



January 2003

# Kenya

## Humanitarian Update

### Overview

The new Government has moved steadily towards addressing corruption in the country. The war against corruption intensified with the arraignment in court of a High Court Judge on forgery and receiving money on false pretence. Earlier, the government had suspended payment of pending bills owed to Government contractors. In addition, traffic policemen caught by TV cameras receiving bribes were sacked and others transferred.

In addition, the government has nullified irregular sale of prime government houses and proposed a programme of re-training and sensitisation of police cadres in such a way that they acquire a more humane and less corrupt face.

The Lands Ministry ordered a suspension of land allocations and investigations into all allocations effected in the previous four years. The local Government was also stopped from effecting fresh land allocations. In the forestry department, ten forest officers were sacked earlier in the month for destroying forests.

The National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) promised to eradicate corruption. It showed its seriousness by publishing three Bills that are prerequisite to setting up an anti-graft commission in its first month of taking over leadership.

The Bills are: Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, which will pave the way for setting up the new authority.

The Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Bill, which sets out the rules under which the commission will work, and the Public Officer Ethics Bill which will require all public servants - including Cabinet ministers and MPs - to declare their wealth on taking office.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is likely to resume lending to Kenya in July depending on whether the government fulfils anti-corruption pledges made to the fund and the new government's funding requirements.

IMF had imposed five conditionalities before it could resume lending. They are the passage of anti-corruption and government ethics Bills in Parliament, strengthening of the Attorney General's powers to prosecute, evidence of the three measures bearing fruit and production of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

Internal security continued to be on the high agenda for the new National Rainbow Coalition Government (NARC) after a sect of Kikuyu fundamentalists known as Mungiki struck twice during the month. In Nakuru, they killed 23 people while in Nairobi they killed two people.

The government granted the sect followers amnesty saying those who surrendered to the police and denounced the sect by the end of January

would be pardoned. For those who refused to accept the amnesty and continued to endanger public safety, the government allowed the police to shoot to kill.

Most government managed primary schools have been grappling with over-enrolment since the introduction of free and compulsory education when schools reopened after the Christmas break.

The policy affects children in public schools only. It was estimated that three million eligible children were out of primary school because of the numerous levies charged. There are more than 17,000 primary schools countrywide, with a population of 6.2 million children.

In Tana River District seven schools failed to reopen after the December holidays due to lack of pupils. The pupils' parents were relocated after being displaced by recent floods. Arrangements were, however, being made to resettle the parents in their original homes so that the children could go back to school.

Hundreds of people were displaced by flash floods in Kisumu after two days of heavy downpour. Presence of the hyacinth weed in rivers and silting up of canals that drain into Lake Victoria had complicated the case.

According to weather forecasts, the Lake Victoria Basin, highlands West of the Rift Valley and Central Rift Valley (Kitale, Kakamega, Nandi Hills, Kisumu, Kisii, Kericho, Eldoret, Homa Bay, Nakuru and Narok) were expected to experience the highest rainfall in the country.

A study commissioned by the UN Disaster Prevention, Management and Co-ordination Unit (UNDPMCU) has established that Kenya has 43,617 identifiable displaced families resulting in some 348,936 internally displaced persons.

The research found that of the originally displaced, some have returned to their farms while some access their farms only during the day, but live in rented accommodation in town. Others were relocated on alternative land provided by the government while some were resettled by church-based groups, particularly the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) and the Catholic Church. While others sold their land and either returned to their 'ancestral homes' or drifted into urban and peri-urban areas.

About 50 states in the US have been identified to accommodate the 10,000 Somali Bantus to be re-located from Kenyan refugees camps for resettlement. They are to be airlifted from the refugee camps in batches of between 300 and 500 every week until all are settled.

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# Beans production in 40 per cent decline

## FOOD SECURITY

Beans production fell by 40% but adequate maize supplies are expected to hold until June this year, a joint report presented at the Kenya Food Security Meeting (KFSM) indicates.

*dry*

The bean crop was negatively affected by a dry spell in November and excess rainfall in December. The short rains season ended in early January 2003. The beans were affected because the rains came late, in early November, and then stopped for two to three weeks during the last half of November at a time that was critical for the crop development.

