

POLITICS

ODM in talks on power-sharing

Ten seats to be given to key figures in quest for party unity after picking the torch-bearer

By DAVID MUGONYI

About 10 top positions will be created to prevent a fall-out in ODM-Kenya after the party picks its presidential candidate.

Sources close to the Council of Elders yesterday said the posts of prime minister, two deputy premiers and two vice-presidents would be among those to be given out to key figures and regions as part of a power-sharing arrangement. It is also expected that the ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Internal Security and Provincial Administration, and Education will be part of the deal.

If endorsed at a party meeting to be held on May 4 and 5, the pact will see ODM Kenya pick a flag-bearer and team leaders from the various regions.

Speaking after a meeting in Nairobi yesterday, council chairman Fred Gumo said they were getting closer to picking the ODM-K candidate. A source said the council would meet with the presidential hopefuls tomorrow to discuss with them the power sharing structure.

The presidential candidate will be chosen through consensus on the basis of the strength of regional voting patterns, taking into account the number of registered voters and

trends of past voter turn-outs. However, sources who attended yesterday's meeting said Mr Uhuru Kenyatta and Mr Musalia Mudavadi — who are among those eyeing the presidential ticket — were uncomfortable with the arrangement. Mr Mudavadi said the party should adopt a middle ground between consensus and delegates systems, while Mr Kenyatta said voting patterns had changed since the 2005 referendum on the constitution.

Mr Mudavadi said the nominations should adopt preference as a method of voting through which delegates would be asked to list candidates in order of popularity from the most to the least popular. The votes for each aspirant should then be tallied and whoever emerges as the most popular in all the regions will be picked as the party's torchbearer.

It was not clear whether Mr Kenyatta was opposed to the consensus method as a way of picking the party's candidate. However, before joining ODM-Kenya, the Gatundu South MP did not favour such a power sharing arrangement.

Permanent secretaries

Though details of the power arrangements are yet to be made public, sources said the 10 positions will be dished out to some candidates and regions to ensure that the party remains intact.

Other ministerial jobs, positions of permanent secretaries and key public appointments will be shared equally between Kanu and the Liberal Democratic Party — the major partners in ODM-Kenya — should the party win the General Election. Some seats will also be reserved for the minor parties in the coalition. The partners are expected to form a formidable campaign team to battle it out with President Kibaki, come December.

The council of elders also picked a team to hammer out the deal by considering the contributions and strength of each presidential hopeful in the party. However, it is also feared that the formula has the potential of tearing ODM-K apart. Already, a decision by the council to set a Sh2 million nomination fee for presidential



Interim party chairman Henry Kosgey addresses an ODM-Kenya crowd. The party is working on a formula to remain united after picking its presidential candidate. Photo/FILE

hopefuls has been strongly criticised by Mr Kenyatta. But yesterday, Mr Gumo said anyone who wanted to take part in ODM-K's presidential nomination must be prepared to pay the fee. He was supported by council members Chris Okemo, Gideon Ndambuki, Joe Khamisi, Kipkalya Kones and Oburu Odinga, who said the fee was in the party's constitution, which was approved in Naivasha in January.

It has also emerged that the council is set to conduct a survey to determine each candidate's popularity and gauge which aspirant is likely to compete favourably against President Kibaki.

Candidates will also be asked to carry out parallel surveys to measure their own popularity and compare

'We do not want this idea of having many presidential candidates... You must pay Sh2m' MP Fred Gumo

the results with the council's poll.

Yesterday, five of those eyeing the party's presidential ticket were presented with statistics showing the voting patterns from the 1992 General Election and the referendum of November 2005. Those present were Mr Kalonzo Musyoka, Mr Mudavadi, Mr Kenyatta and Dr Julia Ojiambo.

Besides the voting pattern, Mr Okemo, showed the five the voter turnout records for each region and projections of where the party was likely to garner the highest number of votes.

Eliminate anybody

Mr Gumo later said: "We don't want this idea of having very many presidential candidates. If you want to be a President, you must pay Sh2 million." The Westlands MP said the fee was not meant to eliminate anybody but to make the contest fair and more serious. It is understood that the council has adopted the method of consulting with the presidential hopefuls periodically to ensure they agree on the best candidate.

