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S. African govt introduces hate speech bill to Parliament

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DJCD) on Wednesday introduced a hate speech bill to Parliament in a bid to accelerate the process of criminalizing both hate crime and hate speech.

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services heard that the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crime and Hate Speech Bill seeks to address the increasing number of incidents motivated by prejudice, in the forms of hate crime and hate speech, and to assist people who are victims of such crimes, Committee Chairperson Mathole Motshekga said in a statement emailed to Xinhua.

The Bill also puts in place measures to prevent and combat these offences, Motshekga said.

The committee appreciates the urgency of the matter, nonetheless MPs would first like to consider the matter for greater clarity, before it decides on the way forward, Motshekga said.



The South African cabinet approved the Bill in March following the resurgence of racism in the country

The Bill makes it a hate crime if a person commits any recognized offence under the law, referred to as the "base crime or offence," if the commission of that offence is motivated by prejudice or intolerance on the basis of one or more characteristics or perceived characteristics of the victim, as listed in the Bill.

Under the Bill, the offence of hate speech is created and makes provision for any person who intentionally publishes, propagates or advocates anything or communicates to one or more persons in a manner that could be reasonably construed to demonstrate a clear intention to be harmful, or to incite or to promote or propagate hatred based on several categories.

These include, among others, age, albinism, birth, color, culture, disability, ethnic or social origin, gender, HIV status, language, nationality and sex.

The Bill also allows for exclusions, such

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Losing staff to CCM, government? How UDSM takes it all in its stride



Former Vice President Dr Mohamed Gharib Bilal serves himself at iftar hosted by the Dar es Salaam Region Interreligious Peace Committee on Tuesday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

The country's oldest varsity has seen a good number of its key personnel assigned to top state jobs since President Magufuli came to power ...and is probably getting used to it by now

By Guardian Reporter

THE University of Dar es Salaam has acknowledged that it faces big challenges in finding adequate replacements for members of its academic staff who are increasingly being assigned to senior positions within the ruling political establishment.

According to UDSM deputy vice chancellor (research) Prof Cuthbert Kimambo, it is never easy to fill key vacancies with ready-made people in certain academic fields, especially without proper notice.

Prof Kimambo was speaking in the wake of this week's appointment of Dr Bashiru Ali Kakurwa, a senior lecturer of many years at UDSM, as the new secretary general of the ruling CCM party.

Dr Kakurwa became the latest addition to the growing list of lecturers and senior academic staff being plucked out of the country's oldest higher learning institution to fill top government or CCM positions since President Magufuli - who is also CCM chairman - came into office after winning the 2015 General Election.

But according to Prof Kimambo, since the

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MPs highlight problem of land conflicts, govt admits

By Henry Mwangonde and

Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE increasing number of land conflicts pitting citizens on one hand and investors and security organs on the other yesterday dominated the parliamentary debate on the 2018/19 budget estimates for the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements, with the government also acknowledging that a problem exists.

Most members of parliament who offered their views on the matter called for it to be



The government is aware of conflicts over village and military land boundaries... soon we will conduct a study to establish the magnitude of the problem

addressed urgently before it becomes a serious setback to the country's industrialisation agenda.

Morogoro Urban MP Abdul-Aziz Abood (CCM) called attention to what he described as a land conflict between residents of Kauzeni and Luhongo wards in his constituency and the Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces (TPDF).

According to Abood, the army has planted beacons on the land on which residents of the two wards have been conducting their farming activities since time immemorial, thus leaving them (the residents) without any land

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Government in no hurry to fill gaps in NHC leadership

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government is still looking for qualified Tanzanians to be appointed to the new board of the National Housing Corporation (NHC), which has been operating without such a board since March.

This was said by the Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, William Lukuvi, when responding to a query from the parliamentary floor during debate on the ministry's budget estimates for the coming 2018/19 financial year.

