BY WAJIR LIVE TEAM

Wajir general district hospital-the largest referral hospital in the larger district is in dire need of overhaul in terms of structures and service delivery.

The hospital faces myriad problems ranging from acute drug shortage, lack of qualified medical staff and claims of drug selling syndicate that implicate senior staff in the hospital.

In fact drugs marked “NOT FOR SALE” are expressly available in private pharmacies and clinics at the expense of the poor who despite constant appeal to the government cannot find medication to their needs.

The syndicate involves senior officers especially at the medical store. This is where the whole rot begins. Sources privy to the management revealed that the store

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OTHER STORIES INSIDE

■ Why NEP Leaders failed
In every electioneering period politicians bombard the electorate with rhetoric promises that are never realized. (Page 2)

■ The Rot in Wajir County Council
Wajir county council is a hub for corrupt and irregular dealings that escaped the attention of local government minister Musalia Mudavadi or so it seems. Millions of shillings are lost through unjustified withdrawals, unsupported documents and issuance of dubious contracts. (Page 3)

■ Wajir Women deserve a medal
Find out why Wajir Women took central lead in maintaining family affairs and read about a Wajir Woman who is a global beater. (Page 4)

■ KCSE shock waves
Well, KCSE results were out. Nothing new, as usual some felt as if they had feathers and that they could fly with jubilation while others thought Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) just hit them below the belt! NEP performed as dismally as it usual.

...and many more stories.
**ADOW MOHAMED**

**Governance Why NEP Political leaders performed dismaly?**

Martin Luther King Jnr once said “There is nothing more dangerous than to build a society, with a large segment of people in that society who feel that they have nothing to lose. People who have stake in their society; protect that society but when they don’t have it, they unconsciously want to destroy it”

Livestock being the economic back-born of North Eastern province one would have imagined our elected leaders to give priorities to the empowerment of pastoralists through training, enhanced animal marketing by liaising with development partners but This remains a mirage.

Wajir being drought-prone vicinity, access to safe drinking water has been elusive year in year-out. Yet this is not given due attention it deserves! Pastoralists fall victim of perennial droughts which have caused havoc and devastation.

Infrastructural development e.g. roads, hospitals, schools are still ground zero. North Eastern province has the longest unsermed road covering thousands of kilometers from Garissa to Mandera. Travelling on this road is a nightmare and hectic.

Isn’t it opportune time for affirmative action to be considered in North Eastern? To address many decades of neglect and underdevelopment in North Eastern province, more resources have be allocated to cater for this dire need of infrastructural development. In line with this come the Ministry for Northern Kenya and other arid lands! The creation of this ministry that would have rather been a department, my fellow countrymen, is the biggest hoax, an attempt to hoodwink the Northern Kenya public and a test to their intelligence quotient. Any witty reader will consent with me that this was a deliberate attempt to further sideline the people of Northern Kenya! What do we have to show for it anyway?

The ministry is suffering from financial suffocation and any rescue mission is not in sight! Mere 2.5 billions shillings was allocated to this ministry during 2009/2010 financial year. Where is the honesty in this, dear friends! Our brothers and sisters, children continue to perform dismally in national examinations thanks to severe harsh environmental conditions, poor learning facilities and lack of adequate trained teachers. Our elected leaders have worn ’I don’t-care’ mind-set. What a shame! It is extremely alarming that there are no single tertiary institution in North Eastern except NEP technical and Garissa Teachers Training College all in Garissa.

Health situation is pathetic. Lack of drugs, incompetent medical staff blemish Wajir District General Hospital. People living with Aids (PLWA) cannot access ARVs because such people are stigmatized and live in a world of despondency. Affected people are condemned and treated with utter contempt

Redundancy in college and university leavers has remained a sticky issue that no one is intending to address. Abject poverty and hopelessness are their common denominators!

And now a voice of reason for you honorable members: When campaigning you entered our mother’s kitchen, brushed shoulders with any and everyone, walked on foot. Why then put muscular and armed men at your posh gates to keep us off?

adwmohamed82@yahoo.com
Continued from page one
Keeper has remained at the helm for about two decades thereby bridging all ethical standards expected from public civil servants paid from public coffers. The Wajir Live crew has witnessed a syndicate which seemed to have escaped the attention of innocent public where drugs meant for public consumption for free or at a subsidized price are literally sold to private hospitals, clinics, pharmacies under the cover of darkness.

Our investigations revealed that a white pick-up ferrying GOK drugs delivers the commodity to private commercial health centers at a negotiated price. The packages are then immediately changed to conceal its identity.

Many thought there was a ray of hope especially now that the hospital has undergone physical refurbishment but alas! It turned to be hollow shells.

Although the hospital has undergone some major structural shift, still some see palpable results either. Mothers clinging on their babies in long queues, malnourished children crying for attention are common scenes visibly characterized with this hospital.

