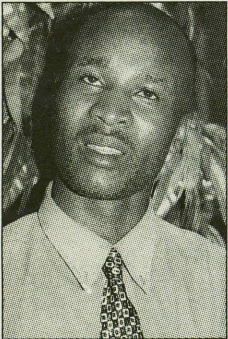


The road to
Retirement

President's priority is a dignified exit

Having over the years assessed the qualities of potential successors, he has remained worried that Kanu lacks a candidate capable of an outright victory in the next election

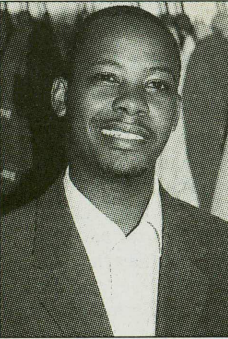
What the public says about Moi retirement

**John Khaemba:**

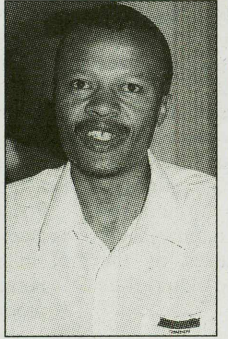
I will not miss him. I'm bored with his presidency which I think has not been very successful. He does not deserve a pension or any benefits. The next leader should investigate Moi orphans' wealth.

**Jane Kahugi:**

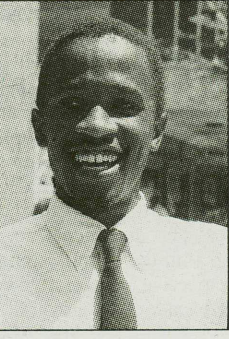
The president is rich. The money he has earned and the investments that go with it are enough for him. His children should not join politics or seek public office, but concentrate on their private businesses.

**Jack Maina:**

He should retire to one of his farms and take care of his livestock since he loves farming. Like all retirees he should get a pension. Given his hectic schedule, it will be difficult for him to adjust to a less demanding life.

**Philip Kimwele:**

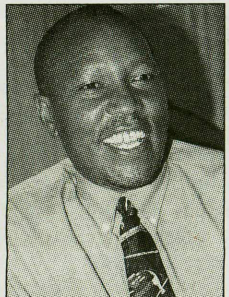
The President is an old man and should hand over power. I wish him a new lifestyle devoid of public clamour and demands. He should be pensionable but not receive special emoluments the country cannot afford.

**Patrick Karanja:**

He should retire to other activities undertaken by elders. We are looking forward to a change of guard where we will witness efficient service delivery in the public sector and quality leadership.

**Tabitha Wanjiku:**

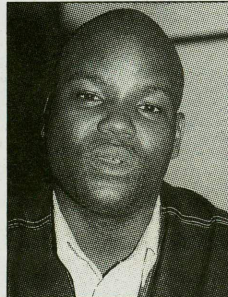
He should be sent home with a handsome golden handshake. The transition should be smooth and conducted in a manner where the President will be accorded the necessary respect because he is an elder.

**Anthony Gathigi:**

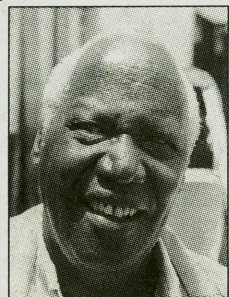
He should be escorted home with a gift determined collectively by Kenyans. We have seen the positive and the negative aspects of his presidency but we should share in the blame for the mistakes because we did not correct them in time.

**Beatrice Ongaga:**

I have really appreciated his presidency and I wish him a happy retirement when the time comes. It will be a time of change for the nation, and his children should be treated like any other Kenyan citizen.

**Martin Wekesa:**

We should not blame him for the failures of his government. Instead, we should pardon him for any errors committed and let him retire in peace. He should not become a ceremonial president, but an elder statesman.

**John Mburu:**

Kenyans want change and they should seize the opportunity when elections are called. We must vote wisely for a smooth transition. Let's not have violence when President Moi retires.

Photos/ Peter Karuri

By MACHARIA GAITHO

Two years ago, President Moi occasionally talked wistfully about a desire to secure his legacy before he finally leaves office.

He said his priorities were to leave behind a vibrant economy and a closing of the deep ethnic fissures that have gripped the country's politics over the last decade.

But now with the General Election due to be held by the end of the year and Kanu still not clear on its electoral and succession strategy, he must be agonising over the remaining short time.

