EIGHT-HOUR QUESTIONING

Sonko grilled over garbage disposal tenders

Says he declined to renew contracts of officials involved after discovering irregularities

IMENDE BENJAMIN/ Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko was yesterday grilled by EACC officials over graft-related activities in multi-million garbage and waste disposal tenders.

The governor arrived at the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission offices at 7.30am.

He was accompanied by his lawyer Cecil Miller, a number of Nairobi MCAs and supporters to respond to audit queries raised by the commission.

"The tender for one company is around Sh200 million per year but being the county CEO, I do not sit in the environmental department committee and so I do not know what happens in those offices," Sonko told reporters at Integrity House after he was questioned about the 13 companies that won the tender.

"A few mistakes, which might not be good, might have happened in those offices during the tendering process."

The investigations were initiated after the county assembly's Public Accounts Committee revealed that officials at City Hall's Environment department could not account for more than Sh160 million that was paid to companies contracted to collect garbage.

As a result, director of investigations Abdi Mohamud wrote to the governor summoning him to Integrity Centre last Friday.

"I received the letter but I was not around. I was in Dubai but I had to cut short my trip and come back," Sonko said at 3pm after his date with the anti-graft agency detectives.

EACC officials told the Star that they were investigating claims of corruption in the award of tenders in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

"You can even see some of the tenders go back to April before I took office. And some company was being paid as much as Sh300 million to collect garbage and dispose of other waste from the Central Business District," the governor said.

He declined to renew the contracts of officials involved in the tendering process after making this discovery, he said.

Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko addresses journalists at EACC offices, Nairobi, yesterday /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

'UNFIT TO OCCUPY PUBLIC OFFICE'

Unions want VC to step aside over Mara Heist expose

MAUREEN KINYANJUI/ Two university unions have called for the resignation of the Maasai Mara University vice chancellor over allegations of corruption.

The Kenya Universities Staff Union and the University and Academic Staff Union termed Prof Mary Walingo as unfit to occupy a public office. This follows an expose on a local TV station that put her at the centre of abuse of office and embezzlement of public funds in the institution.

Uasu secretary general Constantine Wasonga yesterday asked Walingo to step aside to allow for smooth investigations into graft allegations levelled against her.

Kusu secretary general Charles Mukhwaya said the professor fails to inspire confidence and should step aside until she is cleared by investigating authorities. "She demonstrated that she will go an extra mile to have staff standing on her gravy train route harmed," he said.

The expose put Walingo at the centre of the scandal which might have led to the loss of over Sh190 million at the university in Narok county.

DEMANDS DOCUMENTS

DCI ups probe into irregular tendering at Kenya Airways

The national airline lost Sh100 billion in 10 years

MOSES ODHIAMBO
@AliwaMoses

The DCI has demanded documents for an investigation into procurement flaws involving an aircraft engine repair contract at Kenya Airways.

This is to step up a probe into how KQ lost Sh100 billion in 10 years in operational missteps that have brought the airline to its knees.

The DCI wants the airline's procurement guidelines since 2015 and procurement plan for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Also sought is KQ's budget plan, tender advertisements related to the contract, tender documents by the potential bidders and details of the procurement committee that authorised the award.

In a letter to managing director Sebastian Mikosz, DCI's Abdalla Komesha of the Banking Fraud Investigation Unit has also demanded evaluation reports on the tender.

Final sourcing reports, details of the composition of the KQ board and management structure are also required. The detectives are also looking for tender approval minutes by the committee in respect of the engine repairs contract and board papers requesting for approval for tender awards.

On Tuesday, Kenya Airways management confirmed that the airline was under investigation, assuring the police it would cooperate.

KQ Corporate Communications manager acknowledged that the DCI requested for the documents to facilitate investigations.

"Kenya Airways welcomes the investigation by the DCI. We are engaging with the team to provide the necessary support and information."

"This is part of our overall strategy to ensure transparency and integrity in all our procurement processes and operations," the statement reads.

The DCI further wants tender approval minutes by the KQ board and letters of contract awards for the two financial years.

Komesha is at the same time wants KQ to furnish his office with contract documents, payment documents and all correspondences about the tender including e-mails.

The DCI is conducting a probe to ascertain whether KQ staff conspired to bring down the airline.

PROBE WAS TRIGGERED BY A REPORT PREPARED BY THE AUDIT FIRM DELOITTE FOUR YEARS AGO

KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

Press Statement

Reference is made to an article appearing in a local daily titled *"Relief for consumers as KRA suspends new tax"*.

The article is erroneous and misleading to the public.

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) states the following:

1. The communication by KRA did not suspend any taxes on bottled water, juices, soda and any other non-alcoholic beverages as well as cosmetics as claimed in the referenced article. Taxes are imposed by law and become effective by way of statute. KRA has no mandate to defer implementation of the same.
2. KRA postponed the implementation of Excisable Goods Management System (EGMS) which is a tool for accounting for excise production and traceability of excisable goods. **This is not a tax.**
3. The postponement was to enable manufacturers to complete installation of the system before a new go live date is communicated.
4. Implementation of the EGMS system on production lines is ongoing at manufacturers' premises and so far 91% of automated lines have been installed. The remaining constitutes of new production lines previously not mapped.

KRA shall communicate a new go live date in due course.

Commissioner for Domestic Taxes

Disclaimer: KRA notifies taxpayers that it will not accept responsibility for payments not received, credited and validated on the relevant KRA accounts. Corruption Reporting: +254 (0)709 991 999, Email: corruptionreporting@kra.go.ke. Short Messaging Services (SMS): Dial (*572#) or Text to 20572. Contact Centre: +254 (020) 4 999 999, +254 (0711) 099 999, Email: callcentre@kra.go.ke. Complaints & Information Center Hotlines: +254 (0) 20 281 7700 / 7000, +254 (0) 20 5 343 342, Email: cic@kra.go.ke

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