The said storekeeper (name withheld) has formed a racket in which pharmacies and the hospital are interlinked to milk the drug store dry.

Honestly it is an undeniable fact that no proper drugs are issued in the hospital. What they basically do is just refer poor patients to private clinics to buy the prescribed drugs. This is where the snags lies. The best drugs one can get in this hospital are mainly Panadol, Aspirin, and Piriton” says a patient who requested anonymity.

“Quality drugs end up in private hospitals and clinics and are sold at exorbitant rates.” he lamented.

The drugs meant for the public are exposed to unscrupulous and egocentric business dealers out to make a kill.

These are just the tip of the iceberg. Staff arrogance that seemingly lack public relation ethics treat the sick as a trash. They absolutely forget they are public employees who earn their salaries from taxes paid by poor Kenyans and made sure they are paid. In fact numerous visits at the facility to seek managements’ comment on the matter have not been successful.

The medical officer (MOH) - cum medical superintendent has given Wajir Live crew a raw deal numerously. When the Crew visited his office he was reportedly away in Nairobi. Several phone calls went unanswered but when it ultimately went through he was not receptive either.

All the same, apparatus or gadget in this hospital are worn-out and are literally out of service. The dental department is in tatters. X-ray facilities have broken down for months.

“I come here to seek x-ray services but I’m told there is no such service” said a patient who has renal complications.

The Mess that is Wajir County Council

**By Wajir Live Team**

“If you are street sweeper do your work so wholeheartedly that when you die the later generation would say here lived a hardworking street sweeper”

*By Martin Luther King Jr.*

Despite receiving millions of shillings from taxpayers, Wajir County Council performs desperately in service delivery.

Wajir county council is a hub for corrupt and irregular dealings that escaped the attention of local government minister Musalia Mudavadi or so it seems. Millions of shillings are lost through unjustified withdrawals, unsupported documents and issuance of dubious contracts.

“Yes! Contracts are awarded to deceitful contractors on amity and syncophancy. The result becomes exaggerated and skyrocketed cost of projects and poor quality of construction.” A council worker who sought anonymity said.

Wajir county council receives large chunk of LATF and is still cash-strapped and hundreds of its staff remains unpaid for many months.

The council received a whopping 42 million Kenya shillings from the central government in the first phase of LATF allocation in the current financial year 2009/2010 released on 16th October 2009.

Weeks after the money was released, details emerged of how principal officers in the council misused the funds prompting the council staff to go on strike complaining of unpaid salary arrears owed to the council.

The staff sought the intervention of the elected civic leaders to resolve their concerns taking into consideration the grievances of the striking staffs that have paralyzed service delivery at the council. In the subsequent meeting convened to discuss the matter, councilors woke to the sad reality that, the council had no balance in its account, with no quarterly financial reports and missing bank statements as per the norm.

And this prompted investigations by the finance sub-committee comprising of eight councilors under the chairmanship of Councillor Omar Haji, tasked with uncovering the circumstance under which millions of LATF funds mysteriously disappeared, and this revealed that the council lost monstrous 5,385 million shillings through dubious deals implicating senior

Continued on page 10
**Why Wajir Women deserve a Medal**

BY HASSAN DUGOW

March 8th is observed worldwide as the international day for women. A day dedicated to celebrate the achievement of women around the globe. The theme of this year celebration was “Equal rights, Equal opportunities; progress for all”.

Although the day was equally well celebrated here there is a fact that many people in Wajir don’t understand, they seem to think that the bread winners, the decision makers and those who matter most to the society are men. Those that carry with them walking sticks and chat with anyone they meet on the street from their village to wherever they are going to.

But this fact has never been far from the truth; do you ever ask yourself how all these men doing nothing in the town feed their families? They don’t look hungry, they are well groomed but where do they get the money from? Here is the fact.

Majority of those who work, the bread winners, the ones who care about their children’s education and those who put dinner on the table, the unsung heroes are the women of Wajir. This may sound strange, but it’s the fact. I haven’t done any research but I have done an analysis on what I saw in wajir over the years I spent there as a child and as a man.

If you look at all the women who run kiosks, tea/coffee shops, those who are on the streets selling milk, those who sell miraa, those in the market place selling vegetables in every small town or village in wajir. They surely outnumber the men who work in offices, those who own shops, those working in cereal board, those working in the council and those running their own businesses. If you add up all this figures you will understand my perception that women are the bread winners for their families in wajir and in general NEP.

Why then are men considered the head of families and the provider for the family?

**Achieving woman - a cut across the grain**

BY ADOW MOHAMED

8th March every year is the international day for Women in the world. The central aim is to recognize the fact that women play a key role in enhancing peace, social and political progress and the full enjoyment of fundamental freedoms.

It’s also time to acknowledge the success of women. Here at home such woman who stood tall to be counted as a go-getter and promoter of peace and harmonious co-existence of warring communities is Dekha Ibrahim Abdi, who won the highly coveted global award: the 2009 Hesse Peace Prize which she received in Wiesbaden Germany.

