

Lobbyists push for arrest of troubled NGOs board boss

But Fazul denies soliciting bribes from organisations to allow them operate

by Seth Onyango

Embattled NGO Coordination Board executive director Fazul Mohamed's woes are far from over after civil society organisations called for his arrest for alleged extortion.

Under the aegis of Civil Society Reference Group, the lobbies accused Mohamed of soliciting kickbacks from NGOs to allow them continue operating in the country.

The development comes barely two months after the office of the Ombudsman declared Fazul unfit to hold public office on grounds that his academic papers are fake.

Led by Kenya National Civil Society Congress coordinator Churchill Suba, the groups said Fazul has been soliciting bribes from NGOs, with some threatened with deregistration.

Fazul had in 2015 said 959 local NGOs would be deregistered for failure to properly account for their funding, and links to terrorism.

BOARD'S WOES

Devolution Cabinet secretary Mwangi Kiunjuri last year dissolved the NGOs Coordination Board and sent its executive director Fazul Mohamed on compulsory leave.

This was after the Ombudsman declared Fazul Mohamed unfit to hold public office on grounds that his academic papers are fake. But Fazul continues to discharge his mandate as the board's boss.

"He has been soliciting bribes from some of these NGOs," said Suba, who attributed their woes to what he describes as growing trend of political repression of the civil society by the government.

But contacted, Fazul denied the claims and accused the NGOs of fabricating the allegations in order to scuttle his efforts to rid the sector of some briefcase organisations that have been minting millions of shillings from donors

Those claims are baseless... They should report to police or EACC —Fazul



Kenya National Civil Society Congress coordinator Churchill Suba and regional director of Article 19 East Africa Henry Maina during a press briefing in Nairobi, yesterday. They accused NGOs board boss Fazul Mohamed of extortion. PHOTO: ALICE MBURU

in the pretext of assisting Kenyans.

He said some NGOs had developed cold feet due to the stringent measures he has put in place to control the sector, such as the law requiring expatriates employed by the NGOs to have work permits.

"Those claims are baseless and only comparable to the proverbial kicks of a dying horse. If they have any tangible proof, they should report to either the police or EACC," Fazul told *People Daily* on phone.

He vowed not to let the allegations deter him from cleaning up the sector.

The civil society also accused Fazul of implementing decisions not endorsed by the NGO Board.

Section Six of the NGOs Act provides that the quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the board shall be 11 members, including at least seven members appointed from the ranks of NGO Council.

East Africa regional director

of Article 19 Henry Maina said for the better part of the last three years, the board has been rendered dysfunctional.

He said absence of Maj Gen (Rtd) Hussein Ali, who has reportedly declined to take up his appointment as chair of the NGO board, makes it incapable of making legally-binding decisions.

"Does it mean Parliament operates at the whims of an individual who does not even qualify for this post?" asked Maina.

Reduce lake water use, lobby tells firms

by Kirera Mwiti

The Water Resources Users Association (WRUA) now wants flower farmers and power generating firm KenGen to lower their water abstraction from Lake Naivasha by 25 per cent.

The association said statistics indicate that water levels were dropping by two centimetres because of massive abstraction as well as the high temperatures.

Addressing the press in Naivasha, the association pointed an accusing finger at Water Resources and Management Authority (WRMA) for the current crisis in the lake.

Association chair Enock Kiminta said the water allocation plan expired in 2014 leaving users to abstract water as they wished.

He said WRMA, despite collecting over Sh150 million annually from the lake's basin, had failed to involve other stakeholders in protecting the resource and reviewing the water plan.

"Currently the lake levels are dropping by 2cm daily and our biggest fear is that we could face the 2009 situation when the water body nearly dried up," said Kiminta.

He also warned that the upcoming Olkaria V power plant could stall due to lack of enough water.

Destroyed ship carried heroin, cop tells court

by Sophie Njoka

A ship blown up by the military following instructions by President Uhuru Kenyatta was carrying heroin, not a chemical for making fertiliser, an Antinarcotics Police officer told a Mombasa court yesterday.

A prosecution witness had last year told the court that the brown substance found in the vessel was minerals used in making fertiliser.

But testifying in a case in which three Kenyans and nine foreigners are accused of smuggling drugs, Joseph Wafula, an officer attached to the Antinarcotics Police Unit, said the substance was analysed and found to be heroin.

He said he took samples of the substance found in *MV Amin Darya* and forwarded them to the Government Chemist. The ship was later

destroyed in the high seas under the supervision of Kenya Navy as the President watched in 2014. A navy patrol boat intercepted the ship while it was attempting to sneak into the port of Mombasa.

The suspects are accused of smuggling in 370.8 kilograms of heroin valued at about Sh1.3 billion.

Wafula told chief magistrate Julius Ngeeta that the drugs were wrapped in rags and stashed in cement bags.

"The drugs were well hidden and we would not have recovered them if we had tried to remove the cement bags for several days. We recovered more drugs from diesel tanks," he said.

"We became suspicious because it seemed absurd that people should import cement worth Sh2.3 million, yet Kenya is one of the best cement producers in Africa," he said.

Hearing continues on January 15.

Moment of glory for poor student airlifted to school

by Seth Mwaniki

Joining Form One is normally a memorable moment for many students.

Though the memory may fade as time passes by, a boy from Kienu, Nyeri county will no doubt cherish his moment. Kevin Muriuki (pictured) was airlifted to Nyeri Boys High School where he started his secondary school education journey yesterday, thanks to Retired Military Veterans.

Muriuki sat his Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam in little-known Karichen Primary School and scored 372 marks, but his parents could not afford to pay for his secondary education.

However, the veterans, through their association, came to his aid and paid school fees for the whole year besides buying all his personal effects and books.

During holidays, Muriuki worked at a nearby quarry to complement his parents

income. And the elated student was the subject of envy from his colleagues at his new school as he disembarked the chopper.

Muriuki promised to work hard to make his parents and his benefactors proud. The mother, Margaret Wangui, was emotional as his son's dream to pursue education was realised.

Led by Rtd Lt Col Joseph King'ori, the veterans said they read Muriuki's story in local daily and decided to help.

"We were touched by the story of this boy who aspired to be a pilot but his parents could not afford to educate him," he said, adding that they would pay Muriuki's fees throughout his secondary education.



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CANCELLATION OF TENDER NOTICE

Kenya Ports Authority wishes to advise all prospective bidders that the following tender appearing in the *People Daily Newspaper* of Thursday, November 24, 2016 has been cancelled.

No.	Tender No. & Description
1.	KPA/073/2016-17/BC – Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Class 'A' Full Mission Bridge Simulator

Other tenders appearing in the same advert shall progress as advertised.

Yobesh Oyaro
HEAD OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLIES
FOR: MANAGING DIRECTOR

THE PORT OF MOMBASA

GATEWAY TO EAST & CENTRAL AFRICA