

## Measles outbreak reported in Meru

■ PATRICK MURIUNGI

A MEASLES outbreak has been reported at Meru GK prison, sending panic to the over 1,200 prisoners and the neighbouring community.

Six prisoners have already been admitted to Meru General Hospital suffering from the highly communicable disease.

A seventh victim also admitted is not a prisoner, sending fears that there could be an outbreak of the disease in Meru Central and North districts.

One of the prisoners hails from Meru North district.

The Hospital Medical Superintendent of Health, Dr Gichungu Liara Nthuraku said vaccination would be carried out at the prison to contain the disease.

"We may be required to carry out a vaccination exercise covering inmates, prison warders and the community in the neighbourhood to curb spread," he said.

He said the prison would be inspected to ascertain the spread of the disease ahead of the vaccination exercise.

He added that specimens had been sent to the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) to confirm the disease before the vaccination.

But he said samples from the patients have clinically tested positive for measles.

The disease is likely to spread quickly at the prison, owing to congestion.

It holds over 1,200 prisoners instead of 350 and serves the larger Meru, Isiolo, Marsabit and Wajir districts.

## Man found with student in lodging

■ AMOS KAREITHI

DRAMA unfolded in Nyeri yesterday when a 65-year-old man was flushed out of a lodging room with a teenage secondary school girl.

The retired school bus driver, had booked the hotel room the previous night and enticed the girl from her school yesterday morning with promises of pocket money.

The man's dreams were, however, dashed after a Good Samaritan, on spotting the girl in her green and white school uniform stealing into the lodging room, informed *The Standard* and the police.

The Provincial Children's Department and the police raided the room and found the couple enjoying cold drinks as they waited for some roast ribs to be prepared.

After the police struck, the man could not explain what the girl, in school uniform, was doing in the room.

His explanation that the girl was his niece did not wash with police officers who challenged him to volunteer the girl's parents' contacts, which he confessed he did not have.

The two were led to Nyeri Police Station where they were locked up.

# Kikambala suspect jailed for 8 years

■ EVELYN KWAMBOKA AND JUDY OGUTU

ONE of the four men acquitted of the murder of 15 people following the bombing of Paradise Hotel in Kikambala has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment.

Mr Omar Said Omar was yesterday sent to jail after being found guilty of being in possession of missiles three years ago.

The weapons in his possession included five anti-tank weapons, hand grenade, explosives and six AK-47 rifles magazines, all without certificates.

The prosecution's case was that he was a dangerous man as he had been found with the weapons, which were intended for use against public order.

His lawyer, Mr Winston Ngaira had punched holes through the prosecution's case, saying it was contradictory, conflicting and could not be used to convict his client.

Particulars on the Charge Sheet, he added, differed with the evidence presented before the court.

State counsel, Edwin Okello had said the prosecution had proved the suspect was the occupant of a house at Ziwani in Mombasa, where the alleged weapons were recovered.

Nairobi Senior Principal Magistrate, Mrs Rosemelle Mutoka agreed with the prosecution and came to the conclusion that Omar was in possession of the weapons.

"I see no reason to find they were not brought into the flat the day the



PICTURE: BONIFACE OKENDO

Omar Said Omar is led to the cells at the Nairobi Law Courts yesterday after he was jailed for eight years for being in possession of dangerous weapons.

tenants moved in. They were concealed under a sofa set," she said, adding that a manual found in the flat was an indication that Omar was setting out details on how to use the weapons.

A bomb expert, Charles Juma, told the court the manual in English and Arabic illustrated the drawings and diagrams were similar to that of the weapons.

"One does not need to be a rocket scientist to know they were to train one on their usage," she ruled.

The court, she added, was

denied the benefit of understanding the manual's whole meaning. She observed that when police conducted a raid on the house where the weapons were found, they were looking for a fugitive associated with bombings in Kenya. During trial, the court was informed that Faizal Ali detonated a hand grenade near Central Police Station in Mombasa, blowing himself up in the process.

