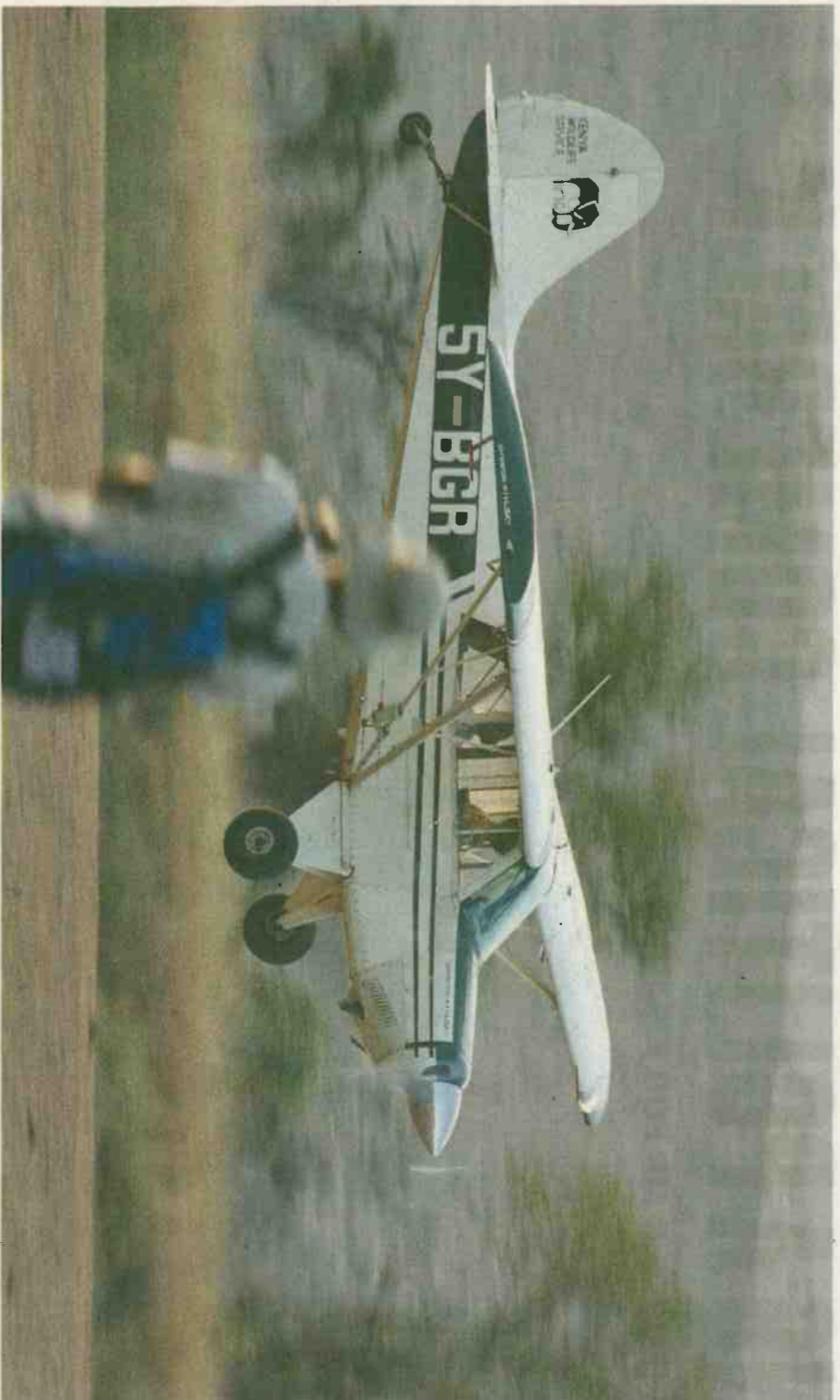


POLITICS MINISTRIES



**UNDERMINE SERVICES
Hasten county
cases, governors
tell CJ Maraga**

The Council of Governors chairman Peter Murya yesterday said 43 cases on devolution are pending in the courts. He urged Chief Justice David Maraga to hasten the cases, as they have slowed down services in some counties. The Meru governor spoke after paying a courtesy call on the CJ at the Supreme Court. He said the high number of cases is a concern for governors.

