Kshs. 1.3 million to Kshs. 1.7 million in hundred days.

The strategic plan which runs from 2009 to 2013 also targets unexploited areas such as the increase of fees and charges.

At the meeting that was held at the Mwingi Hotels the council personnel also toyed with the idea of increasing the market days for Mwingi town from one to two as a way of upping its revenue collection.

It was even suggested during the meeting that more market centres within the council's jurisdiction be zoned in revenue collection, as a means of improving its revenue base.

With a set target in garbage collection within the RRI scoop the council has, according to the clerk, increased the collection of the refuse tonnage from 7 tons a week to 9 tons.

He said although the efforts to keep the town clean have been frustrated by residents who throw litter carelessly, he was upbeat that the project would succeed.

"This will improve the town cleanliness. The major challenges we were facing during the first 40 days is lack of co-operation from the community who seems not to care about the towns cleanliness and litter all over.

"After the 100 days we will

put up litter bins and also prescribe specific dumping sites," said the clerk.

The council is also in the process of lighting up three crucial areas within the town namely bus-park, market stalls and Musila garden within the stated 100 days.

He said "the council has already put up two giant security floodlights at the market stalls (Market) and the bus park. This has improved security for businesspeople as most of the hawkers work until late into the night as opposed to the past when the market was closed by latest 6.30pm."

Mr. Kituku added that after the 100 days, security in the

town was expected to improve and urged the public to assist especially by ensuring that they reported any acts vandalism taking place within the town.

The council, the clerk further explained, will also update its books of account in line with the RRI to ensure that the records were well maintained and was up to date in giving the true position of the council financial position.

The records in question include rent registers, cash books, debtors and creditors ledgers among others. At the end of this process, it is expected that the council will be more accountable and any information will be readily furnished whenever required," adds Mr. Kituku.

He said the tree planting project in the RRI would see the increase of trees planted within Mwingi town from 700 to 3000 seedlings. He further pointed out that the council had also embarked on a beautification programme by planting 500 flowers. He said the project had gotten under way but it was faced with the challenge of lack of support from the public who leave their animals to walk around unguided thus destroying upcoming seedlings.

"The tree planting process is meant to involve the public and public institutions and thus inculcate a sense of ownership. Trees are being planted by willing individuals, schools, women groups and institutions," the clerk stressed.

The council hopes that after the 100 days Mwingi town will be greener and more beautiful," said Mr. Kituku in his parting shot.

Council moves to check Boda Bodas

By AGGERY BUCHUNJU

Bungoma municipal council has embarked on an ambitious programme aimed at decongesting the town and getting rid of bad elements among the residents.

The programme which targets motorbike and bicycle taxi operators popularly known as boda boda was launched last month amid over-whelming support from the town residents.

Under the new arrangement or programme, all bodaboda operators who ferry people within the municipality and its environs will be required to register themselves with the council upon production of a duly signed introduction letter from their respective assistant Chiefs.

The town clerk Mr. William Chepkwony, in an interview with The Link, disclosed that the council will issue identification cards (IDs) and registration numbers to all those with recommendation letters from the provincial

IDs to be introduced to control runaway informal transport sector

administrators.

Mr. Chepkwony said that registration is free but quickly pointed out that the applicants will have to meet the cost of IDs.

The council chief Executive Officer (COE) further disclosed that the bodaboda operators have been allocated new routes and parking areas.

He claimed that the new routes and parking places would assist to decongest the town's main street and traffic jam at the financial institutions and super-markets respectively.

Mr. Chepkwony warned that bodaboda operators found breaking the new council by-laws will be prosecuted and penalized.

"Bicycle and motorbike operators who break the rules will be fined Kshs.500 and Kshs. 1,000 respectively," the town clerk said.

Speaking to the press separately Bungoma town Mayor Cllr. Barasa Mbinga urged the bodaboda operators to obey the council by-laws.

Mayor Mbinga said that the new rules governing bodaboda operators are aimed at reducing crime in the town and flushing out foreigners from the business that is dominated by the youth.

The bodaboda operators in Bungoma town and its environs have for a long time been associated with criminal gangs that terrorize the town's residents with impunity every other day.

They have time and again been either accused of complicity in criminal like activities or ferrying criminal gangs to various destinations to execute evil deeds.

Women and even schoolgirls have on several occasions been gang raped and robbed of their personal effects and money by people purporting to be bodaboda operators.

The new council by-laws are therefore, in the right direction albeit they have been enforced a bit too late. Bungoma town resident who spoke to The Link praised the new move saying that there will now be sanity in the bodaboda industry.

Led by Mr. Bernard Wesonga Wakamala, the residents urged

the civic authority not to relent in its efforts to enforce the new rule they described as "ideal"

"We want to urge the council to enforce this new rule without fear or favour as it is "ideal" said Wakamala.

But several bodaboda operators who spoke to the press accused the council of harassment and doing things without consulting them.

"The council is not being affair to us. As a player in the town's transport industry the council should have consulted us before coming up with the rules" Said Mr. Joseph Situma

Mr. Situma said that though the idea to have IDs and registration numbers is good, the council should have given them sufficient time before the rule is enforced adding that even the IDPS were given time before they were removed from the camps.

ADB funds energy project

By PETER MUTUKU

The African Development Bank has agreed to finance a multi-billion energy project in the country.

The project which is scheduled to be complete in 2012 has an impressive capacity of 300MW, which translates to about a quarter of Kenya's current installed power and one of the highest proportions of wind energy to be fed in a national grid anywhere in the world.

Recently the Lake Turkana Wind Power Consortium (LTWP) signed a power purchase agreement with Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) to inject a further 300MW to the national grid.

The project, which is situated on a leased 66,000 hectares of world's largest permanent desert lake, Lake Turkana which has a huge wind power capacity, is estimated to cost £533m.

LTWP will construct a wind farm consisting of 353 wind turbines, each with a capacity of 850 kilowatts to create the biggest wind farm in Africa.

LTWP Managing Director, Henk Hutting said, using the latest wind turbine technology, the project can provide reliable and continuous clean power to satisfy up to 3 percent of Kenya's current total installed power.

And if this source of energy is to be exploited ex-



A multi-billion power project to be funded by African Development Bank. Photo/File

haustibly, Kenya could in future be in a strong economic position. The present major industrial powers have their strength on burning oil and coal.

And if they were to stop doing this because of the negative environmental impact, the countries which have plenty of solar and wind power will become

relatively richer in energy than northern hemisphere countries with less solar power.

In place of oil products, countries with strong sunlight and wind are likely to shift to energy trade.

And as oil based energy prices rise the value of wind energy can only increase while its cost will not go up

so much.

Extreme temperatures generate extreme wind and this is one of the major reasons why wind farms have great potential in Africa.

Another good thing about wind farm projects is that after the setup, cost of energy is almost free.

Some of renewable sources of energy in the coun-

try include hydroelectric power, mainly on the Tana River, biomass in the form of biogas and alcohol from agricultural by products, wind power and solar energy, especially in the cloud free arid zone of Northern Kenya.

If all these renewable energy sources are developed, Kenya can look forward to a time when energy imports will become a small proportion of present needs and even the possibility of energy exports in the form of hydrogen.

Even without a carbon tax, oil industry analysts predict a rise in oil prices owing to the rising demand, whereas production and exploration is still low.

In Morocco and Egypt there have been major strides towards harnessing wind power on commercial scales.

Ethiopia too is trying to bridge the gap between demand and supply by tapping into wind energy. Tanzania has also announced plans to generate at least 100MW of power from two projects in the Central Singida region, more than 10 percent of the country's current supply.

And to encourage generation of wind power and reduce its dependence on coal generated energy, South Africa has also announced a feed in tariff for wind power.

State gives stipend to the elderly

Over 30,000 to benefit from the social welfare programme

By MORRIS GITHENYA

OVER 30,000 elderly persons are set to benefit from government's monthly stipend of Kshs1,500 to help end their suffering.

Last month, the government released Kshs495 million to 44 districts which had been earmarked for the initial implementation process.

Last year the Ministry of Gender and Children Affairs carried out a baseline survey that identified the poor and needy persons in the districts in all the provinces including Nairobi.

