

TSC warns school heads who have rejected transfers

Commission says the teachers risk dismissal for insubordination and absconding duty

By RAWLINGS OTIENO and MAUREEN ABWAO

Teachers Service Commission (TSC) will take disciplinary action on teachers who reject transfers.

The teachers' employer issued a warning to head teachers and deputy school heads, who will fail to report to their new stations that they will be stripped of their positions.

TSC yesterday said although most of the heads transferred last year had reported to their new workstations, some had resorted to inciting learners, parents and community members to hold demonstrations as a way of revoking the transfers.

TSC Secretary Gabriel Lengoiboni warned that those heads who will not report by tomorrow to their new stations will face disciplinary action.

"Those who fail to hand over or take over will be dropped from headship with immediate effect and their positions filled with those who have already been interviewed for headship positions," warned Lengoiboni.

Last December, TSC approved 585 transfers and deployments of principals and deputies in secondary schools and other post primary institutions. The commission has ordered TSC county directors to ensure all

FAIRNESS

• Kuppet chair Omboko Milemba has challenged TSC to effect transfers in a fair manner

• Milemba said move should be based on performance, the number of years the teacher has served and the history of the management qualities of the teacher

• "When students, community and leaders oppose transfers, then TSC should listen to them," said Milemba

those issued with transfer and deployment letters take up their new postings, failure to which disciplinary action, including interdiction, will be taken.

DIALOGUE

TSC also directed county directors to effect changes in the headship of primary schools where it was necessary. Lengoiboni said the transfers and deployments were effected after exhaustive consultations with relevant stakeholders.

He said TSC is a sovereign commission under the Constitution, and should not be subjected to control by any party. "Whereas the commission is mandated to manage teachers' affairs by the Constitution, it is committed to dialogue in execution of its mandate," said Lengoiboni in a press statement.



Nakuru County's Bugei Primary School parents and pupils protest yesterday against Government's move to transfer the institution's headmaster. They shut down the school and vowed to reject a new headmaster. (PHOTO: BONIFACE THUKU/STANDARD)

Search for better performance sees teachers demoted

By DANIEL NZIA

Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has transferred several secondary and primary schools heads in Machakos County.

TSC County Director Stephen Mudho said the changes were aimed at improving academic performance.

He confirmed that head teachers in both secondary and primary schools whose performance had gone down were demoted.

"The handing over exercise in affected schools is going on and we urge for cooperation on board of governors and other stakeholders to ensure smooth transition," said Mudho.

The principal of Ngelani Secondary School Bernard Malonza has been transferred to Kangundo Boys where

he once served as deputy head.

Kyanguli Secondary School Principal Sylvester Wambua has taken his place.

The longest serving Kyangala Secondary School principal Richard Mokayaya has been moved to Muputi Secondary School as the new head to help transform the troubled institution.

CLASSROOM

Other secondary schools affected include Katoloni, Kilembwa, Mikuni, Ndauni, Kwa Ndo, Kivandini, Kimutwa, Kyumbi, Kamweleini and Fr Eran.

"Three head teachers have been demoted to classroom teachers in the reshuffle that saw the elevation of four deputies to headteachers," said the TSC boss. The TSC boss the teachers had presided over poor performance.

Parents close institution

By BOAZ KIPNGENO

Parents of a primary school in Rongai, Nakuru County, have closed down the institution until Teachers Service Commission's (TSC) decision to transfer the head teacher is reversed. Bugei Primary School committee and parents yesterday led over 400 pupils in a six kilometre walk to education offices in Rongai protesting over the transfer of the school head Steve Ndungu.

The parents sought audience with area DEO, but they were not able to meet him. "The school was leading in the division because of Ndungu" and he has just started the foundation of Bugei Secondary School classrooms, which he initiated last year," said Wilfred Mutai, the school chairman.

Bid to suspend night travel ban flops

By PAMELA CHEPKEMEI

The ban on night travel will remain in force after the High Court declined to suspend the restriction.

High Court Judge Isaac Lenaola declined to allow an application by four bus companies, which had moved to court to challenge the order by Transport Cabinet Secretary Michael Kamau.

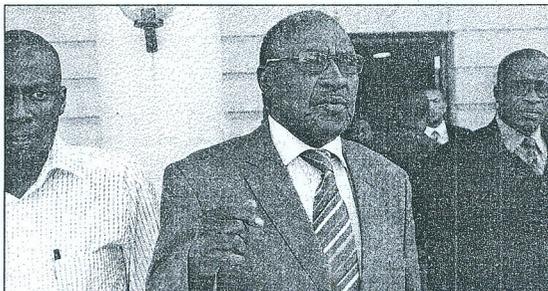
The judge was ruling on an application to have interim orders issued to suspend the ban.

He said the court cannot at that stage of the proceedings purport to rewrite the regulations whose validity and lawfulness have not been challenged.

But the operators still have hope in the main case seeking to quash the regulations.

The applicants, he added, did not argue that the rules were in contravention of the provisions of the Constitution to make the court tamper with their implementation.

"On the other hand, there is the wider public interest that road carnage should be curbed, discipline instilled in the transport service and that lives should be saved in doing so. I choose to invoke the public interest



Kenya Country Buses Association chairman Muthambi Mburu (centre) at Millmani Law Courts yesterday after Justice Isaac Lenaola dismissed a petition challenging the ban on night travel. (PHOTO: FIDELIS KABUNYI/STANDARD)

as opposed to the short-term private convenience of the applicants," added Justice Lenaola.

TIME AND NATURE

The judge said the applicants have admitted that the regulations are well-intentioned and meant to curb the increasing number of accidents involving public service vehicles at night.

He added that there was no evi-

dence tendered in court to support the argument by the bus operators that they attempted to comply but were caught up with by exigencies of time and nature.

The judge said the bus operators did not deny in court that they were aware of the process of enactment of the regulations and they should have taken the opportunity to consult.

No workers' cash has been embezzled, says Magoha

By RAWLINGS OTIENO

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor George Magoha (right) has exonerated the institution from allegations that part of the Sh3.9 billion meant for staff salaries and house allowances was embezzled.

He instead disclosed that about Sh1.4 billion was given to the university and it was used for intended purpose.

Prof Magoha dismissed allegations made by the University Academic Staff Union and Kenya Universities Staff Union that university chiefs swindled money negotiated between the unions and the Government for staff salaries.

SCRUTINY

"Let me clarify that we were given slightly over Sh1.4 billion and we have used the money for its purpose. The accounts are open for scrutiny and that's what we have given the Government and the unions," said Magoha.

He added that only Sh12.2 million



has remained from the funds advanced.

Magoha warned his staff from resorting to industrial action over the union's allegations.

"University of Nairobi staff should resort to industrial action at their own peril. They will have to show a good reason why they abscond duty, because as far as we know, we have set records straight. The accounts are available for their scrutiny," added Magoha.