"The cases have been in the courts for a long time and need to be cleared," Murya said. He said some land matters and new legislation passed by the counties were challenged in court and needed expeditious conclusion.

Maraga promised Murya, who was accompanied by five governors, the cases will be cleared soon, as 31 judges are about to be hired. He said 19 judges have been interviewed to be posted to the Environment division and another eight to fill vacancies in the 34 High Courts. The Environment division deals with land matters. "We will give the cases priority, as the pillars of the Constitution aim to see devolution become a success," Maraga said.

The other governors were Mwangi wa Irja (Murang'a), Jack Rungu (Kisumu), John Mruttu (Taita Taveta), Julius Malombe (Kiambu), James Ong'wanje (Kisii) and Martin Wambora (Embu).

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

Kisii University Vice Chancellor John Akama has denied claims students rioted because of fee increment. He said no fee was increased. Akama said the learners protested against the introduction of the Enterprise Resource Planning System that automates services

POPULATION DECLINE

75% of wildlife species could be extinct by 2020

Report paints a bleak picture of the future. In 1979, there were an estimated 1.3 million African elephants. By 1989, only 600,000 remained'

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The World Wildlife Fund has warned that more than two-thirds of the world's greatest wildlife species, such as elephants, could be wiped out by 2020.

A new study titled 'Living Planet 2016' shows there could be a 67 per cent decline in wildlife globally because of human activities. The report was launched yesterday at Hotel Intercontinental in Kenya, Nairobi.

It says there has been a 58 per cent overall decline in the vertebrate population. The report says the population size of vertebrate species has averagely dropped by more than half in 40 years. "There is an average annual decline of 2 per cent and no sign yet that this

rate will reverse," the report says, painting a bleak future. The study measured biodiversity by gathering population data of vertebrate species and calculating an average change in abundance overtime.

The index is based on scientific data from 14,152 monitored populations of 3,706 vertebrates from around the world. The report is published every two years. It says there has been a 38 per cent decline in terrestrial species from 1970 to 2012.

In 1979, there were an estimated 1.3 million African elephants. By 1989, only 600,000 remained. Kenya lost 90 per cent of elephants, from 167,000 to 16,000, in the 16-year period from 1973-89. The population has grown back to about 35,000 today.

From 1970-80, the number of black rhinos in Kenya dipped by more than 90 per cent, from 20,000 to 1,500 and

continued to do so to 1990, when only 400 were left, marking 2 per cent of the 1970 population.

WWF conservation director Kenya Jared Bosire said changes are required across the food chain to reduce the pressure and adverse impact created by current food systems. "We need to shift to agricultural methods that grow food where it is needed and where it is suited and focus on yield optimisation within ecosystem boundaries," he said.

The report shows that on average, the abundance of populations monitored on freshwater systems had declined by 81 per cent between 1970 and 2012, becoming the worst hit in history. "Humanity demands more than our planet can sustain. By 2012, the biocapacity equivalent of 1.6 earths was needed to provide natural resources and services.

A KWS fixed-wing plane takes

off at the Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary airstrip to conduct an aerial census of elephants and other wildlife species from Tsavo to Mkomazi, Tanzania, on February 10, 2011
/JACK OWUOR

'HUMANITY

DEMANDS MORE THAN OUR PLANET CAN SUSTAIN'

EXAM CREDIBILITY

Matiang'i, education officials to visit 400 KCPE, KCSE centres

Education CS Fred Matiang'i and senior officers from the ministry of Education are to visit more than 400 examination centres for KCPE and KCSE.

Yesterday, Matiang'i witnessed the collection of KCPE papers at subcounty headquarters in Nairobi. He began with Dagoret in Kawangware at 5am and later toured Westlands, Starehe and Kamukunji.

The CS visited Nairobi Primary School, where he witnessed opening of the examinations packets. The school has 60

candidates. "I'm satisfied with the way the exercise is going on," Matiang'i said. He said the supervision will continue. KCSE exams begin on Monday next week until the end of November.

"The visits will provide a sample from which to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the measures the government has put in place to safeguard the integrity and credibility of this year's examinations going forward," he said. The visits also target collection and distribution centres. The spot checks complement head teachers, principals and supervisors' work.



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Education CS Fred Matiang'i ensures all is well at Changgo Primary School, Vihiga, on Tuesday during the start of the 2016 KCPE exams
/JOSEPH JAMENYA