*average*

On average, most areas received well distributed, normal to above normal rainfall but some pockets did not reap as much benefits from the short rain because the amounts were below

normal. In other areas the rains were poorly distributed. The most affected areas are marginal agricultural districts of Nyanza Province, small pockets of Wajir, Garissa and Mandera districts, most of Coast Province and some agro-pastoral and pastorals districts of Rift Valley Province. The KFSM recommended an assessment mission to parts of Turkana, West Pokot Baringo and parts of North Eastern Province following persistent reports of near crop failure in the last season.

*stock*

The 27 million bags of maize are expected to meet domestic requirement up to June. The maize stock takes into account five million bags carry over from the past season, 21 million bags from the long rains and one million bags of inflows from cross border trading.

National consumption is estimated at 32 million bags. At the same time, the National Cereals and Produce Board is holding

three millions bags which is part of Government relief and strategic grain reserve.

*prices*

Maize prices have appreciated after millers realised that deliveries by farmers were far below expectations.

Owing to a reduced maize harvest last year following poor rains, most farmers are reluctant to sell the little they have for fear of looming hunger.

Little activity was observed at the National Cereals and Produce Board silos in Eldoret despite the parastatal having offered Sh941 a bag, up from Sh800 at the end of last year.

*predicted*

Fewsnet predicted that the maize prices are likely to decline shortly as long-rains harvesting in key areas is completed, and as the short-rains harvest begins February in Central, Eastern, Coast and Nyanza Provinces.

*The KFSM recommended an assessment mission to parts of Turkana, West Pokot Baringo and parts of North Eastern Province following persistent reports of near crop failure in the last season.*

## Food insecurity persist in arid areas

The Kenya food Security Meeting in January recommended short-rains assessment missions to Turkana, West Pokot, Baringo and pockets of Northern Eastern province to determine prevailing food security situation.

These areas have reported deterioration of food security although most of the arid areas posted significant improvements.

*pasture*

The rains gave rise to increased pasture and browse and recharged surface and sub-surface water sources. The Arid Lands and Resource Management Project (ALRMP) reported that livestock body conditions have improved and livestock birth rates have increased, improving milk availability and generally helping to reduce rates of child malnutrition.

However, conditions

have been less favourable in most of Baringo, West Pokot, and parts of Marsabit, Mandera and Turkana Districts.

*increase*

In general, livestock prices have increased, which is consistent with both the improvements in body condition and pastoralists' continued efforts to rebuild herds after the losses sustained over the past five to ten years.

*trend*

World prices of beef have continued in a downward slide from around US\$3,500 per tonne to last year's decade low of US\$2,500.

The trend in beef prod-

ucts is replicated in all types of meats with poultry suffering the highest price fall from US\$4,500 to per tonne to US\$2,500 in ten years.

Food for Agriculture organization forecasts a 1.5 per cent increase this year, which means that the meat market will be very competitive.

*Re-entry*

Re-entry to these markets for Kenya and other East African countries will be all the more difficult. FAO is seeking opinion on the possibility of the region concentrating on products that have a distinct advantage such as healthy range-fed beef.

# Floods and winds cause displacements

## FLOODS

Hundreds of people were displaced by flash floods in Kisumu after two days of heavy downpour. The waters submerged bridges and flooded roads. The most affected were the estates in the low lying areas of Manyatta, Dunga and Nyalenda estates where residents were forced to abandon their homes due to the rising water levels.

Presence of the hyacinth weed in rivers and silting up of canals that drain into Lake Victoria had complicated the case.

A food-for-work programme was introduced in which the displaced were engaged to uproot the weeds in exchange of food. They were also supplied with anti-malaria drugs, mosquito nets and other essential provisions.

About 200 families were displaced by the floods in the first week of January. A District Disaster Management Committee was set up to co-ordinate relief and reconstruction activities for the displaced. The disaster committee comprising of representatives from Red Cross, Sustainable Aid in Africa, the Ministry of Health, the Municipal Council, and the Ministry of Public Works, conducted a three-day anti-malaria campaign in the affected estates.

According to weather forecasts, the Lake Victoria Basin, highlands West of the Rift Valley and Central Rift Valley (Kitale, Kakamega, Nandi Hills, Kisumu, Kisii, Kericho, Eldoret, Homa Bay, Nakuru and Narok) were expected to experience the highest rainfall in the country.

Residents had expressed fears of an outbreak of waterborne diseases because some pit latrines had been submerged. However only a few cases of Bilharzia were

reported.

