

10-year respite for ‘mitumba’ traders before ban

Traders assured ban on importation of second-hand clothes will be spread over 10 years.

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Second-hand clothes sellers display their wares at an open air Market in Olkalou Nyandarua County on March 10, 2016. Traders of the second-hand clothes popularly known as Mitumba have been assured that the ban on importation of second-hand clothes will be spread over 10 years. PHOTO | JOHN GITHINJI | NATION MEDIA GROUP

In Summary

- *Mitumba* traders have been assured that the ban on importation of second-hand clothes will be spread over 10 years.
- Members of the East African Legislative Assembly said they were committed to supporting the ban on second hand clothes but it will be progressive.
- Speaking at the university’s indoor arena, Ms Mumbi Ng’aru, a member of the community assembly and a former Thika Mayor, said: “The ban will be progressive over 10 years to allow the cotton and textile industry enough time to recover to the 1980s levels and hopefully employ traders affected by the ban,” said Ms Ng’aru.

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They were meeting with students and staff of **Mt Kenya University** to discuss the opportunities available to member countries.

Speaking at the university's indoor arena, Ms Mumbi Ng'aru, a member of the community assembly and a former Thika Mayor, said: "The ban will be progressive over 10 years to allow the cotton and textile industry enough time to recover to the 1980s levels and hopefully employ traders affected by the ban," said Ms Ng'aru.

"The time has come for us to produce affordable clothes for all Kenyans," she added.

Kenya members chairperson Nancy Abisai said the community has over 172 million people who provide ready market for entrepreneurs.

The workshop was attended by over 3,000 students and staff who asked members to look into making cross border points conducive for the disabled, hastening the education system harmonisation to allow university graduates get jobs all over East Africa.

The legislators reminded the participants that they are only play oversight over member countries without interfering in national issues.

"We are a diplomatic assembly, we can only intervene on an issue through a petition from individuals in the member state," explained Ms Ng'aru.