The priorities might have to be limited to a dignified exit and an untroubled transition to private life.

Though he will not be a presidential candidate, President Moi wants to stage-manage the process so that he can secure himself a comfortable retirement.

The uncertainty of an Opposition victory, which might leave him, his family and close associates vulnerable to harassment and pressures is troubling.

Thus, his priorities lie in ensuring not just Kanu's continued hold on power, but also seeing to it that whoever gets the Kanu nomination as presidential candidate can be trusted to look after his interests.

Having over the last few years assessed the qualities of potential successors, he has remained deeply worried that Kanu lacks a candidate who will be able to lead it to undisputed victory.

His commitment to a merger with the National Development Party, sometimes even at the risk of alienating some powerful forces in Kanu, is based on the conviction that a Kanu candidate cannot win the elections without the backing of one or the other of the Opposition "big tribes."

Of course, in his view, a merger is simple matter involving Mr Raila Odinga dissolving his NDP and leading his followers into Kanu, in exchange for a senior post in the merged party and in the next government.

With successive deadlines since October for the NDP to dissolve itself so the parties can merge having passed, President Moi is frustrated at the slow pace, but remains determined to put together a deal.

Where he will not show his hand is on whether he has identified a preferred successor. His own game-plan at present calls for a merger and a joint

delegates conference of the new party by April, where a new slate of office bearers and the party presidential candidate will be elected.

Even if not identified by then, whoever is elected as his deputy in the party hierarchy would be presumed the torchbearer just waiting to be confirmed once the General Election is called.

While President Moi seems to have allowed the so-called Kanu "Young Turks" great leeway pushing his political agenda, he is not keeping all his eggs in one basket.

He has, for instance, curtailed the strategy of the youthful politicians by appointing a 17-man team dominated by people from Kanu headquarters to work out the details of the merger.

But at the same time, he seems to be undermining Kanu headquarters by calling elections in selected party branches to stack the delegates list against the camp identified with Vice President George Saitoti and Kanu Secretary-General Joseph Kamotho.

He also allowed the Young Turks and the NDP to craft constitutional review proposals which highlighted a majimbo system and the abolition of the executive presidency.

The latter proposal, which suggested

Moi agonising over decisions in the remaining short time

a ceremonial president and an executive prime minister elected by Parliament, together with creation of various posts of deputy president and premier, was apparently the Young Turks' idea of how they could share power amongst themselves.

But last week in Meru, the President shot down the proposals. He stressed that keeping Kenya a unitary state held together by a strong presidency must remain.

That, probably, also amounted to rejecting ideas mooted by some of his aides that such constitutional amendments might allow him to retain power without resorting to the scrapping of the two-term limit of presidential tenure. Apparently, the President does not want any such devices.

He has also suggested that the succession plans and the election strategy should not be hinged on the constitutional review process which might not produce the desired results.

Thus, all planning must assume that the elections will take place under the current Constitution.

His brother was Paulo

In our special series, On the Road to Retirement, we described President Moi's late brother as William Tuitok. We have since learnt that Mr Tuitok's first name was Paulo. In the same series, we referred to the then Colonel Peter Ngugi Ikenye as President Moi's first aide-de-camp. It has been pointed out to us that Col Ikenye, now a general, was preceded in that office by Col Sam Macharia.

Work out a package for Moi, Wako told

By NJERI RUGENE

Members of Parliament want the Attorney-General to work out a retirement package for the President, who is due to step down in the next 12 months.

The MPs criticised Mr Amos Wako for failing to honour a resolution by Parliament which required him to draft a retirement benefit Bill for the head of state.

The freelance motion — brought by Nominated MP Anyang' Nyong'o in November, 1998 — proposed a package not exceeding Sh24 million a year.

Reacting to the *Nation's* three-part special report on the President's retirement, which concludes, a cross-section of

MPs asked Mr Wako to draft the Bill so that it could be debated when the house reconvenes.

Democratic Party secretary-general Joseph Munyao said Mr Wako should give the law priority as the Constitution clearly stipulated when President Moi's tenure would end.

Lurambi MP Newton Kulundu accused Mr Wako of taking many important issues for granted.

He said a retirement package for the President was "a mark of civilisation" and proposed the benefits should be continually adjusted to market rates.

A member of the House Business Committee, Mr

Norman Nyagah, doubted that the motion would reach the House in time for President Moi's retirement.

The motion lapsed after the House went on recess and had not been revived.