In Central Province, the identified districts are Murang'a North, Murang'a South, Nyeri Central, and Thika.

Each district reportedly received Kshs 4.5 million to be reallocated to 750 households

which were identified as needy by officials from the department of culture and social services.

Ministry's Public Relations officer Mr. Julius Ndegwa said the monthly subsidies of Kshs1,500 is meant to support the aged persons.

Launching the cash transfer projects, Gender Minister Esther Murugi said population of elderly above 65 years of age is above 1,098,635.

The Minister said it was unfortunate that traditional support systems are challenged owing to dwindling economy, erosion of traditional support systems and the great impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic.

"That's why the government has accorded the old persons the subsidy to enable them live in dignity," said Murugi.

In Murang'a district, the allocation is meant to cater

for neglected old persons who were identified in the baseline survey.

Murang'a district social development officer Mary Nyambura said the allocation will help the needy as many during the baseline survey were found neglected by their children who majority work in cities.

She said Murang'a scenario was shocking after establishing presence of higher percentage of the old as compared to the youth.

"There are many old people suffering in the villages after having been abandoned by their children despite having built permanent homes for them as some go without medications," said Nyambura.

He said the amount will help towards eradication some of the teething problems facing the old persons.



A group of old persons in Murang'a who had turned out for vetting on those to benefit from the government subsidy of Kshs. 1,500 monthly. Photo/Morris Githenya

Murang'a's killer mines shut

By MORRIS GITHENYA

Excavation of stones is a predominant activity in Mukangu area of Murang'a town. And so are the quarry mines which have over the years been associated with many calamities.

Although they have been in operation since 1928, the quarries recently came to the limelight when a mine caved in burying five people alive after a series of warnings issued by Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources were ignored. Reports indicate that more than 14 people have died in Mukangu area anytime the quarries cave in.

The incident occurred only a month after experts from the department of geology and mine had started a safety education package for miners at Mukangu area.

Investigations carried out by the experts revealed that miners were using explosives of high calibre causing more destruction to houses and other permanent structures.

Today the quarries have been shut down following a directive by Environmental Minister John Michuki.

Michuki also formed a committee that would inspect all the quarries in the region to ensure their safety before any excavation activities can be allowed to take place.

In the past two years, residents have lived in fear that they would become victims in the event that the mines collapse due to the use of powered explosives.



A military dozer at the scene where a quarry collapsed in Murang'a burying five people. The Military Brigadier Ahmed Mohammed coordinated the operation that saw all the bodies retrieved from the 150 metres deep quarry. Photo/Morris Githenya

They say the explosives have affected some buildings in the nearby Mukangu village polytechnic owing to emerging huge cracks on the walls.

Learning at the nearby Mukangu Primary School has on many occasions been disrupted as students are forced to go home whenever warnings appear on an impending blast.

Effects of the blast are felt within a radius of two kilometers causing danger on roof tops and nearby buildings.

Mukangu primary school headmaster Mr. Tanu Muiru

hailed the closure of the mines owing to previous disruption of learning.

In a letter to district education officer, the head teacher says after blast, many of the children suffered from nose bleeding before losing concentration in learning.

The head said, "the school buildings are under threat owing to strong vibrations caused by use of explosives by Kay construction firm which currently is doing the Kangema-Irima road".

However in 2008, residents of Mukangu under Gituri/Kiangumi residents association

raised alarm over the construction firm for using explosives. Chacha Maina who suffered losses after his two water tanks were blown off says he is pushing for compensation from the quarry operators.

Murang'a East DC George Natembeya says, "two years ago a team toured the quarries and lamented over their deplorable state which had served well as criminal dens".

Quarry owners, the administrator said, have been uncooperative but this time only those that will meet safety standards will be allowed to operate

UNICEF weeps for world children

By PETER MUTUKU

The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) has expressed concern that about two million children mainly girls are exploited every year around the globe in the multi-billion dollar sex industry through prostitution and pornography.

In its quarterly report, the world children fund said another 246 million children both girls and boys are exploited through child labour in the international labour industry worldwide.

UNICEF which painted a grim picture on the plight of children in the global scene further reported that in 1990's more than two million children died as result of armed conflict.

The UN report further estimated that about six million children, thrice those killed have been permanently disabled or seriously injured.

The report came as it emerged that cases of early marriages were still rife in Turkana West.

The area DC Eric Wanyonyi lamented that cases of early marriages in the area had continued to deprive girls of education and threatened their lives and health.

He directed the local chiefs to be on frontline in championing for the education of the girl child and warned that chiefs found protecting culprits will be disciplined in accordance with the law.

He urged the community to take advantage of the Free Primary Education and the subsidized Secondary Education to take their children to school.

Kisii residents urged to promote peace

By BOB OMBATI

KISII central District Officer (DO), Mohamed Mwabudzo has challenged managers of civil society organizations (CSOs) to collaborate with provincial administration in resolving conflict locally.

Speaking during a workshop organized by the Partnership for Peace Project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) and partners, the DO urged CSOs to be transparent and accountable in their activities to gain donor confidence

and support as a way of enhancing socio-economic and culture development.

He underscored the need for partnership between the government and the civil society in key conflict resolution and development to help promote a conducive environment for harmonious coexistence.

He noted that poverty and land related conflicts had overwhelmed the provincial administrators who took a lot of time resolving the conflicts and appealed to the CSO officials to venture into conflict management and resolution to promote a peaceful society.

The administrator said that the scramble for inadequate resources over the years had in most cases escalated conflicts, threatened peaceful co-existence, adding that it was necessary for the organisations to help the chiefs at the grassroots to resolve conflicts and reconcile the parties involved.

The Coordinator of the Community Initiative Action Group (CIAG-K), Mr Crispin Owalla, said his organization was responsible for implementation of the project in Nyanza province under the guidance of KAS-Kisumu office. He said the 30-month peace project ragets about 16.1 mil-

lion Kenyans, in Nyanza, Rift Valley and Western provinces, which bore the brunt of the post election violence which left 1,133 people dead, over 500,000 displaced and property worth billions of shillings destroyed.

Owalla said the project aims at strengthening the capacity of non-state actors in peace building and conflicts resolution to avert violent incidents witnessed after the post election violence.

Hanna Carlson, the International project Manager said peace was imperative for development,

Lamenting on the post election violence which rocked the country after the

elections should serve as a lesson for the government and the CSO players to

pro-act and resolve conflicts to avert chaos.

The workshop facilitators, Dr. Titus Agwanda and Jonathan Wesaya told the CSO officials to embrace dialogue in resolving conflicts and involve opinion leaders and community members to understand the root cause of the conflicts to resolve them wisely.

The post poll chaos said Agwanda was an eye opener for Kenyans to learn on various forms of violence and ways of resolving them for peaceful co-existence.

Now former councillors demand pension



Tug-of-war in council. Now former councillors demand pension. Photo/File

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

OVER 400 former councillors from the larger Nyeri district are now demanding to be paid pensions just like the ex-MPs who have been paid their pensions.

The ex-councillors who have since formed an association named 'Greater Nyeri Former and Present Councillors Welfare Association' are appealing unto the Government to pay them their pensions just as they paid their former MPs.

Speaking in Nyeri town recently, the Interim chairman who is also the former Nyeri mayor Mr Wanyaga Gathaka said the Government should have given them the first priority instead of the MPs.

They lamented that many have been languishing in poverty and so it was the high time the Government considers their plight.

He said some former councillors have since died due to depression while others are living frustrated lives.

The chairman added that some have become paupers, hawkers, barbers, butchers while others are crushing stones at the local quarries.

"Others are languishing in local prisons due to bad debts. Their properties have been auctioned while many families have broken out due to lack of money," said the councillors.

The councillors demanding

pension includes those from Othaya, Mukurwe-ini, Mathira, Kieni, Nyeri Central and Tetu districts.

The Nyeri deputy mayor Mr Ndirangu Kabai is the interim organizing secretary. Other members includes Mr Josephat Gachura and (former vice chairman of Nyeri County Council) Mr Uledi Majid (Interim secretary).

The interim committee will meet at Town Hall in Nyeri town this year where they will elect the committee.

