



Kiambu Governor William Kabogo awards top Kenya Certificate of Primary Education pupils at Githunguri Township Primary School. [PHOTO: JOHN KARUME/STANDARD]

Kabogo to Waititu: I'm not a weakling

By JOHN KARUME

Kiambu Governor William Kabogo has described himself as a seasoned politician and not a weakling, "to be given ultimatums".

Mr Kabogo was reacting to last week's ultimatum from Jubilee Alliance Party's (JAP) Kabete parliamentary candidate Ferdinand Waititu to shift the county headquarters from Thika town to Kiambu.

Waititu had threatened to start a process of collecting signatures to recall Kabogo should he fail to relocate the county headquarters by July.

And Githunguri Township Primary School's prize giving day on Saturday provided Kabogo with a perfect opportunity to hit back at Waititu, saying the former Embakasi MP is a political reject seeking refuge in Kiambu.

"Go and ask him (Waititu) if he did not call me saying its very cold out there and he is looking for a place to hang on to," said Kabogo.

Kabogo said he doesn't take ultimatums from anybody and will only relocate to Kiambu county offices once construction is complete.

He also urged locals to be careful of leaders advising them not to pay taxes saying any government relies on taxes from residents for its operations and growth.

"Rome was not build with stones alone, resources too were included," Kabogo said.

He told Waititu and anybody else interested in the Kiambu Governor's seat to brave themselves for a titanic battle come 2017.

"I'm a seasoned politician who has been elected on several occasions and Waititu should be prepared for a defeat in 2017," said Kabogo.

Kabogo said that come 2017 when the 47 counties will be ranked, Kiambu county will be between position one and five as he is determined to deliver the promises he made while campaigning. He questioned Waititu's academic credentials saying the job requires intellectuals with unquestionable university certificates.

"The governor's job is not as easy as throwing stones in the streets, it requires seriousness and education," said Kabogo.

Kabogo said he is ready to engage Waititu and other gubernatorial aspirants come 2017 to a public debate in a national language on their agenda for the county. But in a swift rejoinder Waititu said Kabogo must be joking.

POKE HOLES

"We understand that he has managed to ignore ultimatums issued by other leaders but he must respect mine because I am ready to face him," said Waititu, adding that Kabogo had failed Kiambu residents.

He said he will not cease to poke holes into an arrogant leadership that would kill people's livelihoods through imposing high levies and offering no services.

Waititu's ally and Ngewa MCA Karungu Thangwa criticised Kabogo for failing to appreciate positive criticism.

"I am saddened that Kabogo never learns. Why does he belittle other leaders?" Thangwa wondered.

Ombudsman opposes directive on pupils' HIV profiling

By RAWLINGS OTIENO

The Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) has faulted President Uhuru Kenyatta's directive on profiling HIV and Aids students.

The President had given a directive for the collection of up-to-date data on all school going children living with the HIV.

CAJ Chairman Otiende Amollo now wants Uhuru to

recall the directive saying it is unconstitutional and violates several sections of the law.

"Your Excellency, the directive raises legal and ethical issues that relate to the right to privacy and confidentiality for persons living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA). We are of the considered view that the directive may be counter-productive in the national HIV response," reads part of the letter.

The commission also known as the Ombudsman said the President's directive may undermine the Government's efforts in addressing the scourge, and subsequently erode the gains made in addressing HIV.

Mr Amollo said there should be more consultations among the relevant stakeholders on the matter, including alternative ways of getting the required information without

infringing on the rights of persons living with the virus.

"We wish to emphasise the centrality of the protection of human rights in the context of national responses and strategies to HIV. This requires responses or strategies that conform to constitutional values and principles," said Amollo.

The Ombudsman argued that the directive could lead to forced or compulsory testing of every student.

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