

East African countries set up border monitor

By Conan Businge

THE Intergovernmental Authority on Development has resolved to create a border management protocol. The resolution reached last week in Kampala comes at a time when Kenya and Uganda are involved in a dispute over the ownership of Misingo

Island in Lake Victoria. The members of the authority are Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda, though part of the East African Community, are not part of the authority. The protocol, according to the coordinator for border security, Richard Barno,

will set up rules and regulations for border management in the region. He said it would also be used to set standards and practices in the member countries. Barno said there have been disputes over borders in the region, adding that what is important is not the disputes, but the manage-

ment of the borders. "If there is proper management, there will be no disputes," he said. The two-day closed-door meeting also laid ways of patrolling and protecting the open points at the borders. The seminar was sponsored by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism

Committee and the authority's Capacity Building Programme against Terrorism. According to Uganda's Francis Wanyina from the President's office, the seminar was a follow-up to meetings held in 2007 and 2008 in Kenya. The meetings were aimed at preventing terrorism.

Representatives of foreign affairs ministries, law enforcement, defence, immigration and customs attended. The meeting was also attended by experts from the International Organisation for Migration, World Customs Organisation, and the International Police.

Activists want HIV/AIDS Bill changed

By Lydia Lakwonyero

HUMAN rights activists have called for the review of the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Bill.

The activists said the Bill did not recognise the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS, which the Government says is intended to curb the high prevalence rate. If passed, persons found guilty of intentional transmission of the virus face up to two years imprisonment.

Prof. Oloka Onyango, the director of the Human Rights and Peace Centre, Makerere University, on Friday said it was important for the Government to consider the link between the law and human rights in the fight against AIDS.

Onyango was speaking at the closure of a workshop on law, human rights and HIV/AIDS at Makerere University.

The workshop was attended by lawyers, activists and other persons involved in HIV/AIDS advocacy from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

"The Bill criminalises HIV transmission, yet only about 10% of the population knows their status. If the majority is

unaware of their status, how can you criminalise transmission?" Onyango asked.

He said the activists would write to Parliament to incorporate human rights in the Bill.

Onyango said the move would enable Parliament make changes to the Bill before it is passed into law.

State Attorney Ayebare Tumwebaze noted that it was difficult to prove whether the offender was aware of his or her status before transmission.

He said doctors and health workers risked breaching confidentiality, if they were required to reveal the offender's status.

"Besides, how do you prove who transmitted to whom? These relationships take place in secret," he said.

The Open Society Initiative for East Africa health and rights programme officer, Christine Munduru, said the Bill should have been discussed by various people before it reached Parliament.

She said if passed, it would victimise mothers because they would be blamed for intentionally infecting their children.



Tanzania's Asina Omari and Onyango at the workshop

WILFRED SSANYA

Mwondha supporters want debates suspended

By Edward Anyoli

THE 22 petitioners seeking the retention of Justice Faith Mwondha as the Inspector General of Government (IGG) have lodged another application to stop Cabinet, Parliament and the media from debating the issue.

The petitioners, who include former Uganda's MP to the East Africa Community Sheila Kawamara Mishambi, asked the Constitutional Court to stop debates on the issue until their petition has been decided.

They said such debates would affect the outcome of their petition.

The application is scheduled for hearing on May 19.

The petitioners, led by Majidu Dhikusooka, also want court to award them costs of their petition.

Through their lawyers Omunyokol and Company Advocates, the group said there was no requirement for Parliament to re-vest Mwondha on reappointment as IGG.

They also said the Attorney General wrongly advised the President and Parliament that Mwondha should be vetted again.

The petitioners criticised the head of the Public Service, Alex Mitala, for allegedly trying to compel Mwondha to appear before Parliament again.

"The parliamentary com-

mittee in constituting itself into a special tribunal and recommending to the President the removal of Justice Faith Mwondha from office as IGG is inconsistent with the Constitution," the petition read.

The petitioners said the debates could affect the outcome of their petition

Mwondha's reappointment raised controversy after she refused to appear for vetting before the appointments' committee, saying there was no law requiring her to be vetted again.

Among the documents to support their case is an affidavit by President Yoweri Museveni.

The statement said Museveni asked Mwondha to go to Parliament as courtesy, but the Attorney General said the requirement for the IGG to be vetted on reappointment was Constitutional.

The Constitutional Court is yet to set the date for hearing the main petition.

NAGURU TEENAGE INFORMATION AND HEALTH CENTRE (NTIHC)

"A Place of their own"
P. O. Box 27572, Kampala, Uganda

WE HAVE MOVED

We wish to inform the general public that we have relocated our services from Naguru Health Centre to Kiswa Health Centre opposite Shell Bugolobi on Old PortBell Road.

We continue to provide free Youth Friendly Services to young people aged 10 – 24 years at our new site. Services provided include: Medical - STD management, Counseling - HIV Counselling and Testing and Toll free counseling on 042-2222 among others.

We are open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am – 2.30pm Saturday.

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Mobile: 0772 872 280 / 0742 470 559

SOUTH AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSION

URGENT NOTICE

It has come to the South African High Commission's notice that applicants are advised by con artists that they may obtain visas / work permits for South Africa during the Confederations Cup or the 2010 World Cup by paying money (Usually 61US\$) into the bank accounts of third parties, who claim they will apply for group work visas at the High Commission on their behalf. Please be advised that this is not a legal process.

Prospective customers' attention is drawn to the following:

- Do not let a third party hand in your visa/ work permit application.
- Should you wish to use a travel agency, make sure they are legally registered, with a permanent address, in case of further enquiries.
- Visa fees and deposits can only be paid directly to the High Commission and a receipt is issued for all money received. (Visa receipts will have a barcode attached.)
- Direct all enquiries / concerns directly to the High Commission.
- You may obtain a form and the current requirements by e-mailing kampala.dha@foreign.gov.za and placing "form" in the subject field.
- Note that there is no fast track fee and the cost of a visa for Ugandans is US\$61.
- The processing time of applications is normally one working day, but it could take up to three working days. Any requests for urgent visas should be emailed to the Head of Section at kampala.dha@foreign.gov.za