

INTEGRITY

Ombudsman to vet aspirants ahead of General Election

The Commission on Administrative Justice (Ombudsman) will vet contestants ahead of the August General Election.

According to the CAJ Chairperson Florence Kajuju, the commission will work with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and other relevant authorities to ensure that only leaders who have credentials to hold public office vie.

“We are working together with these other bodies to vet these candidates once the members of the public raise issues with them. We will make sure that those who have tainted images are not cleared,” she said.

Speaking in Nyahururu town during the opening of a regional office, Kajuju assured that the agency has the capacity to vet aspirants, and asked voters to raise integrity issues they may have against anyone seeking an elective seat.

The office will serve Laikipia, Baringo, Bomet, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Samburu and Nakuru counties, among others.

“Our office is determined to bring services closer to the people and that is why we have opted to open an office here,” she said.

Nyahururu High Court judge Charles Kariuki said the office will help the courts resolve land disputes, murder cases and sexual offences, which are rampant in the region.

Laikipia Health CEC Rose Maitai, who represented Governor Ndiritu Muriithi, said besides holding public officers to account, the commission will help improve the county government’s engagement and information sharing platforms. She assured that the administration was committed to ensuring that the public accesses information.

[James Munyeki]

Teacher lured disabled student with promise for plastic surgery

- ▶ College student narrated how she was lured to a hotel room.
- ▶ Labour court upholds TSC decision to sack Tom Ochako.

JULIUS CHEPKWONY, NAKURU

To the student, the teacher was a father figure who would never hurt her. But the court described Tom Ochako as a predator, who took advantage of the student’s physical disability to impregnate and abandon her.

The court described how the former tutor at the Moi Teachers College, Baringo, took the student to a hotel room in Kabarnet, where he sexually assaulted her.

The student narrated to the court how the teacher lured her with a promise to help her undergo plastic surgery.

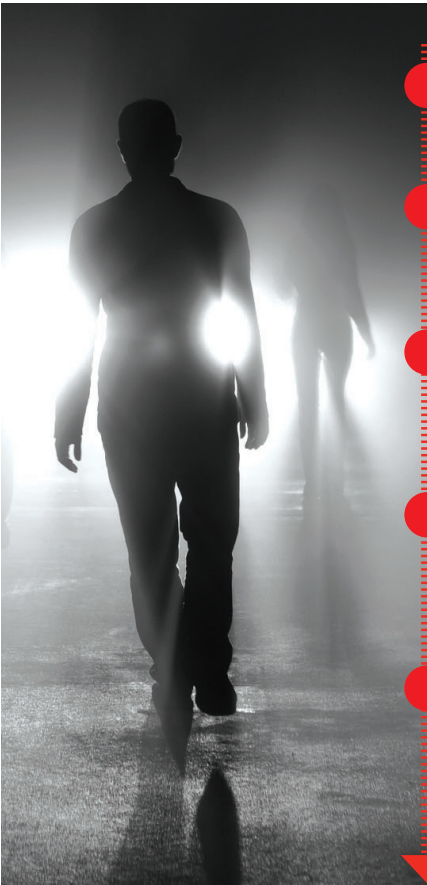
Court records indicate that the student had her right hand amputated, her left hand has only the thumb and the face is disfigured.

The teacher, she said, claimed a doctor friend would help her. He even persuaded her parents to let her undergo the surgery.

First, she was taken to a doctor in Nakuru where she was examined. On that day, Ochako booked a hotel room where they spent the night in separate beds.

The student was later advised to travel to Eldoret to see another doctor on October 27, 2010. He paid for her fare and was to join her later.

But the teacher called to say that she should look for accommodation



1989
Tom Ochako is employed by TSC

APRIL, 5 2012
He is dismissed

SEPTEMBER 14, 2016
His appeal against the decision is thrown out

DECEMBER 8, 2016
Moves to the Employment and Labour Relations Court

FEBRUARY 25, 2022
Justice James Rika upholds TSC decision

He used his position as her teacher, posing as a father-figure as well, and ravaged her, leaving her psychologically wrecked, and with an unsupported child. He compounded her physical impairment,”

Justice James Rika, Labour court

in Kabarnet. On this night, Ochako insisted in coming into her room, claiming he wanted to charge his mobile phone.

