



Investigation

Police on the spot over inaction on assault case

Officers in Kisumu have been put on the spot over their laxity in taking action against Gem MP Elisha Odhiambo over alleged assault of a blogger.

The Standard has established that the Ombudsman has given the officers 21 days to explain why they have not taken any action against the legislator.

The Director of Public Prosecu-

tions has also written to the county commander requesting for the file on the incident.

The development comes even as the police denied receiving letters from the two bodies in regards to the case.

In one of the letters dated August 9, 2019, seen by *The Standard*, the Commission of Administration of Justice wants

the OCS to indicate steps the police have taken over the assault claim.

Maurice Oduor, a Kisumu-based blogger, had filed a complaint through his lawyer Jared Sala.

According to the commission, lawyers representing the blogger had filed a complaint over the delays in apprehending the sus-

pect and charging him over the alleged assault.

"In light of the urgency of the matter, we look forward to hearing from you within 21 days of receipt of this letter," read the letter in part.

In June, Oduor reported to the police that the legislator had assaulted him over a social media post.

According to the blogger, the post was about the Gem Constituency CDF which is currently under probe by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

Oduor claims that after he published the post on his Facebook page, he started receiving threats from people claiming to be supporters of the MP. **[Harold Odhiambo]**

Justice

EACC can question ex-official, court says

The High Court has declined to stop the anti-graft agency from summoning a former Nyandarua County chief finance officer to explain the source of his wealth.

Justice Daniel Ogembo ruled that it will be unsafe to stop the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) from questioning Michael Kamau Kuria before both parties are given a chance to argue their cases.

"There is no agreement between the parties to suspend the summons as the commission is yet to file its response. It will be unsafe to issue any order now. The commission is given two days to file their response before the dispute is fully heard," ruled Justice Ogembo.

Kuria is seeking to stop the EACC from summoning him, arguing that the agency unprocedurally obtained details of his bank accounts without first giving him a chance to defend his source of wealth.

EACC is investigating the former CFO on suspicion he was engaged in corruption, money laundering and other economic crimes which allowed him to accumulate wealth totalling Sh343 million within a span of three years.

The anti-graft body said it was not possible for Kuria to purchase properties worth Sh186 million and deposit Sh82 million in his company's account and Sh74 million in his personal account with his modest salary of less than Sh120,000.

EACC summoned Kuria on August 13 to explain how he obtained the wealth on grounds that evidence collected showed suspicious deposits in his account during the period he worked as the county finance boss.

The agency accused Kuria of incorporating Gachomba and Company Properties Ltd and listing his wife, mother and six children as directors. He allegedly used the firm as a vehicle to trade with the county and receive kick-backs from other contractors.

Justice Ogembo scheduled September 18 for hearing of the application. **[Paul Ogemba]**

Politics. At least 16 aspirants were seeking Jubilee party ticket

Jubilee picks Mariga for Kibra contest

Football star says he is driven to serve residents of informal settlement and bring change.

By Moses Nyamori
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The ruling Jubilee Party last night settled on footballer McDonald Mariga as its candidate for Kibra November 7 by-election.

The footballer beat 16 other aspirants to secure the ticket after they were interviewed by the party's National Election Board.

The Kibra seat fell vacant following the death of ODM's Ken Okoth who succumbed to cancer.

The board, chaired by Mr Andrew Musangi, said it settled on Mr Mariga after establishing he was the best suited aspirant to carry the party's flag in a constituency traditionally known to back Opposition chief Raila Odinga.

"I am pleased to announce that (having followed) due process (we now have a) candidate of impeccable character and credentials, a candidate who has had enduring connections with the people of Kibra as he hails from Karanja and most importantly a candidate who has

demonstrated the energy, passion and zeal to not only lead by example with humility but also to deliver a timeless and transformative legacy for the people of Kibra," said Mr Musangi.

Earlier, Mariga denied claims that his decision to vie for the seat was influenced by Deputy President William Ruto.

The footballer said he had sought the advice of people close to him before reaching the decision to throw his hat into the ring.

"I am not being pushed by anybody. It is something that I have decided to do after consulting my family," the footballer said.

Mariga spoke yesterday at the party headquarters in Nairobi after being interviewed.

He will face-off with Amani National Congress' Eliud Owalo, and other candidates yet to be picked by their respective parties.

"I submitted all the required documents. That is why I am here for the interview," Mariga said.

His entry into the Kibra race had triggered behind-the-scenes infighting pitting President Uhuru Kenyatta's allies against those of the Deputy President.

A disputed letter that had been sub-



McDonald Mariga greets supporters outside the Jubilee party headquarters in Nairobi, yesterday. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]

mitted to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) listing Mariga's name alongside four other aspirants was disowned by Jubilee Secretary General Raphael Tuju amid claims Ruto's camp was pushing for his candidature.

The 32-year-old football star said his decision to join politics was fueled by his desire to serve the residents of the

sprawling settlement, adding that he was ready to retire from football.

"I know the challenges facing slum dwellers, having been in Karanja (estate) myself. I want to give back to the society," said the star who was accompanied by a handful of supporters. Mariga said if not selected to be the party's flag bearer, he would support the candidate picked.

In Brief

Kakamega. Man gets 15 years for maiming kin

■ A 25-year-old man will serve 15 years in jail for chopping off his cousin's hand. Jackson Musila Musonye was found guilty of causing injury to Wycliffe Shitemi on October 24, 2017 at Shibuye village. Judge David Majanja of the High Court in Kakamega said

the attack on Shitemi was serious since he could have died. The court heard that on the day the offence was committed, Musonye approached Shitemi on a path near their family's land. He drew a machete and swung it aiming at Shitemi's neck. Shitemi blocked the machete with his hand, and it was chopped off. He spent three months in hospital as a result of the injury. The court heard that Musonye attacked his cousin over a land tussle they were embroiled in. Justice Majanja said he found Musonye to be unremorseful of his actions and could try to pursue Shitemi once he is released. **[Jack Murima]**



What was left of the perimeter wall that was allegedly destroyed during elections. [Ignatius Odanga, Standard]

Busia. School pressures IEBC to build ruined wall

■ The management of St Mathias Busia Boys Secondary wants the electoral agency to construct a school wall that was pulled down by residents in 2017. The wall was destroyed by people who wanted to attack election officials presiding over the repeat presidential poll. According to school principal Titus Isogol, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has ignored pleas to construct the wall. "Where will the school get over Sh1 million to construct the wall?" posed Mr Isogol. County Elections Manager

Fredrick Apopa said in an interview that a meeting had been held between IEBC and the ministries of Education and Interior. He said it was concluded that IEBC should not be held culpable for the destruction of the wall. "That matter is something we have settled with the ministries of Education and Interior," said Apopa. Isogol refuted Apopa's claims, saying no such settlement was reached. The County Director of Education said separately that construction of the wall could be financed by education infrastructure funds that his ministry releases to counties each year. **[Ignatius Odanga]**