The association will advocate for the welfare of the former civic leaders and ensure that they are paid pensions by the Government.

"Others are languishing in local prisons due to bad debts. Their property have been auctioned while many families are broken due to lack of money."

Axed civic leaders in court

By JOSEPH MUKUBWA

TWO Nyeri councillors whose nominations were revoked recently by Local Government Minister Mr Musalia Mudavadi have been granted a stay until the hearing and determination of the case.

The councillors Mrs Jane Wanjiru Kamutu and Mrs Esther Muthoni Kariuki had applied to Nyeri high court under the certificate of urgency in order for the case to be heard on an ex-parte basis as soon as possible.

High court judge justice Mr Joseph Serگون therefore granted the applicants leave to file a substantial motion against the respondents.

In the case, Kamutu and Kariuki are the first and second applicants respectively.

The Minister of Local Government is the first respondent. Nyeri Municipal Town clerk is the second respondent while the Party of National Unity is the third respondent.

The two are being represented in court by lawyer Mr C.N. Kihara. They have applied that no other councillors should be nominated, there should be no swearing in of any other councillor and the minister should de-gazette the

revocation.

"We apply that this court be pleased to grant leave to the applicants to bring prohibition proceedings directed at the minister prohibiting him from revoking or gazetting the decision to revoke the nominations of the two councillors as set out in the letter dated 12th January 2010 or gazetting any other person in purported replacement of the applicants as nominated councillors of Nyeri Municipal Council.

And further nullify the proceedings of the swearing in of the persons appointed as councillors in the place of the applicants." Said the application of the two.

The court has therefore granted a stay of the application pending the hearing and determination of the court.

Status quo should remain and so they will continue to serve as nominated councillors of the Nyeri Municipal Council.

The two councillors were nominated as PNU councillors to serve the council on 22nd February 2008 and sworn in on three days later.

A battery of councillors led by Nyeri mayor Mr Joseph Thairu jammed the court in solidarity of the two during the hearing of the case.

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Knut opposed to poor workmanship

By JOEL JUMA

OVER 100 school projects under construction in Mumias and Matungu districts risk not being certified by the ministry of Public Works because their plans were not approved.

Kenya National Union of Teachers (Knut) is now demanding that the projects be nullified before they are completed to curb on wastage.

The union branch executive secretary John Wesonga claims the projects which include classrooms, were being done by unqualified contractors.

Head teachers are being asked to sign for the delivery of construction materials that they do not know their costs, says Wesonga.

Wesonga explained that he has already raised the matter in the District Development Committees in Matungu and Mumias to have the ministry of Public Works involved in the construction of the buildings.

Wesonga explains that the roofs of the four classrooms, which were blown off at Mulama Primary school in Matungu constituency was because of poor workmanship.

He also wants the Government to stop releasing funds to pay contractors who have not been approved by the ministry of Public works.



One of the poorly built oschools that has been opposed by Knut officials.

“Some campaigners of sitting MPs have turned themselves into contractors in order to enrich themselves from the Constituency Development Fund money,” Wesonga insists.

Ministry of Public Works officials say they had also complained to the District Commissioners Charles Laboso of Mumias and Otieno Kwach of Matungu follow-

ing their exclusion by the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) committees during disbursement of money to finance the projects.

The officials who declined to be named revealed that the CDF Management committees have not consulted them over projects.

“Therefore we are not going to issue certificate of completion to the projects that we

have not supervised,” said a senior official on phone.

The union leaders spoke at a leaders meeting at Harambee Market in Matungu constituency. Area MP David Were did not attend that meeting chaired by the Western Lower Regional Commissioner Peter Okwanyo.

Laboso and Kwach pledged that they will follow up the matter to ensure that the projects are not risk to the occupants.

Okwanyo noted that the provincial administration was monitoring the usage of the devolved funds to ensure that they are invested into viable projects.

Were however explained that he has a tender committee that undertakes projects in his constituency and wondered why the public officials were not being involved in the approval of plans.

I am going to follow up the matter with the Public Works. He explained that the reports were not true saying that the ministry of public works has always been involved in approval of the projects in the constituency.

Were said that CDF projects should not be politicized saying that they were being implemented in accordance with the Government guidelines.

Strange disease attacks rabbits in Nyeri

By LINK CORRESPONDENT

OVER 400 rabbits died recently in the larger Nyeri district due to a strange disease which has hit the area.

Over 20 farmers from the Mukurwe-ini, Tetu and Nyeri Central districts have reported cases of deaths of their pet animals and urged the Government to move swiftly and control it. Areas mostly affected includes Kamakwa, Micha, Ithegaciru, Muruguru and King'ong'o.

Muchemi Muthengia who is one of the farmers told press at his home that he has lost over 50 animals out of the 180 which he had been rearing.

He fears that the death toll might rise since others have started showing the symptoms of the disease.

Muthengia from Mutathini area said that the animals were the only source of livelihood. “The animals looks restless, loss appetite of feeding, there is foam on the mouth and diarrhea before dying in less than 24 hours. The number is likely to rise since they are dying within hours.” Said the farmer.

The rabbits mostly dying are those below three months which have been done cross breeding between Chinchilla and California breeds.

Mr Peter Njogu Githinji alias Maisha who is the chairman of Nyeri Municipality Rabbit Rearing Project said that he has never witnessed such an incident.

He has lost over 30 animals out of the 150 which he had kept to sell to consumers saying it is a big loss.

The farmers are now appealing to the Government to move swiftly since the disease looks like it is airborne as it is spreading very fast.

The doctors from the Ministry of Livestock have found no solution and the only advises them to give them Egocin powder which has not controlled any further deaths.

Central District Veterinary Officer Dr Duncan Ki-rago when contacted

for a comment said samples have been taken and are at Government laboratories to know the outcome. He said they will issue a comprehensive report soon.

Coast leaders rally against sex

By ANDERSON MRENJE

Coast traditional leaders have launched a campaign against pre-marital sex among primary school students to help address increased cases of school pregnancies in the area.

The school to school, teacher, parent and students talk campaign targets students and aims at training young boys and girls on the disadvantages of engaging in pre-mature sexual activities at their early age.

According to the chairman of Rabai, Ruruma and Mwawesa Kaya Mr. Daniel Mwawara Garero, leaders have a responsibility to instill high moral values among young generation.

“As traditional leaders, we want to inculcate our traditional values which have been eroded by the Western influence,” stated Garero.

He reveals that the campaign has received support from government and non-governmental organizations to organize forums to sensitize the youth on abstinence and how artificial ways of sexual affairs are against our traditions.

Those supporting the initiative include National Museum of Kenya, the Catholic Church and Coast Forest Conservation Union which will sponsor training on HIV/AIDS management and running of the awareness campaign with over Kshs. 400,000.

The Kaya chairman said the awareness campaign by the elders will run in



A section of sex workers who were charged in court. Photo/File

all primary schools in Kaloleni district and later proceed to secondary school.

He continued that Coast Forest Conservation Union was supporting the project to the tune of Kshs 2 million.

Mr. Garero explained that the allocation would be used to employ youth to

conserve the environment.

The chairman at the same time said that even though the government had introduced the Free Primary Education program, the area would continue to record poor performance in national examinations if the Ministry of education

fails to address underlying problems.

He decried the rising cases of primary school girls getting impregnated by fellow students and even teachers.

Records indicated that Kaloleni and Kinango Districts were leading with the highest number of school pregnancies.

Makwere loses seat

Judiciary scores highly after nullification of minister's election

By BEKADZO TONDO

KENYANS can at last breathe a sigh of relief after the judiciary nullified the election of yet another prominent personality.

That cabinet minister for Transport and Communication Mr. Ali Charua Mwakwere lost his Matuga parliamentary seat after a landmark ruling by a Mombasa high court, was a resounding affirmation that the culture of impunity is losing tact.

The petition was filed by an ordinary voter in Matuga constituency Mr. Ayub Mwakesi who defied odds and moved to court to petition the election of Mr. Mwakwere in the 2007 general elections which also resulted in violence sparked by a disputed presidential poll.