The House Business Committee chairman is vice-president George Saitoti and includes party leaders among them official Opposition leader Mwai Kibaki.

Rebel Kanu MP Kipruto Kirwa (Cherengany) said a retirement package should be put in place before President Moi leaves office but also because the office deserved it.

Kitale Anglican Bishop Stephen Kewasis described retirement benefits as a sign of

the nation's gratitude for the President's service. "The package must be reasonable and not exaggerated," he added.

Presidential hopeful Charity Ngilu said Kenyans must make it possible for a retired head of state to continue living in comfort.

Ford Kenya chairman Wamalwa Kijana, who has contested the presidency before, said reasonable retirement benefits deal would "persuade presidents not to want to stick in office for long."

Opposition party leader Mwai Kibaki declined to be drawn into the discussion, dismissing the question of a presidential retirement package as "not important."

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'Husband' in court over marriage deal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her." He was charged under the little used Section 170 of the Penal Code which states:

"Any person who wilfully and by fraud causes any woman who is not lawfully married to him to believe that she is lawfully married to him and to cohabit and have sexual intercourse with him in that belief is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment to 10 years".

Mr Chomba was arrested on Monday and told to record a statement about his relationship with Ms Maina.

The police bonded him and told him to appear in court yesterday.

He was released by Karatina senior resident magistrate Mr J. N. Nyaga on a bond of Sh30,000 until February 19 when the case will come up for hearing.

People who had turned up for their relatives' cases were visibly shocked when the charge was read in English.

After the hearing, prosecuting Inspector David Kalabai said the case was one of its kind in the area.

"Not many people are aware that it is a criminal offence to cohabit as man and wife without taking the necessary step to legalise the marriage," he said.

Manslaughter for two policemen

By NATION Correspondent

The two policemen accused of killing Judge Gideon Mbiti's son will now face a charge of manslaughter instead of murder. Nairobi Senior Principal Magistrate Wanjiru Karanja released constables Boniface Mutune Kilyungi and Timothy Munyu Theuri on a Sh100,000 bond each with sureties in the same amount after the prosecutor told the court that he had no instructions to oppose bail.

The hearing was fixed for February 15.

The two had been jointly charged with Charles Kariuki, who was jailed for 10 years on his own plea of guilty. Kariuki was convicted by Judge Samuel Oguk of manslaughter.

Fake degrees printed at Jogoo

Documents made using Ministry of Education computers, say police

By STEPHEN MUIRURI

Forged degree certificates and other documents unearthed at the Ministry Education headquarters were printed there, police confirmed yesterday.

Investigators have established that the documents were printed with the ministry's computers. None were printed outside as it was previously suspected.

The deputy commandant of the police Special Crime Prevention Unit, Mr Joseph Ngisa, said: "Ministry officials in the computer department printed the documents depending on the orders placed. All the printing was done at the ministry."

Out of the 21 suspects being held at Gigiri police station, 10 work in the ministry's computer department. The rest were arrested when they went to collect their orders or pay for them.

The elaborate syndicate was uncovered during a raid by detectives from the Criminal Investigations Department and the special unit on Friday.

The fact that Education Minister Henry Kosgey and his Permanent Secretary Japheth Kiptoon have offices on the second floor of the building did not deter the racketeers.

Mr Ngisa said the syndicate had been going on for many years at Jogoo House's first floor. He said detectives had searched the suspects' homes for more evidence. "We are hunting for more suspects and people whose names appeared in those documents," he said.

The raid unearthed degree certificates of Kenyatta, Nairobi and Moi universities. The documents bore names of the "graduates" and signatures of the respective university vice-chancellors and academic registrars.

Kenya Certificate of Primary Education and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education certificates and academic documents from several technical colleges were also found.

The racketeers have also been processing and issuing Kenyan passports and national identity cards to foreigners. Visas for various countries were also been issued.

The forgers also produced documents from the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. They printed and sold logbooks, driving licences and road licences. They also printed police abstracts and certificates of good conduct, which are normally issued by the CID.

Police and senior ministry officials suspected the cartel had made millions of shillings from the syndicate.

Permanent Secretary Prof Japheth Kiptoon said senior ministry officials did

not know the racket existed until police raided Jogoo House.

Meanwhile, the graft police squad has arrested a Ministry of Public Works clerk, two police constables, a driver and his tout for receiving and taking a bribe.

