

ROD BISHOP for Gilgil

Standard Reporter
FEASIBILITY studies for the Gilgil branch of the Kenya Commercial Bank are complete and construction is expected to start immediately following the Independence Silver Jubilee celebrations, the bank's executive chairman, Dr Benjamin Kipkorir, said yesterday.

In a brief press statement released last night, Dr Kipkorir said construction of the new branch would be completed by early next year.

The decision to establish the branch follows President Moi's December 5 directive that Gilgil town should be provided with the facility.

Dr Kipkorir said he welcomed the timely directive as it would spur to greater progress this fast-growing commercial and industrial centre.

Apart from stimulating business life in the town, the new branch would also serve workers and farmers from surrounding areas.

Chief Justice cautions advocates over cheating

THE judiciary in conjunction with the Law Society of Kenya will take a stern action against misguided advocates found cheating their clients, the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Cecil Miller, warned yesterday.

Mr Justice Miller said Kenyans were aware of repeated distasteful cries that some advocates were unfair to their clients.

He observed that from letters of complaints he regularly received and from his experience, he had found that some of those advocates even misled their clients and cheated them of their moneys in the process and finally threw the blame on the judges, magistrates, state counsel and the police.

By Boniface Kaona

"When and where I cannot personally or through the registrars of the courts arrest or remedy these shameful situations, I refer the matters to the law society of Kenya praying for co-operative assistance," he said.

Mr Justice Miller was addressing 124 newly qualified advocates after he presided over a swearing-in ceremony before admitting them as advocates of the High

Court.

"It is not within my province to even suggest, but from some of the dirty complaints I examine, I am led to think that things could easily have been otherwise if the solicitor's role was distinct from that of the barrister, so that misguided or duped unfortunate wananchi could easily know whom to blame and take to court for what is sometimes called professional negligence," he said.

With the diversified arms of the country's expanding economy, hundreds of unsatisfactory land matters were still unresolved by reason of cheating and any patient young lawyer could certainly find place rather than be forced to employ touts largely on tribal grounds and then sit and wait for the money-spinner case, or snatch at shadows and wind up in self-

created difficulties and unjust dissatisfaction with the courts.

Mr Justice Miller noted with regret it was unfortunate that because of cheating on the part of some advocates, President Daniel arap Moi was sometimes forced to postpone some important state functions to travel to remote parts of the country to resolve land matters.

On court cases, the Chief Justice noted that some advocates had become so bodily negligent that a few had not paid court fees particularly in general damages cases after paying the initial minimum fee of Shs 300 with the result that Shs 19,700 was owed to the courts.

It had now become necessary to order that court fees be paid before filing the relevant litigations.



Mr Okondo

Chemicals: Okondo warns

By Humphrey Malalo
THE Minister for Labour, Mr Peter Okondo, yesterday said workers in Africa were faced with serious chemical hazards against which they were defenceless.

Mr Okondo said workers were sometimes exposed to chemical hazards of which they are unaware and as a result many accidents occurred causing not only material damage but also loss of lives.

The minister's remarks were contained in

a speech read for him by his Assistant Minister, Mr Onyango Midika, during the closing of the East African regional symposium on "Chemical Accidents and Occupational Health" at a Mombasa hotel.

The minister said most of the accidents and health hazards were preventable adding that this state of affairs threatened economic development.

Insufficient legislation, administration and control measures, lack of manpower and equipment for monitoring, analysing and risk assessing were some of the factors which

contributed to this state of affairs, he said.

Mr Okondo expressed the hope that the programme had presented a challenge to the experts assembled at the seminar.

The minister expressed the government's gratitude of Finland and the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, through FINNIDA ILO and the International Programme on Chemical Safety, for enabling the convention of the symposium at a crucial moment when the countries involved were striving to improve the conditions of their workers and raise the living standards.