

## **Local News August 12th 2010**

### **Kenya VP assumes house position**

It is now official that Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka is the leader of government business and chair of the house business committee following his appointment today by the two principals. His appointment and that of his deputy Agriculture Minister Sally Kosgey puts to an end a standoff that lasted for over a year. A row over the matter almost paralyzed operations of Parliament last year after the coalition partners issued two parallel lists appointing both the VP and Prime Minister Raila Odinga to head its business in parliament.

Musyoka will also chair the house business committee, a position temporarily held by the speaker of the national assembly Kenneth Marende as an ex officio member. Marende told the House that both Prime Minister Raila Odinga and President Mwai Kibaki had written to him appointing Musyoka to the position. The absence of an official leader of government business has in the past sparked debate in the house with back benchers blaming the failure by ministers to appear in the house to respond to pertinent queries to lack of an official leader to explain their whereabouts.

### **August 27 a national holiday in Kenya**

The government has declared Friday August 27 2010 a public holiday to give Kenyans time to witness the promulgation of the new Constitution. Government Spokesman Alfred Mutua Thursday stated that Kenyans would be given time off in order to join in the historic celebrations. He said the government was organizing an elaborate ceremony to mark the ushering in of the new law. Promulgation is the act of formally announcing or declaring a new statutory or administrative law as having effect.

The new Constitution was ratified by Kenyans last Wednesday in a referendum and the initial result of the referendum gazetted on Friday, August 6. President Kibaki chose August 27 as the date to promulgate the new Constitution in conformity with the Constitution of Kenya Review Act 2008. The historic event will be done in public and witnessed by Kenyans whom the document will govern for many generations to come.

### **Kenyan party to discipline Ruto**

Members of Parliament from the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) have threatened to suspend their deputy party leader William Ruto and other MPs who campaigned against the recent ratified Constitution. Speaking after the party's Parliamentary Group (PG) meeting which also doubled as National Executive Council meeting on Thursday, ODM Secretary General Anyang' Nyong'o said stern action would be taken against Ruto and his group for going out against the party's position to support the document that was ratified by a majority of Kenyans last week.

Nyong'o said errant party members won't be included in the yet to be formed Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee. The move comes barely a day after Prime Minister Raila Odinga called for an end to supremacy wars between parties in the ruling coalition, so that the journey to implementing the new law can begin. Ruto, who is also the Higher Education Minister and MPs Isaac Ruto, Joshua Kutuny, Charles Keter among others rebelled against the official party position and lead campaigns to reject the Constitution. Budalangi MP Ababu Namwamba who is also the party's

Parliamentary Group Secretary said ODM will not allow indiscipline within its ranks.

### **Kenya to regulate herbalists**

The government has said it will start regulation of herbal medicine beginning next month after it completes formulation of guidelines. Deputy Chief Pharmacist Dr Fred Siyoi said on Thursday that the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) was in discussion with all stakeholders and would have a final draft of the guidelines at the end of August. He said the laws were undergoing amendments after which the board would give its approval. Dr Siyoi said the move would also ensure that people who consume herbal medicine were not duped to consume substandard products. He said there are about 350 registered herbalists in the country and the new guidelines would ensure elimination of quacks. Dr Siyoi said that the lack of a system to evaluate the herbal medicine industry had made it difficult for them to track down quacks.

### **TJRC engages victims of Kenya historical injustices**

In what is seen as an attempt to gain public confidence, The Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission has recruited over 100 victims and survivors of historical injustices. Commission vice chair Tecla Namachanja says the newly ratified constitution now provides the capacity to hasten the momentum for the Agenda four item and promote reconciliation in the country. The National Victims and Survivors Network chairman Wafula Buke says the move followed a Memorandum Of Understanding between the survivors and the commission.

Addressing a press conference at the TJRC offices Buke said the partnership was aimed at restoring the dignity of the victims and to empowering them. Buke said they been encouraged by the commissions' statement taking and exercise in Mt Elgon and were satisfied that TJRC is capable of delivering its mandate. The support by the network is a boost for the truth team which had lost credibility following reports linking its chairman Bethuel Kiplagat to past injustices.