But after hearing the petition for about two years a Mombasa high court Judge Justice



Former Matuga MP Mr. Mwakwere

Mohamed Ibrahim finally gave the verdict and officially nullified the election of Mr. Mwakwere as the MP for Matuga.

According to the judge the petitioner in the case Mr.

Mwakesi had given tangible evidence in court prompting him to believe beyond doubts that Mwakwere was illegally declared the winner of the Matuga parliamentary seat.

In his ruling the judge noted

that the Returning officer for Kombeni polling station within the constituency Mr. Ali Maalim Hassan declined to include votes from his station. The officer was said to have done that even after the ODM candidate Mr. Hassan Mohamed Mwanyoha lodged a protest with the relevant authorities in the disbanded Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK).

And with the absence of votes from Kombeni polling station in the final tally, Mwakwere was announced the winner after he garnered 8,638 votes beating his close ODM opponent Mr. Mwanyoha who got 8,328 votes.

But the Judge in his ruling noted that Mwanyoha could have been declared the winner for the Matuga parliamentary seat on an ODM ticket if votes from Kombeni polling station were included in the final tally.

In the revised results Mwanyoha could have won the seat by 8,880 votes while Mr. Mwakwere could have come second with 8,738 votes.

NEMA cracks whip in Thika

By LINK WRITER

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has ordered that construction works at a contentious public park in Thika be halted.

The authority gave orders following complaints by Thika residents that the plot in question was a recreational facility widely referred to as Moi Gardens. The angry residents say that the plot has been subdivided by powerful individuals in the town and demanded that the ongoing construction and felling of trees at Moi Gardens be stopped.

Through the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (CJPC) and Thika Residents Association, the residents now want the government to intervene and safeguard public property.

"The land was set aside to serve as a recreational park for patients going to and

from the hospital and other members of the public. And if the municipal council has allocated the piece of land to private individuals as compensation for land taken from them to pave way for the construction of a sewer line, then they should be given cash to buy land elsewhere instead of the park," said Julius Juma, the local chairman of CJPC.

"We are working with all relevant government departments to ensure that the matter is resolved. Meanwhile, construction and felling of trees at the site should stop," said area NEMA officer Mr. Titus Simiyu.

However, a spot check by The Link established that the private developers have defied the directive and gone ahead to dig trenches and erect house pillars at night.

Consequently, the authority has sought the help of provincial administration who have deployed Administration Police officers to man the ground.

"As far as I am concerned, the garden is under the custody of NEMA," said Simiyu who expressed dismay over the cutting of trees, some aged over 40 years.

The garden adjacent to the Thika main prison is one of the only three recreation gardens in the town. It was claimed that the park was issued to traders who were displaced after the council constructed a sewer line on their plots.

By ANDERSON MRENJE

A CIVIL society organization in the country wants the government to revise laws which continue to impede the capacity of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission from discharging its duties.

The Kenya Community Support Center wants the government to re-look into the rules and regulations governing the commission if reconciliation is to be achieved in the country.

They cited the Indemnity Act chapter 44 which was abolished, and rendered TJRC impotent as required under TJRC Act 2008.

Kenya Community Support Center coordinator Mr. Phyllis Muema insists that there was contradiction between the TJRC Act and the Indemnity Act 44 of 1972.

Under the Indemnity Act, individuals are granted amnesty from prosecution for human rights linked to the suppression of secessionist forces during the Shifra War from 1963-1967.

The Act also bars victims of human rights violation from seeking compensation in any court, tribunal or commission.

The civic body spoke as TJRC team faced with massive protests at the beginning of their sittings in Mombasa as residents called for the im-

Protests over TJRC



TJRC chairman Bethwel Kiplagat addressing the press in a past function. Looking on is her deputy Betty Murungi. Photo/File

mediate resignation of the commission boss.

Since its appointment last year, the commission has been had to contend with cold reception in almost all parts of the country as Kenyans have little confidence in the chairman Bethwel Kiplagat.

The reconciliation team

whose main objective is to collect people view on the mischief and molestation that occurred after the disputed December 2007 poll began its tour to the Coast recently.

A Human right activist Evan Gachie asked President Kibaki to disband the commission saying that torture

victims in past regimes were unlikely to get justice with Kiplagat in place as chairman.

But the TJRC chairman has defended himself from the accusations saying that he has in the past played a major role in peace building initiatives in Somali, Sudan, Uganda among other countries.

Calls to repeal CDF Act

By JONES MAGARE

THE Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Act needs to be revised and strengthened to cater for developmental projects, embrace environmental conservation and meet wide public grassroots expectations.

In an interview with *The Link*, Ugenya CDF monitoring and evaluation sub-committee chairman Aggrey Omondi says the current CDF Act only provides for funding of brick or asset-based projects.

He argues that the Act needs to be repealed because the experience of monitoring committee in Ugenya is that asset or infrastructural-based projects that are funded through CDF usually require recurrent expenditure to maintain them.

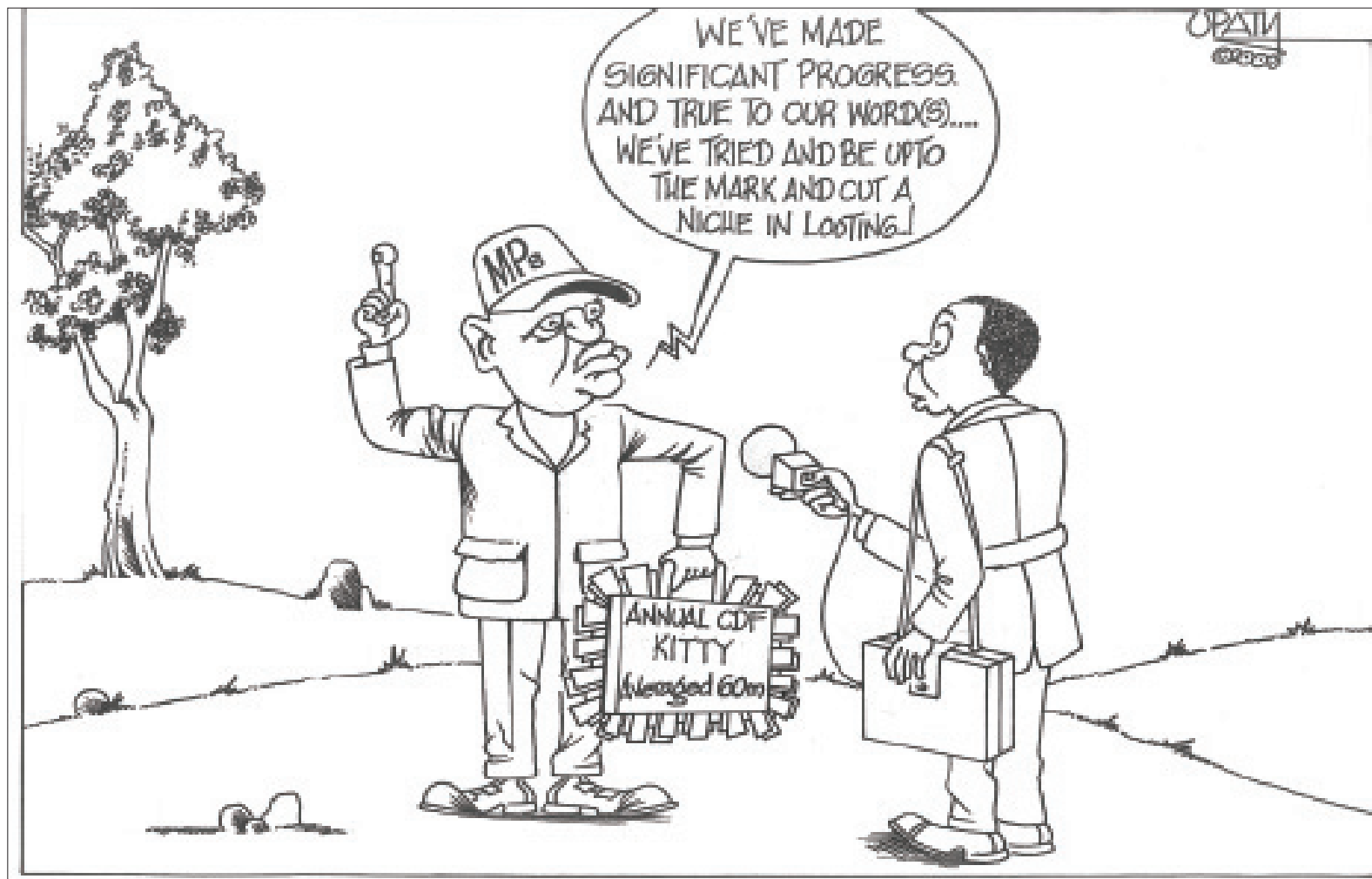
“For instance when we build schools within the constituency, the management of these institutions will also require subordinate staff who must be paid. But the CDF Act at the moment does not cater for such recurrent expenditure,” Omondi says.

