

RESOLVING ROW

Migingo survey to cost Sh140m

Kenya and Uganda agree to jointly raise funds for the work set to start soon

By SAMWEL KUMBA
and BENJAMIN MUINDI

Ascertaining whether Migingo Island is part of Kenya or Uganda will cost nearly Sh140 million, the *Nation* has learnt. The money is required to speed up a survey that will be conducted by the two countries to diplomatically sort out an issue that is seemingly getting out of hand if left to politicians to handle.

Internal Security permanent secretary Francis Kimemia said the survey, which would start soon, is expected to take about two months to complete.

But the Institution of Surveyors of Kenya chairman Mwenda Makathimo said the coordinates for the boundary of Kenya were already recorded and in

dispute. The survey can be done within the normal routine duties of the Lands ministry, he added. He said that with the Sh140 million, a marine survey of the entire Lake Victoria can be done.

"Otherwise using satellite technology, it will not take even 30 seconds to locate the necessary points," Mr Makathimo said.

In the meantime, Uganda will control and police the island, spokesmen for the two States said.

The PS said the two countries agreed to jointly raise the money. The Kenyan Gov-

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Time in seconds that will be taken to locate points, according to an expert

ernment has already secured the whole amount from its secondary budget "just in case its Ugandan counterpart does not provide its share" on time.

"On Monday a team from Uganda will visit to meet the Kenyan team and together they will draw a work plan for the surveyors," Mr Kimemia said.

The PS spoke after launching the ministry's third quarter performance contract review and mid-term review of the rapid results initiative in Nairobi.

At a joint press conference held by the spokesmen of the two States in Nairobi, it emerged that the Ugandan police officers were given the mandate to provide secu-



Mr Fred Opolot, the head of the Uganda Media Centre, speaks at a joint press briefing with Government spokesman Alfred Mutua in Nairobi yesterday. The two said the Migingo Island dispute would be resolved amicably. Photo/ WILLIAM OERI

rity on the island as an interim measure at a meeting with Kenya's police commissioner Hussein Ali early this month.

"The government of Uganda has not deployed, and does not intend to deploy military personnel on the Migingo Island," said Mr Fred Opolot, the government communications officer.

"None of us is saying the island belongs to Uganda or Kenya because the survey team is currently doing a comprehensive review," said Kenya Government spokesman Alfred Mutua. The two moved to assure the public that both states were committed to resolving the row.

House team adopts report on new polls body

By NATION Correspondent

A parliamentary committee has adopted a report, which may finally seal the electoral vacuum that has faced the country over the last four months.

The report by the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Constitutional Review asks Parliament to adopt the proposed Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) and pass it to President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga for appointment.

According to PSC vice-chairman Ababu Namwamba, all the nine IIEC commissioners were selected through consensus and the committee was hoping that Parliament would adopt it fully.

The Budalangi MP noted that the report would be tabled in the House immediately Parliament reconvenes next week.

"We believe Parliament will adopt the report to enable us to put in place the IIEC so that we can move forward with this process," Mr Namwamba said.

If endorsed by Parliament, 39-year-old city lawyer Issack Hassan will spearhead electoral reforms in the country. The eight proposed IIEC commissioners are Tiyah Galgalo (Eastern), Hamara Adan (North Eastern), Kenneth Nyaundi (Nyanza), Yusuf Nzibo (Nairobi), Winfred Guchu (Central), Davis Chirchir (Rift Valley), Douglas Mwashigadi (Coast) and Abiud Wekesa (Western).

An attempt to constitute the electoral body failed last February when the nomination of lawyer Cecil Miller was rejected.

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Open day Invitation

Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) invites the public and stakeholders to the IRA Open Day in Mombasa from 17th to 18th April 2009 at Aga Khan Sports Centre.

The open day will be marked by an exhibition of insurance companies and other industry players like the Association of Kenya Insurers (AKI), Association of Insurance Brokers of Kenya (AIBK), Insurance Institute of Kenya (IIK) and College of Insurance among others.

IRA has organized the open forum so that the industry players have an opportunity to engage and interact with the public so as to enhance awareness of insurance and insurance products.

Entry is free!

IRA.....Bima Bora Kwa Taifa

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Audiences full of praise for Kenyan film makers

By NATION Correspondent

Three Kenyan directors earned acclaim from audiences at an annual African Film Festival in New York this week.

The Kenyan film makers - all women - accounted for four of the 36 documentaries and features screened at Lincoln Center, Manhattan's premier cultural venue.

The New York event offers opportunities for Kenyan directors to network with other African film makers and talk to potential distributors, says Ms Judy Kibinge who entered two films: *Killer Necklace*, a fictional treatment of a young man's life in a Kenyan slum, and *Coming of Age*, a short documentary depicting the country's post-colonial political history.

For free

Ms Kibinge, a 42-year-old former advertising executive, is seeking outlets for *Coming of Age*, a 12-minute film which dispassionately examines issues of democracy. The film is yet to be widely shown in Kenya even though she offered it to TV networks for free.

Ms Lupita Nyong'o, 26, was greeted with sustained applause following the screening on Tuesday of her full-length documentary about the lives of Kenyans with albinism. *In the Genes* is intended, Ms Nyong'o says, as "a celebration of hu-

manity, of difference" rather than a lament for the discrimination experienced by Kenyans with the condition.

The film is being distributed in the US by Third World Newsreel. In Kenya, Ms Nyong'o plans to rely on NGOs such as the Albinism Society of Kenya in arranging showings around the country.

"There's no real distribution industry in Kenya," Ms Nyong'o said.

One of the festival's big hits was *From a Whisper*, a film set during the run-up to the 1998 US embassy bombing in Nairobi. The film was shown in New York soon after it won five awards, including Best Picture, at the African Movie Academy Awards in Nigeria.

Ms Wanuri Kahiu, the film's 27-year-old director, was not on hand following a screening on Tuesday, but audience members praised the film in a session with its art director, Kay Tuckerman.

The film 'Coming of Age' is yet to be widely shown in Kenya even though she has offered it to TV networks for free

Attacks on priests probed

By BERNARD KWALIA

Police in Bungoma are investigating two separate incidents in which Catholic priests were attacked and robbed in Kimwanga and Kibabii.

A 10-man armed gang reportedly stormed Kimwanga Catholic Church in Bungoma Division at 1.30am and tied up two security guards and then headed to the father's house where they stole his car, cash and a mobile phone.

Using the priest's car, they drove to Kibabii Catholic Church and broke into the priest's house. They hit Father David Etyang on the head using a blunt object and made away with Sh30,000, two laptops, two mobile phones and a digital camera.

They then dumped the car in a nearby thicket and fled. Father Etyang was taken to St Damiano Medical Centre, where he is in a critical condition.

Bungoma deputy head of police George Kingi said that the same gang could be responsible for recent attacks in Kimilili, where a gang attacked a Catholic priest of St Luke's parish.

No arrests have been made so far, although the Criminal Investigations Department has taken up the matter.