

Media Council to start getting funds soon

By MAZERA NDURYA

The Media Council will start getting funds from the Government once the Media Act 2007 is amended.

Director of Information Ezekiel Mutua said plans were at an advanced stage to have the Act amended by the end of this year.

He said the Government's move to fund the Media Council would help the organisation regulate media operations in the country to focus more on development communication and peace building.

"We would like to see the media setting the agenda for this country and this can only be achieved if there is proper training and accreditation of journalists," he said.

Editors' retreat

Mr Mutua was speaking at the Mombasa Reef Hotel during a retreat for editors on conflict sensitive journalism. The retreat, sponsored by Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI-Africa), sought to harness the media potential in bringing peace, healing and harmony.

He said the department of information had entered into an agreement with the United Nations Development Fund to start training journalists on communication development.

NPI-Africa executive director Florence Mpaayei said the programme would help the media play a critical role in peace building, especially coming in the wake of post-election violence.

Ms Mpaayei said the programme had also been run in other African countries that have experienced civil strife such as Somalia, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Liberia.