



MINISTRY OF LANDS AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

Telegrams "MINSLANDS", Nairobi

Telephone: Nairobi 2718050

ARDHI HOUSE

1ST NGONG AVENUE

OFF NGONG AVENUE

P.O BOX 30450

PRESS STATEMENT ON KISII LANDS OFFICE ARTICLE.

The attention of the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning has been drawn to an article published in the Government sponsored content publication, **MyGov Weekly** on June 19th 2018 titled "Resident decries alleged corruption in Lands office" and authored by a Kenya News Agency (KNA) reporter, Jane Naitore.

The Ministry takes great exception to this 'negative' article because the reporter did not seek clarification from the Ministry's headquarters before publishing the story, touching on the Kisii lands office.

The accusations levelled by a Civil society group known as the "Gusii Governance Watch", against our staff in the Kisii lands office as published in the article are indeed very serious and ought to be investigated by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to ascertain whether they are true or not.

The Civil Society group among others complains:

- That; the land registrar locks himself and other staff and serve clients from the counter instead of inside the Banking hall.

- That; the land registrar has imposed his own rules of insisting that upon registration the following documents must be attached; application form dully filled and signed, copy of title deed, ID and KRA pin of the title owner.
- That; officers are demoralized and have become relaxed leading to delay of services.
- That; Boundary Disputes and other land disputes are hardly addressed.
- That; the registrar uses cartels for quick services and they work at the lands office under local arrangements.
- That; officers at the lands office report to work once a week.

To set the record straight, the Ministry wishes to respond as follows:

- That; it is the Government's policy that services to its citizens should be done in an open and transparent manner. Attending to citizens from the banking hall is most convenient way for it is easier to listen to every problem from each one seeking services.
- That; it is a requirement, legally and under land regulations that both ID cards and KRA pin of the person applying for the search **MUST** accompany the search form and a copy of title deed of the owner of the property(if any) to be attached so as to indicate ownership. This is not negotiable and those regulations must be observed to curb sensitive land information to fall in the lands of cartels and other fraudsters.
- That; Boundary cases in Kisii are very rampant and every homestead at least has a Boundary Dispute. The office has managed to solve over 520 cases from a possible of over 600 boundary dispute.
- That; it is the work of the government, through the Public Service Commission, to recruit civil servants. The registrar has no power whatsoever to hire any staff for that matter.

- That; the official working hours for any Government office is 8.00a.m to 1.00p.m and then from 2.00p.m to 5.00p.m. Kisii Lands office is not exceptional to these regulations.

While the Ministry is doing everything possible to fight corruption, we wish to point out that in the case of the Kisii Lands office, there seems to be an 'orchestrated' campaign by individuals and other groups with vested and selfish personal interests to malign the names of both the Lands registrar, Mr. Steve Mokaya and the Surveyor Mr. Christopher Kamau.

While we are not trying to defend the officers from any wrong doing, we wish to state that we have closely been monitoring the ongoing activities in Kisii lands office, and likewise in all our offices countrywide to ensure services offered by the ministry are satisfactory.

JOSEPH K. MWANGI

HEAD/PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS