

# New training plan launched for journalists

BY SUSAN AWANJOU  
AND JAMES RATEMO

A PROGRAMME worth Sh32 million has been launched to train journalists in analytical developmental reporting.

The Ministry of Information and Communication and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) yesterday launched the programme dubbed 'Communication for Development' (C4D).

Speaking during the launch at a Nairobi hotel, the Resident Representative of UNDP, Ms Elizabeth Lwanga said the aim of the programme is to elevate the status of media practitioners.

"Through this programme we hope to foster a minimum level of professionalism. Journalism has for long been infiltrated by quacks and it is time strict measures of entry into the field were employed," Lwanga said. On the part of the Ministry, the Permanent Secretary Dr Bitange Ndirno said they would work to ensure the specific legislation of the work of the media is in place.

Director of Information and Public Communication Ezekiel Mutua said the programme is a chance for media owners, learning institutions and the council to re-evaluate issues of training and ethics.

Elsewhere, a workshop for editors to discuss post-election crisis has recom-



UNDP resident representative Elizabeth Lwanga (left) and Information PS Bitange Ndirno during the signing of Communication for Development initiative, yesterday. Looking on are Rosemary Okello of Editors' Guild (second left) and Media Council director Esther Kamunu.

PICTURE: SHIRI HANAU

mended that peace workers should work closely with journalists.

The retreat sponsored by Nairobi Peace Initiative Africa said that the media is crucial in supporting peace efforts.

The meeting attended by representatives from local media houses last week urged that more coverage should be given to efforts that would strengthen peace.

"Deliberately include peace messages in our programming" the workshop report

released yesterday said. The Director of Communication, Ezekiel Mutua, who attended the retreat promised to present the recommendation to the Minister for Information Samuel Pughishio.

Other amendments recommended were to include a representative of non-mainstream media in the MCK. The member will replace the one from the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication, which has become part of the University of Nairobi.

Gender and Children Affairs Minister Esther Murugi urged MPs to show patriotism through paying taxes.

Murugi noted the recommendation to pay taxes was for a noble cause.

"Kenya is in an economic crisis and we should all accept to pay taxes like the common *mwananchi*," she said.

Elsewhere, the Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya has warned MPs opposed to paying tax.

## Court restores 'Standard', ECK gag case

BY ENYINNE KWAJIAKPA

THE High Court has reinstated two applications seeking to gag The Standard Group.

Issuing the orders, Justice Hatanzi Waweru, yesterday said the applications filed by ECK commissioners, will only be dismissed on merit.

He said the applications were earlier on dismissed when the commissioners led by the ECK Chairman Samuel Kivutu, failed to appear in court for the hearing.

The court yesterday ordered ECK officials to pay The Standard Group Limited Sh10,000, within 14 days for the costs incurred.

The judge said in his ruling the ECK officials' advocate  
Dennis Mwangi had not stated how