

LOCAL NEWS 11TH AUGUST 2010.

Midiwo criticized for leaving some Mps from implementation committee.

Government chief whip on the ODM side Jakoyo Midiwo has been criticized for his decisions to seclude members of parliament who were opposing the new constitution, from the implementation committee. Eldoret Municipal Council mayor, William Rono said that the leaders should unify Kenyans rather than dividing them as a result of exercising their democracy.

At the same time, Eldoret Municipal Council, Education Chairman Councilor Elisha Busienei said everybody should be involved in the implementation process adding that this was not the time to settle political scores in the country. Busienei also disclosed that the move to seclude members of parliament who were opposing the new constitution from the implementation committee will hinder development in the country.

Ends...Stanley Magut

Kenya's PM calls for ceasefire in coalition government

Prime Minister Raila Odinga now wants a complete end to supremacy wars between the parties in the ruling coalition as the country embarks on implementing the new constitution endorsed last week. Raila said that huge sections of the new constitution could be implemented ahead of envisaged deadlines if the leaders and their supporters join hands. The PM was speaking Wednesday during a meeting with US ambassador to Kenya Michael Ranneberger at his Karen residence. This was the first meeting between the PM and the ambassador since the proposed constitution was endorsed on August 4. Raila called on Kenyans to rally behind the new constitution

regardless of how they voted and appealed to the international community to help the country in its implementation. Ranneberger said he had visited the PM to get a sense of the government's plans after the passage of the constitution.

Eldoret mayor calls for peace

Eldoret Mayor William Rono has urged people in the North Rift region to live together in peace and maintain security. Mayor Rono call comes amid reports of insecurity in some parts of Burnt forest where two people were allegedly killed in the area under mysterious circumstances. Addressing the press in his office on Wednesday the mayor emphasized the need to maintain peace in order to provide a good business environment for all and at the same time attracting investors.

At the same time Mayor Rono has put off those calling for the establishment of a new Eldoret town constituency saying the move will divide the residents rather than bringing the needed cohesion and integration.

EndJAMES GITAKA

Eldoret North rated the best in CDF management,

Eldoret North has been rated as the best constituency in dispensing and managing of Constituency Development fund by the National constituency audit report of the year 2009 - 2010. In an exclusive interview with Fish FM Wednesday, Eldoret North CDF chairman Isack Maiyo who was awarded position one countrywide attributed the performance to his efforts with combined consultations from various leaders representing the constituency. The funding has seen development of water projects in various locations thus contributing to an improved hygiene and horticulture farming in the constituency. Maiyo noted that the Fund is also set to help in electrification programmes to improve the lively -hood of the people. The chairman noted that he is optimistic to hold on to the position through service delivery, transparency and accountability.

END..... JAMES GITAKA

Ruto taken to task over scholarships

Higher education minister William Ruto was put on the spot in parliament on Tuesday over the allocation of scholarship awards from foreign countries to various constituencies. Ruto said currently there are over 326 scholarships awarded by over 12 foreign countries from both Europe and Asia. However Yatta MP Charles Kilonzo accused the ministry of failing to award the scholarships on merit claiming that they have become a preserve of ministers. According to the minister, however, North Eastern province has been awarded 43 beneficiaries, 51 to Eastern, 40 to Western and 38 to Coast and 21 to Nairobi.

Members however requested the speaker to allow the minister to bring a comprehensive answer to the house detailing the allocation of the scholarships per constituency, the criteria and merits used to award the scholarships. The minister is expected to provide an answer to the question next Wednesday.

Kalonzo calls for China to invest in Kenya's agriculture.

Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka has called on China to invest in the modernization of agriculture in Kenya. The VP who's in China for the China-Africa Agricultural Forum says there's need for Chinese farms to invest in the setting up of a farm machinery manufacturing plant in Kenya. Kalonzo note that the plant will serve both Kenyans and 120 million people in the East African Common Market. He's also calling on technology transfer in irrigation, farming, seed technology and mechanization of agricultural production as well as agro-processing for value addition. China says Kenya is a critical partner in East Africa and as such, the government will prioritize economic cooperation with the African continent.

Civic education should continue, Nzamba

Committee of Experts Chairman Nzamba Kitonga has emphasized the need for continued countrywide civic education on the new constitution. He says people need to be educated on the

new and the old constitutions terming it a big lesson for the government. Kitonga says civic education should be taken seriously and urged the government to prepare a comprehensive programme of civic education. The chairman says the document should be incorporated into the school curricula in a bid to sensitize the youth on its contents.

