

IN THE DOCK | He denies two counts of obtaining money by pretences and conspiracy to defraud

Sonko sent back to police custody

Prosecutor tells court Makadara MP has a history of jumping bail and opposes application

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Makadara MP Gidion Kioko Mbuvi alias Sonko will remain in custody until Friday, a court ruled yesterday.

Kibera chief magistrate Cecilia Githua remanded Mr Mbuvi at Kileleshwa Police Station following an application by the State.

Represented by four lawyers led by Paul Muite and Cecil Miller, the accused denied two fresh counts of obtaining money by pretences and conspiracy to defraud.

In the first count, he was charged with obtaining Sh500,000 from Ms Eunice Chepchumba Kogo pretending to sell her a car. He allegedly committed the offence in Mombasa on November 24, 2009.

In the second count, Mr Mbuvi denied conspiring to defraud Mr Chirag Sanghrajka of Sh2.8 million pretending that a land parcel in Kwale was genuine and valid for sale.

The court heard that he committed the offence at Tile Carpet Centre on Mombasa Road, Nairobi, on August 16, 2006.

Mr Muite and Mr Miller applied for their client to be freed on bail.

The lawyers argued that the MP has a right to be admitted to bail unless there are compelling reasons.

Mr Muite said their client might lose his parliamentary seat if he misses



THE ALLEGATIONS

He faces Sh18.1m blankets fraud

Mr Mbuvi together with others not in court, were accused of obtaining blankets and fabrics from Mr Pravin Misra on May 9, 2000 at Ngara in Nairobi using a forged local purchase order allegedly issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Heritage and Sports.

He was also charged with knowingly and fraudulently uttering to Mr Pravin Misra three forged purchase orders at Testilose (EA) Company.

A third count stated that between May 9 and June 22, 2000, Mr Mbuvi, together with others not in court, obtained 36,530 blankets and 6,200 metres of fabric, all valued at Sh18.1 million by fraudulently presenting three forged purchase orders, claiming they were genuine and issued by the ministry.

Makadara MP Gidion Kioko Mbuvi at the Kibera Law Courts yesterday. Mr Mbuvi had been charged with various offences, ranging from fraud and impersonation. He was denied bond and the court ruled that he be held in police custody for three days. HEZRON NJORGE | NATION

eight sittings. "I urge the court to consider bail application. The court is not a holding ground for prosecution. They should complete investigations before bringing the accused to court," Mr Muite argued.

But the prosecutor, chief inspector Joseph Musyoka, objected to the bail application.

He said: "The accused had another case whereby he had been arrested and released on bond on April 30, 2008. He was to appear for plea hearing on May 5, 2008.

"He never appeared and a warrant of arrest against him was issued on the same day."

Mr Musyoka told the court that if released on bond he might jump bail again.

The prosecutor added that the accused has another warrant of arrest, which is pending before the Nairobi chief magistrate's court whereby he is yet to take a plea with regard to obtaining Sh13 million from Roehr Hans Joakim, a German.

In her ruling, the magistrate allowed the prosecutor's prayers and remanded the MP for three days.

Mr Mbuvi was brought to court under tight security and locked in court cells some minutes before 8am. His supporters later jammed the court precincts. They packed at Court No.1, making it difficult for the magistrate to take the plea.

Court orderlies then arranged for the plea to be taken from Court No. 2.

They later blocked the gate, but were forcibly removed before Mr Mbuvi was whisked away by police.

Cherangany MP Joshua Kutuny and his Embakasi counterpart Ferdinand Waititu were in court to hear the case.

Mr Mbuvi's arrest came after a report by the CID on his alleged activities was handed over to Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere.

The dossier revealed that the MP has been involved in various criminal activities, but was being protected by senior police officers.

BRIEFLY

NAIROBI

Crack down on illicit brews, chiefs ordered

Chiefs and their assistants have been ordered to step up the crackdown on illicit brews. Speaking yesterday during a seminar for DOs, chiefs, their assistants and police officers on the new Alcohol Drinks Control Act, Makadara DO Suleiman Chege said the new law must be implemented to the letter. The one-day seminar was held at the Probation Social Hall in Nairobi's Makadara estate. It was organised by the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Authority (Nacada).

NAIROBI

Publisher unveils new dictionary

Oxford University Press will today launch the 8th edition of *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. The latest edition of the dictionary first published in 1948 includes 1,000 new words. It also has a 64-page visual vocabulary builder, collocation boxes and other features to assist learners build their vocabulary, writing, pronunciation and general knowledge. Education Permanent Secretary James ole Kiyapi will be the chief guest at the event to be held at Nairobi School.

NAIROBI

Supreme Court should have 3 foreigners: Karua



Three out of the seven people appointed to the Supreme Court in the new judicial order should be non-Kenyans at its establishment, Gichugu MP Martha Karua has proposed. Ms Karua, who was addressing the national convention on the implementation of the new constitution, told participants that such an arrangement would instil confidence in the superior court. Part 2 of Chapter 10 in the new constitution establishes the Supreme Court which shall consist of the Chief Justice as its president, deputy chief justice and five other judges.

KAKAMEGA

Jiggers menace keeps children out of school

Hundreds of children in Kakamega have dropped out of school because they are infested with jiggers. District Medical officer of health Joram Sunguti said the worst hit were homes in Malinya and Shivagala in Ikolomani constituency. "The situation is pretty bad since children and the elderly in nearly 400 households have been ravaged by jiggers," said Dr Sunguti, adding that Sh450,000 was required to buy chemicals and mobilise teams to provide treatment.

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Act now on Lake Naivasha or watch it dry up, says PM

Lake Naivasha risks drying up if urgent solutions are not found.

Prime Minister Raila Odinga told a meeting of ministers and other people involved in efforts to conserve the lake in his office yesterday that water levels in the lake had fallen by four metres in the recent past and that riparian life was disappearing at an alarming rate.

The lake is also heavily polluted.

Mr Odinga said international organisations, including the World Bank and the UK's Cambridge University, have expressed interest in helping with conservation efforts on the lake.

Britain's Prince Charles has also offered to assist in the restoration of the lake.

Prince Charles recently sent a team of experts to assess the situation and suggest possible ways in which he could help restore and conserve the lake.

Mr Odinga said the prince's

initiative would complement local efforts.

He tasked the team to urgently come up with a programme to address the challenges that the lake is facing.

Conservation measures, said the PM, should target degradation of forests in the areas around the lake, human-wildlife conflict, pollution, and the mushrooming of commercial activities and

population explosion in Naivasha Town.

"We should especially address the rapid increase of population in the town which has risen from 40,000 to 500,000 in a decade without a corresponding increase in services," he said.

The population increase had particularly affected the drainage and sewage system in the town with raw sewage being discharged into the lake.

The PM said conservation efforts must be extended to the flower farms, adding inefficient irrigation on the farms had compromised environmental standards.

Prof Hiroyuki Hino, an economic expert, said solutions to the problem include afforestation of catchments, reclamation of the riparian land, and re-designing Naivasha town and its vicinity to provide basic facilities and infrastructure.

KEY FACTS

Freshwater attractions

Where: A freshwater lake situated outside Naivasha Town, north west of Nairobi. It is part of the Great Rift Valley.

Attraction: Boat trips, different species of birds, hippos and floriculture.

Reported by PMPs