

Battle for city > Governor pledges on licences, kiosks

'Comedian' Sonko unsuitable: Kidero

Senator can't be trusted with city, says governor as he gets Muslim backing

BY COLLINS OMULO
comulo@ke.nationmedia.com

Nairobi Governor Evans Kidero has taken a swipe at his opponent Mike Sonko, calling the senator a comedian who cannot be trusted with the running of the city's affairs.

Speaking to the *Nation* yesterday, Dr Kidero said the Jubilee Party nominee was an unsuitable leader, terming his vision for the city as ill-informed. He said Mr Sonko would only take Nairobi backwards instead of continuing the development he initiated.

"We cannot allow Nairobi to be controlled by a comedian," said Dr Kidero. "We need a credible leader who will address issues facing city residents and not one who is making knee-jerk pronouncements that are not tenable in practice."

Dr Kidero is seeking to retain

his seat in the August 8 General Election under pressure from two independent candidates.

They are former Gatanga MP and 2013 presidential candidate Peter Kenneth, whom Mr Sonko beat to the jubilee ticket, and Canada-based barrister Miguna Miguna.

However, the governor's bid received a boost yesterday, when he got the backing of more than 500 Muslim trad-

ers drawn from Kamukunji Constituency.

Dr Kidero was accompanied by Embakasi South MP Irshad Sumra (ODM) and Orange party nominees Edwin Sifuna (Nairobi senator), Esther Pasaris (woman representative) and Steve Mbogo (Starehe Constituency). They drummed up support for his re-election, terming Mr Sonko an unsuitable leader.

Mr Sifuna referred to Senator Sonko as a poor manager.

Hawkers will flood

"If we allow Sonko to take over, hawkers will flood the city, which will be bad for business," said Mr Sifuna.

Meanwhile, Dr Kidero has pledged to increase the number of modern kiosks in the city to accommodate more traders.

He promised the traders operating at Bus Station, Wakulima and Muthurwa markets that his administration would rein in Nairobi County Inspectorate officers who continually harass the traders as they go about their activities.

"The issue of licences will also be addressed," he said.

We cannot allow Nairobi to be controlled by a comedian. We need a credible leader"

Dr Evans Kidero, Nairobi governor



LABAN WALLOGA / NATIC
Mombasa Senator Hassan Omar, who is vying for the coastal city's governorship on a Wiper ticket, unveils his running mate, Ms Linda Shuma, to the public at Whitesands Beach Resort yesterday.

Omar unveils hotelier as running mate

BY GITONGA MARETE

Mombasa Senator Hassan Omar yesterday unveiled Ms Linda Shuma, a hotelier and community worker, as his running mate for the governor race, promising to give women an equal share of appointments.

Speaking at the ceremony at Whitesands Beach Resort, the Wiper secretary-general said he was committed to giving women an opportunity to lead.

"My government will comprise 50 per cent of women

because I know that women are performers and great leaders in society and should be given a chance," said Mr Omar.

The senator, who is seeking to unseat Governor Hassan Joho in the August 8 General Election, introduced Wiper candidates vying in the six constituencies of the coastal city, Woman Rep, Senator and MCA positions.

Ms Shuma said she would ensure that Mombasa regained its glory as a tourism hub by ridding the city of garbage and marketing it as a tourist destina-

tion of choice.

"Also, quality education and healthcare will be a priority in our government," she said.

Former Cabinet minister M Suleiman Shakombo, who is seeking to recapture the Likoni Constituency seat, said service in Mombasa had degenerated under Mr Joho.

"At the moment, the count is run on the whims of some individuals with the youth being neglected, leaving them to turn to drug addiction," said Mr Shakombo.