

COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF KENYA (CA)'S REJOINDER TO MISLEADING OPINION ARTICLE IN THE DAILY NATION, 17TH JANUARY 2018

Our attention is drawn to an opinion piece in the Daily Nation of January 17, 2018 under the title 'Wangusi's woes may be about big bucks, giant projects at CA'. The article was awash with unsubstantiated allegations as to why the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) Board sent the Director General Mr. Francis Wangusi on leave.

CA wishes to address the lack of fact in the speculative opinion provided on a matter that the Authority has already pronounced itself on, in the statement issued on January 13, 2018.

We therefore wish to respond to the inaccuracies in the opinion under the principle of the 'right of reply'.

In his opinion piece, the author, Jaindi Kisero, alleges that CA in the current Financial Year 2017/ 2018 has proposed a capital budget of Sh. 498 million to purchase computers and that last year, and also forecasted that it would spend Sh1.17 billion on the same for its less than 300 staff members.

The article further alleges that the CA's Board of Directors have been involved in persistence fights with the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology and National Treasury over 'Mega Projects' as to the reasons that may have led to Mr. Wangusi being sent on a three month leave.

These allegations are far from the truth. As earlier stated in CA's statement issued on January 13, 2018 the Director General proceeded on leave for three months, with effect from January 12, 2018, to allow for an independent audit of the human resource function at the Authority.

The audit will be carried out following a decision of the Board of Directors, at a Board meeting held on January 12, 2018, to examine the organization structure, promotions and training at the Authority.

It is also erroneous to portray that the proposed budget allocations for computers in the Financial Year 2017/2018 is Ksh. 498 million. The Authority, in its strategic plan has the objective to modernize its internal systems and processes under the institutional capacity pillar. It is natural that computers and other ICT equipment would form an integral part of working tools for the Authority's staff. The amount is however not only allocated for computers but other associated ICT equipment like servers, printers, IT security tools, among others, that are used by the Authority in realizing its mandate.

The Authority has equally embarked on a Business Process Reengineering and Automation (BPRA) project in order to automate and re-engineer its work processes. This will require replacement of old computers, enhancement of data storage capacity, acquisition of relevant software licences among other critical facilities to make the BPRA initiative effective. One major consideration is the need to overhaul and create changes that are likely to affect all members of staff as we embark on modernization of CA's work systems.

In order to boost its capacity to carry out its mandate, the Authority continuously invests in regulatory tools for various function areas. Part of the funds are therefore meant to facilitate the acquisition of equipment to support cyber security initiatives that are already ongoing under the auspice of the National KE-CIRT/CC.

The Authority's operations remain on course with a focus to fulfill the mandate as per the law and in line with the strategic plan. The planned audit is part of enhancement of operational procedures and should not be cause for alarm either. The Authority would like to assure the industry and other stakeholders that it remains committed in the discharge of its duties.

Christopher Kemei Acting Director General