"The government is working on the matter, because NHC is the backbone of this ministry

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Losing lecturers to CCM, government? How UDSM taking it all in its stride

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departees usually go on and do a good job in whatever capacity they are appointed to, the university remains proud of their achievements.

"It is true that the appointments leave us with big gaps to fill and a shortage of academic experts, but we always commend their appointments because wherever the experts are being sent, they are going to utilise their experience in pushing forward the country's development goals," said the don who was speaking on the sidelines of the commemoration of UDSM's 4th Research Week yesterday.

He added that the university will continue striving to produce top lecturers and academic personnel to fill the vacancies as they appear.

Apart from Dr Kakurwa, other prominent and experienced UDSM academic staffers now serving in various high-ranking positions within the fifth phase government include Prof Kitila Mkumbo (permanent secretary in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation) and Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs).

Also Prof Florens Luoga (governor of the central Bank of Tanzania - BoT) and Dr Tito Mwinuka (director general of the Tanzania Electric Supply Company - TANESCO).

The latest appointment of Dr Kakurwa as the new CCM secretary general followed the resignation of his predecessor Abdulrahman Kinana, who had served for six years in the highly pivotal position within the ruling party.

Dr Kakurwa's elevation to the post came five months after he was appointed by President Magufuli last December to lead a committee mandated to trace all CCM assets and liabilities.

The committee is understood to have already presented its findings to the party's top hierarchy, and a party statement released late Tuesday quoted chairman Magufuli as saying:

"We are optimistic that as secretary general, you (Kakurwa) can do some proper work on what you have seen within the party and its wings over the past five months."

"We have given you the task at this difficult moment and we have also agreed that the good job you have done in Tanzania mainland can be replicated in Zanzibar."

Speaking after his new appointment was confirmed, Dr Kakurwa pledged to work hard to fulfil the expectations of both CCM and the country at large.



We are optimistic that as secretary general, you (Kakurwa) can do some proper work on what you have seen within the party and its wings over the past five months.



Agriculture minister Dr Charles Tizeba (R) and the World Food Programme's Resident representative to Tanzania, Michael Danford, draw curtain at the handing over of irrigation projects to Fufu, Chiboli and Suli villages in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region, on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

MPs highlight problem of land conflicts, govt admits

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for farming. Asserting that TPDF is the encroacher in this case and not the villagers, the MP called on the government to intervene and hand the land back to the villagers.

"The villagers are faced with hunger problems since TPDF has stopped them from farming or grazing their animals on that land," he said.

Responding, Defence and National Security Minister Dr Hussein Mwinyi acknowledged that similar conflicts between village communities and the military have been reported in many

other parts of the country, all of them requiring immediate intervention.

"The government is aware of conflicts over village and military land boundaries... soon we will conduct a study to establish the magnitude of the problem in an effort to find long-lasting solutions," the minister told the House.

He noted that among those who have been pressing for a review of all existing land conflicts between village communities and nearby military camps is the Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakembe.

On the particular case cited by MP Abood, Mwinyi said the conflict has already been solved by Morogoro municipal authorities and TPDF no longer has a problem with the mentioned villagers, especially after a new demarcation in 2002.

The only remaining complaints are emanating from the military's decision to stop giving special permission to some residents to continue cultivating on the land, he added.

Still dwelling on the same topic, Anne Kilango (Special Seats - CCM) said although the incumbent Minister

for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements, William Lukuvi, appears to be doing a good job, land conflicts remain a major concern that need special attention.

Hamidu Bobali Mchinga (CUF) told the minister to visit his constituency to avert a dispute over a land plot on which a new health centre has been built.

According to the MP, the investor behind the health facility project has vanished with the keys to the centre on claims that government authorities have snatched the land away from him.



Finance and Planning deputy minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji addresses financial sector stakeholders in Dodoma yesterday. The focus of the meeting was on ways to fast-track Tanzania's graduation into an industrial economy. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Moshi Cooperative University set to introduce tourism, hospitality courses - vice chancellor

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

PLANS are being finalised to introduce tourism and hospitality courses at the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU).

