

MPs differ over new vote blocs

By PETER MUTAI

An Assistant Minister and MP clashed in public over the creation of new constituencies.

Home Affairs Assistant Minister Beatrice Kones and Mwala MP Daniel Muoki differed on the distribution of the constituencies.

Kones supported the Ligale-led team, saying residents of Bomet and Kericho are satisfied. "We are happy with the three slots allocated to the region. The commission considered the proposals we submitted," said the Bomet MP.

But Muoki said people of Eastern Province read mischief in the move. "Leaders in areas that benefited should leave us to fight out our own case instead of defending the Commission just because it favoured them," he said.

The two were at St Catherine Girl's Secondary School in Bomet during a funds drive where Sh1 million was raised.

Bid to lock out IIBRC lawyers from suit flops

By JUDY OGUTU

Attempts by a businessman to lock out two Interim Independent Boundaries Review Commission lawyers from a suit challenging gazettement of new constituencies have been rejected.

High Court Judge Daniel Musinga overruled an objection raised by John Kimathi Maingi. The businessman sought to have lawyers Ahmednassir Abdulahi and Byrum Ongaya disqualify themselves from the case or for the court to make its ruling on their eligibility in representing IIBRC, its chairman Andrew Ligale and commissioners Rozah Buyu and Irene Masit.

Lawyer Njenga Mwangi said his client (Maingi) was concerned Ahmednassir, having been elected to the Judicial Service Commission —

whose functions include vetting judges — would intimidate the court. "In the court of public opinion he will be seen to have the effect of intimidating the court. It will be thought he can and might intimidate the court," he argued.

Concerning Ongaya, he argued he was an employee of the IIBRC and cannot purport to act for the respondents who are not commissioners until the court determines their eligibility. Further, Mwangi informed the judge he had not been served with a notice of a preliminary objection IIBRC intends to raise.

But Pheroze Nowrojee, appearing for IIBRC, argued the points raised by the trader were meant to derail the proceedings. The objection against Ahmednassir appearing for IIBRC had not been made in good faith, he said. The case will be heard today.