Just as the residents were recovering from the floods, about 300 more people were rendered homeless after a strong wind destroyed their homes. The freak windstorm swept through the Kajulu area, at the foot of the Nandi escarpment, destroying 71 homesteads and household goods worth millions of shillings.

Learning at the local Kindu primary school was disrupted as families moved in for shelter. The Kenya Red Cross donated canvas sheets and blankets, while the DC pledged 100 bags of maize and 50 of beans.

In Kisii, it rained non-stop for five days making most roads impassable.

Meteorological officials said the rains were caused by the "Congo air mass" system after the warming of the Atlantic Ocean in the period between October and December.

At least six Kisumu primary schools did not reopen school immediately because of the floods. Apart from flooded school compounds, some pupils could not report to school as their families have been displaced.

As the Meteorological Department announced that more rains were expected in the Rift Valley region, fears of outbreaks of waterborne diseases rose. The flooding was attributed to high volumes of water flowing from the hilltops of Rift Valley.

In Tana River District seven schools failed to reopen after the December holidays due to lack of pupils. The pupils' parents were relocated after being displaced by recent floods. All the schools are in Madogo Division. Arrangements were, however, be-

ing made to resettle the parents in their original homes so that the children could go back to school.

The children were from some 3,000 families affected by floods moved to higher grounds. Tana River District Commissioner and the district disaster management team visited the victims and said collapsed school buildings would be reconstructed.

A dam had also been constructed to contain floods at the Madogo village.

The government's effort to return the flood victims to Bulakartasi in Madogo were frustrated by the residents' fear of more floods.

Farmers whose land was destroyed following the May 2002 above average rainfall will benefit from a US\$ 95,888 rehabilitation project spearheaded by Food and Agricultural Organisation and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Kenya. The rains caused severe flooding in three main locations, along the Tana River, at Budalangi in Western Kenya where the Nzoia River burst through a protective dyke, and on the plains around Kisumu. The Government of Kenya appealed for assistance for these flood-affected districts,

including seeds and other agricultural inputs for the next rains. The Spanish Red Cross Committee provided seeds for Tana River district. In both of these areas seeds will be distributed through a voucher for work project that will improve drainage and soil and water management in the affected areas. The Government has repaired the broken dyke at Budalangi and there should not be a repeat of these floods. In Baringo, the reconstruction of a weir on River

*Just as the residents were recovering from the floods, about 300 more people were rendered homeless after a strong wind destroyed their homes.*

Temporary weir constructed with sand bags.

*Pic. By Jack Myer (USAID)*



*Continued next page*

# Malaria infection rates go up after rains

## HEALTH

Rift Valley residents have been urged to take precautionary measures to avert an expected upsurge of malaria cases. The areas likely to be most adversely affected are Kericho, Nandi South, Nandi North, Uashin Gishu and Trans Nzoia districts.

Infection rates show a rapid increase in the number of reported cases. In the first week of January, 167 cases were reported which went up to 268 cases in the second week.

In Uasin Gishu some 1,100 cases were reported in the first week of January rising to 1,800 in the second week, while 100 in-patient cases were recorded in the first week in Trans Nzoia, rising to 175 cases in the second week. Residents were encouraged to use insecticide treated nets and appropriate insecticide sprays as advised by health personnel.

The Government issued a similar warning in Kisumu saying an upsurge of malaria, diarrhoeal and waterborne diseases was likely because of the recent flash flooding which created a conducive environment for mosquitoes to breed.

The floods affected at least 3,000 people and submerged 130 homes in the low lying areas near the lake. Two people were diagnosed with bilharzia and tetanus

after heavy rains caused flooding in the area.

Red Cross Kenya and Care (Kenya) officials assisted the displaced with emergency supplies.

A disaster management committee set up to address the matter had recommended desilting the rivers and removal of the hyacinth weeds to clear water passage into the lake and provide a permanent solution. They were not desilted in ten years.

An outbreak of Hepatitis was reported in two prisons near Eldoret Town. Both prisons accommodate an estimated 2,500 inmates. Some of the prisoners had Hepatitis 'B' while others tested positive for Hepatitis 'C'. The tests were carried out at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) and indicated that blood samples were taken from 84 prisoners with 10 of them testing positive for the deadly disease.