MoCU Vice Chancellor Prof Faustine Bee said: "Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions are among the country's main tourism destinations, the course we are introducing will enable students get direct link within the tourism industry".

He said the university in Tanzania; and our college which is the Centre of Excellence in Cooperative and Business Management in East Africa (EAC) hosted the famous Karibu/Kili Fair International Tourism Fair for the past

three years ago; our students who will take tourism and hospitality courses will have also good links through the tourism fair for sustainable tourism..." Prof Bee explained.

He further explained that, apart from cooperative and business studies, the college also offers various courses including undergraduate studies in economics and commerce, information and communication technology (ICT), law and procurement and diploma in financial management and library and archival studies.

However, the vice chancellor said the college was still facing a number of challenges including limited space for lecture rooms, accommodation halls,

library among others.

Another major constraint inhibiting the operations of the college is small budgetary allocation from the government. MoCU is the only university in sub Saharan region that offers co-operative and business education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Other universities offer training in business studies alone.

It is also the oldest training institution in Tanzania, accumulating experience of 43 years, in the fields of co-operative accounting, co-operative management and rural development.

During this period, the college has churned out co-operative and other experts in accounting, management,

marketing, auditing and cooperative development employed in different institutions within and outside Tanzania.

It grew from a college enrolling only 150 students, conducting tailored courses to the University College with a capacity of 1500 students. MUCCoBS came into being as a result of upgrading the former cooperative college into a constituent college of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in May 2004. Consequently, the name changed to Moshi University College of Co-operative and Business Studies, before it became the full-flagged University in 2013 with the name Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU).

Government in no hurry to fill gaps in NHC leadership

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and without the board, the agency cannot function effectively. Therefore we will take this as a challenge and act upon it seriously," Lukuvi said.

Earlier this year, President Magufuli suspended NHC director general Nehemiah Mchechu and the entire board, including its chairperson Blandina Nyoni, over dissatisfaction with the way both board and management were mispending funds.

The board had served only one year in office. It was announced at the time that its disbandment and revocation of the DG's appointment was aimed at paving the way for an official investigation into alleged mismanagement.

The whole sequence of events followed Mchechu's direct request to President Magufuli for a government 'guarantee' to enable NHC to borrow from commercial banks to speed up implementation of its various multibillion housing projects.

The request apparently irked the

president to the core, as reflected by his categorical response: "My government would never approve a loan guarantee when I know that the money wouldn't be spent properly."

And after Lukuvi tabled his ministry's budget request on Tuesday this week, the parliamentary standing committee on Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism called for an end to what it termed a leadership crisis facing the NHC.

According to the committee, the government should also evaluate the agency's liquidity to allow it continue to borrow and implement various projects.

Lukuvi also yesterday clarified on reports that NHC was operating at a loss and heading for collapse, saying the agency's total assets value is 2.8 trillion/- against debts to the tune of 900 billion/-.

The ministry is requesting parliament to approve a 73bn/- total budget for implementing various projects in the 2018/19 financial year.

S. African govt introduces bill on hate speech in Parliament

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as freedom of the press and other media, freedom to receive or impart information or ideas, freedom of artistic creativity, academic freedom and freedom of scientific research.

Motshekga said that as introduced by the DJCD, should a person be convicted of hate crimes, the Bill provides for the courts to impose sentencing, including imprisonment, periodical imprisonment, a fine and correctional supervision, depending on the base crime.

In terms of hate speech, the Bill makes provision for imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years in the case of a first conviction, or a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years in the case of a subsequent conviction. Motshekga said.

The Bill does not provide for alternatives such as restorative justice, he said.

"South Africans will be pleased with the Bill, particularly in light of the increasing intolerance South Africa has witnessed recently," said Motshekga.

The South African cabinet approved the Bill in March following the resurgence of racism in the country.

The latest case involves former real estate agent Vicki Momberg who was sentenced to an effective two years in prison by the Randburg Magistrate's Court in Johannesburg in March this year for her racist tirade in 2016.

