

Nacada to work with NGOs in fight against drugs

By EDWIN CHESEREK

The National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (Nacada) has enlisted the help of civil society groups in the implementation of activities aimed at reducing substance abuse.

Nacada's head of monitoring, evaluation and research, Frankline Mwirichi, disclosed that the authority has set aside Sh999 million towards the fight against alcohol and substance abuse.

He said the funds would be given to 50 civil society groups from Western and Rift Valley provinces who have been identified to assist Nacada as the agency seeks to scale up the war on drug and alcohol abuse.

He said the groups would undergo one week of training to equip them with the skills necessary to fight the menace as well as manage the funds.

"The groups have gone through evaluation and those with structures within their organisations qualified for funding because we are satisfied they have the capacity to undertake the activities," he said.

MENACE MAGNITUDE

Speaking during the launch of the training in Eldoret yesterday, Mwirichi said Nacada has outsourced the services of a fund management agency to oversee the administration of the funds disbursed to the groups.

"This training will be of great importance in the implementation of Nacada activities because it is designed to update the participants on prevailing issues of prevention, control and mitigation regarding alcohol and drug abuse," he said.

Benjamin Teimet from Cheripkei Civil Society Organisation in Marakwet East said they would take up the challenge and ensure the funds are used for the intended purpose.

"As the representatives of the community-based groups in our respective regions, we will be active in promoting the campaign because we understand the magnitude of the vice," he said.

'Super Power gang'



Some of the 51 Super Power Boys at the Millmani Law Courts where they faced charges ranging from being members of illegal gangs and stealing, to assault. (see story on 10)
[PHOTO: EVANS HABIL/STANDARD]

NLC urges foreign landowners to beat regularisation deadline

Commission says so far it has received about 100 applications from foreigners and many more are still expected

By PATRICK BEJA

More than 30 foreigners have confessed they own large swathes of land in Coast Province, the National Land Commission has disclosed.

And as the commission revealed the 35 yesterday, it warned the number could be higher for Coast and other parts as more foreigners are still seeking regularisation of their land following a 60-day public notice issued in June.

However, the Coast seems to have the highest number of foreign landowners going by the evidence available from the commission, which confirmed receiving about 100 applications from all over the country following the publication of the notice.

"We have received about 100 ap-

plications from foreign landowners. There are 12 days remaining before the 60-day public notice for regularisation of land for non-citizens expires," NLC national chairman Mohamed Swazuri said.

Speaking at a retreat for 47 county Executive members responsible for land in Mombasa yesterday, Dr Swazuri told non-citizen landowners that time was running out, adding that the speed with which they were disclosing their properties was low.

"A number of people have come up but we believe there are many more remaining and we request them to bring their documents," he said.

DEADLINE EXPIRY

NLC wants foreign landowners on land leases of more than 99 years to seek regularisation immediately and backdate this to 2010, when the Constitution was promulgated, if they have to continue owning the land.

The Constitution bans leases beyond 99 years and collapses all 999-year leases to 99 years. This means most 999-year leases granted at the start of the last century have expired or are about to.

Land experts have warned that



Mohamed Swazuri

There has been no specific register for foreign landowners," he said.

Mr Lumumba said regularising land for non-citizens would also require clear verification of land parcels and rules and regulations to be developed.

NAIVASHA EVICTIONS

He dismissed claims that the regularisation exercise could scare away foreign investors, saying non-citizens are protected under international law to expatriate their profits back to their countries with ease.

Land Development and Governance Institute Executive Director, Mwenda Makathimo, said last week the law on dual citizenship also posed challenges in identifying foreign landowners. "The law now provides for dual citizenship and therefore presents a challenge in identifying foreigners," he warned.

Meanwhile Dr Swazuri said NLC was gathering facts on the disputed land in Naivasha, where hundreds of families from the Maa community have been evicted. "We will visit Naivasha this week and make our determination on the land after gathering all the facts."

NLC faces serious challenges as it enforces the new land laws on foreign ownership.

Odenda Lumumba, national coordinator for the Kenya Land Alliance, says it is a challenge to establish who a foreign landowner is because a number of non-citizens own businesses with Kenyans. He said most of the foreigners have companies incorporated in Kenya and it was hard to declare their land as foreign owned.

"Many foreigners are known to own businesses with locals and this complicates the matter when it comes to identifying foreign landowners.