

Local News 13th June 2010

4th edition of the mass hill forum held Sunday

The fourth edition of the Mass Hill forum took place at the WTM premises Eldoret on Sunday. The forum tackled the topic faith that reason where the main speaker pastor David Tarus of AIC Kao la Amani explained to the participants the relationship between faith and reason. The forum brought together students from different institutions of higher learning who expressed the various views about the forum. The WTM coordinator Gideon Banda emphasized on the aim of the forum saying it's to encourage the young people to grow spiritually challenging those who did not make it this time, to avail themselves for the next month's forum. The mass hill forum is an initiative of WTM ministries that targets to equip the youth especially students on bible knowledge.

ENDS..... WESONGA JOB

Uhuru park prayer rally

The national prayer rally organized by the Kenyan Televangelists took place today at Uhuru Park in Nairobi. The rally was aimed at committing the nation before the Lord and also to educate wananchi on the proposed draft constitution. The meeting was attended by Christians, several church and political leaders among others. Meanwhile, higher education minister William Ruto completed his coast tour by urging the residents to oppose the proposed draft constitution.

Ruto said if the document passes, it will affect Kenyans since it gives other countries an opportunity to sign memorandum of understanding with the political leaders of Kenya without consulting with parliament before taking such a step. Ruto was accompanied by special programs minister Naomi Shabaan, Chepalungu MP Isaac Ruto and Mutito mp Kiema Kilonzo. During their coastal tour to sensitize wananchi to oppose the draft constitution, they visited several areas including Malindi, Diani and Kilifi towns among others.

ENDS.....MUHONJA KIRWAYE

Kenya's former President opposes new law

Retired President Daniel arap Moi has once again told Kenyans to reject the proposed constitution saying it was full of contentious unresolved issues. Moi said this while addressing a No rally in Kabarnet in his home turf of Baringo district that was attended by among others one of his former fierce critics Koigi Wamwere who is also a former Subukia MP. Others who addressed the rally were Justice Assistant Minister, William Cheptumo, Henry Cheboiwo and William Boit (Baringo North), Joseph Lotodo (Baringo East), Ezekiel Bang'etuny (former Nominated Kanu MP) and former State House comptroller, Abraham Kiptanui. Moi said Kenyans fought against colonialism to gain independence and govern themselves and it was surprising that they were now ready to embrace the former colonialists' ideologies. He accused the US of trying to compel the country to pass a law that will allow abortion in the country among other social ills not allowed by the American constitution. Apart from the bill of rights and land, Moi also faulted the unionizing of the military which he said posed a threat to national security as it gave the security personnel a right to picket. He encouraged the Church not to relent in its opposition to the proposed constitution saying it had a God-given right to point out the wrongs in the society.

Church urged to be firm on its NO stance

The Head of the Anglican Church of Kenya, Dr. Eliud Wabukala, has urged the church's bishops and pastors to guide their flock on which way to vote during the August 4 constitutional referendum.

Wabukala said the clergy had a duty to help their followers understand the proposed constitution so that they make an informed choice. The Archbishop said though the Church's stand on the proposed law was guided by the church's Bishops Council that voted not to back the Constitution, the faithful were, however, free to vote with their conscience depending on their understanding of the proposed law. He spoke at the Kanyuambora Secondary School grounds in Mbeere North District during the induction of 600 youngsters into the Church's Boys and Girls Brigade.

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 Saturday at WTM premises in Kapsoya Eldoret. 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. The 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

Youth challenged to nature their talents

The Badilika talent show took place Saturday at Kapkeben high school in Kapyemit location Eldoret. The monthly event is aimed at helping the youth identify and nature their talents so that they can use them to glorify God. Speaking exclusively to fish fm, the event organizer Antony Mwaniki said they hold such events in different schools and churches mainly focusing on young people with an aim of uniting them. Mwaniki revealed that they will be holding a similar event in August this year before having a major one in December that will bring together all participants from the previous events to compete for various awards in their respective categories. This weekend's competition had participants compete in songs, dances, skits, poem and choirs among others. The Badilika talent show is a Christian event that apart from nurturing talents and uniting the youth, it also helps in sensitizing them on academics, HIV and Aids and environment conservation.

ENDS.....MUHONJA KIRWAYE

A peace building film launched in Eldoret

A peace building film dubbed the 'the African answer, an initiative for change was launched on Saturday in Eldoret. The documentary that features a pastor and an Imam from Nigeria was shoot in Burnt Forest and showground areas immediately after the post election violence and is meant to bring restoration of dialogue and reconciliation among the different communities within the North Rift region

The main actors, Pastor James Uye and Imam Mohamed Shafar said the cycle of violence need to stop, adding that in war there isn't a winner or loser but all are guilty. The film also lauded the presence of Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission saying it was very instrumental in bringing the spirit of forgiveness. From Eldoret, the documentary it will be disseminated all over the world and on the 9th of July this year it will be shown in Switzerland. The film making process was facilitated by IOM and the Eldoret Centre of Human Rights and Democracy.

ENDS.... CAROLYNE KOECH

Stop politicizing the constitution

Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka has called on Kenyans to delink the constitutional making process from the 2012 politics. Kalonzo said the people should be given a chance to decide the destiny of the country without undue influence or any kind of intimidation. He said the constitution is the property of all Kenyans irrespective of social backgrounds or political affiliations.