He says additionally the administrators and managers of these institutions also require funds to maintain the physical facilities that have been established through CDF funding.

“But when as a committee we inform the school management, parents and residents that the CDF Act does not allow us to fund their recurrent expenditure, the matter usually becomes politicized. People feel we are denying them money raised through their taxes,” Omondi says.

He says such claims are usually due to lack of understanding of the CDF Act, which result in some people erroneously accusing the committee of refusing to fund their projects at the sub-locational, locational and constituency levels.

Omondi says in some cases CDF allocations for bursary towards needy and orphaned pupils and students end up being used by a section of community members and guardians to pay



their personal debts at the expense of the education of such children.

He argues that it is for this reason among others that the CDF Act needs a review to be able to address the wider public grassroots expectations and needs.

“Am certain this is a common problem experienced by CDF committees around the country. There is thus need for the CDF Act to be reviewed and strengthened to shield fund managers from such unfounded accusations,” he says.

Omondi thus urges the government and Members of Parliament (MPs) to urgently consider a review of the CDF Act.

The chairman says there is need for the Act to be reviewed to cater for community developmental needs, rather than only

focus on funding infrastructural projects.

Omondi contends that a reviewed Act that will be capable of funding development projects such as youth, Jua Kali or women entrepreneurial activities will have the potential of transforming the social-economic life of rural populations and contribute towards poverty eradication.

“In the long run CDF funded development projects will inevitably contribute towards an improved Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the country,” he says.

However, Omondi who is also the Ugunja Community Resource Centre (UCRC) executive director says Act also needs to be strengthened to adequately address environmental degradation and conservation.

“This is necessary because although the Act currently only

funds brick and mortar projects, the latter have become a source of serious environmental degradation,” Omondi laments.

He cites the increased demand for bricks in rural areas to build schools and other CDF funded infrastructure like health centres.

“Brick-making and felling of trees for building purposes continue to impact negatively on the environment, and has resulted in serious soil erosion of agricultural land especially in areas where brick-making for infrastructural projects are high,” Omondi says.

The chairman argues that although the CDF Act has some guidelines on environment conservation, they are weak.

He says the allocation of 2 per cent funding for environmental conservation by the Act is also insufficient.

“Thus we appeal to the government and MPs to consider revising the Act to make it more flexible and responsive to the public grassroots expectations and needs. At the moment due to political pressures and arm-twisting at this level, CDF is being used to fund almost every thing,” Omondi laments.

He says the lack of flexible provisions has put a strain on CDF fund managers and has equally led to diversion of funds into funding projects, programmes and activities that are outside its mandate adding that “this has led to stalling of some deserving CDF funded projects.”

The chairman says to address this issue the CDF Act should be reviewed and strengthened to make it holistic and responsive to public expectations and demands on the ground country wide.

By BEKADZO TONDO

Mungatana disbands CDF team

GARSEN MP Danson Mungatana has disbanded his CDF committee to pave way for investigations following allegation of misuse of funds.

Auditors have therefore sent to the constituency in Tana River district to investigate alleged irregularities in allocation of funds from the CDF kitty.

The MP noted that the committee had contravened project identification process, and inflated funds earmarked for projects.

“I have not been impressed with the way work has been done in terms of identification of community projects, implementation and proper keeping of records. I therefore disband the committee and put another one in place to improve transparency and accountability,” says Mungatana.

Earlier residents had protested against inflated prices and the shoddy work that characterized the implementa-

tion of CDF projects

A resident, Hussein Gulo told *The Link* that local CDF officials were colluding with traders to supply sub standard materials while others inflated costs of labour.

And in Bahari constituency, area MP Mr Benedict Fundo Gunda has questioned the use of Kshs 1.5 Million allocated through his CDF kitty to construct a health center at Konjora.

Speaking at Konjora primary school, the MP led residents in demanding for accountability. The MP together with the residents felt that funds budgeted for the project had not been spent properly and that part of the money may have been siphoned by corrupt CDF committee members.

The residents felt that the project had stalled after a larger chunk of the CDF allocation was diverted into personal use.

However Gunda urged residents to be in the forefront of exposing any cases of misappropriation to avoid embezzlement of funds earmarked for community projects.

“The money channeled through CDF is taxpayers money and should be guarded jealously to ensure that projects implemented under the programme are beneficial to the public,” advised Gunda.

Finland funds project in Western

By NYAKWAR ODAWO

Exercise to cost three billion shillings

PLANS are underway to implement a rural development programme which will focus on reducing the high level of poverty and strengthening the livelihoods of various communities in Western Kenya.

The project is a joint initiative by the Governments of Kenya and Finland and is expected to start before the end of this month and run for five years.

The project, which is estimated to cost three billion shillings, aims at creating and strengthening enabling conditions to undertake economic activities by locals and especially vulnerable groups.

Addressing the stakeholders in Busia town recently, Finnish government officials, accompanied by the Western Provincial Director of Planning, Mr. Eliud Salano, said that the overall objective of the project is to uplift the living standards of targeted rural households, improve food security, environmental, sanitation, access to resources and strengthen capacity to plan and monitor development activities and manage community level projects.

The officials further said the project would undertake the improvement of market access through the construction and maintenance of secondary and feeder roads.

"The programme would also go a long way in improving the level of nutrition and food security through the promotion of small stock husbandry," the programme facilitators said, adding that it will also lead to increased access to services including existing and available external funding sources and social services in targeted communities.

The programme area covers Teso North, Teso South, Busia, Samia and Bunyala districts which are some of the poorest Districts in Western Province.

The Finland government is expected to contribute 90 percent of the total project cost while the government of Kenya will contribute the remaining 10 percent of the project cost.

The Western provincial director of planning, Mr. Eliud Salano, on his part said that for the programme to succeed, a district steering committee will be put in place to ensure that there is no duplication of projects.

"The monitoring and evaluation of projects will be stepped up to ensure that all the projects under the programme are properly implemented and completed," the provincial planning director said, adding that the stakeholders should pick on a



Finnish Ambassador, Ms. Heli Sirve



Mr Chris Okemo

few sustainable projects.

The provincial director of planning further said that the district monitoring and evaluation committees from the respective districts will take charge of the monitoring and evaluation exercise, adding that there was need to involve the various community based organizations (CBOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as the relevant technical departments so as to achieve reliable result.

The Western Provincial Director of Planning at the same time underscored the significance of the programme and hence called upon the respective heads of departments from the respective districts to take charge and ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the projects at the end of the programme period in collaboration with the stakeholders at the grassroots level.

Meanwhile, Cabinet minister Paul Otuoma and MPs Chris Okemo, Alfred Odhiambo and Ababu Namwamba have agreed to support the project that is set to kick off in July this year.

The Western Provincial Director of Planning Eliud Salano says increased food production, storage and irrigation programmes will be among the objectives of the five-year project.

Participants at a leaders and experts meeting at Busia Documentation and Information Centre were told that over 600, 000 residents will benefit from the venture.

The project will cover Funy-

ula, Nambale, Budalangi and Butula constituencies.

He says Teso South and Teso North, which are under A m a g o r o constituency, would also be included in the poverty alleviation project.

Poverty index in Busia stands at 68 per cent and the trend is worrying, said Salano.

He says Western Kenya Rural Development Programme will implement

the project to be supervised by various line ministries, which include Livestock, Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and planning.

Other ministries to be used in monitoring and evaluation of the project will include Public Health and Sanitation, Public Works and Ministry of Youth Affairs.