Further reports indicate that five of the inmates have been admitted in isolation at an undisclosed Eldoret hospital in critical condition following the outbreak of the disease.

Doctors and paramedics of Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) paralysed services at the referral hospital demanding payment of promised allowances.

During a peaceful procession that started at KNH and ended at Afya House, the demonstrators also demanded the removal of top health officials - including hospital director saying they were stumbling blocks to the release of the allowances.

They were claiming allowances approved by the Directorate of Personnel Management (DPM) early last year, but which have not been implemented by KNH such as commuter, risk, extraneous and non-practice allowances. The Government requires Sh522 million to pay the allowances. The World Bank has cautioned that intended Government reforms in the health sector should consider physical and financial implications. World Bank Country Director said that reforms should be closely looked into so as to assess the sustainability of the sector.

World Bank will discuss priorities in the health sector and it is willing to continue its efforts to help the sector. In the last three years, the Bank has given Kenya's health sector US\$100 million. Among the projects that the World Bank has funded include the HIV/Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis, Reproductive Health programmes and the Decentralised Aids and Preventive Health projects.

*Malaria infection rates show a rapid increase in the number of reported cases.*

## Floods and winds cause displacements

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Perkerra, destroyed by floods on December 21, last year, will cost Sh6 million, the KFSM was told. The Perkerra Irrigation Scheme located in Marigat Division of Baringo District supports 4,000 families whose livelihood was affected by the floods.

The flood waters swept away the weir and scoured the river bed to a depth of three metres below the normal level effectively cutting off water supply to the scheme.

There was also extensive damage to the stabilized banks and dykes upstream and downstream of the weir. It is feared that agricultural activities will cease lead-

ing to food insecurity unless the weir is reconstructed immediately. The scheme is located in a semi-arid region and therefore depends solely on irrigation. Water supply to Marigat Town and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) was also disrupted.

Temporary reconstruction work has cost Sh500,000. Soil filled gunny bags were used to create a temporary barrier. The project was supported by the National Irrigation Board (NIB) with 3,000 gunny bags and Sh200,000, World Vision - Sh100,000 while Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project contributed Sh100,000.

The Ministry of Agriculture and that of Roads provided

technical support and some equipment like bulldozers. The District Commissioner gave over 500 bags of maize to the victims.

The KFSM was urged to mobilize resources in order to save crops by reconstructing the weir because the livelihood of thousands of people in Marigat is directly or indirectly dependent on the irrigation scheme.

It is estimated that the scheme generates between Ksh.50-60 million per year. It was also feared that the temporary works already done may not survive the long rains expected to begin in March this year.

# IDPs desire to reclaim their land

## IDPs

Kenya is home to 43,617 identifiable displaced families resulting some 348,936 internally displaced persons, a study commissioned by UNDP/MCU in November and December has revealed.

The research found that of the originally displaced, some have returned to their farms while some access their farms only during the day, but live in rented accommodation in town. Others were relocated on alternative land provided by the government while some were resettled by church-based groups, particularly the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) and the Catholic Church. While others sold their land and either returned to their 'ancestral homes' or drifted into urban and peri-urban areas.

The research was to establish the total number of IDPs in Kenya and their present location and establish the reasons for non-return and future prospects. It was also mandated to assess their access to means of livelihood and options towards self reliance.

Most of the IDPs expressed hope of reoccupying their land once security was restored to formerly affected areas but said they were fearful because some people broke the law with impunity and the land disputes remained unresolved. Also the conditions that made them flee were still existing such as persistent tribal suspicion and animosity; illegal grazing, looting, and cattle rustling as well as banditry.

Poverty and inability to purchase building materials to reconstruction homes remain significant impediments to return. Some IDPs are unwilling to return due to trauma.

Meanwhile hundreds of Molo residents who fled their homes following arson attacks that left two people and more than 30 houses burnt have started going back. Hundreds of panic-stricken families had fled their homes in Ndeffo-Marwa, Kariba, Cheponde, Ngoirobe, and Sitoito farms in an exodus similar to that of 1992 when the same area was engulfed in tribal clashes. Police launched aerial and ground operations to track down the raiders. A police chopper was being used to help find the attackers had fled into the nearby Ndoinet and Tinet forests.