Dekha is only the second woman to receive the HESSE PEACE PRIZE

She was honored for her untiring efforts to try and stop the violence after the disputed 2007 general elections and her contributions to the peaceful solutions that incorporated Kenya’s different ethnic communities.

The prize which is estimated at 25,000 Euros is what any women like to be associated with.

Born in 1964 in Wajir district Dekha was exposed to open clan conflicts from a young age. She was the champion of peace agreement and helped set up the Wajir Peace Committee.

Dekha is only the second woman to receive the Hesse Peace Prize, which was started in 1994 to honour people who advocate for the promotion of peace and international understanding.

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Giving life to the deaf children of Wajir

BY IBRAHIM MOHAMED

From a distance, a crowd of students revel around a volleyball pitch, cheering their team as they engage their opponents in a fierce challenge to win the ball, amazingly on coming closer no one hears their shouts, only the sound of clapping hands fill the air. The excitement and enthusiasm in their faces is too much to ignore. Welcome to Wajir School for the deaf, a rare school that caters for a forgotten lot.

The school which was established 1995 as a small unit attached to Wajir primary school with only six pupils is now a fully-fledged school with 108 students. It provides a conducive learning environment where students find people they can easily relate with.

Apart from the normal school curriculum, the school imparts the students with life skills that will enable them be independent adults capable of taking control of their life’s in future.

“A deaf child can do everything in the same manner a normal child can do. The only problem is their inability to hear”. Says Mrs. Kheira Kassim the school head teacher. She confirms that disability is not inability.

A testimony to their success in 2007 the school emerged the second best nationwide in the Kenya certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams among the deaf schools.

Recently when Wajir Live crew paid a visit to the school the students were busy preparing for the inter-school ball games. In one of the friendly matches played against Wajir primary volleyball team the deaf students were too strong for their opponent beating them with an exuberant performance. Their rivals were not able to match their skillful execution of the ball coupled with the decisive blocks and the exquisite delivery of their shots.

Madam Kheira says there is lack of parental participation and involvement when it comes to the child’s development.

“Some parents just dump their children in the school with no follow up on the child’s development.”

Attention!

Continued on page 10
Innovativeness and diversity key to Business Success in Wajir.

There has been unprecedented trend in Wajir where people replicate business. In our local business circle we call it copy and paste type of business and it has been the main undoing in the District developing and be at par with other parts of North Eastern Province.

Business is all about taking risks. We have seen several businesses mushrooming but they fall in disarray. This is because venturing into someone’s ideas without doing adequate research to establish if the same business is working. The Wajir International airports should not only be security check point; must be able to meet its principle objective of opening up the marginalized province to the rest of the country and the world; be used by the predominantly pastoral community for exporting livestock products.

The livestock in the province has for long lacked a proper market relegating the residents to perennial poverty.

Infrastructure is nothing to write home about, we feel the government has neglected the roads network linking us to other parts of the country. The government should fast-track the construction of the Garissa-Wajir-Mandera Road to improve the economy of the District.

Over the past decades, Wajir enjoyed security and peace. Banditry and petty crimes are negligible. However, the greatest threat is poor hygiene and waste management. The Wajir County Council has failed the business community. Mountain of garbage litter the streets and the dusty alleys creating an eyesore. Bucket latrines lie uncollected from residential and business premises for weeks.

The physical planning of the town is in shambles.

Why the Media is double-edged sword

The crucial role played by the news media in the Rwandan genocide of 1994 is often cited as a classic example of how media can be abused to destroy the fabric of a society.

In Rwanda, the local radio stations were used as a tool of hate speech encouraging two communities which have coexisted peacefully for years to turn against each other.

In Northern Kenya, our feats are these ventricular radio stations that large audience ascribed to, yet this FM radios fall short of expectation of the audience – by not conforming to the fundamentals of journalism.

Our communities have no other source of information to rely on to evaluate the truthfulness of the stories apart from two vernacular FM stations. Therefore it behooves the media owners to invest in staffs training to upgrade their professional skills and learn the codes and ethics that govern professional journalism.

We are patiently waiting for the underground cables to operationalize. In the meantime the youths should not shy away from venturing into businesses. They should diversify their training to include other disciplines like engineering and architecture.

Siyat Hassan
Via Email.

AHMED KASSIM
Wajir

The poor sanitation and hygiene discourages foreign investors who opt to invest in neighboring districts.

The council should rise to the occasion and prevent disasters. Residents pay religiously, millions in revenues and other charges including sanitation. As the town prepares to enhance its image as an upcoming international gateway, we should also embrace Information Communication Technology (ICT). This will help business expansion.

We welcome your brief letters on topical issues.

