

National News

Kenyans in diaspora to vote in 2012 poll

By VPPS

KENYANS abroad will vote from their host countries in the next election, Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka says.

Speaking in Berlin, Germany, where he is attending the International Berlin Prayer Breakfast, Musyoka said as part of the envisaged electoral reforms, Kenya will join other countries in the community of nations whose laws allow citizens resident abroad to vote while away.

The VP told the Kenyans the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank were working out modalities of facilitating cheaper money transfer to the country. This was after they complained that it was too costly to send money through existing services such as Western Union and MoneyGram.

"We are concerned that due to the financial crisis hitting the world, remittances from Kenyans in the Diaspora has fallen from a high of Sh70b to only Sh40b at present. We will ensure your right to vote abroad and for that vote to be counted is part of the new electoral laws," he said.

Musyoka said the Grand Coalition Government and Kenyans are determined to put the country on the right path. "We're determined to build a strong and united country. The healing and reconciliation process is under way, we will attain a new constitution and by devolving development money to the constituency, the Government is seeking to create jobs, accelerate growth and stop rural to urban migration," he said.

The Kenyans in Germany under the leadership of Chris Bwire expressed concerns over a phenomenon where foreigners were being allowed to buy property



Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka is received by the Director General of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Juan Samavia at the UN Complex in Geneva, Switzerland.

PHOTO/VPPS

and land in Kenya's major towns.

"Let us not sell everything to foreigners, who are now distorting property prices. We may end up having security problems later," said Jennifer Mwanjia. Bwire took issue with the Government was putting emphasis on expansion of university education at the expense middle level colleges. He said Kilifi Farmers Training Centre, Bondo Teachers College, and Kabanga Teachers College, should not have been turned into university colleges.

"What will happen to the services these colleges were originally meant to offer?" he posed. They also raised concern over the level of insecurity at home, especially with the re-emergence of militia groups like Mungiki, Chinkororo, Sungusungu, among others.

"You leaders should take firm action to bring this militias and vilante groups under control. I have just returned from Kisii, where SunguSungu and Chinkororo invaded at night to demand

protection money for our properties" said Gaudence Nina.

Several Members of Parliament accompanying the VP, took time to assure the Kenyans that the country was moving in the right direction.

Ababu Namwamba, the MP for Budalangi, assured that there was consensus on the provision of dual citizenship in the new constitution. The MP, who is also Vice Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Constitutional Review, said Kenya will get a new constitution soon.

"Kenyans from any part of the country have learned the futility of trying to move alone, that is why I am sure we will arrive at a new constitutional dispensation sooner than later" he said.

Kipkelion MP, Magerer Langat and his Olkaleu counterpart Mr Erastus Mureithi, said the communities living in Rift Valley have finally found peace. "I was the first MP from Rift Valley to start preaching peace and reconciliation and I am glad that all the 35,000 IDP from Kipkelion have all returned to their farmers and homes" said Mr Magerer.

Mr Eugene Wamalwa, Saboti MP, and Yatta Member of Parliament Charles Kilonzo as well as Mutitu MP Kiama Kilonzo urged Kenyans living and working abroad not to be in a hurry to return home but instead work hard to raise money to invest in Kenya.

"It is time we have a policy of exporting labour like the Philippines' noted Kiama. "They used to tell you go abroad, study and return home."

"Now were telling you don't back come back but send home the dollars and the euros" advised Mr Charles Kilonzo.



Barbier

France trains 18 on project management

By Lydia Masarisa

THE French government has trained 18 Kenyans on project management to facilitate evaluation and follow-up for donors.

French Ambassador to Kenya Elizabeth Barbier said the training would increase capacity building and create channels for employment opportunities to potential trainees. The envoy said her government will also benefit from the project.

"Organising this training was not easy but very important for us. First it is because it contributes to capacity building effort, and hopefully will bring new job opportunities for the trainees, but also it is because it will facilitate project evaluation and follow up for donors hopefully not just the French Embassy," said Barbier.

She spoke during the official closing ceremony of the training at Alliance Française in Nairobi over the weekend.

The three-week training was funded by International Centre of Studies for Local Development (CIEDEL) and Agency for Corporation and Research Development (ACORD).

Kisumu CDF halts projects over graft

By Fredrick Odiero

KISUMU Town West Constituency CDF office has stopped funds transaction for two schools due to poor management of the public funds.

Area MP Olago Aluoch stopped the transactions for Ngenge and Koteni Primary schools CDF accounts.

Odiero said the committees charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the funds are properly used are bent on its mismanagement.

He said he has written to the banks to stop forthwith any transaction carried by the two primary schools.

The MP said he was alarmed to learn that the committee members are the suppliers of materials to be used in the school projects. Olago said he stopped the CDF office from carrying out procurement for the CDF projects in the constituency.

He handed over the power to the locational committee in good faith yet they are now breaching the offer.

Speaking when presenting a cheque worth Sh480,000 to Joel Omino Health Centre, the MP said that the accounts will only be activated when the committees have agreed to follow rules and regulations.

