

Ruangwa legislator dies in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

RUANGWA Member of Parliament in Lindi Region, Sigfrid Seleman Ng'itu, has died.

Speaker of the National Assembly Samuel Sitta told the august House yesterday that Ng'itu, a lawmaker from the ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi, passed away yesterday morning.

The MP had been admitted to the Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute in Dar es Salaam since September undergoing treatment for a stroke he had suffered a few months back.

Sitta said the late Ng'itu had internal bleeding that resulted in the swelling of his head.

He said on September 18, a successful surgery was carried out on him to prevent internal bleeding.

"The MP showed some

improvement but later it was discovered that he had severe diabetes and malaria," Sitta told the House.

Sitta said the Bunge office was planning to take the late Ng'itu abroad for further treatment, adding that the delay was caused by his doctors who said his condition could not allow him to fly.

The Bunge session was adjourned yesterday to mourn the late Ng'itu.

He attained primary education at Nkowe Primary School between 1963 and 1969. He joined Ndanda Secondary School in 1970 before he joined Shinyanga High School in 1974.

Ng'itu joined the University of Dar es Salaam in 1979 where he graduated with BA in Economics in 1982.

Soon after graduating he joined public service until 2005 when he joined politics.

PCCB doing honest day's job – Dr Hoseah

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demonising or seeking to victimise me or the bureau."

Asked whether the anti-corruption agency was interrogating only MPs who were members of the (Dr Harrison Mwakymbe) House select committee on the Richmond saga, Dr Hoseah gave a blunt 'No' answer.

"It was the National Assembly that asked me, through a February 26, 2009 official letter addressed to me, to investigate the reports (about some MPs receiving double payments). So I haven't by any means simply taken it upon myself to carry out the investigations," he noted.

He said even Kigoma North legislator Zitto Kabwe, who was not a member of the said committee, had been summoned and interrogated.

But he would name no further MPs interrogated so far, saying doing so would be unethical "unlike in the case of Honourable Zitto Kabwe, information about whose interrogation the media have already made public".

Regarding the allowances, he said that there have been different speculations following PCCB decision to investigate MPs for receiving double allowances.

"Nobody, including the MPs is above the law when it came to matters of misusing public funds."

The PCCB chief said his bureau was long privy to information that some members of parliamentary committees were fond of receiving allowances from public offices, including the National Assembly offices, government ministries and various other institutions whose operations they were detailed to evaluate.

He explained that the practice was simply unacceptable – that it was illegal for anyone to receive more than one payment for the same job or task – "and this is what the National Assembly wanted us to investigate".

"Our intention was to find out if the reports were true so that, having established that, to find out the extent of the problem," he pointed out.

However, Dr Hoseah dismissed as totally untrue reports that the MPs summoned by the bureau were subjected to interrogation by junior officials.

"The contrary is the case because all are questioned by the bureau's Chief Investigator, who was

employed in 1973 and is expected to retire next year at 60 years of age," he noted, scotching the myth that he (Dr Hoseah) was the only senior investigator at the bureau.

Commenting on the immunity MPs were understood to enjoy as a matter of constitutional right, the PCCB chief said the bureau's interrogation of the legislators had not contravened any piece of legislation "because Section 5 of the Immunity Law clearly shows that the interrogation we have been conducting are completely legally safe".

He added that Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act No.11 of 2007 is very clear on the kind of action to take against anyone receiving double or multiple payments for the same job.

Dr Hoseah then asked rhetorically whether the law was there for everybody except MPs, quickly adding: "Members of Parliament are expected to serve as ambassadors against corruption and misuse of public funds. They should desist from conduct or practice running to the contrary because that might end up denying them respect

from inside and outside the country."

Commenting on MPs who had refused to be interrogated by his bureau, he said: "Honourable Members of Parliament ought to know that the law is a double-edged sword and we are out to do an honest day's job. They should keep cool because we (at PCCB) don't perceive them as law breakers; all we want is to investigate the allegations levelled against them."

Kyela MP Harrison Mwakymbe last week declared that PCCB lacked the credibility and competence to interrogate MPs on their conduct.

The journalist-cum-lawyer, a ruling CCM legislator, added: "As a lawyer knowledgeable about the basic rights of individual citizens as stipulated in the Constitution, I will never sit with PCCB to discuss trivial issues instead of giving serious consideration to issues of great concern to the nation."

National Assembly Speaker Samwel Sitta has given a much similar opinion, saying priority should be on bigger issue like strategies to industrialise the country's agriculture.



President Jakaya Kikwete is assisted by Abbott Fund Tanzania Vice President Christy Wistar (L) and the Acting US Ambassador to Tanzania, Larry Andre, in cutting a ribbon to mark the opening of Muhimbili National Hospital's rehabilitated casualty department in Dar es Salaam yesterday. (Photo: Tryphone Mweji)

Govt faulted for insecurity in boarding schools

By Rosemary Mirondo

EDUCATION stakeholders in the country have blamed the government for contributing to unsafe environment in boarding schools.

General Secretary of the Tanzania Association of Managers and Owners of Non-Government Schools and Colleges (TAMONGSCO) Benjamin Nkonya told 'The Guardian' in an interview that unsafe environment was mostly caused by haphazard town planning that affected the safe neighborhood of schools.

He said private school owners in the country were facing many challenges because the government was not adhering to the law by ensuring that students were taught in safe and conducive environment.

He noted that as the General Secretary of TAMONGSCO he inspected private schools in the country to ensure that they met all requirements needed in

schools as a precaution against fire accidents.

However, Nkonya said that despite adhering to the conditions the government violated the law by giving permits to bar operators to build near schools, thereby creating an unconducive environment for teaching.

Citing Panda Secondary School in Mbeya region, he said the school was attacked and set on fire because the school administration had banned a nearby canteen from selling food to the school after a cholera outbreak.

He urged the government to have a clear town plan in order to ensure that schools in the country have conducive environments.

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Morogoro region Beatus Mwhava advised the government to supply fire extinguishers and detectors to the schools instead of waiting for disasters to occur.

He said his school was currently a day school but structures for boarding school were already in progress in order to commence with day and boarding early next year.

Mwhava said the ministry had sent an official to advise them on how to build in their doors as a safety measure against fire eruption, he added that they were advised to put in door locks that could close from the inside and not outside, in case of sabotage from people who want to harm the children while inside their dormitories.

He cautioned the government against ordering the schools to buy fire extinguishers and detectors.

He said that the main objective of the campaign was to inform the public about the alternatives

He noted that the government had advised them to put extra buckets full of soil in schools and advised the students how to use them in case of a disaster.

Mbalizi headmaster in Mbeya Fedilis Mwampoma admitted that his school had already been inspected by Mbeya zonal inspectors to find out whether the school met safety measures.

He said that his school was well equipped with fire detectors and fire extinguishers in case of an emergency, but noted that the structures were antiquated.

Meanwhile, D.Light Solate Marketing Manager Laura Smeets said they had started a campaign, Right to Safe Light, in response to the fire that occurred at Idodi Secondary School.

She said that the main objective of the campaign was to inform the public about the alternatives