

## A school crying out for help

Standard Two pupils sit on the floor at Ziwani Primary school in Kilifi County. The school's deputy head teacher Lydia Tamasha said the school needs at least more than 100 desks and some five more classrooms to accommodate the pupils.



KAZUNGU SAMUEL | NATION

## Mobile App to help train teachers launched

BY COLLINS OMULO

A mobile application to improve informal education in Kenya has been launched.

Hack to Teach 2017 is expected to improve teacher-training and targets 130,000 untrained tutors.

It is also expected to improve educational loans and school management.

During the launch of Hack to Teach yesterday, Infotech Principal Secretary Victor Kyalo said it would address technological issues in education, especially in rural Kenya.

"It is a big plus for the country as this app will solve many problems," Mr Kyalo said.

The app was built by African Tech Talents and Ideation Worldwide, a San Francisco-based social innovation laboratory.

Teachers Service Commission deputy chief executive Simon Kavisi said the app would help users learn from one another.

Mr Joany Huang of Ideation Worldwide, said the app would help more than five million less privileged children taught by thousands of untrained and unqualified teachers.

During a three-day hackathon, key tech and education experts supported the participants in problem-solving.

Team Uni-Infomail, Mayne Dev, HTTP and Elimu Kasi were awarded Sh60,000 for most innovative, best product, global impact and excellent engineering awards.

It is a big plus for the country as this app will solve many problems"

Victor Kyalo, the Principal Secretary, Information Communication and Technology ministry

Allegations > Moi is a trustee of the two parcels

# Rift elders oppose plan to sell expansive farms

Private developers told not to meddle as leaders say farms belong to the local people

BY FRANCIS MUREITHI  
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Elders from Kalenjin, Maasai, Turkana and Samburu have vowed to block the proposed sale and subdivision of two multi-million shilling farms associated with retired President Daniel arap Moi.

The properties are the 5,000-acre Deloraine farm at Salga, some 36km from Nakuru Town, and the more than 3,000 acres Technology farm on the outskirts of Nakuru Town.

Apart from Mr Moi, other prominent trustee of the farms are former Cabinet Minister Julius ole Sunkul, former Nakuru resident magistrate Haron Bomet, Brigadier (Rtd) Wilson Boinet, senior chief Michael Arusel and the late Dr Ezekiel Kipkorir.

The four ethnic groups are collectively known as the Kamatusa. The secretary of group's Nakuru branch, Mr David Sambai, said Deloraine farm was purchased through the Rift Valley

### Background

#### SECRET NEGOTIATIONS

Deloraine farm (5,000 acres) was purchased by Rift residents through the Rift Valley Development Trust at a price of Sh7.5 million.

The two parcels belong to residents of Rift Valley who formed the former 13 districts in the former Rift Valley Province.

Elders claim some foreigners were eyeing the farm and had already started secret negotiations with the some of the trustees

Baringo Senator Gideon Moi (below) urged to intervene and stop any further transaction.



8,000 acres Size of the two farms belonging to the group that elders are opposed to their secret sale.

Development Trust for Sh7.5 million. "These two farms belong to the residents of Rift Valley who formed 13 districts in the Rift Valley Province," he added.

Mr Sambai urged Baringo Senator Gideon Moi (above) to stop any further transaction.

Mr James Cheruiyot, the chairman of Kamatusa in Nakuru County, said that some trustees were planning to sell the land without reference to other shareholders.

"We are privy to information that a few individuals want to grab the land and plan to sell some 2,000 acres," said Mr Cheruiyot.

"We want part of the Deloraine farm to be set aside for the construction of an agriculture based university. The region is best known for agriculture and this will boost the dwindling food production," said Mr Cheruiyot.

The official said that some foreigners were eyeing the farm and had started secret negotiations with the some of the trustees on how to lease it to them.

However, the farm manager, Mr Nixon Kosgey, speaking to the *Nation* denied that the two farms were due to be sold to private developers.

"Something was discussed by the board but it has not been concluded. Once it is done, the shareholders will be notified," said Mr Kosgey.

## Traffic police officers in central set for vetting

BY FRED MUKINDA

Traffic officers in central region are next on the police vetting timetable.

More than 300 traffic police will be vetted from Monday with the aim of sending home those found corrupt and incompetent.

National Police Service

Commission (NPSC) chairman Johnston Kavuludi said the 10-day vetting will target officers in the ranks of constable, corporal, sergeant and senior sergeant.

Their commanders in the ranks of inspector and chief inspector will also face the panel. "All officers in the central region will be vetted. The

results of the vetting will be released together with those of their colleagues in Nairobi who were vetted earlier," said Mr Kavuludi.

More than 800 officers in Nairobi were vetted last year.

The commission responsible for police discipline is concentrating on the traf-

fic department because it is deemed to be the most corrupt of all formations of National Police Service.

NPSC is also targeting for removal from service officers with questionable academic certificates, human rights abuse records as well as beneficiaries of irregular promotions.

## BRIEFLY

### KISII

#### Tutor who made parents pay for bus interdicted

A headteacher has been interdicted for asking parents to pay for a bus and examinations. Kisi Kani Primary School headmaster Ismail Ombati received the interdicting letter on Wednesday. According to TSC, every new parent was paying Sh2,000 for the bus recently and Sh900 for the tests. County education director William Sugut said the teacher was suspended after numerous complaints. —Magati Ombati

### NYERI

#### Two fined for running chemists without licence

Two people were fined Sh50,000 each yesterday when they pleaded guilty to running pharmaceutical shops without licences from the Kenya Pharmacy and Poisons Board. Joseph Ndichu Ndogo and Elias Kinyua Nyaga were arrested during a crackdown in Kieni West on January 31. Nyaga was operating Amani Medical Clinic and Chemist at Charity Trading Centre while Ndogo was running Jasp Pharm Chemist. —Joseph Wangari

### NYERI

#### Raider killed in botched robbery at trader's home

A suspected robber was killed and another arrested during a shoot-out with police on Tuesday night. Police said they found a home-made pistol at the scene of the crime. Nyeri Central OCPD Mulinde Kioko said a businessman raised alarm when a gang of three raided his home. "We dispatched a squad to the area and the robbers began shooting at the officers," Mr Kioko said, adding that the one who escaped had a pistol. —Nicholas Komo

### NAIROBI

#### Death row convicts seek retrial in separate case

Two death row convicts said to have been accomplices of one of Kenya's most dreaded gangster Simon Matheri, who was killed in 2007, yesterday asked the High Court for a retrial of a murder case tried in their absence six years ago. Simon Ndung'u Wainaina and Ruben Shanky Akelo told Justice Laila Kimaru that they are expected to defend themselves in a murder case they've never attended. —Richard Mungai

### MOMBASA

#### Tourism agency to work on halal guidelines

The Tourism Regulatory Authority is working on Halal certification guidelines for the benefit of visitors from Muslim-majority countries. Yesterday, TRA director-general Lagat Kipkorir said the agency was working with Kenya Bureau of Halal Certification to make catering, accommodation and conferencing meet the needs of customers. "The Authority has already developed a detailed plan," he said. —Musharraf Siddiqi