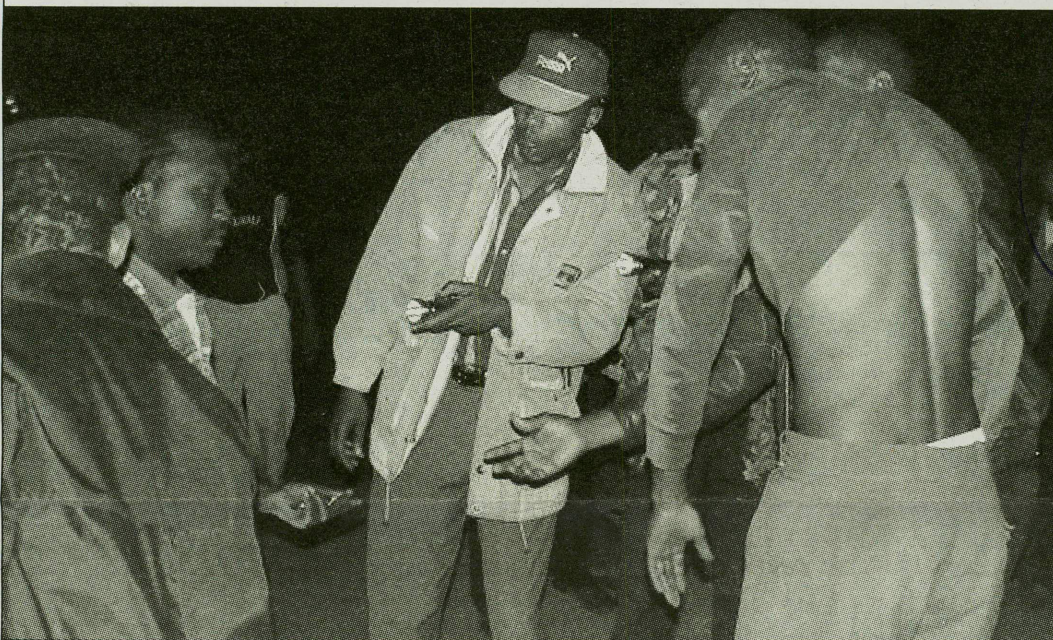
They were arrested in a surprise swoop at the Gilgil Weighbridge on the Nairobi-Nakuru highway.

The spokesman for the Anti-Corruption Police Unit, Mr Nicholas Simani, said the Government officers allowed a Rwanda-bound truck to pass with an excess weight of 37,475 kg.

The driver had been issued with a receipt indicating the excess weight was 320 kg. The graft squad officers found Sh11,500 concealed in a newspaper at the weighing office.

The suspects will be taken to court soon, he said.

End of the road



Photo/Joseph Mathenge

Police lead away one of the suspects who were arrested last night in the city centre after attempting to hijack an Industrial Area matatu. One man was shot dead and a pistol and a Somali sword recovered. Three others escaped. Central police boss Japheth Koome said the suspects had been waiting at a bus stop, ready to pounce. There were no passengers in the matatu they tried to take over.

Dreaded Alfa squad chief dies in hospital at 57

By NATION Reporter

One of the most feared police officers in the country, Chief Inspector Timothy Kamunde, has died.

He was in charge of ruthless police squads that left a trail of blood and tears in various parts of the country.

He was also the force behind the disbanded Makuyu-based Flying Squad and the Alfa Romeo squad based at Criminal Investigation Department headquarters in Nairobi.

Both units were disbanded after its officers were implicated in violent crime, extra judicial executions and torture of suspects.

The 57-year-old detective died at Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi on January 26 after a long illness.

Mr Kamunde was in charge of elite units that were formed by the force's high command to fight violent crime.

But they rapidly changed into mysterious mafia-like squads with their intricacies and secrets shared by members only.

Every time there was a public outcry over the conduct of any of the squad members, they were hurriedly disbanded and Mr Kamunde recalled to CID headquarters. The units sprang up under different code-names after the heat was over.

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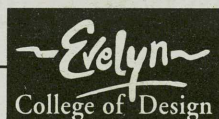
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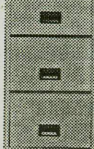
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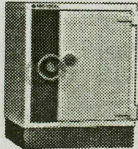
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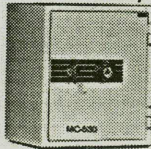
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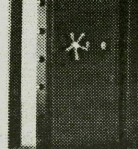
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