Grain Reserves short of 5m bags of maize

Kenya's strategic grain reserve is short in excess of 5 million bags of maize owing to a shortage of funds by government to buy the commodity from farmers'. Special programs Assistant minister Mohammed Mohammud says the current grain reserve is 3 million bags and they are in talks with treasury to boost the levels. Mohammud said the ministry was allocated 1 billion shillings which could only buy 600-thousand bags from the farmers. He however said the purchasing price remained 1500 shillings which other legislators protested was too little

Regional News

Rwanda President Kagame wins election with 93% of vote

Rwandan President Paul Kagame won Monday's presidential election with 93% of the vote, the country's electoral commission has announced. The full provisional result secures a second seven-year term for Kagame and his party, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Supporters began celebrating on Monday after early results had shown the president winning 92.9% of the ballot. Turnout for the election, the second since the 1994 genocide, was 97.5%. Election observers from the Commonwealth noted "a lack of critical opposition voices" during the campaign.

Kagame's nearest rival, Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo of the Social Democratic Party, polled just 5.15% of the vote. In third place was the Liberal Party's Prosper Higiro, who won only 1.37%.

Naomi Campbell denies lying.

The former agent of supermodel Naomi Campbell has denied lying in her testimony at the war crimes trial of ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor. Under cross examination, Carole White repeated allegations that Ms Campbell received diamonds from Mr Taylor after a dinner in South Africa in 1997. Defence counsel Courtenay Griffiths called her account "a complete pack of lies" made up to assist a lawsuit over breach of contract with Ms Campbell. The former agent is suing Ms Campbell for breach of contract, claiming that the model owes her about \$600,000 (£375,000) in lost earnings over the past two years.

Global News

Morocco to close 1,250 'unsafe' mosques

Morocco's government says it will close 1,256 mosques deemed unsafe to avoid a repeat of the collapse of a minaret in February that killed 41 people. The ministry of religious affairs said more than 500 mosques would be completely demolished and rebuilt. The ministry said makeshift rooms and tents would be provided for prayers. King Mohammed ordered all the

country's mosques to be examined after the centuries-old minaret of a mosque in Meknes fell over during Friday prayers. The accident prompted widespread public criticism of the authorities over the apparent lack of maintenance of religious sites. The religious affairs ministry said that after inspecting 19,205 of the country's nearly 48,000 mosques, it had been decided to completely close 6.5% and partially close 416, or 2.2%. It said \$325m had been set aside for the improvement works, including the demolition and rebuilding of 513 mosques.

New 'superbug' found in UK hospitals

A new superbug that is resistant to even the most powerful antibiotics has entered UK hospitals, experts warn. They say bacteria that make an enzyme called NDM-1 have travelled back with NHS patients who went abroad to countries like India and Pakistan for treatments such as cosmetic surgery. Although there have only been about 50 cases identified in the UK so far, scientists fear it will go global.

Tight surveillance and new drugs are needed says Lancet Infectious Diseases. NDM-1 can exist inside different bacteria, like E.coli, and it makes them resistant to one of the most powerful groups of antibiotics - carbapenems. These are generally reserved for use in emergencies and to combat hard-to-treat infections caused by other multi-resistant bacteria. The fear would be that it gets into a strain of bacteria that is very good at being transmitted between patients”

Sports News

African games get higher rating

Fifa has changed its ranking formula with games involving African teams getting a higher rating. It means African teams will get more points from games between each other. In the past these games had been rated lowest in the formula used by football's world governing body to rank international teams. In the mean time a lack international games since the World Cup means there is very little movement in the rankings for the month of August. There is no movement in Africa's top ten with reigning African champions Egypt, who are 9th in the world ranking, holding on to the continent's number one spot. Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia all move up one place to 11th, 13th and 14th respectively. But Morocco and Angola drop one place each to 18th and 19th.

Neveu appointed Smouha coach

Former DR Congo manager Patrice Neveu has been named as coach of newly promoted Egyptian side Smouha. Frenchman Neveu who quit as DR Congo coach in April, has signed a 12-month contract with the team. It will be the 56-year-old's second spell in Egypt having managed Ismaili. He has also coached the national teams of Niger and Guinea as well as Moroccan clubs CA Rabat and Tetouan. Smouha will be playing in the Egyptian Premier League for the first time since the club was formed in 1949.

