

POLITICS GENERAL

WHAT'S IN NAME?

Lawyer says Jubilee Party should not be listed as he has outfit with similar name

A Nairobi advocate has threatened to sue the Registrar of Political Parties over the Jubilee Party. Asiford Mugwuku spent the better part of Tuesday at the registrar's office in Westlands. He said he registered the Jubilee Peoples Party on March 20, 2007, and registration of another party bearing the name Jubilee is unlawful. "Take notice that we are already registered as a political party in Kenya, hence registration or approval of

aforementioned names — Jubilee Party, Jubilee Alliance Party or Jubilee Party of Kenya will be in total contravention of the substantive statute, the constitution, and in fundamental breach of the constitutional rights of our membership," reads a letter to registrar Lucy Ndung'u. The Jubilee Party already has two Members of Parliament — Kabete MP Ferdinand Waititu and Kericho Senator Aaron Cherulyot.

CREDIBILITY TEST

Opposition ponders sponsoring a bill to regulate opinion polls, says Zani

ODM yesterday said the Ipsos poll that stirred heated debate on Tuesday aimed to blackmail Cord leader Ralla Odhiga. The pollster asked respondents if Ralla should contest or retire from politics. ODM acting secretary general Agnes Zani said the research was questionable. She said the data collected is not adding up to 100 per cent. Zani said the pollster was unable to explain the regional balance of the respondents. "It is so sad

that Ipsos came up with data it cannot verify, but was confident to push for a certain agenda, which everyone knows," she said. Zani said the opposition will consider sponsoring a bill in Parliament to strengthen the legal framework and ensure research is not used to blackmail people. She said a good law will bring order in the sector and ensure pollsters remain professional and accountable to Kenyans, as well as to potential clients.



Kenya Wildlife Service director general Kitili Mbatia and Environment Cabinet Secretary Judi Wakhungu are welcomed at the Nairobi National Park on March 30 / PATRICK VIDUA

KWS transfers 14 top bosses amid dissent and a go-slow

Changes come three days after a crisis meeting of senior KWS managers ended in disarray. A go-slow has interrupted services in parks across the country

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Kenya Wildlife Service has reshuffled 14 senior assistant directors amidst growing disquiet within the service and a go-slow, which started at the weekend.

A letter from the management dated August 2 shows the shake-up affects all assistant directors in charge of conservation areas. The transfers come three days after a crisis meeting among KWS senior managers ended in disarray.

Jydia Kisoyan, who was in charge of the Western conservation area,

is now assistant director Mountain conservation area. She takes over from Aggrey Maumo, who moves to Central Rift.

Julius Cheptei, who was the assistant director Southern conservation area that covers the Nairobi National Park, will now man Tsavo conservation area. He replaces Robert O'Brien, who has been moved to the KWS headquarters. Daniel Onsembe, who was at the director's office, now becomes assistant director in charge of Southern conservation area.

Adan Alio has been moved to the Western conservation area from Coast. His position has been taken by George Osuri, who was in charge

of Central. Simon Gitau, who was in charge of Eastern conservation area, has been moved to Northern, replacing Michael Wanja, who has been moved to the KWS Training Institute. Wilson Korir from the Conservation Education and Extension department at the KWS headquarters has been sent to Eastern.

Also affected are senior wardens Mohamed Kheri and Godfrey Wakaba. Kheri has been moved to Coast from Shimba Hills and his position taken by Wakaba, who was in charge of Malindi. Warden 1 Jane Gitau, who was stationed at Mombasa Marine, will now be in charge of Malindi.

(+) MANAGEMENT HOPES SHAKE-UPS WILL END PROBLEM

A senior source within the service told the Star the changes came after the Sunday meeting failed to reach a consensus. "The management wasn't pleased by the feedback it received and it thinks shake-ups will help address the growing dissent, and the ongoing go-slow that has hurt services in all parks," the source said. "This is a classical example of running away from the root causes of the crisis." KWS director general Kitili Mbatia said the changes are routine transfers.

THE DATA

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Date in March 2007 lawyer says he listed Jubilee Peoples Party

Lawyer Asiford Mugwuku says the Jubilee Party should not be registered. The Vehicle President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto will use to defend their seats in finalising plans for the merger of affiliate parties.

DETERRENT MEASURES

Misbehaving MPs face salary cuts and fines in new proposals

MPs accused of being grossly disorderly could be fined, face salary cuts and suspensions as deterrent measures. The House Committee on Privileges chaired by Speaker Justin Muturi (below) has recommended an amendment to Standing Order 111 to address the unequal treatment of the same offence at different times.

"The committee recommends that matters concerning MPs accused of the charge or other graver offences be referred to the Privileges Committee before the House makes a decision on the sanctions or penalties for the offence," a committee report obtained by the Star proposes.

The report is self-propelling — it does not require MPs to adopt it. "The standing order is self-executing without providing room for the presiding officer or chairperson of a committee of the whole house to manage unique situations."

On March 31, Muturi invoked the Standing Order to punish Ugunja MP Opiyo Wandayi for declining his orders to leave the Chamber after attempting to disrupt President Uhuru Kenyatta's State of the Nation Address.

Wandayi was out of Parliament for four months before the order was lifted through the recommendations of the committee. Once the Speaker applies the rule against a member, the legislator stands suspended from the House for the remainder of the session. However, the committee now wants the Procedure and House Rules Committee, which reviews House rules, to ensure provision for uniformity of punishment.