Kiplagat has been under pressure to step aside to facilitate the formation of a tribunal to investigate allegations against him. The TJRC chair has vowed to stay put saying he was ready to face the tribunal or a court to defend himself.

### **Law experts dismiss calls to amend new law**

The Committee of Experts has dismissed calls to amend the new constitution before its full implementation. The Chairman Nzamba Kitonga has urged those calling for amendments to be patient and allow for the enactment of the new law. Addressing a press conference on Thursday at the committee offices, Nzamba said Kenyans voted overwhelmingly for the new law adding that the so called contentious issues raised by a section of religious leaders and politicians were resolved way before the referendum.

Nzamba is further calling on the government to formulate a programme to integrate civic education in schools and colleges. He says although the committee carried out a countrywide voter education, more needs to be done to ensure that Kenyans understand the new constitution especially the transitional clauses. The committee winds up its work 45 days after the promulgation by President Mwai Kibaki on 27th of this month. The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) Wednesday said it will use provisions in the Constitution to push for amendments to the clauses they consider contentious in the new law.

### **Kenyan president congratulates Kagame**

President Mwai Kibaki has sent a congratulatory message to President Paul Kagame of Rwanda following his decisive victory in the just concluded general elections. In his message, President Kibaki noted that the victory of President Kagame was a sign of improved democracy in the East Africa region. On the behalf of the people and the Government of Kenya, President Kibaki wished the people of Rwanda peace and goodwill as they settle down to continue developing their country.

Meanwhile, several people have been wounded in a grenade attack in the Rwandan capital, witnesses and officials say. The blast in Kigali came just two days after President Paul Kagame was re-elected in a landslide win. The explosion injured seven people, including two children, AFP news agency quoted a police spokesman as saying.

### **Regional News**

#### **Uganda arrests 'masterminds' of World Cup bombings**

Investigators in Uganda have arrested four men who they say masterminded twin bomb attacks that killed more than 70 people last month. The men admitted their involvement in the attacks during a news conference on Thursday. All spoke of their role in the bomb attacks that struck a restaurant and a rugby club. Both venues were hosting fans watching the World Cup football final. The four suspects appeared in a press conference organised by the authorities in Kampala.

Investigators in Uganda and Kenya have already detained a number of people they believe were connected to the attacks. But this is the first time the Ugandan military say they have found the masterminds. The suspects told the media that they had organised the attacks out of religious conviction. Soon after the bombings, the radical Somali Islamist movement al-Shabab said it was behind the attacks. It said the bombings were in revenge for Uganda's role in sending troops to Somalia as part of the African Union's mission to support the besieged government there. At the news conference in Kampala, one of the suspects said he was the contact with al-Shabab.

#### **Sudan conflict over resources, not tribal**

Violence in south Sudan is due to a "resource" war over cattle and not internal political or ethnic differences, the southern army's chief of staff said. At least 700 people have been killed and more than 152,000 forced from their homes due to violence in the south since January, according to UN estimates. Last year about 2,500 people were killed in southern Sudan -- a higher toll than in the troubled western region of Darfur -- and more than 350,000 people fled their homes.

But he also admitted southern politicians were to blame in some cases, sparking conflict to get a "dividend" before stopping the fighting. South Sudan is still recovering from decades of war with the north, during which about two million people were killed in a conflict fuelled by religion, ethnicity, ideology and resources, including oil.

### **Global News**

#### **BAA airport staff vote for strike action**

Workers at airport operator BAA have voted three-to-one in favour of strike action that could close Heathrow and five other UK airports. The ballot came after the Unite union rejected a 1% pay offer from BAA. BAA has confirmed its airports will have to close on any strike days, as essential staff including

firefighters are due to take part in the walkouts. BAA also runs Southampton, Edinburgh, Stansted, Glasgow and Aberdeen airports. The union said 74.1% of the 3,054 staff who voted had said yes to strike action. The turnout was about 50% of the 6,185 staff balloted.