Salano says a management board will be formed at the national level while the provincial team will form a steering committee to oversee the project.

"We want to ensure that the funds are not diverted into other programmes not included in the proposal, he added.

Odhiambo, Namwamba,



Mr Ababu Namwamba

Otuoma and Okemo said they would assist the development partner to meet the goals.

Speaking on their behalf, Otuoma points out that areas around the larger Busia and Teso Districts have high levels of poverty because they lack a better cash crop.

Otuoma (Fisheries) explains that sugar cane farming was not profitable as is it ought to be.

He said the spread of HIV/Aids at the border point of Kenya and Uganda has contributed to high levels of poverty in both Busia and Malaba towns.

Additional reporting by JOEL JUMA

residents cry foul over missing funds

By FIDELIS KABUNYI

Residents of Tigonni ward in Limuru constituency have demanded for the immediate release of their CDF allocation totaling to Kshs 48.3m.

The residents led by the area councilor Sammy Kagathi say the ward has not received their CDF allocation over the last two years.

According to the councilor the Kshs1.8 m that was allocated to the ward during the 2007/2008 financial year to oversee the completion of a water project was withdrawn and re allocated to other wards.

They accused the area MP of sidelining the area in terms of development due to the fact that they never supported him during the last General Elections.

He says some of the proposed projects in the area have stalled as funds are not forthcoming and cited Umoja Secondary School that is estimated to cost Kshs5m and Kentemere police post which was estimated to cost Kshs3m respectively.

The councilor together with other stakeholders and residents have given both the area Mp and the CDF committee up to end of this month after which they will push for the disbandment of the committee. He blamed the CDF fund Manager Magdalene Njoroge of taking sides and directing resources to undeserving projects.

John Maina, an angry resident from Tigonni ward accused the area MP of openly allocating substantial resources in areas perceived to be his political strongholds and cited areas like Kamirithu and Bibirioni wards which have really benefitted with allocations.

Samuel Ndung'u another resident insisted that CDF Act should be revised to allow CDF to run as an independent body while MPs should not be allowed to appoint the CDF committee.

The residents spoke as civil society organizations demanded that MPs be barred from single handedly picking members of Constituency Development Fund Committees.

The organizations led by Kenya Human Rights Commission and the Social Network and Public Accountability Network proposed for the establishment of a criteria to select chairpersons of CDF committees.

They also recommended that functions and mandates of various committees be spelt out.

Biotech crops key to food security

14 million farmers planted 134 million hectares of biotech crops in 25 countries, in 2009

By DANIEL OTUNGE

A new global report on commercialized biotech crops released by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) shows that in 2009 shows marked increase in growing of modern biotech crops by developing countries.

According to the report done annually by ISAAA founder Clive James, 13 of the 14 million biotech crop farmers, or 90 percent, were smallscale and resource-poor farmers from developing countries. The 14 million farmers planted 134 million hectares of biotech crops in 25 countries, up from 13.3 million farmers and 125 million hectares in 2008.

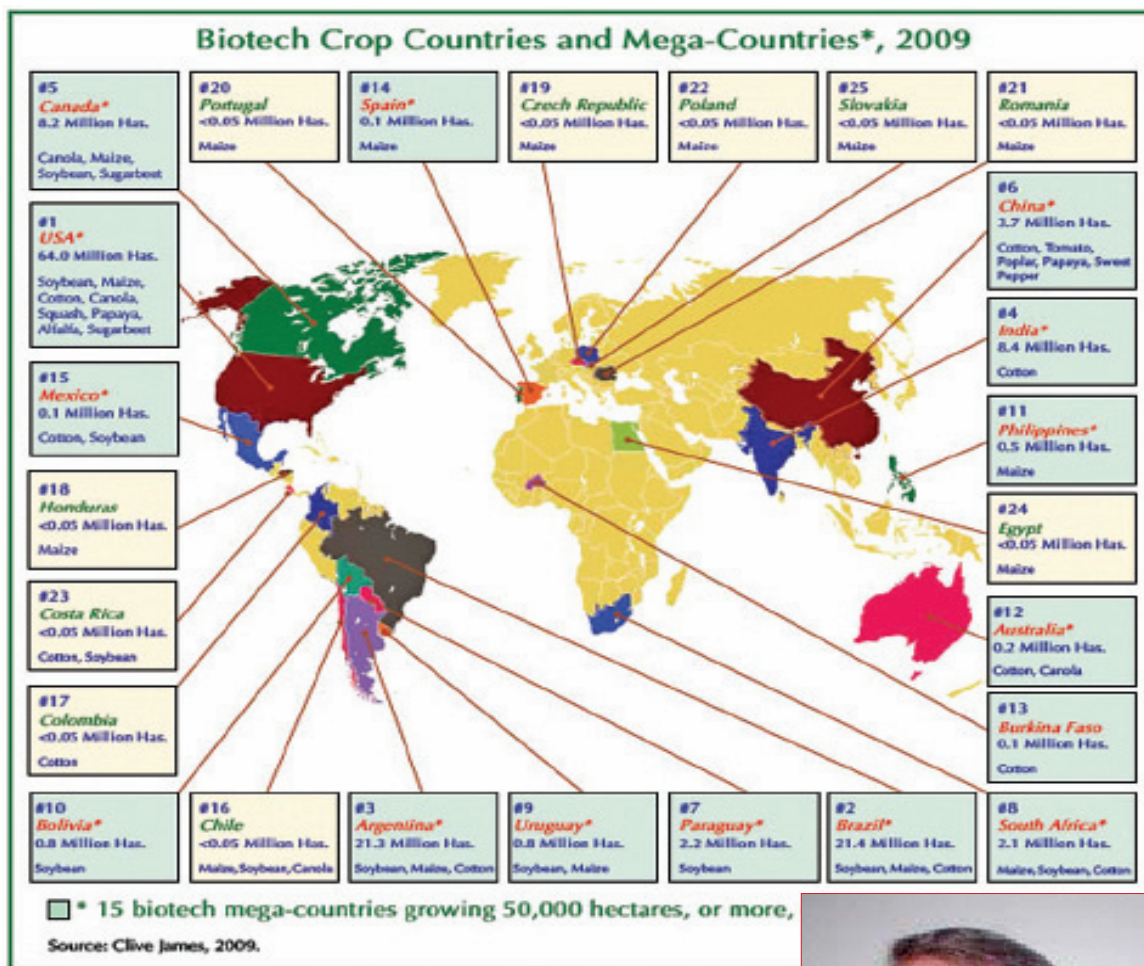
Brazil surpassed Argentina as the second largest grower of transgenic crops globally. Impressive growth of 5.6 million hectares to 21.4 million ha, up 35 percent from 2008, was the highest absolute growth for any country in 2009.

Burkina Faso's biotech cotton area soared from 8,500 hectares to a substantial 115,000 ha, or from 2 percent to 29 percent of the country's total cotton area – the largest percentage growth on record at 1,350 percent. Progress continued in the rest of Africa with a significant 17 percent increase in South Africa to reach 2.1 million ha and a 15 percent increase in Egypt to total 1,000 hectares of Bt maize. Kenya is still conducting contained field trials of various crops including cotton and maize.

Bt cotton in India has revolutionized cotton production in the country with 5.6 million farmers planting 8.4 million hectares in 2009, equivalent to a record 87 percent adoption rate. India gained US\$1.8 billion from Bt cotton in 2008 alone and reduced insecticide use by half. Costa Rica reported biotech crops for the first time in 2009, exclusively for the seed export market, while Japan began commercialization of a biotech blue rose.

Six European countries planted 94,750 ha of biotech crops in 2009, down from seven countries and 107,719 hectares in 2008, as Germany discontinued its planting. Spain planted 80 percent of all the Bt maize in the EU in 2009 and maintained its record adoption rate of 22 percent from the previous year.

The top eight countries, each growing more than 1 million hectares, were: United States (64.0 million ha.), Brazil (21.4 million ha.), Argentina (21.3 million ha.), India (8.4 million ha.), Canada (8.2 million ha.), China (3.7 million ha.), Paraguay (2.2 million ha.), and South Africa (2.1 million ha.). The remaining countries included: Uruguay, Bolivia, Philippines, Australia, Burkina Faso, Spain, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Czech Republic, Portugal, Romania, Poland, Costa Rica, Egypt and Slovakia.



