

Coast has too many squatters, MPs say

By Self Abdallah

A CROSS-SECTION of Coast Members of Parliament have complained that the region is leading with the highest number of squatters in the country.

At the same time the leaders vowed to propagate for the inclusion of a majimbo system of Government in the new constitution.

Speaking during a funds drive meeting presided over by the Deputy Prime Minister Musalia Mudavadi in aid of women group in Dabaso village, Watamu, in Malindi district and, the MPs said that many land holders in the region come from upcountry, thus leaving the local people in the province to remain squatters.

Led by the Coast Parliamentary Group Chairman, Benedict Gunda, the legislators urged the government to intervene and resolve the persistent squatter problem in the region to enable squatters own land to reduce poverty. They claimed that land allocations in the area were given to undeserving allottees and they demanded immediate nullification of the same.

They further said that the squatter problem in the province was a pressing matter that needed urgent resolution.

At the same time, the legislators said the squatter problem had been perpetuated by absent landlords who own huge chunks of land on which many squatters had already settled.

Sh300m CDF money stolen, report claims

By James Mbaka

A NEW report by the National Taxpayers Association (NTA) released yesterday shows over Sh300 million disbursed to constituencies has been stolen.

Speaking during the public launch of the audit report that sampled 23 constituencies, NTA National Coordinator Michael Otieno Oloo said the Sh136.4 million out of Sh1.2 billion allocated to 210 constituencies could not be accounted for. Sh170 million has been poorly utilised.

"We are looking at figures for 2006/7, significantly with an increase in the number of constituencies, we will have a much bigger loss; we are talking about half a billion shillings that is lost annually from CDF," said Oloo. The report also looked at the disbursement and usage of the Local Authorities Transfer Funds (LATF), and established that out of seven councils investigated Sh99.3 million was unaccounted for while Sh1.8 million was wasted. Another Sh45 million was poorly utilised in the same period.

The audit that was conducted between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 has asked all Members of Parliament and local authorities to finish incomplete projects and reduce by 100 per cent those built in a hodge manner.

The union has called for the review of CDF Act to allow constituents more ownership in the management of the fund.



Prime Minister Raila Odinga (left) cuts the tape to officially open Molo bridge in Keiyo South yesterday. Looking on is Roads Minister Franklin Bett. PHOTO/ PMPs

Kalonzo asks church leaders to step up war against graft

By VPPS

VICE President Kalonzo Musyoka has asked church and political leaders to show their seriousness in the fight against corruption and promote the culture of ethical business.

Kalonzo expressed concern that corruption was not only taking root in some Government departments but also among religious groups that were expected to provide moral leadership to society.

He asked the civil society to take up the lead in advocating against corruption, saying it was the best way to end the culture of corruption and impunity in the country.

The Vice President asked church leaders to change their ways of handling issues before speaking for society. "Religious leaders just like the politicians should admit that they have let down Kenyans in advocating for



Kalonzo

justice and democracy and should change their ways before speaking for the society," he said.

Speaking during a prayer breakfast organised by the Bible Society of Kenya at the Serena Hotel on "raising leaders of integrity", the Vice President said it was dis-

I won't seek poll body post, Miller declares

By John Osoro

CITY lawyer Cecil Miller has disqualified himself from the second round of nomination to the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) after his team was earlier rejected by Parliament.

Miller in press statement copied to media houses said he will not offer his name for selection when the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) on Constitution Review meets this morning to begin afresh the exercise of nominating members to IIEC.

"I have not submitted an application for the re-advertised position of the IIEC. Indeed I humbly request PSC not to even consider my previous application," said Miller in a statement.

He said his name should not be used as stumbling block to electoral reforms while the committee meets to pick the chairman this morning. "I have made this decision since I do not want my name to be used as stumbling block to electoral reform process," he said.

The committee has far received fifteen applicants as opposed to seven who participated in the previous nomination.

Miller did not submit the application seeking appointment to the electoral body, but wished the committee to consider the names of individuals who had applied for the top position.

The PSC, chaired by Mandera Central MP Abdikadir Mohammed,

re-advertised the post after acrimony met the nomination of Miller. PSC also disqualified two other nominees, Suleiman Yesse Buko of Coast and Charles Masinde of Western.

"We have dropped Miller and the other commissioners so we can move forward. We are going to re-advertise the position of chairman," said Mohamed in a past interview.

Various allegations levelled against some nominees for IIEC jobs were discussed, forcing the committee to agree on the amendment of the list that Parliament rejected.

Matters touching on domestic violence, conflict of interests, debts, and corruption-related issues involving some nominees were also tabled. PNU's attempts to stick with Miller failed.

The proposal to have former executive director of Institute for Education in Democracy did not impress the PNU side. Former National Assembly Speaker Francis ole Kaparo, former Kenya National Commission on Human Rights chairman Maina Kiai, former lawyer Alice Yano, Fackson Kagwe and Maina Wachira were among those shortlisted for the top post.

The committee settled on Douglas J Mwashigadi from Taveta District as the Coast nominee after PSC members re-evaluated the interview results.

Members also endorsed former ambassador to the US, Yusuf Nziro (Nairobi), Tiya Galgalo (Eastern),

Nakuru IDPs compensated

By James Kutai And Kennedy Blegon

THE last batch of Internally Displaced Persons have each been paid Sh25,000 to help them construct shelters at a farm they jointly bought in Nakuru's pipeline estate. The exercise that started last Friday has seen 941 persons who were affected by the post-election skirmishes paid the cash at the Nakuru DC's office.

The 941 IDPs previously residing at the Nakuru Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) grounds teamed up and established a cooperative society that acquired the land where they have settled.

The group was first paid Sh10,000 in the first phase that ended last year following rigorous vetting by the Provincial Administration officials.

But a senior officer at the offices maintained that no funds had been set aside for integrated IDPs. She said the matter was still being discussed by the Treasury.

Early this year, over 800 IDPs who had set camp outside the District Commissioner's offices were evicted by anti-riot police after they defied quit orders.