

It could be nothing but pure coincidence. Or it could be, for stars, figure 9 is jinxed

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After House's rejection of Cecil Miller, is back to the drawing board, says arm of MPs charged with selecting chairman of new electoral commission. **BACK PAGE**



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Under diplomatic pressure, Cabinet struggles to find joint stand on executions

By NATION Team

The government came under diplomatic pressure yesterday not to reject the report of a United Nations official condemning police executions.

But the government response was disjointed, if more moderate, pointing up the confusion and lack of consultation at senior levels of the Grand Coalition.

Ambassadors representing 13 of Kenya's most important partners, among them the United States of America and the United Kingdom, asked the government not to reject out of hand the report of the Special Rapporteur on human rights, Prof Philip Alston.

Executing suspects

"We are deeply concerned by Prof Alston's findings and urge the Kenyan government to urgently consider what action it will take on his recommendations. These should not simply be dismissed," said a joint statement read by the Netherlands' Laetitia van den Assum at a press conference in Nairobi.

Prof Alston, in his preliminary report, accused the police of executing suspects and asked for the sacking of the commissioner of police, Maj-Gen Hussein Ali and the resignation of Attorney-General Amos Wako, whom he termed the "embodiment of the phenomenon of impunity" in Kenya.

The envoys declined to comment on those recommendations, with UK High Commissioner Robert Macaire saying: "It is not up to us to comment on who the government should appoint to be its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Nairobi City Council askaris restrain a city councillor who was in a group that attempted to evict the town clerk, Mr John Gakuo, from his office yesterday.

Several people were injured after a fight broke out among rival councillors. > Story and another picture on Page 6 Photo/PETERSON GITHAIGA

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Mixed fortunes for
Kenyans at Open

Mixed fortunes for Allan Cooper and Gilbert Kibet at the Kenya Open tennis quarter-final matches. Cooper sees off Francis Rogoi as Kibet is felled by Duncan Mugabe. Page 66

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Full house at national
team's training camp

Only two athletes yet to report to the national cross country team's training camp in Embu as preparations for the World Cross Country Championships stepped up. Page 67

SOCCER

FKL sure Oliech will
be in team for big tie

Football Kenya Limited secretary Sam Obingo says Dennis Oliech will be in the Harambee Stars team for the World Cup qualifier. Page 72

Daily Nation - Friday



ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Polls boss job up for grabs again

Chairman's post to be readvertised and two other members to be replaced

By OLIVER MATHENGE

The job of the chairman of the interim electoral commission will be re-advertised, an MPs' team charged with filling the position has said.

The Parliamentary Select Committee on constitutional review yesterday said it had arrived at the decision after members disagreed on replacing city lawyer Cecil Miller.

ODM and PNU legislators continued to fight over who should control the next elections resulting in a disagreement on who will chair the nine-member Interim Independent Electoral Commission.

Reject inclusion

Yesterday's meeting also resolved to replace two other IIEC members some MPs were opposed to.

According to insiders, the feeling at the five-hour meeting was that Mr Miller be asked to voluntarily step down since Parliament was likely to reject his inclusion again if selected.

A first attempt to have the House approve the nine-member interim body last Thursday flopped after MPs voted evenly



for and against the list. Six of the 27-member PSC voted against the list which chairman Abdikadir Mohammed had said was made after consensus.

The decision to re-advertise came a day after Prime Minister Raila Odinga suggested that the team looks beyond the borders in the search for the IIEC chairman. The PM said a foreigner would break partisan interests that have led to the stalemate. However, the PSC did not discuss the suggestion, according to vice-chair Ababu Namwamba.

Public Service assistant minister Aden Sugow said the delay in picking the can-

didate should not be ground to give outsiders the sensitive job of presiding over electoral reforms in the country. "The main task of the interim electoral commission will be to implement various reforms. We cannot give this task to an outsider and I don't think we can fail to get a local to lead the process," he said. While Mr Miller was slated to chair the team, Mr Suleiman Buko (Coast), Mr Charles Masinde (Western), Ms Tiyah Galgalo (Eastern), Ms Hamara Ibrahim Adan (North Eastern), Mr Kenneth Nyaundi (Nyanza), Dr Yusuf Nziho (Nairobi), Ms Winfred Waceke Guchu (Central) and Mr Davis Chirchir (Rift Valley) had been nominated to be members of the IIEC.

Replace two members
In rejecting the initial list last Thursday, MPs argued that Mr Miller had acted for assistant minister Danson Mungatana in a poll petition last year. Mr Mungatana is the Garsen MP and a member of the PSC. Other front runners for the job included former Speaker Francis Ole Kaparo and former Institute for Education in Democracy executive director Koki Muli. The MPs also questioned the nomination of Mr Buko to the IIEC yet he had served as a deputy returning officer for Garsen constituency whose poll results were later contested in a petition. Some MPs also claimed that Mr Masinde was the secretary general of New Ford Kenya. Mr Mohammed said the committee decided to replace the two members and re-advertise the chairman's post. PSC had met for a second time this week to review concerns raised by Parliament.

Parliamentary Select Committee chairman Abdikadir Mohammed and vice chairman Ababu Namwamba, address the press outside County Hall yesterday. The committee resolved to re-advertise the job. Photo/HEZRON NJOROGE

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