A police officer survived with eye injury while the would-be suicide bomber

sustained serious injuries and died at Pandya Hospital while undergoing treatment.

The magistrate acquitted him of charges of making a National Identity Card and uttering the same to one Justus Mwandime.

In June 2005, Omar's freedom was short-lived when police officers re-arrested him moments after the High Court cleared him of murder charges alongside three others, Aboud Rogo Mohammed, Mohammed Kubwa and Mohamed Saleh Nabhan.

## Senior prisons officers shuffled

■ CYRUS OMBATI

THE Commissioner of Prisons, Gilbert Omondi has effected major changes in the department that have seen women officers earning key positions.

Out of the eight deputy provincial commanders named, three are women, making history in appointments in the department.

Omondi said all the affected officers underwent an interview at the Public Service Commission before being appointed to the positions.

Senior deputy commissioner of prisons, Lucy Mumbi Gachie has been recalled from a peacekeeping mission in Liberia to be the principal assistant to Omondi at Prisons headquarters.

Lucy Mugure Mungai has been named the director of women affairs, gender and Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) co-ordinator in the department and promoted to deputy commissioner of prisons.

The new Nairobi area prisons commander is Rose Moturi, while David Kingoo who was holding the position has been moved to Prisons headquarters to be a personal assistant to the commissioner.

Omondi also named Florence Omondi to be the deputy commander Central province, Ralmb Wairimu Thang'ate for Eastern province and Grace Muriuri for Rift Valley province.

The new deputy Coast province prisons commander is James Kodley while Amos Misik will be the deputy for Nyanza province.

The officer in charge Langata Women prisons, Wanini Kireri, has been moved to Shimo La Tewa Main Prison in the same capacity. Kireri will be the first female prisons officer to man a male principal prison.

# Postal corporation allowed to tender for Vsat

■ NYAKUNDI NYAMBOGA

POSTAL Corporation of Kenya has been allowed to subject to competitive tendering, the controversial Sh3.2 billion satellite-link project.

The High Court last week allowed the corporation to open marked quotations that had been submitted by "licensed and legally competent service providers" for the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) project.

However, the court barred the

corporation from awarding the tender to any successful bidder until a case between Universal Satspace (North America) LLC and the Government is heard.

Universal Satspace (North America) LLC currently provides Vsat services in the country.

Justice Mathews Emukule issued the orders on March 28 after hearing an urgent application by Postal Corporation of Kenya.

He effectively varied the order

issued on December 20, 2005, staying any dealings on the Vsat tender pending the hearing of an intended application by Universal Satspace.

The order of December 20, 2005 had been issued by Justice Leonard Njagi.

Through lawyer Kenneth Kiplagat, the corporation last month told the court that orders issued earlier in favour of Universal Satspace (North America) LLC had prevented it from opening tender submissions it had requested from service providers.

The court heard that the corporation had been wrongly enjoined as the second respondent in the Vsat provider's case against the Minister of Information and Communications.

In an affidavit sworn by the corporation secretary, Julius Shigoli, the corporation says it is not a party to the Vsat contract with Universal Satspace (North America).

The Corporation claims the Vsat contract is void and outside the Kenya Communication Act.

# Murgor wants judge removed

■ EVELYN KWAMBOKA AND JUDY OGUTU

FORMER Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Philip Murgor, now wants a High Court judge to disqualify herself from hearing a suit challenging the revocation of his firearm certificate and passport.

His lawyer, Mr Cecil Miller

informed Lady Justice Rosemelle Wendoth that he had filed a notice to that effect.

Murgor moved to court two months ago claiming the decision to take away his passport was intended to stop him from traveling to the United Kingdom (UK) to meet former Permanent Secretary, John Githongo.

He claimed he had been

in touch with Githongo and was to accompany the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to London to record his evidence on the Anglo Leasing Scandal.

Murgor was among 22 people ordered to return their passports and firearms pending further investigations into the Goldenberg Affair.

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