### **Pakistani president visits flood-hit Sindh province**

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has flown to a flood-hit area of the country for a first look at the two-week-old crisis, his spokesman says. The visit follows criticism of his recent trip abroad and of the perceived slow response to the disaster, which has affected 14 million people. Zardari's spokesman, Farhatullah Babar, said he was being briefed near the Sukkur Barrage in Sindh province.

It has not yet been decided if Zardari will make a public appearance. The Sukkur Barrage, a key flood barrier in Sindh, has been under pressure in recent days from the massive volume of floodwaters flowing down the Indus river. Zardari, who is the widower of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was bitterly condemned at home for setting off on visits to the UK and France as the floods were beginning.

### **Sports News**

#### **Kenya drops in FIFA rankings**

Kenya has dropped one spot on the FIFA rankings to position 116 on the latest FIFA rankings. The slide comes after Harambee Stars one all draw against Tanzania on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam. Twahir Muhiddin's side travel to Addis Ababa next Wednesday to face Ethiopia in another friendly. Both friendlies are part of Stars preparations ahead of their Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers against Guinea Bissau on September 3. Inter Milan midfielder McDonald Mariga who made his first appearance in a Stars shirt this year put Kenya ahead in the 13th minute with a trademark free kick from the edge of Tanzania's penalty box. The Taifa Stars were rewarded for the frantic pace they employed in the encounter through Mrisho Ngasa in the 55th minute.

#### **Kipruto and Langat to reign**

Olympic champions Brimin Kipruto and Nancy Langat will headline Kenya's challenge at this weekend's IAAF London Grand Prix. Lagat who is currently having the season of her life hopes to notch up her third straight win in three weeks with victory in the women's 1500m on Friday with the main challenge coming from Ethiopia's Genzebe Dibaba. Kipruto leads a stellar cast of Kenyans in the men's 3000m steeplechase in which they are expected to dominate.

Michael Kipyego, Paul Koech and Linus Chumba should also set the Crystal Palace Stadium alight with world class middle distance running. World and African champion Vivian Cheruiyot will have to do more than reenact her thrilling win in the African Athletics Championships over Ethiopian counterpart Meseret Defar. Janeth Jepkosgei hopes to put her Africa Championships disappointment behind her when she lines up in the women's 800m race.

### **Business News**

#### **TPS serena launches rights issue**

TPS Serena becomes the latest to offer rights issue after two commercial banks issued this year and more companies showing interest on the same. Interestingly, more than half of the rights were taken up by

shareholders at the launch. The company targets to raise 1.2 billion shillings to be channeled for expansion plans in the region. The shares will attract a price of 48 shillings and the company is planning to issue over 24.7 million shares, one new share for every five held.

The company hopes to use the funds to finance its expansion and refurbishment of Nairobi Serena hotel, raise equity in Rwanda TPS, as well as laying grounds in the East African assets that could see the company listed in all the East African country's stock exchange market. CFC Standard Bank and Diamond Trust Bank will underwrite the company's 1.2 billion shares up to 30% a move seen as trying to remove all risks including under subscription.

### **IT framework needed for EA Protocol**

As East Africa whirls towards a consolidated regional market following the implementation of the East African Common Market protocol, experts are calling for the development of regional standards and regulations to create an enabling environment that will facilitate the growth of e-commerce in the region.

The Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) Kenya Chapter Chairman Roy Akalah said the growth of mobile banking and intense competition in the banking industry in Kenya and East Africa at large has created a growing need to ensure systems are reined in by controls that meet business objectives. Akalah was addressing journalists at a Nairobi hotel ahead of the two-day ISACA Kenya Chapter E-commerce Conference scheduled to take place between September 13 and 14 at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies. The conference will help experts to understand the nature of e-commerce models, risks and threats in this new industry, and to evaluate mitigating strategies and build relevant governance frameworks around e-commerce for the region.