The government suspects a political motive in a cattle raid that degenerated into a full scale arson attack. On the first day, 60 animals were stolen. An estimated 200 families in the Ndeffo area have been displaced while an unknown number have left their homes in Kariba and Ngoirobi farms.

Ten people, including a former police officer, have been arrested. They are to be charged with murder, robbery with violence, arson and cattle rustling, among others. Though people have started going back to their farms, tension remained high due to the unresolved land issues. Internal Security Minister directed the security personnel sent to the area to put preventive measures in place to prevent more trouble. UNDP/MCU's assessment found that the tribal animosity was fuelled by cattle rustling which was said to be an ongoing activity in the area. Prior to the elections, youths from both the Kikuyu and Kalenjin communities spread leaflets trying to instil fear in either community in an effort to influence the voting patterns. The area D.O. said the leaf-



Displaced Migori/Gucha border residents await food at a camp near the border.  
Pic by Lilian Nduta

Poverty and inability to purchase building materials to reconstruction homes remain significant impediments to return

lets read in part: *Kalenjins must go* and *Kikuyus must go*. In addition, a good number of the residents in the area are said to be holding fake title deeds, which they were given by the former government. It was also alleged that they had been promised more land would be carved off the nearby Sitoito Forest and given to them if KANU won.

A faction of Mungiki, which is a fundamentalist Kikuyu sect, was alleged to have perpetrated the recent clashes under a new identity of *Mungiki-Taliban*. They were said to have been asking those who did not vote for KANU to leave the area before they were forced out. Such threats started being spread from the 31 December 2002.

Other possible causes of the violence were biased security personnel and a land purchase cartel intending to make the locals insecure so that they could dispose their land at cheap prices. Burning of houses was said to have persisted after some people set their own houses ablaze in the hope of getting free reconstruction material and iron sheets.

Victims of the 1992 and 1997 ethnic clashes want the government to set up a tribunal to compensate them. In a letter to Justice and Constitutional Affairs minister, 110 victims from Coast and Rift Valley provinces threaten to go to the constitutional court should the government fail to grant their demands. They claimed that since the government had been found liable for the clashes, it should seek ways of compensating them.

They said that besides compensating them, the tribunal would restore public confidence and serve as one of the ways of starting the healing process.

The Akiwumi Report, released last year, found the government vicariously liable in the 1992 and 1997 clashes..

However, a human rights group in Mombasa opposed the move, saying the government should first prosecute individuals who were implicated in the clashes.

Muslims for Human Rights (Muhuri) said it would be wrong for the new government to start compensating victims without prosecuting individuals implicated in the clashes.

# Somali Bantus relocation to US

## REFUGEES

About 50 states in the US have been identified to accommodate the 10,000 Bantu Somalis to be re-located from Kenyan refugees camps for resettlement. They are to be airlifted from the refugee camps in batches of between 300 and 500 every week until all are settled.

Canada and Australia will also admit other refugees, including those of

Sudanese and Ethiopia origins after interviews by immigration officials.

Meanwhile the Kenya Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has appealed for urgent food aid for some 200,000 refugees at Dadaab and Kakuma camps in the country. The two said refugees could starve unless food is found by February.

Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage said a tour of

the camps had revealed that some 4,000 refugees were going without even the subsidised daily rations. The daily recommended 2,100kg calories for each refugee.

The food situation was compounded by the fact that the refugees depended entirely on humanitarian rations, unlike in other areas where they also produced their own food.

*The new law seeks to review the treatment, reception, co-ordination of agencies helping*

The refugees also complained poor security at the camps. In the past one year, a total of 27 people were murdered. The latest incident occurred on Monday night when a Sudanese girl was found murdered after being raped and her body dumped in a trench.

Refugees have been urged to assist the government by forwarding information on who

the perpetrators of the killings could be besides strengthening their own policing.

The Government also promised to beef up security in the refugee camps.

The Kenya government has promised to streamline the issuance of special identity cards for the refugees - which had become a contentious issue - now

that the Immigration department had been brought back to his ministry from the Office of the President.

Soon Parliament will be presented with a Bill seeking to streamline the operations of refugees in the country. The new law seeks to review the treatment, reception, co-ordination of agencies helping the refugees and incorporating the various conventions on dealing with those in exile.