AHMED KASSIM
Wajir
My everyday riddles and the quest for granting answers to a series of difficult questions remains a hard task. I may use my personal observations and curiosities while unafraid to share my anecdote once my head spins with it.

To begin with, just who is a Somali? What is the underlying belief about his origin? Does he call home a squallid refugee camp along the Kenyan-Somali border or one along the shores of Yemen? What made those who flew the war in Mogadishu to be called ‘refugees’ in Hargeisa which lies within the internationally recognized Somali borders? Why do some people refer to me as ‘Somali Sijui’ when actually, I’m a ‘Wariya’ to others? Do I call myself a ‘Kenyan-Somali’ or a ‘Somali–Kenyan’?

This gives me more riddles to solve than time to solve them. The answers probably lie somewhere. But let’s imagine for instance our home is Somalia where death by gunfire, intentional or otherwise, had become a common place. So too had hostage taking, piracy, robbery and rape. Violent crime is a gruesome, constant companion. Almost everything seems to be getting worse, even much worse. Or was it Ogadenia? The situation there is more or less same to that in Somalia as the region struggles to gain independence from the larger Ethiopia. The Somalis in the region feel bitter as wars and famine consume their lives accompanied by civil strife and marginalization.

As for Djibouti, it’s a small desert country shared by Somali, Arab and Afar communities, with a population less than that of N.F.D. It has conflicts with Erythrea along its borders and deeply adrift about what to do to assert their rightly place in the world of communities. For this point in time, Somalis are everywhere and nowhere in particular on this globe. Indeed there is no easy formula to bend history in a new direction, and beyond the occasional tale of piracy and social failure, the world pays us no mind.

For example consider the Somali Diaspora. It’s a unique one that exports tribalism to as far as Canada, transfers millions of dollars via ‘hawilaad’-money transfer service in remittance, sends back music and even love as our ladies get wed to young men in a different continent, thanks to the Somali invented ‘nikah over telephone’. In some sense, they stand for the proverbial butterfly that flaps its wings on one continent and eventually causes a hurricane on another!

Back in Somalia, those underestimated by The Pentagon as ragtag and skinny fighters’ once taught Washington a memorable lesson when its Blacks Hawks were downed and the bodies of its dead soldiers dragged on the streets of Mogadishu. History doesn’t really repeat itself, but it can feed on itself, particularly when the very ‘Skinny fighters’ are terrorizing ships in upper high seas, hijacking oil tankers while holding hundreds of crew to ransom. They catch ‘big fish’ with cargo capable of altering any nation’s Balance of Payment. A kind of ‘elephant in the room’ fairly contributing to the dilemma of this century.

But don’t mistake me for a pessimist. If we go by the Spanish proverb that an optimist is a pessimist with real experience, every Somali is an optimist. Experience of Shifta war, refugee camps and Diaspora life, and even of excellent entrepreneurs. In my view though, the biggest challenge is our identity. That of an individual’s self-affiliation and the need for some semblance of order in a world gone mad.

Most Somalis confronted by their own litany of failure, are gains as the weak TFG’s president remains confined to his Villa Somali. Somalia has no shortage of weary Mullahs, Judges who stone adulterers and even confused Sufis.

Last year also witnessed a young Somali teen convicted in US court for piracy related charges; the ‘Smiling Pirate’ is second to a Somali held in the notorious Guantanamo bay. But what attracted the world’s attention most in recent years though, were Ayan Hiri Ali, a Somali-Dutch and a sworn critic of Islam and whose screenplays for Theo Van Goh’s infamous movie ‘submission’ lead to his assassination.

Finally to sum up these contrasts is a Somali-Canadian poet, rapper and musician. His none other than K’naan (née Keynan Warsame) whose song “Wavin’ Flag” will be played at the opening ceremony of this year’s World Cup in South Africa, home to a considerable Somali population facing xenophobia as those who envy their business prowess literally ‘manhunt’ them. They say, Think globally and Act locally but forget to add the reverse is true for Somalis. And when this ‘Dusty Foot Philosopher’ as K’naan is popularly known, is cheered by humanity of all walks watching this ceremony with deep passion and sense nationalism, one thing goes unsaid: ‘The Somali Paradox’ is a global one!

MOHAMED YUSSUF
VIA EMAIL
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in the following sections I will attempt to answer some of these fundamental questions.

Head of Families

The idea of considering men the head of the families is based on cultural traditions which for a long time have considered women just like the property of their husbands. Men could make any decisions they like without consulting with their wives while women could not make this decisions or they had to consult with their husbands. This practice has its positive and negative aspects to it.

In general women are considered emotional and sometimes their emotions may take charge rather than what they may think is right. And some decisions that may require physical work may just be made by the men as they tend to do this works. These are the few positives of this practice. The negative aspects of this idea are that men have continued to make decisions even when this decision solely affects their wives. For example, a husband may decide his wives should have a surgery/operation. He is not the one undergoing the procedure but he decides for her. Some men make decisions based on what is best for themselves and not necessarily for their families. Should family decisions be left with mothers, I think it will be no harm in doing so. I think they will not make any worse decisions made by men over the years.

