

POLITICS GENERAL

COMPREHENSIVE POLICY

Tackling non-communicable diseases a priority, says medical services director

The government has prioritised non-communicable diseases in the objectives of the Kenya Health Policy 2012 – 2030. Director of medical services Jackson Kioko said the comprehensive policy focuses on the two key obligations of health – contribution to economic development and the realisation of fundamental human rights, including the right to health, as enshrined in the constitution. "Further, the Health ministry developed the national strategy for the prevention and control of NCD 2015–2020, which acts as a blueprint on priority activities aimed at halting and reversing the burden of non-communicable diseases," Kioko said. He spoke during the opening of the 2016 Symposium on Non-communicable Diseases in Nairobi. Kioko said NCDs are not just a serious threat to social and economic development, but also a real threat to life if no proper interventions are put in place.

MP'S PARENTS KILLED IN 2013

Police probe as Nyakach MP Owuor's vehicle, store set ablaze in his rural home

Unidentified people torched Nyakach MP Aduma Owuor's vehicle and a store in his rural home on Saturday night. The arsonists are believed to have hauled a container of petrol from across the fence. The store, made of iron sheets, had maize. A Pajero and a water tank were reduced to ashes during the 1am incident. The vehicle was parked in a garage, which had five tents inside. Residents put out the fire before it could spread. The main house and other structures in the compound were not destroyed. A one-litre jerrican of petrol was recovered. Owuor, who was not at home during the incident, linked it to politics and called for thorough investigation. County commissioner Mohammed Maalim said the incident is "purely arson". He told the Star on the phone investigations have been launched. On November 8, 2013, Owuor's parents were murdered in their home.



Kenya Wildlife Service personnel pile up ivory that was burnt on April 30 in Nairobi / JACCK OWUOR

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Kenya's bid to close domestic ivory markets gets backing

More than 10,000 participants from 192 countries on Saturday voted to have domestic ivory markets closed after a fierce debate following opposition from Namibia and Japan

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Kenya's bid to have domestic ivory markets closed has received backing from world governments. This comes weeks to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. More than 10,000 participants from 192 countries on Saturday voted to have domestic markets closed. This is after a fierce debate following opposition from Namibia and Japan. Kenya puts her case of banning ivory during the 17th CITES meeting from September 24 to October 5 in

Johannesburg, South Africa.

Kenya wants African elephants listed in CITES Appendix I, which has generated a heated debate among several African countries opposed to the proposal. In a document on July 1, the European Union opposed the proposals to protect elephants, causing a major spat with NGOs.

Under the proposal, all African elephant populations and their range states will be unified under Appendix I, ending split-listing.

The elephant population in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe is in Appendix II, meaning the countries can trade in ivory with permission from CITES. Kenya has submitted 14 propos-

als on the African elephant, African pangolins, snakes species endemic to Kenya, the Thresher shark, chevron species, plant species and others on measures to combat illegal wildlife trafficking.

During the International Union for Conservation of Nature Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii, experts expressed concerns that the domestic markets could be creating opportunities for selling illegal ivory.

International Union for Conservation of Nature director general Inger Andersen said urgent action is needed to ensure the long-term survival of life on earth. She said the congress comes at a "pivotal" time when the planet's history is at a crossroads.

(+) MORE THAN 100 RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED

More than 100 resolutions and recommendations have been adopted by the International Union for Conservation Nature members. Key decisions included closure of domestic markets for elephant ivory, the urgency of protecting the high seas, the need to protect primary forests, no-go areas for industrial activities within protected areas and an official IUCN policy on biodiversity offsets. The IUCN congress is held every four years.

192

Countries whose representatives voted close ivory markets

Experts believe shutting domestic ivory markets will send a clear message to traffickers and organisers criminal syndicates, that ivory is worthless and will no longer support their criminal activities.

INACCURATE AND FALSE

Tobiko denies claims he rejected journalists' petition

Director of Public Prosecutions Keiako Tobiko has denied media reports that he declined to receive a petition from journalists protesting against harassment and killings on Thursday.

Through senior assistant director public communications Beatrice On Tobiko also denied reports that he declined to address journalists outside office. He said doing so would amount to addressing a baraza. "The DPP is nothing of this sort and the article inaccurate, false and malicious," On said in a statement. "The DPP did step down from an equally important meeting he was chairing to meet with the representatives of the media in boardroom and therefore the claim snubbed them is untrue and unfounded." Omari said the media representatives verbally presented their petition to the DPP during the boardroom meeting, but refused to present the written memorandum. She said representatives insisted they want to hand over the written men to Tobiko in the presence of their colleagues outside the NSSF building the moment to be captured on TV." DPP asked the representatives to stand call their colleagues to come to the boardroom with their came to record the handover of their petition but they declined, insisting the DPP must address all of them outside NSSF building," Omari said. She said the discussion between DPP and the representatives was captured on audio. "The DPP underscore the important role the media play promoting the rule of law and good governance and assured the representatives any allegations of harassment or assault of journalists will be handled fairly and expeditiously.



Journalists protest against harassment in Nairobi / IVV NIEMI