After yesterday's meeting, a source said: "Our analysis shows that the margin between ODM-Kenya and President Kibaki is very small. We want to tell them we don't want small tribal kings vying independently."

German who slapped boy may be deported

By NATION Correspondent and Reporter

The Government is deporting a German who was recently fined Sh60,000 for slapping a boy who allegedly scratched his car in Kilifi.

Sources confirmed that Immigration minister Gideon Konchella had signed two orders — one for Mr Jochem Michael Rinck to be arrested — and the other for him to be deported within 24 hours.

And Bahari MP Joe Khamisi speaking on telephone last night confirmed that Mr Konchella had shown him the deportation order before it was faxed to Mombasa.

"I can confirm that the orders to arrest and deport Mr Rinck have been issued and to me this is great relief for my constituents," he said.

The Government's move against Mr Rinck, who has been in Kenya on a Class K resident permit, follows complaints against his conduct.

A Kilifi court ordered Mr Rinck to pay Sh60,000 for assaulting 11-year-old Muchina Kimani as he walked home from school. Senior resident magistrate Charles Obulusta said incidents of foreigners harassing Kenyans were on the increase.

In Parliament yesterday, Mr Konchella said the Government was scrutinising the German's entry permit "with a view to taking appropriate action."

He was replying to a question by Mr Khamisi who wanted the Government to deport the German national. He said that Mr Jochem beat Master Kimani on November 18, 2006 at Mtwapa in Kilifi district without any justification.

Mr Khamisi said it was unfortunate that the foreigner was only fined Sh60,000 or a nine months imprisonment when he appeared before a Kilifi Magistrate on April 5, 2007.

"In view of the seriousness of the matter and the racial tension the incident has created in the area, could the minister consider deporting the foreigner with immediate effect?" he asked. In reply, Mr Konchella said the Government will not tolerate actions based on racism.

Breaking News

alerts on your mobile
SMS "Breaking News"
to 6667



FREE Kodak Clip-on Glass Frame

Free Kodak clip-on glass frame for every roll of film* developed and printed or 25 digital prints ordered.

Kodak

*When you develop and print a minimum of 24 photos. Offer available in all Kodak Express stores and ProFoto Centres. Valid from 1st April 2007 till stocks last.

Congratulations!

NAKUMATT
Quality • Value • Service • Variety • Lifestyle
Countdown

On Attaining

ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFICATE
(By The Kenya Bureau Of Standards)

A Truly Deserving Recognition Of
Your Contribution To The Development Of The
Retail Industry And Standards Of Service To
The Kenyan Consumer.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

FDNEXPRESS maneno yote!

PhoneLink

- Kenyatta Ave.
- Yaya Centre
- Capital Centre
- The Junction
- Kisumu Mega City

Galgalo family opposed his second marriage

By NATION Correspondent

A brother of former Moyale MP Dr Guracha Galgalo yesterday told a Nairobi court that he was against a love affair between the legislator and a woman who is laying claim to his estate.

Mr Wario Malla Galgalo, who replaced his brother as the Moyale MP, told the High Court that he had opposed the relationship between Dr Galgalo and Ms Rehema Dida Jaldesa, which eventually blossomed into a marriage in 2003.

The love affair between Dr Guracha and Ms Jaldesa, he added came to his knowledge in 2000.

At some point, he said, the issue of Ms Jaldesa brought tension in the family and his brother then accused him as one of the people fighting his relationship with Ms Jaldesa.

"I was not happy with Dr Guracha's relationship to Jaldesa," said the young Galgalo while testifying during the

hearing of a dispute over the administration of Dr Galgalo's estate.

Ms Jaldesa and Dr Galgalo's first wife, Ms Bernadette Okotu Shama, are fighting over who should be given the authority by the court to manage the estate of the former MP.

Led in his evidence by lawyer Cecil Miller, he told the trial Judge Mr Justice David Onyancha that in 2003, he sympathised with Ms Shama because she was facing many problems.

One of them was that Dr Galgalo had decided to construct a house for Ms Jaldesa at Karen, where she is currently living, while Ms Okotu was living at another house in Hurlingham.

The legislator said he was opposed to the construction of the house because he felt Dr Galgalo should have build the house for his first wife.

Dr Galgalo perished in a plane crash alongside six other MPs on April 10, 2006. The hearing continues.