



Maitha widow launches bid for Mombasa senator's post

BY PHILIP MBAJI

FORMER Cabinet minister Karisa Maitha's wife, Alice, at the weekend hit the campaign trail pledging to improve education standards and eradicate drug abuse in Mombasa county if elected senator.

Alice, who declared interest in the seat last week together with the governor's post aspirant Abdallah Mwaruwa, former Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) managing director, launched their campaign and promised to address

the two issues, which afflict the Coast residents.

Speaking at KPA Mbaraki Sports Ground, Alice and Mwaruwa appealed for peace and co-existence among the residents of Mombasa and assured them that they will launch an initiative to promote peace in the county.

Alice becomes the first woman declare interest in the seat that has attracted Mvita MP Najib Balala, Changamwe's Ramadhan Seif Kajembe and human rights activist Hassan Omar Sarai.

Channel grievances to MPs, URP leaders advise MRC

BY MAUREEN MUDI AND PHILIP MBAJI

THE outlawed Mombasa Republican Council members should channel their grievances to Coastal leaders to raise them in Parliament instead of resorting to violence.

Speakers at campaign rallies organised by United Republican Party over the weekend urged the government to address the

group's grievances. MPs Cyrus Jirongo, Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Gedion Mbuvi Sonko and Ekwe Ethuro said the government and MRC should give dialogue a chance to ensure peace in the Coast region.

Jirongo said the economy of the region has been ruined because all the industries such as Mariakani Milk, Kenya Bixa, Ramisi Sugar factory and Kenya Cashewnut had collapsed.

KWS rangers pursue poachers in Tana River

Photo: XINHUA



RECOVERED: Workers preparing contraband tusks and ivory for burning during the African Elephant Law Enforcement Day in Tsavo West National Park on July 20 last year.

BY MARTIN MWITA

THE Kenya Wildlife Service rangers in Tana River county are pursuing two gangs of suspected poachers, who escaped after a fierce gun fight over the weekend.

The rangers, who were on patrol encountered the two gangs of six poachers each at two different locations in Tana River and Garsen.

In the first incident at Dakadima area, one poach-

er was shot dead and an AK-47 rifle with two magazines and 44 bullets recovered while his five colleagues escaped with injuries.

The second incident was at Ananotu area near Garsen where another gang of six poachers engaged the rangers in a fierce gun fight.

The gang escaped leaving behind 28 bullets, three magazines of AK-47 rifle, and two tusks of a mature elephant.

Confirming the incidence, Coast Conservation area assistant director Simon Gitau said all the two gangs fled with injuries, adding that the rangers are still pursuing them.

"We are looking for the suspected poachers who our men encountered at two different points in Tana River area. We managed to recover three magazines, two pieces of elephant tusks, one AK 47 rifle and several rounds of ammunition,"

said Gitau.

He urged members of the public in the region to report any suspicious person with gunshot wounds to the nearest police station or KWS.

"Members of the public are advised to be on the alert since this gang that escaped is still armed and dangerous," said Gitau.

He said the KWS is committed in protecting the wildlife and will not leave anything at chance.

Network to study dolphins and sharks at Watamu

BY ALPHONCE GARI

A network has been formed to research on sharks and dolphins along the coastline in a bid to promote tourism.

The network will develop and keep data besides setting up a management plan for the sea mammals that are key tourism.

The project will involve conservation groups in Watamu, South Coast and international organisations under the consortium of the Kenya Marine Mammals Network.

Members of the network will be giving updates and details of the marine mammals spotted at specific locations at the coastal line.

The other project partner is the Global Vision International, a UK based conservation organisation, which will conduct research on behalf of local partners

worldwide.

In Kenya, GVI is working with the Kenya Wildlife Service in studying the marine mammal populations around Kisite-Mpunguti marine protected area. Kenya Association of Sea Anglers, a governing body for saltwater sports fishing in Kenya and a member of the International Game Fish Association, is another partner in the network.

Steve trot the chairman of Watamu Marine Park Association said the network will provide consistent data on occurrence and abundance of marine mammals along the Kenyan coast using sport fishing vessels, diving clubs and NGOs as a platform of opportunity.

"This project will help to define areas of 'high importance' for marine mammals to improve the conservation of these species in the region," he said.

Promote communities' historical sites, KTB urged

STAR CORRESPONDENT

KENYA Tourism Board has been urged to promote tourism at the grassroots by recognising and marketing historical sites, which are run by local communities.

Speaking in Kikambala yesterday after visiting the African Barn Owl cave, Basiva Foundation managing director Peter Kithunga said KTB has concentrated its promotion in the hotel industry, which is seasonal.

He urged the board to shift its focus to other areas especially eco-tourism, which besides providing beautiful scenery to both local and international tourists, conserves the environment.

"It's high time KTB gets out of big towns and starts looking for the historical sites that form the heritage of our country," Kithunga said.

He said the country has so many unique historical sites that cannot be found anywhere in the world that should be promoted and marketed.

The foundation has been identifying and maintaining historical sites, which include caves used to hide slaves and other unique features which were previously not recognised.

The foundation's goodwill envoy Petro Scharz, said the country has a lot of potential in terms of tourism, adding that many of its features are unique but the world will not know about such features unless they are promoted. Speaking after a visit Nyari depression, Scharz urged the government to provide funds for fencing the area to preserve the forest around the depression, borders the famous Arabuko-Sokoke forest.

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