

The Nation, 17 February 2006

Kenya: Goldenberg whistle-blower wants job back

One of the whistle blowers of the Goldenberg scandal yesterday urged the Government to intervene and have him reabsorbed by the Central Bank of Kenya, which sacked him for exposing the fraud.

Mr David Munyakei said he was yet to receive official communication from the Government on his fate since the Goldenberg report was handed over to President Kibaki, who made it public two weeks ago. He said he was seeking an appointment with the new Justice and Constitutional Affairs minister, Ms Martha Karua, over the issue.

This would be in line with the promise he was given by Mr Kiraitu Murungi in 2004 at a Transparency International ceremony, when he held the Justice portfolio.

At the ceremony, Mr Munyakei was recognised with an integrity award over his role in exposing the scandal.

Then, Mr Murungi promised him and fellow whistle-blower James Lagat that they would be taken back by their former employers once the report by the commission investigating the fraud was released.

Mr Murungi resigned from the Cabinet early this week following mounting pressure over his alleged role in the Anglo Leasing scandal.

Mr Munyakei, who called at the Nation Centre, said, however, he was dismayed to find that the commissioners made no recommendation about him.

"The commissioners commend our role in exposing the Goldenberg scandal but, surprisingly, fail to make recommendations on whether we should get back our jobs," he said.

At the close of the Goldenberg inquiry early last year, the commission's assisting counsel, Dr John Khaminwa urged the Government to "end the suffering of the whistle blowers who are languishing in poverty" by reinstating them to their positions which they had lost for a noble cause.

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