

Ruto, Jubilee MPs defend Waiguru over graft claims

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pull back the Jubilee administration's development agenda.

The Deputy President first joined one group of MPs at Githurai, Nairobi, and later another in Nyeri, both sessions at church services. He criticised the Opposition for what he termed “an effort aimed at frustrating the Jubilee government's surge in the fight against terrorism and corruption”, saying the transformation agenda remains on course despite criticism.

In what was a coordinated approach to show unity in the Jubilee coalition and rally around Waiguru, 11 MPs joined Ruto for a Sunday service at St Peter's ACK Church in Nyeri town while nine others spoke at Holy Mary Mother of God Catholic Church, Githurai, Roysambu constituency.

The nine legislators who joined Ruto at Githurai, led by Kigumo MP Jameck Kamau and his Dagoretti South counterpart Dennis Waweru criticised Raila over his remarks that Waiguru should be probed over the NYS cash usage, telling the Opposition leader to first account for the “Kazi kwa Vijana” programme that was launched under the former Grand Coalition Government, in which he served as the Prime Minister.

Last week, the Devolution Ministry was in the spotlight over an alleged Sh826 million scandal at the NYS, but Waiguru said someone had infiltrated the system to corrupt it and that the matter had been reported to the Directorate of

Criminal Investigations (DCI).

“I was in the Cabinet when the “Kazi kwa Vijana” programme was started, it was tough because the youth were working hard but the money was going into the pockets of the old guard, now there is proof that money is going into the pockets of the youth,” said Kamau.

“The work done by NYS in Kibra for the last nine months is good, yet the former PM was the MP there for a long time. Kenyans should not let others take them for a ride,” he said.

“The Kazi kwa Vijana programme was under Raila when he was the PM and before he opens his mouth to speak about NYS, let him tell us where that money is,” said Waweru, who is being touted as a likely candidate for Nairobi's governor seat.

Ruto said the government agenda will not be deterred by negative criticism by Cord, adding that they will not succeed in deterring efforts of transforming the country.

He said some individuals had formed a habit of criticising all development and were now targeting the youth agenda being fronted by government.

“Some people do not see anything good in their own motherland yet even foreign countries are recognising the fact that this nation is winning the fight against terror. They criticised retired President Kibaki when he was constructing the Thika Super Highway. They did the same with projects like the Standard Gauge Railway, the laptops project and now they are busy complaining about NYS



Women beneficiaries of the Kibera slum upgrade initiative by the National Youth Service at Kibera slums yesterday in support of Devolution Cabinet secretary Anne Waiguru who has been accused of corruption by Cord leaders. BOTTOM: Deputy President William Ruto addresses residents in Gatanga yesterday.

PHOTOS: BERNARD MALONZA AND DPPS

and the fight against terrorism. They will be surprised because as long as President Uhuru and I are in leadership, the transformation of this country is unstoppable,” said Ruto.

The MPs praised the work President Kenyatta and Ruto have done so far and especially revamping the NYS, which they said has given many youths job opportunities, and urged the Opposition to watch how work is done from the sidelines.

Other MPs who accompanied Ruto included Priscilla Nyokabi (Nyeri), Rachel Shebesh (Nairobi), Esther Gathogo (Ruiri), Waihenya Ndirangu (Roysambu), John Njoroge (Kasarani), Benson Mutura (Makadara) and Samuel Gichigi (Kipipiri).

In Nyeri, Ruto was accompanied by among others Senators Kiraitu Murungi (Meru) who is also the Central Kenya Parliamentary Caucus patron, Mutahi Kagwe (Nyeri), Kimani Wamatangi (Kiambu), Lenny Kivuti (Embu), Muriuku Karue (Nyandarua), Kembi Getura (Murang'a), Beatrice Elachi (Nominated), GG Kariuki (Laikipia), MPs Esther

Murugi (Nyeri Town), Kanini Kega (Kiari), Mary Wambui (Othaya), Moses Kuria (Gatundu South) and Ndung'u Gethenji (Tetu).

But even as this happened, Kibera residents have cautioned politicians against politicising the NYS programmes and vowed to resist any attempts by those opposed to the project.

Youth Coordinator Muhammad Abdulla said at least 3,000 Kibera youths have been employed to work alongside the NYS team as part of the Youth Empowerment Programme through which they earn salaries.

The MPs lashed out at critics purporting there is a rebellion in the ruling coalition and that there was dissatisfaction over some of the decisions made by their leaders, saying President Uhuru Kenyatta and Ruto would soldier on and do the work they were elected to do.

Reports of Jubilee MPs' alleged defiance in particular, arose when they declined to approve the President's nominee to the Secretary to the Cabinet, Dr Monica Juma. The MPs have since dismissed the claims.

IG seeks support in terror war

by Victor Raballa
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Inspector General of Police Joseph Boinnet (pictured) has called on Kenyans to cooperate with security forces to fight terrorism in the country.

He urged politicians to stop using religion to cause strained relations between Muslims and Christians.

Speaking during the celebration of the second United

Nations International Yoga Day celebration in Nairobi yesterday, he warned that the move will fall in the trap of al-Shabaab militants who want to capitalise on the division.

“As Kenyans, we need to maintain the peaceful relations which has existed since the establishment of the country. We should not allow politicians to fuel the division and create tension among us,” he said during the event at the University of Nairobi.

Embassava vehicles suspended

by Seth Onyango
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The National Transport and Safety Authority has suspended operations of vehicles belonging to Embassava Sacco until they are certified for compliance.

This follows a fatal crash on Jogoo road involving a vehicle belonging to Embassava and Forward Sacco last Thursday morning killing one person on the spot.

In a statement to newsmen, NNTSA director general Francis Meja faulted the driver of Embassava Sacco, saying his reckless driving occasioned the accident, which could have been avoided.

He said the driver of the Embassava Sacco will be charged in court with negligence.



Give us guns to protect universities, lecturers say

by Brian Ngugi
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In a proposal with potentially far-reaching consequences to the security and education sectors in the country, lecturers have demanded to be permitted by the law to carry firearms within university precincts.

Some University of Nairobi lecturers say this proposal will not only secure higher education institutions in the country

but also create a secure learning environment.

“In the face of terrorism, and with learning institutions being likely soft targets of terrorists, allowing a few lecturers to carry guns will act as a deterrent for terrorist besides providing a ready option of first responders,” says Richard Bosire lecturer, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Nairobi.

In a letter written to the uni-

versity senate as part of proposals to secure the institution, he says in the tragic incident of Garissa University College in which 147 students died, the presence of responsible and concealed gun carriers would have deterred the terrorists and prevented loss of life.

“We need a paradigm shift on how we handle security issue not only around the country, but particularly in institutions of higher learning. The first op-

tion is allow trained lecturers to offer the first line of defence by allowing them to carry guns,” says Bosire.

No manpower

The dramatic proposal comes barely a week after the Inspector-General of Police Joseph Boinnet, ruled out deploying police officers in schools and universities, saying he lacks enough manpower to man all institutions in the

country.

Speaking last week during the Kenya Secondary School Heads Association annual conference in Mombasa, Boinnet instead advised teachers to hire guards with knowledge of security matters from private firms.

He said deploying police officers in all nursery schools, the 7,000 secondary schools, 25,000 primary schools and universities would be an impossible task.



University of Nairobi Don Dr Richard Bosire. PHOTO: FILE