The Vice President said there was no fight between the church and state noting that Kenya is a God fearing nation and respects spiritual leadership. On development, the VP emphasized the need for closer working relationship among leaders in order to effectively address developmental challenges facing wananchi.

ENDS..... JOSEPH NJANE

TJRC extends Mt Elgon sittings

The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission has extended its public hearings in Mt. Elgon district for another week. The commission which has been in the district for 3 weeks says it has not exhausted its work as people were still coming out to give their views on atrocities committed in the district in the past. The TJRC team consisting of statement takers, mobilizers, counselors and two coordinators has been holed up in Mt Elgon which was once under siege from the Sabaot Land Defense Force militia, recoding views from the residents.

So far 800 statements have been recorded by the commission which says it was still expecting more residents to tell their stories on the terror meted on them by the militia. TJRC vice chair Tecla Namachanja said the residents have indicated that they were preparing a memoranda to be handed over to the commission. Among the groups expected to hand over memorandum are women, youths, elders, persons with disabilities and remandees at the Bungoma GK prison. Namachanja said the commission was also making arrangements to record statements from children.

Kenyan PS puts hate mongers on notice

'The peddlers of hate speech are war mongers and must not be allowed any avenue in Kenya,' that is the strong statement from information Permanent Secretary Bitange Ndemo. His sentiments come at a time when opposing camps on the proposed constitution are exploiting all chances to woo voters ahead of the August 4 referendum on the proposed constitution.

With the campaigns heating up leaders carried away by emotions and an attempt to sway the masses to their side are forgetting decorum and allowing loose tongues to take control hence bombarding Kenyans with unpalatable words.

So far two Members of Parliament have been placed on the watch list for making inflammatory statements that many claim border on incitement during the launch of the No secretariat last week. In a statement Sunday, Ndemo also wants the press to be responsible and filter language deemed to threaten the security of the nation. Ndemo termed the airing of such information by certain media houses as 'unjournalistic irresponsibility' saying it was the last thing Kenyans need during the referendum campaign. He recommends that reportage and comments on hate speech be handled much more sensitively.

Kenyan teachers dwindle due to AIDS

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has decried the rising cases of HIV/AIDS infection among teachers countrywide. TSC Secretary Gabriel Longoiboni warned that the rise in prevalence would result in poor performance as some schools would be left with fewer teachers. Longoiboni noted that at least four to ten teachers die in most districts countrywide every month due to the infection adding that there was urgent need to look into ways of reversing the trend.

He said that TSC had mounted an aggressive awareness campaign to contain infection levels and to address behavior change, stigma and positive living for those affected. The secretary was speaking at Ol-Joro-Orok Township during the Nyandarua West district Education day where he was the chief guest.

GLOBAL NEWS

Armed forces chief Sir Jock Stirrup to quit early

Britain's most senior military officer will quit in the autumn, before the end of his term in April 2011, Defence Secretary Liam Fox has said. Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup has been chief of the defence staff since 2006 and was asked to extend his term by the previous government.

Ministry of Defence civil servant Sir Bill Jeffrey will also go. The move will be seen as the new government's bid to draw a line under past failings. Critics say Sir Jock, a former jet pilot, has not done enough to support Britain's frontline troops. When you look at the extent of the procurement entered into by the MoD, far beyond the budget that was meant to be available, clearly one might conclude that it has not been run as well as it might have been

Arab League chief Amr Moussa in first visit to Gaza

The Head of the Arab League is visiting the Gaza Strip, the first senior Arab official to do so since the Islamist militant group Hamas took over in 2007. Amr Moussa's visit is partly intended to add to pressure on Israel to end its Gaza blockade, correspondents say. Nine people were killed when Israeli troops boarded an aid flotilla trying to break the blockade on 31 May. Israel and Egypt have held a tightened blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized control of the Palestinian territory. Moussa's trip will also be aimed at trying to heal a rift between Hamas and Fatah, who control the West Bank.

Following the flotilla raid, Egypt opened its border with Gaza allowing people with valid passes to cross. Egypt has said the crossing will remain open "indefinitely".

Sports News

Dolan, Kireri shine at KPLC Golf Tournament

Rosemary Dolan and David Kireri beat a field of 160 golfers to emerge victorious in the KPLC Golf Tournament held at the Karen Golf and Country club in Nairobi. Dolan garnered a total of 38 points to win the women's trophy while Flora Wokabi took the second spot with 36 points. Esther Lowe was third. In the mens competition Kireri amassed 41 points to beat Steve Waruhiu to the second place while Jimmy Kimonde was third. The lady's guest prize went to Wayua Mululu while K.Kuria won the men's prize. Karen's former lady captain Clare Lindsay won the lady longest drive prize with G.Warigi winning in the men category. KPLC managing director Joseph Njoroge said the company would continue

to support sports events in the country.

South Africa ponders vuvuzela ban

South Africa's World Cup organising chief Danny Jordaan may ban vuvuzelas from inside stadiums after complaints from broadcasters and supporters. The constant sound of the high-pitched horn-like instrument has so far drowned out much of the atmosphere-generating singing usually associated with games. France captain Patrice Evra has already blamed the noise generated by the vuvuzelas, which has been likened to the drone of thousands of bees, for his side's poor showing in their opening group game against Uruguay, which finished goalless. Jordaan conceded that while the noise was irritating for some people, they were doing all they could to minimise the impact.