



Kenttec CEO Pamela Olet (right) and council member Ronald Ochwada address the press in Naivasha.

[PHOTO: ANTONY GITONGA/STANDARD]

# State needs Sh12 billion to eradicate sleeping sickness

By ANTONY GITONGA

The country needs Sh12 billion to fight Trypanosomiasis, better known as sleeping sickness, statistics from the Kenya Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Council (Kenttec) have revealed.

The council said the funds would be used to combat the disease over a period of 15 years.

Kenttec Chief Executive Officer Pamela Olet said although the resources were enormous, the Government must ensure the country is free of the disease.

"We need about Sh12.7 billion to effectively control this disease that is spreading fast in the country," Dr Olet said.

She said the Government had already allocated the council Sh600 million to help fight the disease, adding there was need to increase the allocation.

Olet said since formation of the council in 2003 following a decree by East African heads of state, the country had made major strides in fighting the deadly disease.

"The Government has tried over the years because we started with a

budget of Sh10 million, which has now been increased to Sh600 million," she said.

Olet said Trypanosomiasis diseases, which are caused by flies, could be eradicated if communities living in areas where the diseases are prone were well informed on how to deal with them.

## EXPORTING BEEF

In Africa alone, 37 countries are said to be affected.

Olet noted that countries such as Namibia and Botswana had been declared free of the disease owing to

concerted efforts made to combat it.

"Botswana, which fought the disease using state resources alone, is now exporting beef products to the European market and Kenya needs to follow suit," she said.

At home, the CEO said 38 countries were affected and efforts were being made to prevent the disease from spreading further.

She said the last case in humans was reported in 2009, adding that the project to eradicate the disease from the country was part of the national blueprint, Vision 2030.

## Officers nabbed over bribery to face charges

By BOAZ KIPNGENOH

Ten traffic police officers arrested in a sting operation by anti-graft agency officials for allegedly collecting bribes from motorists will today be arraigned in the Nakuru Chief Magistrate's court.

This is after their attempt to get orders through a petition from the High Court to temporarily bar the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) from prosecuting them on charges of abuse of office flopped.

The officers, who are also the applicants in the petition filed before Lady Justice Janet Mulwa on Monday, claimed an independent inquiry by the Nakuru OCPD for an independent authority to ascertain if the offences they would be charged for took place was still pending.

Through advocates David Mongeri and Steve Kabita, the officers claimed their arrest was the subject of media conversation and their trial would not be fair.

However, Mulwa directed their advocates to serve EACC and DPP for an inter-party hearing today. The allegedly corrupt officers were nabbed on October 30 along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway.

## Free diabetes screening

By STANDARD REPORTER

World Diabetes Day will be marked on Friday with the Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi set to offer free screening at the facility's lecture theatre.

This year's campaign is themed 'Healthy Living and Diabetes'.

The hospital's specialists, including physicians, diabetic educators, nutritionists, a diabetologist, a paediatric endocrinologist and a clinical psychologist, will conduct interactive educational sessions with the public.

The drive will also address healthy eating and its importance in the prevention of type 2 diabetes and effective management of the condition in adults and children to avoid complications.

# Cofek vows to put brakes on new PSV pay system

Body claims citizens are not ready for cashless fares and threatens legal action

By RAWLINGS OTIENO

Consumers Federation of Kenya (Cofek) has threatened to take legal action against the National Transport Safety Authority's (NTSA) plan to implement cashless fare payments for public service vehicles (PSVs) from December 1.

The representative body argued that majority of commuters were not ready for the new system due to poor and opaque implementation.

Cofek Secretary General Stephen Mutoro claimed consumer and, by extension, public interest had been sacrificed on the altar of commercial and political interests.

"PSVs will end up increasing fares to cover the 3 per cent transaction fees and the system is unconstitutional as it could be discriminatory. No mechanisms are in place to protect the consumer," said Mr Mutoro in a statement.

He said implementation of the sys-

tem would occasion a massive crisis in the transport sector during the December festive season.

'My1963' and PSV's cashless payment system as presently packaged, he alleged, smacked of high-level fraud.

Cofek now wants Competition Authority of Kenya, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the Public Procurement Oversight Authority (PPOA) to urgently investigate 'My1963' and the cashless payment system with a view to finding it uncompetitive, predatory and anti-consumer and market interest.

The federation also wants NTSA to indefinitely suspend the process until they can convince Kenyans they are ready to roll out effectively.

"President Uhuru Kenyatta should order State House and or influential politicians affiliated to the so-called 'SkyTeamFixers' to keep clear of the cashless payment system until the consumer interest is established," said Mutoro.

Cofek wants Attorney General Githu Muigai to reveal whether his office scrutinised the process of establishing the system and contracts, and if they conformed to the law.

Mutoro insisted the information around the PSVs cashless payment was scanty and designed to suit all except the consumer.

## Friends of mosquitoes



Gor Mahia fans had to go green by all means, including by covering themselves with mosquito nets like these two in Kisumu, to celebrate their club's victory. Statistics reveal a widespread misuse of mosquito nets distributed by the Government with only 48 per cent being properly used, leading to high malaria prevalence. [PHOTO: COLLINS ODUOR/STANARD]

## Ongeri stops Ombudsman from acting on report

By KAMAU MUTHONI

Kenya's envoy to UN Habitat Sam Ongeri has obtained temporary orders stopping the National Land Commission from acting on a damning report released by the Commission on Administrative Justice (Ombudsman) on illegal land acquisition in Kisii County.

Prof Ongeri was issued with temporary orders in which the NLC and Ombudsman were asked not to take any action against him until the mat-

ter, which is before High Court Judge George Odunga, is heard and determined.

"To avoid any precipitate action, the respondents should hold their horses until the case before this court is heard and determined," Justice Odunga said.

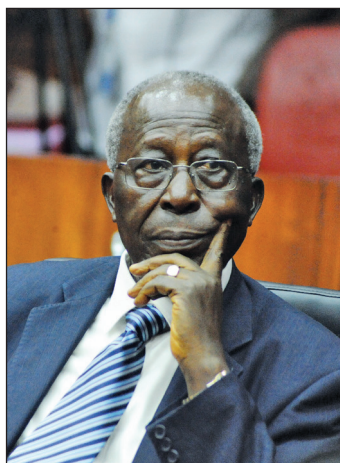
Odunga also ordered that there should be no arrests relating to the land.

In a case filed under a certificate of urgency yesterday, Ongeri complained that the Ombudsman's re-

port had tainted his name and could be used to condemn and remove him from office.

Ongeri said he was not afforded a chance to respond to the allegations before they were published, adding that the same land issue had been in court for determination in Kisii.

"My appointment as an ambassador stands to be challenged in court and jeopardised by the adverse findings in the aforementioned report which was compiled and published unlawfully," he said.



UN Habitat envoy Sam Ongeri