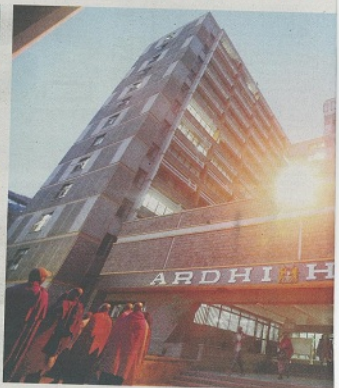


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Land reforms under thr



New budgetary allocations to the National Land Commission, the body mandated with championing land reforms, reveal the lands outfit will receive piecemeal funding, which is less than ten per cent of its budget, for the next three years or more, writes **HAROLD AYODO**

Land reform champions are questioning the government's commitment to streamline the sector after it emerged that the National Land Commission (NLC) is facing severe financial starvation that might last at least three years. NLC is the constitutional body mandated with managing all public land and championing land reforms.

A fresh roadblock to the much-anticipated reforms in line with the Constitution is the low budgetary allocation to the NLC according to a document seen by *Home & Away*.

According to the latest Medium Term Expenditure Framework Document for the Agriculture, Rural and Urban Development Sector, NLC has been allocated about five per cent of its budgetary request for 2014/2015.

The commission had requested a total of Sh14.8 billion but instead has been allocated Sh779.6 million by the Treasury.

According to the document submit-

ted and recently at the Sector hearing at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), the Treasury further allocated Sh189 million for recurrent expenditure and Sh200 million for development.

There seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel as the piecemeal budgetary allocations for the commission are slated for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.

According to the document, NLC requested for Sh15.3 billion for 2015/2016 but was allocated Sh582 million, with Sh414 million going towards recurrent expenditure.

ALLOCATION

For 2016/2017, NLC presented a budget of Sh16.4 billion, but Treasury gave it a paltry Sh648 million with recurrent expenditure taking the lion's share of Sh436 million.

According to the 2013/2014 primed estimates, NLC received a Sh200 million for recurrent expenditure.

The Agriculture, Rural and Urban De-

velopment Sectoral Budgetary Requests and Allocations Paper was read by Fisheries Principal Secretary Njaba Micheni.

For 2014/2015, the National Land Commission had requested for Sh1.1 billion for development and Sh8.6 billion for recurrent expenditure but has been allocated Sh140 million and Sh353 million, respectively.

The commission requested for Sh6.2 billion for development and Sh1 billion for recurrent expenditure for 2015/2016 but has been allocated a paltry Sh188 million and Sh14 million, respectively.

For 2016/2017 the commission asked for Sh6.6 billion for development and Sh1.7 billion for recurrent expenditure but is allocated Sh172 million and Sh436 million, respectively.

TOOTHLESS BODY

Land reform champions see this as a move aimed at ensuring NLC remains a toothless bulldog.

Economic and Social Rights Centre (ESRC) Director Orlindo Opiata, says the trend of giving piecemeal financial allocations to the NLC is retrogressive.

"It is extremely troubling and if it continues, then the country will wait for ages before true fruits of land reforms are realised," Opiata says.

Opiata says the three years projected budgetary allocations also betrays into sharp focus the commitment of the government on land reforms.

"Questionable transactions on community land are still being conducted,

