

Nairobi >

Developer in Lang'ata land row remains a mystery

BY OTIATO GUGUYU

The private developer who fenced off land adjacent to Lang'ata Primary in Nairobi has not come out to claim it even after controversy over its ownership sparked off last week.

The National Land Commission has not received any formal claim as investigations continue.

Officials at City Hall have also avoided contact with the Land Commission. The wall at the school remains intact and would most likely block pupils from entering the playing field once the teachers' strike is resolved.

In a statement, the commission yesterday moved to dispute media reports that an ongoing probe is being compromised by powerful people in the government.

"The commission launched investigations and a review will be carried out in due course to establish the propriety or legality of the said land," said the commission's Director of Communications Khalid M. Salim.

Revoke title

The title may be revoked if investigation is concluded and the findings are in favour of the school.

According to title documents, the land is registered in the name of Airport View Housing Limited and was acquired in 1999 under Grant No LR 84565. The company had initially acquired another four hectares in the area in 1989 for a 99-year lease.

The developer then delineated parcel LR No 209/12848 and annexed it to Land Survey Plan No 2085562.

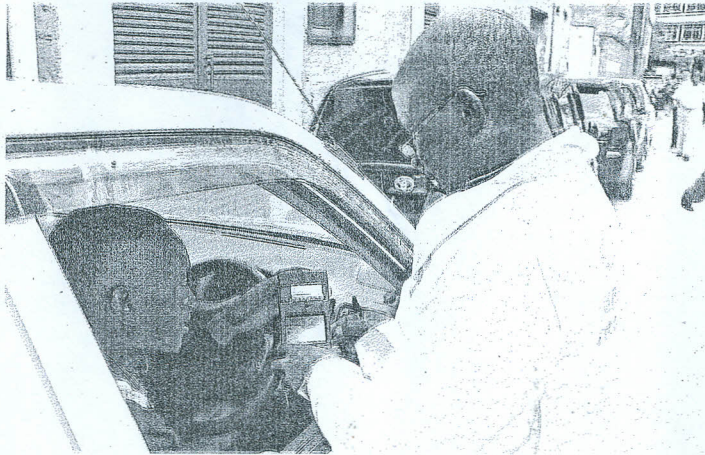
In his letter, the company's lawyer, Mr Chege Njoroge, admitted that parcel LR No 209/12256 was amalgamated and only sub-divided into three (LR No 209/11296/1-189, LR No 209/11296/109 and LR No 209/) and titles issued.

Investigations, however, revealed that the school has an allotment letter issued in 1975, but no survey was done.

Mr Njoroge told the *Nation* that the developer would not react to claims as yet and was waiting to be served by the National Land Commission to make submissions.

Nairobi | But those implementing the new system remain optimistic

County still losing revenue as officers steal parking fees



A Nairobi County parking attendant explains to a motorist how the cashless parking machine works in Nairobi on September 4, last year.
FILE | NATION

City Hall officials accused of sabotaging new e-system meant to enhance parking fee collections

BY MUCHEMI WACHIRA
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The electronic system Nairobi County government introduced to enhance its revenue collection in yet to bear fruit because some officials are sabotaging it.

It has emerged that most of the fees the government charges, including parking levies, still end up in the pockets of county government staff.

A new report yesterday revealed that less than half of city's motorists pay parking fees but even then, the cash does not reach the Treasury.

The new system was introduced last year to check theft of county revenue by corrupt officials. However, the system ran into a storm as some officers who had been colluding with parking attendants to defraud the county did not welcome it.

The report prepared by JamboPay, which, jointly with City Hall, is implementing the e-payment system,

shows that only 43 percent of the motorists regularly pay daily parking fees because officials enforcing the system are opposed to it.

"They jointly with the attendants, conspire to pocket part of the money motorists paid as parking fees," the report says.

Motorists pay parking fees of between Sh200 and Sh300 per day. Other services available on e-pay are single business permits, land rates, house rents, liquor licenses and construction permits.

The county government is keen

MONEY MATTERS

Amount collected against the target

Sh1.2bn: Amount of money the e-system has collected since it started operating four months ago against a target of Sh1bn.

Sh5,000: Amount clamped matatus and saloon care will pay in fines.

Sh 2,500: What owners of private cars evading to pay parking rates will be fined if caught.

Sh2,000: Fine motorcycles who refuse to pay parking fees will be charged.

on increasing its revenue collection to fund its operations. Thus, it has introduced other measures to counter those sabotaging the system.

"The county has moved to tighten enforcement with acquisition of an additional 2,000 clamps expected to be delivered in the next seven days," says the report.

