

NEWS

Briefly

Speeding vehicle kills Laikipia varsity student

Campaigns for the Laikipia University Students leaders turned tragic after one student was killed by a speeding vehicle along Nyahururu-Nakuru Road.

Three others sustained serious injuries during the 7pm incident on Thursday evening, and have since been admitted to Nyahururu District Hospital. According to the varsity's vice-chancellor Prof Francis Lelo, the students were conducting their campaigns after 6pm despite a ban.

It is during the campaigns that they barricaded the road causing heavy traffic jam.

"The driver feared he could be stoned and came speeding, hitting a group of students. One of them died on the spot while three others who sustained serious injuries were rushed to hospital," said Prof Lelo.

KU not closed after students protests

Kenyatta University was not closed after the recent students protest. Communication from the university said the university has remained opened. The university was erroneously listed among the institutions closed following a spate of university students' unrest. Technical University of Mombasa and Dedan Kimathi University recently protested to demand clarity of the status of engineering programs they are taught.

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology was also closed after students protested a new fees policy, allegedly, introduced without consultation.

University VC Mabel Imbuga said first and final year students will resume classes Monday. Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi held a meeting with all University Council chairmen and Vice Chancellors of both public and private universities.

Sweet news? It will be seen whether the DP's declaration will rescind a court's ruling

Butali licence to stay, Ruto assures sugarcane farmers

By GRACE WEKESA

Deputy President William Ruto had sweet news for Kakamega County residents after assuring them that the licence given to Butali Sugar Company will not be revoked. The Deputy President assured farmers and the management of the Kakamega-based sugar company that the government will ensure the licence is operationalised. Speaking at the firm yesterday during the launch of a Sh429 million infrastructure project meant to open up roads in Butali sugar zone, Mr Ruto said licensing of millers was a responsibility of the government and not the courts.

"The licensing matter directed by the Court of Appeal to the sugar directorate to arbitrate, is the government's responsibility. We shall deal with it accordingly," he said.

The DP's statement throws a spanner in the works as the issue of revocation of the firm's licence is a longstanding legal battle between the West Kenya Sugar Company and the Kabras-based miller, which has been dragging in court since 2005.

GOOD NEWS

In September this year, the Court of Appeal in Kisumu referred the case to a tribunal, to decide whether the company will continue its operations or close down. Ruto's declaration is good news to the more than 2,500 workers of the Butali Sugar Company. Kakamega Deputy Governor Phillip Kutima, who represented the governor, welcomed the DP's announcement.

Meanwhile, the roads project will ease cane transportation and reduce the cost of production to the miller. Ruto also put on notice suspected sugar barons who have thrown the sugar industry in disarray and paralysed operations of cane growers.



Butali Sugar Mills Managing Director Sanjay Patel and Deputy President William Ruto when he toured the company in Kakamega County yesterday. [PHOTO: BENJAMIN SAKWA/ STANDARD]

However, the DP said the local sugar industry must brace for competition from sugar producing countries within the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) trading bloc since Kenya is a signatory to the pact.

"We shall not allow cheap imports to flood our markets but we must give Comesa partners an opportunity to sell their commodities in Kenya as we do in their countries," he noted.

Butali Sugar Managing Director Sanje Patel said the firm had rolled out a massive cane development programme to address the problem of raw material scarcity.

"The machinery we have unveiled today intends to improve road network in our sugar growing zones for the benefit of our farmers," said Patel.

Politicians from the region who accompanied the DP called for a marshal plan that will provide a road map towards revamping the ailing sugar industry.

Nambale MP Sakwa Bunyasi said sugar remains the region's economic main stay and the industry needs to be stabilised.

Also present were MPs Alfred Sambu, Benjamin Washiali, Dan Wanyama, David Were and former Housing Minister Soita Shitanda.

Ombudsman chair elected to continental body

By LILIAN ALUANGA-DELVAUX

Kenya's Ombudsman Commissioner Otiende Amollo, has been unanimously elected Secretary General of the African Ombudsman and Mediators Association (AOMA).

Consequently, the Kenyan Ombudsman will now oversee operations of the continental body for the next four years, as AOMA's headquarters move to Nairobi.

AOMA is a continental body with 44 member-countries. Its mission is to advance development of the Ombudsman institution for the furtherance of good governance, the rule of law and human rights in Africa.

Amollo takes over from South Africa's Public Protector, advocate Thuli Madonsela. She is famed for the report on President Jacob Zuma's private Nkandla property, commonly referred to as the Nkandla scandal.

The elections took place in Addis Ababa at the African Union headquarters, on the sidelines of the Fourth General Assembly and Biennial Aoma and African Union (AU) conference concluded yesterday.

The meeting, which was addressed by key dignitaries was organised by the Government of Ethiopia, AU and AOMA. During the conference, the African Union entered into an arrangement with the Ombudsman and Mediators body which gave Aoma observer status in the African Union.

AOMA urged AU to ensure that the remaining ten African States that do not have the Office of the Ombudsman establish it in line with the AU resolution of 2012.

AOMA member countries include South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gambia and Ivory Coast. Other countries represented are Lesotho, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.

School fights cancellation of results

By KAMAU MUTHONI

Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) has been put to task on Chemistry examination paper results for 37 candidates that it cancelled last year.

KNEC, in a suit filed by St Pius The Tenth Seminary School, has been accused of bias and discrimination over the cancellation of 2013 Chemistry practical results of the 37 students.

In the case filed before High Court Judge Weldon Korir, the school through its lawyer Godfrey Otenyo said cancellation of the results of all students and later releasing the results of one student though bearing a 'Y' mark on the Chemistry paper was not only irrational but discriminatory against the last year's Form Four candidates from the school.

"There were three students sharing a bench. If the council took the student bearing index number three and cancelled his exam, who then was he collud-

ing with. The results that were cancelled were Chemistry practical and not theory paper. No reasonable authority would have taken a decision such as this," Otenyo argued. The school argued that none of its students was caught cheating in the examination room.

According to an affidavit sworn by a parent of one of the affected students, the school in March 13 this year sought to have the examination body disclose what its findings on the irregularities but no response was filed towards the same.

The parent, Wangombe Thuo, in his affidavit told the court that the school had informed the council that one of its officials had gone to monitor the practical paper but did not raise an alarm on how the students conducted themselves in the examination room.

But the examinations body said it was authorised by law to cancel the results of students who cheated.

In a reply, by Andrew Nyachio, the

court heard that a team sent to monitor and investigate reported cases of irregularities in the national examination unearthed massive cheating at the school. He said that this led to the decision to cancel the results of the students.

"A unique response pattern depicting collusion was established," Nyachio said.

The senior legal officer in KNEC told court that a security committee met and discussed the 2013 examinations irregularities of which it was found out that out of the 446,696 candidates who sat for the exams, 3,353 students were netted and that is why it approved the cancellation of their results.

The school in its plaint wants the court to compel KNEC to release the results of the other students saying that the cancellation has hampered them to get admissions to higher learning institutions. The court will rule on the matter on December 10.



Kenya Power

POWER INTERRUPTION NOTICE

Kenya Power will interrupt electricity power supply to Parts of Nyali on Saturday 8th November, 2014.

We request our customers in these areas to bear with us.

AREA: PART OF NYALI

DATE: Saturday 08.11.2014 TIME: 9.00 A.M. – 5.00 P.M.
Nyali Golf Club, Mamba Village, Part of Beach Rd, Part of Mwembe Rd, Part of Impala Rd, Part of Links Rd & adjacent customers.

www.kenyapower.co.ke