He said most primary schools committees are fond of quoting exorbitant prices in order to gain from the CDF funded projects. Olago said that as an MP, he will act decisively against such characters.

"I will not compromise on the issue of transparency and accountability" he warned.

Runaway truck runs over Nyamira man

By Joshua Araka

A YOUNG man died in his sleep after a drinking spree in Nyamira District.

Tere Okero, 21, died as the mother, Agnes Okero, and his brother, John Okero, tried to resuscitate him at their Nyangoso village home in Nyamira township sub-location at around 3am.

Elsewhere, a school boy was killed in a road accident as he walked to the market in the same district.

Nyamwembe Mong'are, 13, was hit by a speeding pick up on a murram road near Bosiango village as he hurried to Keringo open air market where he was set to sell some beans and pay fees.

The Standard Six boy, who hails from Kianyabao village, West Mugirang constituency had been sent home from a private school for fees.

The mother of the Okero said she was told Thursday evening that her son was

drunk and was lying on the road.

"We went and picked him. Then I told his brother (John) to monitor his progress because he was too tired to eat and was passing some saliva," the mother said.

The widow said her son's condition deteriorated and died in the house.

Area assistant chief Philip Nyamoko who accompanied family members to the local police station said only a post-mortem examination would reveal the cause of death.

Speculate

"We do not want to speculate and I appeal to the late's family to be calm as we wait for a postmortem report," Nyamoko told journalists. He said his preliminary investigations indicated the deceased was paid Sh3, 750 for his work in the Kazi Kwa Vijana Project on Thursday and may have used some of it in drinks.

Police took the body to Nyamira District Hospital mortuary.

A relative of the school boy who refused to be identified said: "His mother gave him some beans to go and sell so that he could get cash and go back to school." The relative said the pick-up truck that hit Nyamwembe belonged to a tea hawking agent and was at high speed.

"It has become a habit of the hawkers to drive at neck-breaking speeds with due regard of other road users and unless authorities stepped in, more innocent lives will be lost in a similar way," he said.

The vehicle vanished as angry members of the public expressed outrage over the incident, our source revealed.

Nyamira OCPD, Mwaura Njoroge confirmed that the vehicle was impounded in Rift Valley Province and investigations into the incident are underway.

Njoroge said the boy was rushed to the local district hospital where he was confirmed dead.

Private developer shuns court order

By Alphonse Mung'ahu

PRIVATE developer constructing a multi-million shillings shopping mall in Muthaiga, Nairobi, has disobeyed court orders restraining the construction exercise, the High Court was told.

Lawyer O.P. Nagpal for New Muthaiga Residents Association, told Justice Roseley Nambuye, the developer was acting in defiance of the law.

The lawyer was submitting a new application filed in the court by New Muthaiga Residents Association on behalf of other area residents against Gemini Property Ltd (developer). In his submissions, Nagpal told the court the plot No. LR.209/9295 situated at Thigiri Ridge Road in Muthaiga area is a public utility plot reserved for a nursery school and a clinic.

Revoked licence

He said the developer has continued disobeying three previous orders one by High Court judge Kariuki Kihara and the rest two by National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and that of Nairobi City Council. The court heard that NEMA had even revoked its licence in the disputed plot.

And while raising preliminary objection, lawyer Okong'o Omogeni who is also the chairman of Law Society of Kenya (LSK) for developer urged the court to struck out the suit against his client saying it was defective. Omogeni said the suit is in bad faith as the time which was supposed to be filed in court has expired. But lawyer Nagpal told the court his clients were not questioning the ownership of the plot but the user.

Two lawyers appointed administrators of late MP's property

By Alphonse Mung'ahu

THE High Court has appointed two lawyers representing two widows of former Moyale MP Guracha Galgalo to be administrators of their husband's multi-million shilling estate.

The decision to appoint Cecil Miller and Alfred Nyandieka as administrators was reached after Ms Rahema Jaldesa (a second wife) and Bernadetta Okutu Sharma (first wife) agreed by consent to resolve their two-year succession battle out of court.

Justice David Onyancha, after ap-

pointing Miller and Nyandieka directed them to ensure the property is subdivided equally among the two widows. He also asked the two lawyers to ensure children of the late Galgalo were not left in the streets.

Prior to the decision, Miller opened the door for the negotiation, saying his client (Jaldesa) has been all along willing to enter into negotiations while accepting to take as little as Sh6 million out of the vast estate of Galgalo.

But on hearing Miller's sentiments, Justice Onyancha opted to chair the new negotiation after the two wives asked him to take the chair of negotiation.

The agreement by the two wives was reached when the two lawyers Miller and Nyandieka confirmed to the court that the parties have finally resolved to settle the matter out court.

Miller told justice Onyancha that an earlier move to broker an out of court settlement hit a snag when the first wife failed to agree with her co-wife.

The court heard that the second wife had long time ago accepted to save the Karen estate residence not to be auctioned by a bank due to an outstanding loan. Galgalo was killed in a plane crash at Marsabit on April 10 2006.