The clamps are used to immobilise vehicles that fail to pay the parking fees. Owners of clamped private cars will pay Sh2,500. Motorcycles will pay Sh2,000 while saloon cars and matatus will part with Sh5,000.

County Treasury Officer Luke Gatimu said they only have 300 clamps at the moment.

The report says the e-payment system will soon have the capability of electronically clamping vehicles whose owners fail to pay parking fees. After a car has been parked, a message must be received through cell phones that parking attendants will be issued with to indicate payment has been made failure to which a car will be clamped automatically.

Affected motorists will be required to pay the penalty electronically to have their cars freed.

Despite the challenges, JamboPay CEO Danson Muchemi is optimistic that things will get better. "We have surpassed Sh1 billion mark, just four months after it started operating. We had collected over Sh1.3 billion by Tuesday," he said.

Mombasa >

Tobiko orders probe into death as family blames soldiers

BY WINNIE ATIENO
AND PHILIP MUYANGA

The Director of Public Prosecutions Keriako Tobiko has ordered investigations into the killing of Mr Suleiman Athman whose family has implicated officers at Kenya Navy's Mtongwe Base in his death.

The DPP yesterday wrote a letter to the head of Criminal Investigations in Mombasa County, Mr Henry Ondiek, asking him to investigate the death of Mr Athman, 25, alleged to have died in the hands of the navy officers on Sunday night.

The orders were conveyed by Assistant DPP Alex Muteti, who said Mr Ondiek's report is expected in 14 days.

A government pathologist on Tuesday afternoon conducted an autopsy on the body and said he had died from injuries inflicted by blunt objects.

Human rights

The two-hour autopsy was presided over by Dr Ngali Mbuuko, a government pathologist from the Coast Provincial General Hospital, who was engaged by Haki Africa, a human rights agency in Mombasa.

"The blunt injuries caused fractures on his ribs, neck and the head which also caused heavy bleeding," Dr Mbuuko told the *Nation* on telephone. The autopsy was conducted at Coast General Hospital Mortuary in Mombasa county.

Dr Mbuuko said the results would be released to the family in a few days.

The family was accompanied by Mr Francis Auma, a human rights activists from Haki Africa, which had issued a seven-day ultimatum to the government to arrest and prosecute those involved in the killing.

Theft of bag

Mr Athman's brother, Mr Stamil Athman Mwangoli, said the family wants justice and all officers involved to be charged.

The manual labourer died in unclear circumstances following what his family and police said was theft of a bag belonging to a female soldier on Sunday at Viji-weni in Mtongwe.

He was accused of being part of a gang that carried out the theft.

The family said they last saw him alive in a KDF vehicle about an hour before they received information that he had died.

However, Mombasa Deputy County Police Commander Sevelino Kubai insisted that he was killed by a mob.

He denied claims that Mr Athman died in the hands of the officers and urged the family to record statements at Likoni police station.

Mr Kubai yesterday explained to the *Nation* in an interview that the man was killed by a crowd over robbery.

Mr Athman was buried at Mtongwe Vijiweni cemetery a few hours after the postmortem.

Nairobi >

VC Mbithi pledges to give priority to student welfare

BY NATION REPORTER

Prof Peter Mbithi was yesterday formally installed as the seventh vice-chancellor of the University of Nairobi, with a pledge to give priority to students' welfare.

In a ceremony held at the university's main campus, Prof Mbithi said that his first task would be to ensure that the University of Nairobi produces quality and holistic graduates who will meet the expectations of the market.

This would be achieved through a review of academic processes in order to ensure quality programmes, while increasing relevance of graduates to the industry.

"The areas that we will target include, up-scaling the integration of ICT into teaching and learning, in-building experiential learning in all our programmes, implementing all-round student mentorship by faculty, and sustained faculty training on pedagogy and hydrogogy," he said at a colourful ceremony officiated

by Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi.

Prof Mbithi further said he would focus his energies on enhancing the quality and relevance of research in the university. As such, internal staff who want to engage in research will be funded by the university with start-up capital of Sh1 million.

His landmark projects will include the construction of a 5,000 capacity student hostel, School of Law towers, a teaching hospital and the CD4 laboratories, all through the

public-private-partnership financing model.

The university has been facing accommodation crises since the introduction of double intake in 2011 in the admission of students to the higher learning institutions.

Prof. Mbithi takes over from his predecessor Prof George Magoha who served as vice-chancellor for a ten-year term.

Prof. Magoha has played a key role in transforming the University during his tenure.