Biotech crop countries. Inset: Dr Clive James.

Last year, ISAAA predicted biotech crops were poised for a new wave of growth. Substantial gains have already been made in 2009 that are starting to bring that prediction to fruition. With 14 years of regulatory experience, growth can be accelerated moving forward.

One of the most significant advances in 2009 included a landmark November decision by China issuing biosafety certificates for biotech insect-resistant rice and phytase maize. As rice is the most important food crop globally, feeding half of humanity, and maize is the most important feed crop in the world, these biosafety clearances can have enormous implications for future biotech crop adoption in China, Asia, and around the world. The crops must complete 2 to 3 years of standard registration field trials prior to commercialization.

"With last year's food crisis, price spikes, and hunger and malnutrition afflicting more than 1 billion people for the first time ever, there has been a global shift from efforts for just food security to food self-sufficiency," said Dr James. "With a current population of 1.3 billion, biotech crops are a critical component for China and other countries to gain self-sufficiency."

As the largest rice producing country, China, suffers significant losses from rice bore, Bt rice has the poten-

tial to increase yields up to 8 percent, decrease pesticide use by 80 percent (17 kg/ha) and generate US\$4 billion in benefits annually.

"This would have a direct and extensive increase on the prosperity of about 440 million Chinese who rely on rice production," said Dr. Dafang Huang, former director at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. "With hundreds of millions of small farmers in our country, biotech crops can serve as an engine for agricultural economic growth and bring prosperity to these small farmers."

China is also the second largest maize producer in the world, with about 100 million farmers growing 30 million hectares of the grain. Increasing prosperity in the country is creating an increased demand for animal protein, making maize a key resource. The improved phytase maize will allow China's 500 million pigs and 13 billion chickens and other poultry to more easily digest phosphate, improving the animal's growth and reducing the amount of the nutrient excreted. Currently, phosphate must be purchased and added to feed, and it contributes to environmental pollution.

"China's global leadership in approving biotech rice and maize will likely become a positive role model and influence acceptance and speed of biotech food and feed crop adoption



throughout Asia and globally," James said.

China is just one of 16 developing countries that grew biotech crops in 2009. Growth of biotech crops has been substantially higher in developing nations – 13 percent or 7 million hectares in 2009 compared to just 3 percent or 2 million hectares in industrialized countries. As a result, almost half (46 percent) of the global hectareage of biotech crops were planted in developing countries, where 13 million small farmers benefitted.

"This strong adoption puts to rest the idea that biotech crops can only benefit larger farmers and industrialized countries," Huang said. "In fact, countries like China, with hundreds of millions of small farmers, have identified biotech crops as a key to self-sufficiency to make it less dependent on others for food, feed, and fiber."

During 2009 there was a noticeable

growth in appreciation for the essential role of agriculture by global society. In fact, the G8 recently approved US\$20 billion over three years "to help farmers in the poorest nations improve food production and help the poor feed themselves."

The late Norman Borlaug, founding patron of ISAAA and to whom this year's report is dedicated also recognized this need. He stated that, "what we need is courage by the leaders of those countries where farmers still have no choice but to use older and less effective methods. The Green Revolution and now plant biotechnology are helping meet the growing demand for food production, while preserving our environment for future generations."

Growth Drivers
Biotech rice and the drought tolerant trait have been identified as the two most important drivers globally for future biotech crop adoption. China's biosafety clearance of insect-resistant rice is likely to spur faster development of biotech rice and other biotech crops in other developing countries. Meanwhile drought tolerant maize is expected to be deployed in the United States in 2012 and sub-Saharan Africa in 2017.

Other key highlights marking the beginning of the second wave of growth in 2009 include the approval of SmartStax, a novel biotech maize containing eight different genes for insect and herbicide resistance and planting in the United States and Canada of the first Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans – the first product of a new class of technology that allows more efficient, precise gene insertion to directly impact yields.

ISAAA predicts future adoption increases will also come from: significant expansion of biotech soybean, maize, and cotton in Brazil; commercialization of Bt cotton in 2010 by Pakistan, the fourth-largest cotton growing country; expansion of Bt cotton in Burkina Faso with potential adoption of biotech cotton and/or maize in other African countries including Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, and Mali and; adoption of golden rice by the Philippines in 2012 and Bangladesh and India before 2015.

Other smaller hectareage crops are also expected to be approved by 2015, including potatoes with pest and/or disease resistance, sugarcane with quality and agronomic traits, and disease resistant bananas. Wheat remains the last major staple crop without approved biotech traits. However, political will for the crop is growing globally. China may be the first country to approve biotech wheat as early as 5 years from now. Traits such as disease resistance are well advanced while sprouting tolerance and enhanced quality traits are being field-tested.

Kenya is expected to commercialize biotech crops in about two years if on-going trials return positive result.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Overcoming Today's Challenges

The Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) is a short to medium term strategy which aims at jumpstarting the economy towards long-term growth and development. It was launched in August 2009 and is anchored as one of the strategies towards achieving Vision 2030. It seeks to address the many challenges facing the economy witnessed in the last three years. The economy has been hit by the prolonged period of drought, electoral violence, rise in oil and food prices and spillover effects of the global economic crisis. The economic growth which was placed at around 8 per cent in 2007 went down to almost 1 per cent by the end of 2008.

Under the package, the government is to spend Kshs22 billion in 210 constituencies in the country with the aim of injecting money into economy to stimulate consumption and employment creation.

The programme involves reviving irrigation schemes, construction of wholesale and fresh produce markets in 180, construction of Jua Kali sheds and purchase of equipment in 140 constituencies, construction of 20 fish ponds/constituency, construction of two primary schools in each constituency and the conversion of one secondary school in each constituency into a "centre of excellence", construction health centres and purchase of a mobile digital laboratory for secondary schools per constituency.

The stimulus programme has been tailored to cover all parts of the country in a bold step to address existing imbalances in regional development. The package focuses on sectors that will generate maximum benefit, restore confidence of Kenyans and assist the business community to weather the storm, while also protecting the livelihood of the poor and creating employment for the youths.

The implementation of the ESP is at the constituency level.

Key Objectives

- To boost the country's economic recovery and return the economy back to the growth projections.
- To invest in long term solutions to the challenges of food security
- To expand economic opportunities in rural areas for employment.
- To promote regional development for equity and social stability
- To improve infrastructure and the quality of education and healthcare for all Kenyans
- To invest in the conservation of environment
- To expand the access to, and build the ICT capacity of our people in order to expand and accelerate economic growth

ESP Structure and Operation

1. Ministry headquarters.

The programme is managed by the Ministry of Finance under a technical team chaired by the PS treasury. The team comprises of senior treasury officials.

Based on the laid out projects framework, the Ministry of Finance submits to treasury, work plans and projected expenditure for the Economic Stimulus Programme activities. The Treasury in turn authorizes payments based on the submitted work plans and monetary projection.

The ministry issues a specific Authority to Incur Expenditure (AIE) clearly marked "Economic Stimulus" to the relevant department in the District. The



While it has been widely thought that CDF was innovative and direct, the 2009/10 national budget unveiled yet another strategy - the economic stimulus programme (ESP). It is more sharp, has more money and is project specific. In this issue, FAITH MUIRURI gives us the overall summary of the programme.



A jua Kali artisans at work. PHOTO/FILE

AIE has to be accompanied by a cheque for the equivalent amount.

2. District Level

At the district level, a number of players are involved.

(a) AIE Holder.

These are District Heads of Department whose ministries are involved in the programme at the district level, i.e District Fisheries Officer, District Education Officer, District Health officer, etc. The AIE holder is to work in conjunction with the District Accountant.

(b) The District Accountant.

Is the Treasury representative and the custodian at the district level. The officer

- deposits the cheques received from Treasury into the Ministry's specific bank account.

- Ensures that payments for the Economic Stimulus meet the normal government regulations and are accompanied by minutes of the Stimulus Project Management Committee (SPMC).