Men in lead position

Considering that women do all the work at home and away from home, including providing for their families. Why should the positions of leadership, including political leadership as well as heading a government department be given to men? The answer is more complex. Women don’t go for this job, some believe that men can do a better job than them or they will not be given a chance by their head (boss). In the case of politics they are not given the chance by the general public. The first one is a self-confidence issue and they need to build up on this and seek more challenging and ultimately rewarding posts. I believe they will do a better job than most men currently holding these positions. The second part is gender discrimination issue.

Gender discrimination is discrimination based on sex (male or female) and is defined as adverse action against another person, which would not have occurred had the person been of another sex. This is considered a form of prejudice and is illegal in certain enumerated circumstances in most countries.

There is a minimal chance that a woman will be elected to represent any of our constituencies because the public don’t give her a chance.

Other women won’t elect her as their decision on who they will vote for has already been made with the help of their husband. Or it may be based on tribal loyalties.

The public should ask themselves why little has changed over the years when they have been voting for men. There has been too much corruption, tribalism and you don’t get anywhere if you know nobody. Denying women a chance to lead position is equal to denying a child a chance to better education, better health and chance to live a better life than their parents have lived. I think it is about time we give our mothers, sisters and daughters an equal chance to lead.

Bread Winners

If we denied women the chance to lead we certainly didn’t deny them the chance to provide for their families.

If we denied women the chance to lead we certainly didn’t deny them the chance to provide for their families. If you look around Wajir town you will see for yourself the number of women selling cloths, milk, tea, operating kiosk etc. Wajir depends on this informal sector which is predominantly women.

When they are finished with their business of the day whatever that is, these ladies start their family duties at home. Preparing food for the family, making sure kids do their homework and making sure they are ready for school the next day. If the kid is sick, the shop is closed so that the mother can take the child to the hospital, the husband doesn’t do anything. She doesn’t trust that he will be able to explain the child problems to the doctor. When she is finished with the hospital she is back to her business again and the life goes on. If this doesn’t describe your mother’s role, it will certainly do for your sister.

I believe the unsung heroes and the true bread winners of many families in Wajir are the women. They deserve a gold medal.
The cultural headache in NEP

How did Islam transform the nomadic life of N.E.P? What is the input of Tableeq? Why did these two fail to contain European Soccer and Hollywood films from dominating the youth? Mohamed H. Yusuf explores these scenarios.

No one can speak for the people of N.E.P; therefore I speak for myself and for those who share my opinion. And in a bid to figure out the realities of N.E.P, the nightmares of its people and the numerous challenges they confronted, I decided to share these thoughts that never cease to trouble my mind.

Torn between tradition and modernity, faux semblance and a variety of Islam, and the region being presented by the media as an oasis of famine and social failure, the people of N.E.P are still yearning for their identity. This cultural dilemma cannot be discussed meaningfully without the context of Islamic and Western modernizations: two contradicting customs characterized by permanent evolutions that shaped the social perspectives of our people for the last several decades.

The first phase of these contentions started when Arabs entered the lives of the nomadic population inhabiting the region with a new form of strict Wahabism. It was not long ago when construction of mosques and Madrasas began throughout the region and attires like hijab replaced the traditional gabasar. Then Niqaab-ninja, made harder to recognize one’s sister or daughter, she literally discovered how to be ‘invisible’ to her relatives! Things began to change and the domestication of this form of religious practice spread like wild fire.

Initially this galvanized religion and revolutionized lifestyles. The pastoral community witnessed erosion of its culture and traditions like Saar came under fire. Participating in it could reward some rotten eggs coming from the youth marauding at night to ‘forbid evil and command good’. Thanks to this energetic Wahabism, no young man now cuts the veins in his hands with a knife to seduce a high-pitched young lady praising him infinitely at night!

In the process, Madrasas emerged with a full force to conquer the hearts and minds of the people and a generation of Hafiz students appeared. Tahfiz gained superiority to the traditional Duksi by spearheading the memorization and recitation of the holy Qur’an in beautiful Tajweed that paralleled in tone and in beauty, that of the Imams of the holy mosques in Mecca and Medina.

A number of gulf-sponsored Islamic institutions chipped in. Not only did they liberate many orphans from neglect by building orphanage homes across all major towns but they also provided food and shelter for the vulnerable in the society. The orphans got educated and even lived better than the children of the average family. Graduates from these Madrasas also went abroad to study in Arab nations varying from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to Egypt and Sudan.

The second part of this religious evolution commenced with fellowship of Tableeq. These were selfless preachers who gave naissance to the way religion was propagated and its message revived among the believers.

They mobilized men to spend more time in mosques and travel in groups to relay the message of Islam to the population.

