

## **I WISH I WAS TOLD**

**By L.M. Nafula**

I remember the afternoon, a year and four months ago, when working at Kitale Chief Magistrate's Court when the then acting Chief Magistrate Mrs. Wilbrodah Juma handed me the blue envelope with my names on it. A thousand thoughts rushed through my mind, for you just never know the contents of these blue envelopes. I hurriedly took out the letter and as I read through it, I was overcome with joy to learn that I had been transferred to Githunguri Law Courts to take charge. To me this was an answered prayer, for all along I had deserved to work anywhere near Nairobi where my family was.

It therefore came as a shocker two weeks thereafter to receive another blue envelope, only this time redirecting my transfer to Ogembo Law Courts as the in-charge. The change of events actually did depress me for a while. I recall in the midst of it all asking God to give me grace sufficient to see me through the re-direction and being instantly reminded that I had to take it in my stride as it was a new challenge; a new learning experience.

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008 I took over at Ogembo Law Courts, with no idea or clue of what was expected of me. Here I was with about six years experience of being allocated work and dealing with the same; now, I had to wear a hat of administrator, an accountant, a human resource person, a procurement officer etc all in one. I had to learn to wade and swim through unfamiliar matters, whether I sunk or stayed afloat was all in my control. Many are the times I found myself in situations I could make no head or tail of. For instance, when I had to procure for the extension of the court using a CDF allocation. But I am ever so grateful to the then Chief Magistrate Mr. Charles Mbogo whose door was always open to me whenever I needed to consult. I managed to pull through. Times were and are many when one has to tackle staff problems and you have got to do so with a lot of wisdom and nobody tells you how to do it.

Recently I did attend a heads-of-station training at the Judiciary Training Institute and oh my, wasn't it an eye opener. I couldn't help but wonder why I had not been taken through the same beforehand so as to avoid wishing I was told.

A word of advice to my younger brothers and sisters yet to take charge of a station; make maximum use of those in charge of your stations. Learn as much as you can when you can, for you never know when that blue envelope will land on your table, nobody ever prepares you, and it is all upon you, lest you wish you were told. To my counterpart, remember God is in control. He can never take you where his grace is not sufficient to sustain me. His grace will see us through!