



**Christina Gakuhi Kiragu at the Milimani Law Courts yesterday. She failed to take plea for the second time on charges of forging documents. [PHOTO: FIDELIS KABUNYI/STANDARD]**

## Kubai's 'wife' to take plea next week

**By FAITH KARANJA**

A woman alleged to have been the wife of the late Fred Kubai and entrusted with the freedom fighter's property will be charged in court next week.

Christina Gakuhi, who appeared before Resident Magistrate Daniel Ochenja yesterday, is expected to take a plea for allegedly forging her birth certificate and Kubai's death certificate. The case started after Kubai's death on June 1, 1996 at the age of 79.

Gakuhi's lawyer Gibson Kamau told the court the

matter in the charge sheet had been determined by the High Court and was consolidated with another one. He argued that the accused's identity card was valid and that Gakuhi was indeed married to the deceased.

Justice Luka Kimaru rested the case in June, and addressed the same issues that will now be determined by the magistrate's court. Kimaru was in agreement with Justice William Musyoka that Gakuhi had validly inherited Kubai's property.

However, the children of Sofia Muthoni, Rebecca Wangeci, Rose-Ann Grace and

Lucy Mwangi held that Gakuhi was never married to the patriarch but had only worked as a maid before she allegedly forged a will entrusting the freedom fighter's entire estate to herself.

The charge states Gakuhi allegedly forged a national ID card in Nakuru on July 26, 1998. But she did not enter a plea after her lawyer sought to have the case deferred.

He said the issues placed as charges were in the judgement before the High Court and had been conclusively determined. Gakuhi is out on a bond of Sh150,000.

This comes after CAJ found out some schools were inflating the number of students to receive more funds

**By EVELYN KWAMBOKA  
AND CYNTHIA AWUOR**

The Ombudsman's office wants the Government to audit funds released to schools for free day secondary education after investigations indicated misuse of the kitty through allocations to 'ghost students'.

It emerged that some schools were receiving more cash after inflating the number of learners.

The Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) established that one of the schools within Nairobi City County could not account for

29 students and the school received Sh5,118 for each student for term one.

Out of the 29, four were Form Ones, six (Form Two), five (Form Three) and 14 in Form Four.

“The discrepancy of the 29 students was established through comparison of the actual students’ number in the school as per CAJ roll call and the set of students in the list forwarded to the principal secretary, State Department of Education vide a summary of accountability for funds received from the ministry,” said the commission’s chairman, Mr Otiende Amollo.

The commission pointed out that on March 3, the school principal wrote to the ministry, saying 31 students had missed out in the first tranche for 2014.

## POLICY GUIDELINES

"This revelation disagrees with the principal's assertion that the list of 31 students the principal sent to the State Department of Education as having missed their free day sec-

ondary education funds were all Form Ones," the report by the commission reads in part.

The Ombudsman's office has also recommended the development of clear policy guidelines on management of vehicles owned by education institutions.

If developed, all monies accrued from hiring of the vehicles would be audited and the Ministry of Education implements a tracking system for the vehicles for prevention against misuse.

The recommendations are as a result of investigations conducted by CAJ over complaints touching on some schools.

Amollo said there was need for the Kenya National Audit to carry out further investigations into the matter to establish facts on the amounts released to 'ghost students' and appropriate action taken.

He said his office had recommended to Education Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang to put in place proper checks to safeguard the kitty.



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