Even though some of these modern Islamic instructions were ‘at loggerheads’ with each other and with some historical Somali norms and believes, especially with practices like Mowleed, Hirist and Taligeen among others, some form of religious harmony remained intact.

But not long before its twin western modernization crashed our gates. Who would have thought culture would one day go mad as human beings do?

Bless you who have invented soccer and satellite dishes! The English premier league paid us a visit when our villages embraced ‘the global village’.

T.V Soaps like “Storm Over Paradise” fill our rooms.

Hollywood romance located the nomadic boy and aroused his interest in women. So did he turn Hollywood romance located the nomadic boy and aroused his interest in women. So did he turn.

TV soaps like “Storm over Paradise” and series like ‘The Bold and the Beautiful’ filled our rooms and the kids grew up too fast. A friend of mine once told me her younger brother got spoilt, “He kisses me until I feel pain, these kids are dangerous nowadays’’, she exclaimed. I couldn’t help but laugh!

Divided by these factors, the ‘old N.E.P’ came face-to-face with the ‘new N.E.P’ as they attempted but failed to reconcile. This lead to silent divisions and the art of name-calling got perfected. Instead of Dagey and Dicis, names like Gardher, Sufi, Qaqla, Iskoris… became common.

While the fathers gathered to chew their miraa at nights, crazy behaviors emerged. Families faced neglect and the rate of divorce soared. The fathers and sons remained hallucinated with their Khat and Kuber respectively as the mothers and sisters, left with no option strike to venture into business to win bread for their families. Those who don’t have the means or ability to resort to sporadic aid to make a living. The whole family order got inverted and mothers became ‘fathers’!

The children got divided into religious and secular ones. Some went to school alone while others studied religion in Madrasas.

Others like me were lucky and got the two educations at their disposal and knew a balanced middle ground. As the historical tribal divisions never get away. Confusion, video dens and failure at school turned normal. Young boys started having girlfriend before even they finish high school. The world of the nomads went crazy.....!

The author is currently a student at National School of Management, Morroco.He can be reached at mayussuf07@gmail.com.

This column gives readers a forum to share their personal stories. send your story to livewajir@yahoo.com)
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Mrs. Dekha, her name loosely translated in the Somali language as “blessing” is a global peacemaker and later stood as a pioneer of many peace initiatives initially in the district and later spread her wings nationally and globally. One such group is Al-Fatah Wajir peace committee which has tirelessly and courageously fought to bring to an end the ugly inter-clan conflicts of 1992-1994, fruits we enjoy to-date. No wonder North Eastern province has now become exporters of peace; not the Shifta-ravaged region earlier known for.

While receiving the award Dekha said women especially those from marginalized areas must rise to the occasion and break glass ceilings to excel.

By show of patriotism she clinched on the Kenyan flag broadly smiling while receiving the award in Germany. Simply, all the Somali women in Kenya and indeed the world is tied to the success of Mrs. Dekha. She has straddled through the international arena as a champion of peace and development, gender equity and promotion of women welfare.

Receiving the award she made many in Wajir, North-eastern province, Kenya and in fact Africa proud.

Since independence the Kenya government has neglected the plight of the most vulnerable specially women in North Eastern in terms of social, political and economical empowerment but its now all efforts go for them to prove to the world that they too, can deliver and contribute to the well-being of the society. Dekha cut across the grain where women battles are not fought let alone won. Somalis-male dominated community must now recognize the strength of women. The community still struggling with outdated norms like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the girl child can now see light at the end of the tunnel.

Mrs. Dekha now aims to open a university in Wajir, a region that has been deliberately sidelined by successive regimes educationally and economically with no single tertiary institution.

Speaking with a local vernacular radio station she disclosed that land is already set aside for this noble course. All right-thinking persons of goodwill must support and make this a reality!!!!!

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“The school has been forced to employ extra none teaching staffs who work twenty fours on shifts to cater for such students” says Mrs. Kheira

“Dealing with students with special needs is a task that requires dexterity” quips Mrs. Kheira. The school, the only one of its kind in the entire north eastern province and the upper eastern survives on support from the ministry of education and seasonal donors is often overstretched and lacks the wherewithal to cater for the ever increasing needs of the students as they don’t pay cost sharing fees unlike their counterparts in the mainstream primary schools. Inadequate learning materials, resource constraints, lack of accessible health education information are other major challenges facing the institution.

“Our curriculum is totally different from the mainstream schools, most of the books used are sign-language-based which are not locally available” says Mrs. Kheira.

Most students drop out of school after successfully completing their primary education due to lack of a secondary school whichhampers access to higher education as the nearest school is located in Nyeri.

In his speech while releasing last year’s KCSE results, education minister Prof. Sam Ongeri stressed the need to give equal opportunity to access education to all members of the society including those with special needs. “Through our increased support in this area, we have seen more students with special needs accessing secondary education and enrolling for the KCSE examination over the years”. He said.

