

**TODAY** IN YOUR NAIROBI STAR

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ZARINA PATEL - FIGHTER FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS, JUSTICE — Page 21

**TOMORROW**  
LOOK FORWARD TO...



**FAMILY LAW**

**INTERVIEWS FOR IIEC TOP JOB START TODAY**

BY ISAAC ONGIRI

CANDIDATES eyeing the chair of the Interim Independent Electoral Commission will be vetted during marathon interviews this morning.

Parliamentary Select Committee chairman on constitutional review Abdikadir Mohamed said yesterday national interests and professionalism will be key in picking the man or woman to head the electoral agency.

The PSC boss said delays in establishing an electoral body was a recipe for disaster and promised his team will conclude the selection without delay.

Panelists will start interviews at 9.30am, adding that the exercise could be extended to tomorrow.

"We are going to be very keen, there will be no hurry in interviewing, because we want a final but an acceptable process today," Abdikadir said. He refused to release details of the six



**NO HURRY:** Abdikadir says interviewers will be very keen.

the process to give the agency a strong and competent leader. In the last process, PSC members joined MPs in shooting down their own report from the floor of Parliament even after voting for the same at the recruitment panel.

The new IIEC boss will take over the country's electoral reforms process together with overseeing an anticipated referendum on the constitution which is expected within 20 months and also oversee fresh registration of voters.

Several lawyers applied for the re-advertised job of chairman after MPs rejected lawyer Cecil Miller.

Among the top candidates for the race are former National Assembly speaker Francis ole Kaparo and former Executive Director of Institute of Education in Democracy Koki Muli.

But Abdikadir said, the committee will decide today, whether those interviewed previously will also take a repeat interview today.

new candidates to be interviewed.

"Everything will be done on the table, I am not going to speak about the details of

who is who until after the process is satisfactorily concluded," he said.

Abdikadir also urged PSC members to participate in

**Touts and Mungiki clash**

BY ISAAC ONGIRI

BUSINESS came to a standstill in Ongata Rongai after matatu touts clashed with youth believed to be members of the outlawed Mungiki sect over the management of matatu terminal.

Bonfires were lit on Magadi Road with matatus keeping off the route

as the two groups fought at the Rongai trading centre and Maasai Lodge junction.

Ngong' police chief Hamisi Mabeya confirmed the incident that kept the always bustling town into a chaotic zone with businesses forced to close.

"The touts were demonstrating to protest harassment by a group of

youth demanding money from them here, but we have taken control now," Mabeya said.

Mabeya warned illegal gangs to stay out of Ngong area and warned police will not tolerate lawlessness.

However, the police did not arrest any suspect though investigations have been launched.

**Karua says CJ to blame for judiciary rot**

FROM PAGE 1

She accused the Judicial Service Commission, which is chaired by Gicheru, of presenting to President Kibaki incompetent persons to be appointed judges.

"Indeed, over the last three weeks, information that a certain Cabinet Minister was working for a person from his village to be appointed judge was brought to my attention," said Karua.

She accused the commission of turning a "blind eye" to reforms which had been suggested by her ministry and the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) which would have returned professionalism in the judiciary.

"The Chief Justice and the Judicial Service Commission ignored the proposal and continue with business as usual," said Karua.

Karua lashed out at Gicheru for blaming her ministry for the cancellation of a swearing in ceremony of three judges in 2006. An arranged swearing-in of Chief Magistrate Aggrey Muchemile and Florence Muchemi together with lawyer Abida Ali Aroni was cancelled as they waited at State House with Gicheru who had escorted them there.

"The President is not a rubber stamp. He has the constitutional mandate to ensure that those who are appointed to office are suitable," said Karua yesterday. She said Kenyans had lost faith in the judiciary.

"The Judiciary needs to hear the voice of the people loud and clear. The people have lost faith in this institution and cannot wait any longer," stated Karua.

Karua claimed that the rule of law was in jeopardy

and the government and Kenyans would not stand and watch.

"The Judiciary must get down to work and make changes now. If it does not the people shall," she added noting that judicial reforms were a necessity and not a choice.

Karua said questioning how the judiciary was being run was within her mandate and dismissed the CJ's comments that she was interfering with the work of judges.

Karua also revealed that State House was about to finalise a formal response to a petition to President Kibaki by LSK in which the society wanted him to name a tribunal to establish the CJ's suitability to remain in office.

"I know that it is just a matter of just a short time and the LSK will get the response," said Karua.

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