

NATIONAL RECORD

Property: Chelanga's wife victory

By AUSTIN KIGUTA

THE longstanding court battle pitting Zaina Mukami Chelanga, wife to the former Eastern Provincial Commissioner, Ishmael Juma Chelanga, against her in-laws, ended yesterday when High Court ruled that she co-administers the multi-million property with her mother-in-law.

Justice Alex Etyang, however, appointed Saleh Kipkemboi Chepkole to co-administer the property with Zaina Mukami Chelanga

since her 70-year-old mother-in-law, Martha Cherop, was ailing.

The judge ruled that the Zaina and Chepkole, assisted by legal experts, identify the entire property, present the list to the court on August 5, 2002.

The court declined to give the right of inheritance to Zaina's brother, Swalleh Abubakar, Chelanga's six brothers, a sister and two children, Joyce Chebet and Noor Chepkemei, born of christian mothers outside the marriage.

It is estimated that Chelanga left behind an estate valued at more than Shs100 million when he died in an air crash on July 27, 1996. Justice Etyang ordered that the joint exercise start immediately.

Immediately the order was made, the lawyer representing Cherop, Margaret Ndwiga, applied for copies of proceedings to be availed to the objectors and also leave to appeal. However, his counterpart, Cecil Miller Jnr., commended the court

on its decision. The judge granted the leave but made it clear that it would not affect the order he gave yesterday.

He added that that Zaina had been proved beyond any doubt that she was Chelanga's wife.

In qualifying their estate entitlement, Cherop and Chepkole had argued that Zaina deserted her late husband's rural home in Kapenguria. They further argued that she had mismanaged the estate of her late husband.

The court pointed out

that Zaina was entitled to administer the deceased's estate irrespective of whether she took children to Kapenguria or not.

Justice Etyang ruled that Abubakar could not inherit since, as a brother-in-law to Chelanga, he was an outsider when property was to be administered.

Among the witnesses who testified before the court included the Chief Kadhi of Kenya, Masud Nahdy, the Kadhi of Nairobi, Hamad Mohamed Kassim, his Nakuru counterpart, Salim Mohamed Salim.

Pupils demand free education

By MATHEWS SOO

STUDENTS and pupils from Mwala constituency have appealed for compulsory and free primary education during their submission to the constitution review team at Lema Girls High School in Yathui division, Machakos.

Led by John Kimani of Muusini Secondary School, Kamene Kinya and Patricia Kavindu of Kyevivo Primary and Secondary Schools respectively, they told the commissioners that the constitution should provide equal attention in education for the children of both sexes.

The students who spoke on Thursday lamented that in most areas, the girl child has been disadvantaged in accessing tertiary education upon completing high school.

The students, who displayed a superb comprehension of the present constitution, said that they preferred a system where the presidential polls would have a different date from that of MPs to curb high-tech rigging prevalent in the past elections.

At the same time, area MP Mutua Katuku, who attended function, suggested that power should be devolved to the local authorities.

To curb inefficiency in the Judiciary, he said that the

Beta donates for toilets

By MACHARIA MWANGI

A LEADING pharmaceutical manufacturer and distributor yesterday presented a cheque of Shs 60,000 in aid of the Stop Flying Toilets Project in the expansive Kibera Slums.

Beta Healthcare International Limited, through its Sales and Marketing Director Muzaffer M. Essajee, presented the cheque to Sylvia Mudasia Mwachuli the Communications and