Wajir school for the deaf’s girls prepare for inter-school Dancing competition

In 2009, there were 420 KCSE examination candidates with various disabilities which reflected an upward increase of 76 candidates from 344 in 2008 which translates to a 22.1% increase.

The minister decried the low enrollment for national exams among the students with special disabilities “While my Ministry is committed to carry out the necessary capacity and infrastructure development in this sector, it remains the duty of education managers and other stakeholders to encourage and support parents and guardians to enable them to deal with the negative attitudes that some of the parents hold with respect to children with different kinds of disabilities and enroll them in specialized schools.” said Ongeri.
Continued from page 3

council officers. In attendance during the investigation were also the council chairman Councillor Abdullahi Ali and Wilson Macharia the treasurer according to the report.
Wajir Live just thought wise to enlist few transactions and this casts grim picture at the council:
The sub-committee revealed how cheques worth millions of shillings were withdrawn from the council account at the local Kenya Commercial Bank branch.

1. Cheque No.001846 indicates Ksh.306,600 when in essence attached vouchers and documents shows only Ksh.99,000 and in this Ksh.207,600 is unaccounted for.

2. Cheque No.001850 stated that Kshs.234,500 payment voucher showed only Kshs.139,000 and guess what; Kshs.95,000 disappeared mysteriously.

3. Cheque No.001800 purports the council hired a private vehicle registration number KAA016U on 1st August 2009 for fifty days at a cost of Ksh.250,000 which the owner of the said vehicle disowning the claim.

4. Cheque No.0001799 reads 45,000. The same cheque further claims 150,000 of this amount was used to hire a vehicle registration no. KAA016U for thirty days and surprisingly the owner refuted this claim!

The committee findings further reveals deliberate duplications of gratuitous payments for the council staffs that have allegedly went to oversee LASDAP projects in the outskirts of Wajir e.g. Abdigani Bishar was paid Kshs.15,000 and Kshs.12,000 allowance on the same date 7th -10th October 2009 when he reportedly went to Wajir South.

42 Million
The amount Wajir County Council received from Central Government 2008/2009 F.Y.

Issa Yusuf was “paid” Kshs.15,000 and Kshs.12,000 for the same exercise and date, Abdigani Burrey was also paid Kshs.15,000 and Kshs.12,000 on project supervision trip to Wajir West on the same date. Further, Jamal Omar Haji was paid Kshs.22,000 for LASDAP project supervision night-out on 5th to 10th October 2009 and extra Kshs.12,000 for the days of 7th to 10th October 2009. Remarkably an extra Kshs.9,000 was paid to him for the same exercise!!

Further, in one of the glaring cases, the committee revealed that the council budgeted for the purchase of a tractor and one Suzuki for garbage collection and monitoring night soil services respectively, in the financial year 2008/2009, yet the same have not reached the council to date though cheques indicates it was paid for.

Lack of proper documentation and record keeping has exposed the council to unscrupulous employees, contractors and suppliers alike who took advantages of the same and made illegal assertions amounting to millions of shillings.

Daily revenue collected from the poverty-stricken and susceptible wananchi never finds its way into the council’s banks account instead ends up in individual pockets. As this is not enough no procedural promotion structure are followed; in some incidents workers were promoted from job scale 14 to 12, bridging all just promotion procedures, the report stated. The council priorities are not set. Isn’t it shame enough to see such county having so much money to misappropriate and yet with no fire fighter engine? Millions of properties are monthly lost to fire that can be otherwise be prevented if the county council could have put its house in order!

Numerous fires have gutted down several business premises whose hardworking owners have lost millions of their hard-earned monies and this is as a result of unmindful and impurity-ridden managerial blunder that have marred this council.

Sanitation is at its lowest point where residents have to grapple with unhygienic habitat. The “unique” bucket toilets have not made the situation any better with garbage heaps everywhere.

And lately the recent disbursement of LATF fund indicates that Wajir County council received an enormous amount of Kshs.36 million of the second phase released in March 2009. This too may end up in individual pockets.

Wajir Live honestly asks who can rescue the sinking ship that is Wajir county council?
The myriad challenges the people of North Eastern Province (NEP) face seems to be part of their lives. When something becomes habitual, it becomes part of one's life and no longer attracts anyone's attention. For instance, the failure of the system of education is more alarming than ever. Well, KCSE results were out. Nothing new, as usual some felt as if they had feathers and that they could fly with jubilation while others thought Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) just hit them below the belt! NEP performed as dismally as is usual. This had always been the custom as far as we recall.

But there is one thing that captured attentions in last year’s results. The award of grades amongst the top 100 students in NEP province is bizarre. Only Three students scored A- and above. More than half had 57 points!

The top student in the region scored 79 points. The 2nd and 3rd had 78 points while the 4th and the 5th students scored 72. The next 15 all had 71 points followed by 19 more students who all got 64 points. The remaining 50 students all had scored 57.