## Screening of ex-combatants begin

*Once in Uganda, they will be handed over to the Amnesty Commission and will be eligible to receive rehabilitation, reinsertion and reintegration programme.*

The International Office of Migration (IOM) in Nairobi has launched a programme to register, document and screen former Lord Resistance Army (LRA) rebels living in Kenya who wish to apply for amnesty and return home to Uganda.

*working*

IOM is currently working with the Kenyan and Ugandan authorities and with the Ugandan Amnesty Commission to allow former rebels and their dependants to benefit from the Ugandan Amnesty Act, signed in January 2000.

*registration*

The registration exercise started on 20 January and will end on 7 February. To date IOM has registered 534 reporters and their dependants including ex-combatants, abducted women and children, child soldiers and children born in captivity.

Upon determination of their status by the Uganda Amnesty Commission, bona-fide former combatants will receive IOM's repatriation assistance.

*Uganda*

Once in Uganda, they will be handed over to the Amnesty Commission and will be eligible to receive rehabilitation, reinsertion and reintegration support provided by IOM, UNICEF and local and international partners, including; World Vision, GUSCO, IRC and KICWA.

*funds*

This USAID and EU funded programme, with assistance for the office of the Resident Co-ordinator, will allow the return and reintegration of an initial group of 500 ex-LRA rebels from Kenya and Sudan.

# New Govt. grapples with internal security

## Security

Internal security continued to be on the high agenda for the new National Rainbow Coalition Government (NARC) after a sect of Kikuyu fundamentalists known as Mungiki struck twice during the month. In Nakuru, they killed 23 people while in Nairobi they killed two people.

The government granted the sect followers amnesty saying those who surrendered to the police and denounced the sect by the end of January would be pardoned. For those who refused to accept the amnesty and continued to endanger public safety, the government allowed the police to shoot to kill. A nationwide operation has seen more than 200 sect followers arrested and arraigned in court with charges ranging from murder to illegal possession of narcotic drugs.

### *hiding*

Most of the sect leaders went underground after the crackdown and continued to issue threats that they intended to hit back at the public by killing at least 10 people for every sect member killed by police.

On 6 January a group of suspected Kenyan cattle rustlers attacked two Ugandan villages, killing at least 10 people. They also drove away between 700 and 800 head of cattle.

According to media reports, some 200 armed Pokots crossed from northwestern Kenya into Uganda and raided over 20 homes in the villages of Namalu and Takora, in Nakapiripiti, some 500 km northeast of the capital Kampala.

### *decline*

When UNDPMCU contacted the West Pokot DC, he declined to comment on the matter saying that his Ugandan counterpart had not made an official complaint. He said the Pokots could have been Ugandan because the tribe lives on both sides of the border. The incident has sparked fears of more attacks in the Karamoja region, which since early last year has undergone a government-

sponsored disarmament programme.

On 9 January 2003, a 30-man gang attacked a village in the Loyangalani division of Marsabit (bordering the eastern shore of Lake Turkana) and killed an eight-month-old baby, a home guard and stole 100 heads of cattle. The following day, the police using a helicopter, recovered most of the animals. None of the raiders were apprehended.

### *shot*

In Laikipia a herder was shot dead in Lariak forest in January 16. His 45 heads of cattle and goats were stolen. Three people were arrested for the murder.

A gang petrol-bombed a Nairobi slum killing one person and injuring scores of others on January 17. Residents of Mathare Valley One were woken by the flames which consumed hundreds of shanties, leaving thousands homeless and destroying property of unknown value.

The raid was said to have been in retaliation for a past misdeed. Kenya Red Cross distributed food and other aid to 224 families affected by the attack. The donation included 100 cartons of compact food, 454 blankets, 224 bars of soap and a similar number of tarpaulins and water jerry cans.

### *terrorist*

Security has been beefed up as well as awareness and procedures in response to the terrorist threat against northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia. There are more check points in Mandera and along the Kakuma to Lokichokkio. Undercover surveillance has been increased in the town and checks on passengers arriving by plane, bus and matatu to the area.

On January 18, a UNHCR escort vehicle for a LWF/ICRC convoy on the Lokichokkio/Kakuma road was ambushed and shot at by two bandits. The security forces returned fire and the two bandits fled into the bush. On the same day, police investigating a goat theft at

the Kakuma Refugee camp arrested three bandits who were armed with one AK 47 and three bullets. Two of the thieves were identified as Kenya Police Reservists (KPR). KPR members not required for border security were recently disarmed by the government.