- ensures payment is made within two days after receipt of the payment request. In the event that the District Accountant is unable to make the payment, he/she will send back the request for payment to the AIE holder within two days stating clearly and in writing the reasons for which he is unable to pay

within the stipulated time.

- ensures that each department implementing the "Economic Stimulus Projects," maintains an updated cash book.

- prepares a specific monthly expenditure return for the "Economic Stimulus AIE" for each department implementing the project and send a copy to Treasury by the last day of every month

All funds received under this programme are to be audited by the Controller and Auditor -General.

Implementation framework

With the exception of the activities under the Ministry of Education which will stick to existing framework, the implementation modalities for the Economic Stimulus activities will be as follows

(i) Constituency Development Fund Committee (CDFC)

The Constituency Development Fund Committee (CDFC) is to form a Stimulus Project Management Committee (SPMC) at the constituency level to monitor implementation of specific projects

The CDFC is to be responsible for providing oversight to the projects in their respective constituencies

(ii) Stimulus Project Management Committee (SPMC)

The SPMC is to be responsible for monitoring and implementation of projects and may appoint a sub project committee with the functions of monitoring on an ongoing basis.

Roles and Responsibilities of the SPMC

- Identify appropriate sites for projects in line with guidelines spelt out by the respective ministries

- Monitor implementation of specific projects

- Make recommendations for payments to the District Accountant, through the CDFC

- Make official impromptu visits to the projects sites

SPMC will comprise of the following

- The area Member of Parliament or their representative

- The District Commissioner

- The District Development Officer or their representative

- The District Public Works Officer or their representative

- The Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Constituency Development Fund Committee

- The District Accountant

- All District departmental heads under

From Page 14

whose docket the various projects fall.

- One person representing religious organizations in the constituency

- Two men representatives from the constituency

- Two women representatives from the constituency

- Two persons representing the youth from the constituency

- The Fund Account Manager may remain an ex-officio

Role of Member of Parliament

- The MP is to provide general leadership at the implementation phase

- Mobilize constituents to guarantee participation

- Provide guidance in setting up of the Stim-

Ministry	Activity
Education	Reconstruct (upgrade) 100 schools in each constituency Construct water harvesting facilities Reconstruct to upgrade 100 school level (Centres of Excellence) one secondary school in each constituency Recruit 50 primary school teachers per constituency under a contract at Kshs. 10,000/ per month Recruit 10 secondary school teachers per constituency under a contract at Kshs. 14,000/ per month Establish a Kshs. 60,000 mobile digital laboratory for 20 primary schools in each constituency.
Information & Communication	Purchase 1 mobile digital laboratory for secondary schools per constituency
Public Health & Sanitation	Construct 1 maternity, child health and plus admission office in 20 constituencies Recruit 20 nurses under a contract at Kshs. 13,000/ per month per constituency for preventive health delivery Purchase 5 motorcycles for health services for each constituency Purchase 20 bicycles for health workers Provide Medical Kits for health facilities
Fisheries & Aquaculture	Construct 200 fish ponds per constituency for fish farming at a cost of Kshs. 40,000
Trade & Industry	Construct a prototype fresh produce market and wholesale market in 10 constituencies
Industrialization	Construct 1 jua kali shed in each constituency Purchase welding and fabrication equipment for jua kali sheds in each constituency
Culture, Sports, Youth & Social Dev	Multi purpose regional development projects in Homa, Peki, Tana Delta, West Kano, Bunyala, Mwea, South West Kano.

Turn to Page 19

STIMULUS PROGRAMME

Challenges for a Better Kenya Tomorrow

Stimulus Project Management Committee

- Participate in the election of three members to the CPTC
- Approve and forward recommendations for contracts to be awarded to the respective Ministry's AIE holder.

Chairman and Secretary

The members of the SPMC elects a chairperson and a secretary from among themselves

Sub Committees

The SPMC may form sub project committees to follow up on implementation of various projects. A sub project committee consists of at least 6 members

Quorum

A quorum for any meeting of the SPMC is to

comprise of not less than half of the total members and the same is to apply for the quorum of sub committees

Projects

Respective Members of Parliament are to present a list of proposed projects at Stimulus Project Monitoring Committee meeting convened for that purpose. The list must be approved by the CDFC which then transfers it to Treasury

Leadership

The departmental head of the relevant Ministry in each Constituency will oversee the implementation of projects under his/her docket and must keep and maintain records of disbursements of funds and progress of the projects funded under this programme.



Fresh Water Melon being off-loaded from a lorry for sale. PHOTO/FILE

	Cost per Unit (Kshs/000,000)	No of Units per constituency	Constituency coverage	Total Cost (Kshs/000,000)
Two primary schools per constituency – with 100 pupils each	7	1	210	1,470.0
One National Centre for Excellence (NCE) per constituency	30	1	200	6,000.0
One primary school teacher per constituency (3 year contract)	0.12	50	210	1,260.0
One primary school teacher per constituency (3 year contract) per month	0.168	10	210	352.8
One primary school teacher per constituency (free fund)	1.2	1	210	252.0
One laboratory per constituency	6	1	210	1,260.0
One children ward per constituency	20	1	200	4,000.0
One health centre per constituency (3 year contract)	0.156	20	210	655.2
One health centre per constituency (preventive)	0.08	5	210	84.0
One health centre per constituency (community)	0.003	20	210	12.6
One health centre per constituency (all health)	5	1	200	1,000.0
One health centre per constituency (in 140 constituencies)	0.04	200	140	1,120.0
One health centre per constituency (fish produce)	10	1	180	1,800.0
One health centre per constituency (in each)	2.5	1	210	525.0
One health centre per constituency (mobilisation)	1	1	210	210.0
One health centre per constituency (development with)	2000	1	1	2,000.0
ESP TOTAL				22,001.60

Procurement

All works and services relating to projects under this programme are to be sourced using existing Government Procurement Regulations.

Role of CDF Account Manager

- Ensuring compliance with the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, 2006 and subsequent amendments, 2009 alongside all written directions from the Public Procurement Oversight Authority.
- Coordinating the establishment of a Constituency Project Tender Committee (CPTC)
- Ensuring the CPTC maintains proper records on procurement proceedings
- Establishing and appointing an evaluation committee to oversee technical and financial evaluation of the tenders or proposals.

Composition of Constituency Project Tender Committee

The committee is to comprise of the following:

- A Chairman who will be appointed by the CDF account manager among members of the CDF
- Deputy chairman who besides being appointed by the CDF manager is to oversee finances

Membership

The committee is to draw its membership from three nominees of CDFC, District Accountant, District Development Officer (DDO), District Works officer (DWO) and the respective departmental officer from the implementing ministry.

The District Procurement Officer is to serve as the Secretary.

A Tender Evaluation Committee

The committee comprises of a chairman, a representative from the implementing ministry and at least two other members. However individuals serving in the CPTC does not qualify to sit in the committee.

The tender evaluation committee will comprise of either the following:

- A separate financial evaluation committee and a separate technical evaluation committee
- A combined financial and technical evaluation committee

Submission and receipt of tender documents

Every procurement entity is expected to adhere to the Public procurement and disposal regulations 2006 and ensure that every receipt of tender is signed in duplicate and the original is kept in file.

A technical evaluation committee if separately established will be responsible for:

- (a) Technical evaluation of tenders received in strict adherence to compliance and evaluation criteria set out in tender documents
- (b) Performing evaluation with all due diligence and within thirty days after opening of the tenders.

Responsibilities of the Tender Evaluation Committee

The committee is to come up with a report analyzing tenders received and submit final ratings to the tender committee. The report must include:

- Minutes that reflect the opening of the tender
- Findings of the preliminary evaluation detailing why any tenders were rejected
- A summary of strengths and weaknesses for each tender or proposal

- A recommendation to award the tender to the lowest bidder.

Overall programme reporting

AIE holders who are also the members of the Stimulus Programme Management Committee have been mandated to compile project reports and submit them to the Accounting Officer in their respective ministries by the third week of every month to pave way for formulation of a national report at the end of the implementation period.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Every Ministry is to form project monitoring and evaluation committee at the National and District levels as a way of enhancing transparency in the use of funds.