The gap between the 3rd (78 points) and the 4th student (72 points). Then the difference between the 20th (71 points) and the 21st (64 points) is 7. And the same goes for the 49th and the 50th students (64-57=7 points once again)!

Further, the scores of 15 consecutive students (from the 54th to 68th) are the same in first three digits, which is 57.2... So are the cases as 27 more consecutive students exactly scored 57.1 Points, leaving one wonder why all these ties! Something is seriously fishy somewhere! Only two ladies managed to appear in top 100/Kudos to all of them!

Are these results doctored? How comes so many students scored the same points? Is it incidental or accidental that half of top 100 students in the region got 57 points?

Well, one may not believed in any of the Myths put forward to explain the poor performance of candidates in this this region before. They are not less intelligent than others from other regions. In fact at tertiary level they are beaten their hands down! Whatever the case, what do you think are the problems here?

"What went wrong?" Is it the administration to blame, the students or the parents? What is not just adding up this time round?"

Well, here are some assumptions. Nothing went wrong. Good performance comes from good culture, an enabling environment and does not come in a silver spoon. I agree the school lost its position but blame it on nobody in particular. Blame the entire system in NEP and all those responsible for education!

What happened here is what the tradition was every other time in most schools of the region. By performing such low grades, the school experienced what most of the schools in the region underwent for decades! So nothing was O.K anywhere. Wajir High just became what a typical school in the region was since 8-4-4 system was implemented!

What was normal when Wajir Girls’ School use to produce more than 90 Es? Anything in order when in the whole of NEP, no one gets an A? A serious study of these problems has to be done before it’s too late.

When a certain Halima scores grade E, her future is doomed. The dream of ever attaining what others have achieved turns a nightmare. She feels helpless and keeps on struggling with the poverty she inherited from her parents for the rest of her life.

All stakeholders are committing generational mistakes that will haunt NEP for centuries if they continue being tight-lipped.

**K.C.S.E Shock Waves: Doctored Results or N.E.P Just sinking deeper?**

Mr. Adan Kasim the principal of Furaha Mixed Secondary School during the interview.

Students check 2009 KCSE results at the school notice board

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**Are you aware Wajir will be 100 years old by 2012?**

Send your suggestions, opinions, and comments on how to celebrate this 100th anniversary

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Parents are the core reason why students under-perform in the national examinations according to secondary schools head teachers in Wajir.

The principals from major public secondary schools namely Wajir high, Sabunley, Khorof-Harar and Furaha Mixed secondary schools pointed accusing fingers at parents on the dismal performance of candidates at the Kenya certificate of secondary examinations (KCSE).

Mr. Elyas Abdi, principal of Wajir High School said parents have not played their rightful places in shaping their children.

Mr. Elyas says success depends on the total commitment of the parents, teachers and students.

“Parents often delay in paying fees and hence cause delays in the syllabus coverage”, he said.

On the other hand Mr. Elyas noted that candidates rent houses famously known as “cageja” outside schools, where candidates spend most of their time engaging in disgraceful behaviors like chewing miraa and other unproductive chores.

His counterpart from Furaha Mixed day secondary school Mr. Aden Kassim said the biggest challenge of all is cheating in the national examinations.

He illustrated cases where students who got admitted to national schools after scoring high points in the KCPE were sent home packing after registering unimpressive results in form one. “Some of these students could not answer successfully KCPE examinations past papers.” Mr. Kassim added.

Mr. Kassim noted that learning environment in the district is highly impacted by drugs and other bad comportments. On his part Mr. Yusuf Abdirahman, the principal Sabunley secondary school observes that Education is not given due attention among the members of the public in Wajir.

“Educational conferences to debate key issues affecting the education institutions have turn to be talk shows with no tangible outcomes” the Sabunley head teacher laments.

“The children in our schools are from families with deprived backgrounds because the wealthy have sent their pupils to better schools in other parts of the country.” Mr. Yusuf adds. In terms of quality grades a total of five hundred forty seven candidates sat for the exam. Their grades were as follows: 3 students managed to achieve B+, 8 B, B- 27, C+ 61, C 65, C- 108, D+ 120, D 101, D- 46, E 7, and X 1.

The best school in terms of overall mean score was Wajir high with a mean grade of C (5.600) followed closely by Khorof-harar secondary with a similar grade of C(5.437), Sabunley Secondary coming third with 4.495, Furaha Mixed, fourth with a mean grade of D+(4.195) and finally Wajir Girls at the tail end with a mean grade of D+(4.040).

Overall, Wajir East district recorded a negative deviation of 0.734 compared to the mean score of the year 2008.

Number of student who sat for 2009 KCSE Wajir East.

547

From left;Principals Aden Kassim,Hashim,Elyas and Yussuf pose for a photo after an interview with Wajir Live recently. (photos/Mohamed Ibrahim)
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