Pokot raiders attacked a manyatta at Nakwamoru on the Turkana/ West Pokot border killing a woman and injuring others. 600 goats were stolen in the raid. The village was surrounded by the raiders at around 0200 am and sprayed with bullets.

Three people were shot dead when cattle rustlers raided a manyatta at Burat, approximately 12 kilometres west of Isiolo Town during on 19<sup>th</sup> January. The rustlers stole 350 head of cattle.

### *leaflets*

On 21<sup>st</sup> January a group of armed gunmen raided the village of Lanyiru about 30 kms north of Maua Town, in Meru North District, and stole 50 heads of cattle. Police are pursuing the raiders. The area has been flooded with leaflets asking one tribe to vacate their lands in favour of another group. Police are trying to find out who is behind this.

### *riots*

The City witnessed two cases of students riots in the month of January. On 22, students from the city centre based University of Nairobi spilled into the streets in a violent demonstration that involved looting and harassment of pedestrians and motorists. On 27<sup>th</sup> the Kenyatta University students staged violent demonstrations along

Thika Road paralysing traffic along the busy highway for most of the afternoon. They blocked traffic from and to the City Centre at the Kenyatta University section of the road. The students, some of whom used slings to launch their missiles, pelted vehicles, pedestrians and policemen at the scene with stones.

*Most of the sect leaders went underground after the crackdown and continued to issue threats that they intended to hit back at the public by killing at least 10 people for every sect member killed by police.*

# Schools overflow in NARC 's free and compulsory education

## EDUCATION

Most schools have been grappling with over population since the government introduced free and compulsory free education when schools reopened after the Christmas break. The policy affects children in public schools only. However, Standard Eight candidates will pay examination fees.

It was estimated that three million eligible children were out of primary school because of the numerous levies charged. Primary school gross enrolment stood at 85% last year, down from 95% in 1990. There are more than 17,000 primary schools countrywide, with a population of 6.2 million children.

Some schools were forced to close down due to congestion especially in the low-income areas where a number of private schools closed down after parents withdrew them to take advantage of free primary education in the Government schools.

The Government has requested all ministries to adjust budgetary allocations and submit part of the

money initially allocated to the education programme. Government officials had promised to give priority school funding when Parliament convenes in February.

It is estimated that Sh5 billion is required to implement free and compulsory primary education. This will be used to buy books and other teaching materials. The aim of providing free and compulsory education is to increase enrolment in schools and curb the dropout rate.

Last year, Parliament passed the Children's Act that provides free and compulsory education. It conforms to the international charters that Kenya has ratified, including the declaration on education for all (EFA) of 1990 and 2000.

Although the Kanu government first abolished fees in primary schools in 1974, it was only implemented for a few years. In the 1980s, the government adopted a cost-sharing policy in education and other social sectors and this required that parents and communities provide learning and

teaching facilities while the government only provided teachers.

Schools took advantage of that and introduced several levies such as tuition, activity, assessment and inspection levies. The end result was high learning costs, far above the reach of many parents and hence leading to many dropouts.

Last year, the Kanu government issued a directive abolishing the fees but failed miserably because it did not provide financial support to schools. There were no mechanisms to monitor and punish those who flouted the directive. In West Pokot District, 6,000 new pupils have enrolled in schools after the introduction of free primary education. Local Knut branch secretary said the number could have been greater, if it were not for what he described as incompetent education officials who had not explained the new government policy to the residents. The district had 18,000 pupils last year but now 24,000.

## Upcoming Events

UN Days: **21 February** International Mother Language Day      **8 March** International Women's Day  
**21 March** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

KFSM, **February 27**, KICC      KFSSG **February 25**, KICC  
Health and Nutrition **February 17** at UNICEF, Gigiri  
General elections evaluation **February 13**, Silversprings, Nairobi

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*The purpose of the UN Disaster Prevention, Management and Co-ordination Unit (DPMCU) is to enhance, support, and service a coordinated and coherent response amongst all partners to any kind of emergency situation, natural or man made (disasters or conflicts) in Kenya; improve the early warning mechanisms and information management systems; participate in regular monitoring of vulnerability and strengthen preparedness and response capacities amongst all partners. It also facilitates mobilisation of national and international resources.*

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