

WATCHING THE WATCHDOG Ombudsman denies the claims

Staff ask EACC to investigate Kajuju CAJ team

Staff send petition to EACC complaining about corruption, abuse of office, fraud and misuse of public resources.

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A storm is brewing at the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) as staff accuse some commissioners of abetting irregularities.

A petition to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) speaks of disgruntlement with three commissioners – chairperson Florence Kajuju, Washington Sati and Lucy Ndung'u – and Commission Secretary Leonard Ngaluma.

Staff have complained of alleged flawed employment procedures, claiming workers hired as casuals were given a one-year contract contrary to the Public Service Commission (PSC) guidelines.

"Presently, the commission is bleeding and limping due to corruption, misuse of public resources, abuse of office, fraud and impunity perpetrated by the commissioners and some staff," reads the protest documents seen by the *Saturday Standard*.

According to the aggrieved employees, the dire situation has made it difficult for the commission to execute its mandate.

"In fact, these acts constitute express violation of the Constitution, the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, the Leadership and Integrity Act and the Leadership and Integrity Code for CAJ



Ombudsman Florence Kajuju.
[File, Standard]

commissioners," the complaint to the EACC reads.

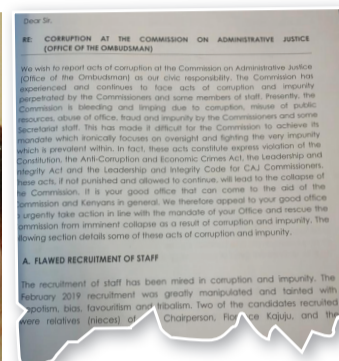
The commissioners have also been accused of questionable foreign and local trips.

"The trips are to their home regions over the weekends but stated as 'going' to regional offices to check on complaints resolution while in reality they are private trips to their homes, raising the question of official events held on weekends," reads the document.

Public programmes

The staff say the top management's actions undermine the operations of the commission since the private trips are approved at the expense of public programmes.

"In order to conceal their activities, the commissioners decline to sign the work tick-



ets for vehicles assigned to them, instead once they return to Nairobi, other officers sign on their behalf," the report states.

They listed the chairperson's foreign trips to South Africa, Rwanda, Sweden, United Kingdom (UK), US, Belgium, Botswana, Sarajevo, Bosnia, Herzegovina, India, Switzerland and Nigeria.

The vice chair has visited South Africa, Belgium, India and France while all of the top officials have gone to India, Sweden and SA.

EACC Chief Executive Officer Twalib Mbarak confirmed receiving the complaint but he did not give details. "Yes, we have received the petition and will process it before acting," said Mr Mbarak.

Ms Kajuju denied receiving any complaints from staff, but said that last year, there was an anonymous complaint, which saw the commission organise a team building to iron out the concerns.

"Our budgets are itemised. The CEO decides on the airtime and meals. The complaints at the team building were about the partitioning of commissioners' offices," she said.

Kenya Ports Authority

Public Clarification

The Kenya Ports Authority's attention has been drawn to a news story that was aired in a section of the electronic media during the 9 pm prime time news on Thursday, 28th November 2019 with a caption "Probing Rot at the Port".

Reporting on the ongoing investigations by the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI), the TV report inaccurately misled the public to the extent of portraying the KPA Board Chairman, Gen. (Rtd) Joseph R. Kibwana, **EGH, CBS**, as having defied the summons only to honor them four days later purportedly to escape imminent arrest.

We wish to clarify that on Monday, 25th November 2019, indeed the KPA Board members appeared at the DCI headquarters but the Chairman, who was engaged in a pre-arranged State function, agreed with the Director of Criminal Investigations to reschedule his meeting to a later date in the week.

Gen. Kibwana, in his capacity as the Chairman of KPA, was attending *The National Conference on Transforming Kenya's Economy Through A Fiscally Sustainable Public Wage Bill* from 26th to 28th November 2019 at KICC. The participants of the State function were the Chairpersons and all Chief Executive Officers of State Corporations.

True to his word, the Chairman honored his rescheduled meeting with the DCI on the afternoon of Thursday, 28th November 2019 and recorded his statement.

The assertion by the media report that the Chairman had disregarded the summons is therefore untruthful and misleading. In this light, it is even more unjust for the reporter to label the Board Chairman defiant by saying, "The embattled MD and the apparently defiant Board Chairman are at the centre of the scams...".

Finally, we wish to re-affirm that KPA is fully committed to supporting and assisting the investigating agencies to undertake their work.

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GROWING BUSINESS, ENRICHING LIVES

In Brief

Homa Bay. Board sent home for flouting law

■ MCAs have approved sacking of errant public service board over employment irregularities. The MCAs unanimously approved recommendations by the county assembly committee on security and administration

that board members Daniel Ogada (chairman), Collins Odhiambo (secretary) and Tobias Odundo (member) be sent home. Ruma Kaksingri MCA Ellyphalet Osuri who tabled the report argued that the board advertised for 143 vacancies of the health workers but ended up recruiting 165 without giving a valid any reason. The MCAs said the board members flouted the recruitment procedures. Homa Bay Governor Cyprian Awiti has been asked to move with speed and sack the board. The MCAs said it is unacceptable for the board to serve their personal interests. **[James Omoro]**

Nairobi. Workers injured after falling off building

■ Nine construction workers were injured after they fell off a 10-storey building in Pangani area. According to eye witnesses, the nine were working on the upper floors of the building when the incident happened. "When I rushed to the scene, I found people writhing in pain and some bleeding," said Micheal Wanjala. Our efforts to talk to the site supervisor proved futile. The injured personnel were rushed to various city hospitals. The incident puts into question the safety of workers at construction sites. **[Paul Thoronjo]**