

Mombasa > Haki Yetu and Kituo cha Sheria want retraction

Groups deny claims of funding by Omar

County spokesman accuses civil society of being paid to sue over housing project

WAKERA MWAJEFA
waka@ke.nationmedia.com

Two civil organisations have criticised the Mombasa County government spokesman over claims that they were funded by Senator Hassan Omar to take the county to court over a 200 billion housing project.

In a letter to Richard Chacha's office, Haki Yetu and Kituo cha Sheria demanded that he provide evidence of the funding or retract his statement.

Gabriel Dolan, the Haki Yetu director, told off Mombasa County communications saying he should do his work before opening his mouth.

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Dolan, adding if they do not receive a public apology from the director they would take legal action against him.

Father Dolan said it was wrong to introduce politics to the issue of human rights, adding they are pursuing the housing project matter because the county had been "sketchy and mean" with information.

Mombasa Kituo cha Sheria regional coordinator Annette Mbogoh accused the county officer of applying diversionary tactics to human rights.

She said the organisation joined the civil case because it was a constitutional issue that required legal interpretation vis-à-vis the human rights factor.

"We don't know when and where Senator Omar funded the three organisations that took the county to court and if he (Chacha) has any evidence

he should table it to prove his claims," she said.

She also said they are still pursuing the project matter as it goes contrary to the constitutional provisions.

Haki Yetu Organisation programme officer in charge of housing John Paul asked Mr Chacha to stop peddling falsehoods, saying the senator was not part of the County Land Nonstate Actors that were taken to court.

Commenting on Mr Omar's queries about the housing project, Mr Chacha said the senator was the one who sponsored the three civil suits that took the county to court.

In September last year, Kituo cha Sheria, Haki Yetu, Patrick's and Transparency International Kenya went to court to stop the county from proceeding with the multi-billion housing project. They said the county had failed to provide a chance to participate in the development, construction and implementation

200bn

The cost

of the housing project