Although she had resisted opening the door, she later did. But the man insisted that he would spend the night there.

The student told the court that the teacher had sex with her, and when the morning came, he claimed he did not have the money for the plastic surgery.

And when she later found out

that she was pregnant, the student fled their home in shame.

She later lodged her complaint with the college’s board, leading to his interdiction by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC).

In his judgment last week, Justice James Rika noted the tutor had tested the student’s trust in Nakuru.

“He did not see anything morally wrong in this. He was preparing himself to take her away from the plain sight of Nakuru, to the backstreets of Kabarnet, away from the vicinity of his college,” he said.

The court said the man played with the student’s trust by organising a teachers’ home visit, where he introduced himself to unsuspecting parents.

Physical imperfections

“He lied all the time that he was going to assist her remedy her physical imperfections. He would take her to a doctor who was his friend. He took her from Nakuru to Eldoret and fatefully to Kabarnet where he deflowered her,” read the judgment.

“He used his position as her teacher, posing as a father-figure as well, and ravaged her, leaving her psychologically wrecked, and with an unsupported child. He compounded her physical impairment.”

Ochako had sued TSC in December 2016 at the Employment and Labour Relations Court in Nairobi.

Rika, however, said the court was satisfied TSC acted in accordance with its constitutional and statutory mandate interdicting Ochako.

In the suit, he sought to be reinstated and paid the outstanding salary.

jchepkwony@standardmedia.co.ke

Briefing

HOMA BAY. COUPLE HURT IN M-PESA SHOP THEFT

■ A couple is nursing injuries after gangsters raided their M-Pesa shop and stole money on Tuesday night. The two were attacked as they closed the shop at about 9pm at the town’s bus park. The thugs were armed with a gun and knives. “The gangsters shot in the air to scare away residents,” said area chief Joshua Ochogo. DCI boss Abed Kavoo said their abandoned getaway car had been found. The gangsters first stabbed the man in the head, prompting the woman to run with the money. But the thieves caught with her and snatched the bag containing the money. [James Omoro]

BARINGO. SOLDIER HELD OVER LOVER’S DEATH



■ The police have been allowed to detain a soldier linked to the killing of his lover as investigations continue. Chief Magistrate Judith Wanjala ordered that Senior Sergeant Kipkoech Chirchir be taken to court on March 15. Dorcas Maasai was killed on Monday at their house in Timboiywo, Baringo Central. A postmortem is yet to be done. [Yvonne Chepkwony]

NAKURU. EACC PROBES COLLEGE LAND GRABBING

■ The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission is investigating alleged grabbing of a section of land belonging to the Nakuru Agricultural Training Centre. The college and the county government claim that some private developers have taken over part of the 130-acre land, and even have title deeds. Last month, students, staff and the public pulled down a perimeter fence erected around five acres. In a letter dated January 19, this year, the county government claims that the institution’s staff houses had been irregularly acquired. EACC South Rift Regional Manager Ignatius Wekesa said the investigations were at the initial stages. “EACC is on its toes to ensure all land is recovered and the culprits jailed.” [Daniel Chege]

KERICHO. PROTESTS AFTER ILLICIT BREW KILLS ONE



■ Residents barricaded the Kericho-Litein road yesterday to protest against the sale of illicit drinks after the death of a 32-year-old man. Judither Chepkurui said her cousin Geoffrey Maritim collapsed after consuming the brew. He was among six people who were rushed to the Kericho County Hospital on Tuesday night. “The drinks are sold openly,” said Chepkurui. [Nikko Tanui]

UASIN GISHU. CHAPLAIN JAILED FOR LIFE SET FREE

■ A school chaplain jailed for life for defiling a five-year-old girl has been set free. Judges Hannah Okwengu, Milton Makhandia and Fatuma Sichale noted that the prosecution case lacked enough evidence. Tom Nyakundi was jailed for the offence he is said to have committed in 2012. His bid to quash the sentence at the High Court failed in 2018, prompting him to go to the Court of Appeal. Nyakundi claimed the age of the minor was never established as the prosecution relied on an immunisation card. The three judges agreed. “We are perturbed that the minor first identified A and then O as the persons who had violated her, and that she only identified Nyakundi after being threatened and cajoled by her mother,” they ruled. [Lynn Kolongei]