In a video clip that went viral, Momberg could be heard complaining about the "calibre of blacks" after an alleged smash-and-grab incident in Johannesburg.

AGENCIES

Minister challenges academicians to come up with innovative researches

By Getrude Mbago

MINISTER for Industry, Trade and Investment Charles Mwijage has challenged academicians to make well use of their carriers by coming up with innovative researches that will help push forward the country's industrialisation drive.

He made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam when opening the 4th Research Week of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

Themed "Advancing Research and Innovation for Sustainable Utilisation of Natural Resources," the event brought together various experts and researchers to showcase their findings but also promoting the University's Research Agenda to contribute to the country's development plans.

According to him, Tanzania is still lagging behind in the area of research investment thus needing more joint efforts to push it forward.

"There is need for more investment in research to support the country's skills development initiatives geared toward innovation and industrial growth," he said.

Mwijage said that the government alone cannot execute such job but needs efforts and support from the private sector, stakeholders and researchers as well.

"The drive to small and medium industries economy is geared by research and innovation. So let me take this opportunity to call upon

all universities in the country to also invest in research but also showcasing them for the benefit of the whole society," he said.

The minister further said that the government guarantees full support to the colleges and researchers initiatives to drive the country towards the middle-income economy.

"The government has a key role to play in providing stable policy and regulatory frameworks for development. However, it is ultimately the research community that is the engine of health growth- informing the policy and serving as a pool for human resource development," he added.

According to him, the government will also need to invest heavily in research and development if it has to seize the high calibre opportunities available for its growing labour force. "Let me you assure that the government is setting its priorities to support research capacity building," he added.

For his part, UDSM Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) Prof Cuthbert Kimambo said that the research week aims to provide opportunity for those inside and outside the university to experience the value and impact of research.

"It is through research that the university makes informed and smart decisions for the development of the national and human kind," he said.



Bonite Bottlers Ltd Human Resources officer Joyce Ngoda (L) pictured in Moshi on Tuesday presenting to Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira humanitarian aid extended by IPP Executive Chairman Dr Reginald Mengi to Same District flood victims. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Vice President Gharib Bilal has reiterated the formation of regional and district peace committees to uphold peace and harmony in the country.

Bilal was speaking in the city on Tuesday evening during the special iftar event organised by the Dar es Salaam interreligious peace committee. The committee comprises of religious leaders from various religious sects in the region.

The iftar event was attended by a

Ex-VP Dr Bilal supports interreligious peace committees as crucial in promoting harmony

number of government officials, clerics from various religious sects and IPP Executive Chairman, Dr Reginald Mengi who is also among the founders of the Dar es Salaam regional peace committee.

He said the peace committee plays a vital role in uniting Tanzanians and promoting peace and harmony in the

country.

"What this committee is doing can be emulated by other countries, it is high time for the government to provide its support to enable the formation of similar committees at district and regional levels," Bilal noted.

The Mufti of Tanzania and Chief Sheikh, Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir Bin

Ally, said it is the responsibility of every Tanzanian to preserve the existing peace and harmony. "I am happy that our government leaders have realised the importance of these committees, and now they want them established in all the regions," said Sheikh Zubeir.

Earlier, Vice Chairman of the Dar es Salaam peace committee, Rev

George Fupe said the special iftar was organised with purposes of bringing people together and to enhance unity among them.

Rev Fupe noted that the unity that clerics from various sects of religion have shown is clear indication that Tanzanians are also united.

"We aim at bringing people together,

the cooperation and good relations between Muslim and Christians leaders are a result of the presence of a peace committee. He urged that the good attitudes that Muslims and other people demonstrate during the holy month of Ramadan should continue to be demonstrated throughout the year.

The committee's chairman, Dar es Salaam Region Sheikh Alhad Mussa Salum, was optimistic that similar peace committees will be established in more parts of the country. He said some regions and districts have already formed the committees.

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