Lerner explains O'Neill departure

Aston Villa owner Randy Lerner has said Martin O'Neill left his job as manager because they

"no longer shared a common view as to how to move forward". O'Neill quit the Midlands club suddenly on Monday after four years, with Kevin MacDonald taking temporary charge. Midfielder Milner has been linked for some time with a move to City. Villa rejected a £20m bid from the Eastlands outfit in May but last week O'Neill admitted that the England player could be on the verge of a transfer.

Lerner stated at the end of last season he would prefer a "sell-to-buy" policy after backing O'Neill financially for the previous three summers. But the American is adamant there has been no change in Villa's approach to building the club and being as competitive as possible.

Business News

Kenya Airways acquires new aircraft

National flag carrier Kenya Airways is boosting its domestic and short haul regional services with an additional aircraft, a Boeing 737-300. The aircraft registered as 5Y-KYM has been leased from KLM and will initially be used to primarily boost the services on the Nairobi-Mombasa route. The new addition is in line with Kenya Airways strategy to increase the level of efficiency on the domestic and regional services including offering passengers more choice of flying times and frequency, said Steller.

This development comes in the wake of Kenya Airways ordering for two Embraer 190 aircraft which are expected to be delivered early next year.

New approach to streamline Kenyan pension schemes

Stakeholders have lauded the risk based approach adopted by the Retirement Benefits Authority that will see pension schemes receive more supervision. The approach works by forcing schemes to disclose their management structures rather than relying on submitted returns alone thus exposing them to disclose their financial stability. Last month the Retirement Benefits Authority announced a change in the supervision of pension schemes from the compliance based approach to the risk based approach. This involves supervision of the schemes by checking not merely their compliance requirements as set out by law but by also reviewing the internal processes and risk management. This will enable the regulator and management identify potential risks and assess the mitigating factors. Based on the rating that ranges from 0-4 the regulator can chose to increase supervision, take control or give the organization a clean bill of health.

Bharti Airtel to acquire Telecom Seychelles

Bharti Airtel's Board of Directors has approved the acquisition of 100 percent of Telecom Seychelles Limited, the leading telecom operator of Seychelles, for an enterprise value of USD62 million. With this acquisition, Bharti Airtel will expand its African footprint to 16 countries and its overall presence to 19 countries. Bharti Airtel had recently acquired the mobile operations of Zain group in 15 countries across Africa.

Telecom Seychelles began operations in 1998 by launching mobile services. Today, it offers 3G

mobile and integrated wireline services across the island nation under the Airtel brand and has over 57 percent share of the mobile market. Bharti Airtel Limited has operations in 18 countries across Asia and Africa.

Kenya's bank in Ksh 4.7m pre-tax profit

Barclays Bank Kenya has posted an impressive half year pre-tax profit of Ksh 4.7 million up from Ksh 4.5 million in the previous year, a 5.2 per cent increment. Despite an increase in operating costs due to staff related costs in the first quarter, Barclays also on Friday declared an impressive interim dividend of Ksh 0.75 per share, a 50 per cent increase compared to Ksh 0.5 offered in 2009.

Speaking during the announcement of the results the bank Managing Director, Adan Mohamed attributed the good balance sheet to focus on good margin management in a low interest environment. The Central Bank of Kenya's recent call on commercial banks to lower their lending rates so as to ease access to credit by Small and Medium enterprises was well received by Barclays which had earlier reduced its base lending rate. According to Mohamed lending on longer contractual terms was proving difficult since the cost of funding the loan was prone to unpredictable changes.

Bamburi launches new Uganda production line

Lafarge Bamburi Cement has launched a new line at the Uganda based Hima Cement production facility in Kasese, which is expected to increase output by 500,000 metric tonnes. The Hima Cement Chairman, Hussein Mansi, said that the new facility which went online last week will supplement the 350,000 metric tones currently being produced by the old Hima Cement factory located in the same compound. This makes the total capacity at Kasese 850,000 tonnes.

Mansi disclosed that Lafarge Bamburi Cement has invested \$116 million over the last 12 months in the installation of a new facility at Hima Cement with the latest technology built by CBMI of China – a renowned manufacturer of cement production lines. He explained that the new Kasese production facility will help the company realise its alternative fuels substitution levels to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. Mansi observed that the increased capacity at Hima Cement will boost Lafarge Bamburi Cement regional growth strategy by providing enough cement products for export into the emerging markets of Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi and eastern DR Congo.