

Local News 12th June 2010

Child trafficking and child labour the major challenges facing an african child

As Kenya joins the rest of Africa in marking the day of the African child human trafficking and child labor have been sighted as the major challenges facing an African child. Speaking at a function to celebrate the day of the African child in Eldoret , Uasin Gishu District labor officer Pascal Omondi said the government is working in collaboration with the IOM to rescue and curb the problem of human trafficking. At the same time he said the government is using the non governmental organizations and the departments of labour to carry out inspections in harzadous regions where children are exposed to child labour. The function was also attended by the district children's officer among other government officials who insisted on the need for the community to report cases of child abuses to the government offices for appropriate action.

END....JAMES GITAKA

The day of the African child marked today

Millions of People in the world gathered today to celebrate the Day of the African child. Speaking at the celebrations in Eldoret town, Uasin Gishu children officer Phillip Nzenge said that the government will address the issues affecting children especially child abuse. Nzenge added that the government is going to enforce the law which will help children to know their rights. Hundreds of children gathered at Teacher's Advisory Centre in Eldoret to mark the day in style through poems, songs and dances.

END....JOHN CHIKAMAI

Kenyans urged to make informed decisions on the draft law

The monthly Man to Man fellowship organized by the Word of truth Ministries was held today at WTM premises at kapsoya. This month's fellowship was under the theme, "political responsibility of men especially on the constitution." The forum saw participants read and discuss various clauses on the proposed draft constitution especially the contentious issues that have been raised by the church.

The day's moderator Dr. Edward Mugalo stated that the aim of the church is to see that men make informed decision on the proposed new draft constitution during the August 4th referendum. Man to Man fellowship is a WTM initiative aimed at equipping men with facts and ideas about life after being sidelined for a long time thus making them an endangered species.

End...Chumba Silvanoh

EU to give Kenya about \$602 million for 2010/11 budget

The European Union has stated that it will give Kenya about 500 million euros to supplement its 2010/11 budget, a 25 percent rise over 2009/10. On Thursday Kenya unveiled a 996.82 billion

shilling budget for 2010/11, of which 82.7 billion shillings will be in external financing. In past budgets Kenya has factored in minimal donor funds as donors, concerned about corruption in government, tightened purse strings. This time around, the government says it would lean on external concessional funds.

Sectors that EU assistance has targeted in the past include agriculture, education, energy, roads and health.

Kenya to hire 1,500 nurses

The ministry of medical services will employ 1,500 nurses in the coming financial year in a bid to address the shortage of nurses in the country's health facilities according to the permanent secretary Professor James ole Kiyiapi. The PS said so far, the government has absorbed all the 3,000 nurses who had been hired on contract through various donor funded projects adding that the ministry was in the process of absorbing the remaining 800 nurses on contract. Speaking in Kapsabet, the PS said already the government had budgeted funds for the hiring of the personnel in the just read budget.

He also assured Kenyans that the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) had enough drugs and had already started supplying them to various health facilities saying Kapsabet district hospital will receive them by next week. Speaking at the same function, the Kapsabet mayor councilor Michael Rono while thanking the government for the renovation works carried out at the hospital appealed for drugs saying there are many times that patients are forced to buy drugs as they are not available. The mayor also appealed for the purchase of a scanning machine saying currently, patients requiring the service have to go all the way to Eldoret to get them.

Global biodiversity panel gets green light

Plans for a scientific panel on biodiversity, similar to a Nobel-winning group on climate change, were approved by nearly 90 countries at UN-sponsored talks in South Korea. The Nairobi-based UN Environment Programme (UNEP) says the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, or IPBES, will carry out peer reviews of science emerging on biodiversity and ecosystems to ensure governments are receiving top-notch information and advice.

It will, in many respects, mirror the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which has helped catalyze global awareness and government action on climate change. The UN General Assembly in September will have to approve the decision to set up the biodiversity panel. The decision must also be endorsed by environment ministers attending the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial meeting in Nairobi in February 2011

Phase IV of Mau recovery to start soon

The Interim Coordinating Secretariat of the Mau Complex plans to embark on phase IV of the Mau rehabilitation in January 2011. The fourth phase which targets small scale legal land owners who were beneficiaries of the 2001 land excision is scheduled to recover 61,000 hectares of the Mau forest. Chief Coordinator of the Secretariat Hassan Noor Hassan who described the stage as

an 'enormous challenge' also said that profiling of the small scale land owners would begin before the end of this year.

He explained that the profiling would help the Secretariat advise the government on the real position of the phase IV restoration plans. Noor added that Phase III was well on course and would also be completed by the end of the year after which the land compensation plans would be announced. The payment plans which will target those with legal title deeds will require about Sh17 billion and will see 20,000 hectares of Maasai Mau restored.

Schools partner with scripture union to a bible club rally

As the debate for civic education rages through out the country, primary school teachers have joined hands with Scripture Union to teach primary school pupils the Christian constitution through bible clubs in various schools.

The bible clubs are then brought together in a Bible club rally one of a kind being held today in Uasin Gishu Primary School within the larger Uasin Gishu District. According to the Scripture Union Eldoret regional co-ordinator Allan Salu the forum allows the children to explore their talents and potentials at the same time developing their spiritual maturity. Allan Salu insert on bible club rally Quoting the book of proverbs Allan urged the schools that have not been participating in the forum to join the programme so as to train their pupils in the way they should go and even though they grow old they shall not depart from it.

Ends..... Job Wesonga

'Momentum' on tackling maternal deaths

Campaigners have pledged to keep up pressure on finance ministers to fund efforts to stop women dying in pregnancy and childbirth. Women Deliver president, Jill Sheffield, told meeting delegates that the economic arguments were "dramatic". It comes after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced a boost in funds for women and child health.

World leaders agreed 10 years ago that maternal deaths should be reduced by 75% by 2015. Progress on this - the fifth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) – has until recently been slow - but activists say there is now a sense of momentum. Around 350,000 women around the world die each year from preventable problems such as infections or blood clots. Often, they have not had access to basic care during or after their pregnancy.