

USIU student had drugs in bag, court told

A court was yesterday told that a United States International University student was arrested at a city restaurant as she delivered a bag containing narcotic drugs.

Laura Gatwiri was nabbed by anti-narcotics agents during an undercover operation at the Nandos restaurant on Moi Avenue shortly after the police intercepted a text message from her mother instructing her to dispose the drugs, a detective told the court.

Gatwiri and her mother Monica Kanga are on trial over Sh412,800 worth of hashish allegedly found in the bag and at their residence in Kileleshwa on February 15.

4 gangsters shoot dead a businessman

FOUR gangsters raided Gatukuyu Shopping Centre and shot dead a local businessman after robbing several people an unknown amount of money and valuables.

According to administration police inspector Doreen Gitonga, the thugs armed with AK47 rifles and a pistol, invaded Popular Bar at around 8pm and ordered patrons to lie down before robbing them.

She said the criminals then went to a Kenol petrol station, where they robbed an attendant Sh9,400 and a mobile phone. The inspector and the public raised an alarm attracting APs from the nearby police post.



FRESH TEAM: Chairman of Parliamentary Select Committee on constitutional review Mohamed Abdikadir

ABDIKADIR TABLES NAMES OF POLL TEAM

BY FRANCIS MUREITHI

THE Parliamentary Select Committee on constitution review yesterday tabled in Parliament a fresh list of the nine people nominated as members of the Interim Independent Electoral Commission.

The names include chairman Ahmed Issack Hassan Hussein to replace Cecil Miller, who was rejected by Parliament in February.

The post of the chair had to be re-advertised after MPs queried the competence and suitability of Miller as the IIEC chair.

New names in the list also included nominee for Coast province Douglas Mwashigadi, who replaced rejected Suleiman Buko and Western nominee Simiyu Abiad Wasike to replace Charles Masinde.

The commissioners, whose names were retained are Kenneth Nyaundi (Nyanza), Davis Churchir (Rift Valley), Tiyah Galgalo (Eastern), Hamara Ibrahim (North Eastern), Winifred Waceke (Central) and Yusuf Nzibo for Nairobi.

It is now upon Parliament to endorse or reject the names of the IIEC com-

missioners tabled by PSC chairman and Mandera Central MP Mohamed Abdikadir.

The names are expected to be debated and possibly adopted tomorrow, after which they will be presented to President Kibaki for ratification.

While opening the third session of the 10th Parliament on Tuesday, the President cited establishment of the IIEC as the first task for the House.

The IIEC will replace the disbanded ECK which bungled the December 2007 elections. The IIEC shall be

responsible for the reform of Kenya's electoral process.

The new team will establish an efficient and effective secretariat and conduct fresh registration of voters, as well as the creation of a new voters' register.

The establishment of the new electoral body was the key recommendation by the Krieglger Commission.

Parliament sealed the fate of the ECK last year by voting for the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill 2008 that sought to replace it with an Interim Independent Electoral Commission.

Deep West employees charged for stealing

BY VINCENT AGOYA

AN employee of the Deep West Resort in Lang'ata was yesterday charged with theft of electronic goods and property worth Sh2 million.

Daniel Gitonga along with others not in court had allegedly been instructed by Joyce Akinyi to ferry the goods away on April 8 after Paul Muchina, who had been leased the restaurant by Akinyi's estranged husband, Antony Chinedu obtained a court order barring Akinyi from the premises.

Akinyi and Chinedu have had a protracted battle over the ownership of the restaurant.

Gitonga denied stealing six colour TV sets, four car wash jets, one DSTV decoder, a refrigerator and assorted alcoholic drinks.

He also denied an alternative charge of handling stolen property. The prosecution said he was found with a Sony TV set belonging to Muchina at his residence in Embakasi on April 16.

Kibera magistrate Cosmas Maundu released the accused on a bond of Sh50,000 pending hearing on April 8.

He also directed the police to give copies of witnesses statements to Gitonga to help him prepare his defence.

Prime minister Raila claims government leadership

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widely as possible. This is a plea I am making. Kenya is crying for leadership," a distressed Marende pleaded as he adjourned Parliament until today afternoon.

Marende warned that if the names submitted to Parliament are rejected then they can only be reintroduced after six months. MPs would then be forced to stay at home since no business can be transacted without the HBC.

Last week ODM warned that it was going to use "constitutional and unconstitutional means", particularly its numerical strength in Parliament, to force reforms in government. The party has 100 MPs but also enjoys the support of several MPs from smaller parties.

In March last year Raila's

supporters attempted to install the ODM leader as Leader of Government Business. As a compromise, it was agreed that the Prime Minister as co-coordinator of government ministries would be given 45 minutes every Wednesday to respond to questions from MPs.

The new standing orders have finally set up the weekly Prime Minister's Hour which will next Wednesday afternoon.

The previous standing orders did not contain any definition of the position of Leader of Government Business in Parliament. The new standing orders, which came into force on Tuesday this week, says the government can appoint any minister to be the Leader of Government Business.

In the last session, Vice-President Kalonzo

Musyoka was the Leader of Government Business and former Justice Minister Martha Karua was his only deputy.

Under the Kanu government, President Daniel arap Moi kept rotating the position of Leader of Government Business among senior ministers after he fired Vice President Professor George Saitoti in 1998.

Yesterday Imenti Central MP Gitobu Imanyara told the *Nairobi Star* that the two conflicting letters are "a matter of great concern, indeed it is a crisis. This will require a sober interpretation by the Speaker in recognition of the changes we have made so far in our standing order".

Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetangula said Raila's attempts to claim leadership of government in Parliament was illegal.

"Kibaki is the Leader of Government Business but because of the weight of his executive duty, the President has always nominated the Vice President, who by law is also his principal assistant to hold that position," said Wetangula.

Nominated MP Millie Odhiambo said it will be up to the Speaker to rule on the matter based on the new standing orders.

"These are signs of mistrust. It is clear in law that the country's executive power is shared. If the President wants to claim the leadership of the government in Parliament, then he should be coming here and if he can't come then he should allow the Prime Minister to play that role," Millie stated.

Yesterday Kalonzo presented a list of who should be on the House

Business Committee including Deputy Prime Minister Musalia Mudavadi and cabinet ministers William Ruto, Anyang' Nyong'o, Charity Ngilu (Narc), Henry Kosgey, Sally Kosgei, party chief whip Jakoyo Midiwo and MPs Maalim Mohamed, Chachu Ganya, Thomas Mwachugu and Robert Monda of Narc.

But South Rift MPs demanded another slot for Kuresoi MP Zakayo Cheruiyot.

PNU was earlier forced to reconstitute its initial list after Martha Karua complained that her Narc-Kenya Party had been excluded.

PNU's first list included ministers George Saitoti, Kiraitu Murungi, Esther Murugi, Moses Wetangula and chief whip George Thuo while ODM-K names were Kalonzo, Mutula Kil-

onzo and Shakila Abdalla. Kanu had Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta and Adan Keynan.

Karua, opposing the list on the floor of the House, stated that PNU could not ignore Narc-K which she said command 12 MPs in the House and which had helped PNU to become the majority in Parliament.

"These are the strong arm tactics that are employed by the Kibaki side of the coalition," said Karua, who was HBC member during the last session. "Admit that you are minority in the House and hand over leadership to the majority," she added.

After reconstitution, the new faces in the PNU list included Karua, Khalwale, Beth Mugo, and Wavinya Ndeti while those dropped included Saitoti and Kiraitu.