

LOCAL NEWS 13TH MAY 2010

War against illegal alcohol continues

The fight against illegal brew in Eldoret West district has been fruitful following reduced cases of unlawful brewing. Speaking at his office this morning Eldoret West District Officer Christopher Wanjau, said a stern warning of disciplinary action against chiefs and sub chiefs who fail to fight illegal brewing within their jurisdictions within 100 days, has since made significant progress.

For the last three weeks more than 5, 000 liters of changaa and kangara have been destroyed within the district and culprits taken to court. Wanjau said illegal brew has slowed down the pace of development leading to increased poverty in the region, adding that the government will not relent in combating the vice.

Eldoret residents say civic Educators are government campaigners

Some Eldoret residents believe that civic educators who have been dispatched across the country will not objectively educate Kenyans on issues contained in the proposed draft constitution. Those who spoke to our reporter today expressed their fears claiming that the government will use the civic education programme to campaign for the draft constitution and not highlight the contentious issues in the document.

They further said they do not know who to believe especially now that there are allegations of two different drafts that are already in the public. Some of the residents asked the government not to conduct the civic education in halls and stadiums but ensure that the educators reach the grassroot levels to educate the public on the important document.

Question for Kenya referendum out

The Interim Independent Electoral Commission has now published the referendum question. The question reads: "Do you approve the proposed new Constitution?" Voters will then be required to either tick Yes or No during the August referendum. The gazette notice is dated 12 May exactly a week after the publication of the proposed Constitution and in accordance with the law.

The question rules out the possibility of a multi choice referendum that had been advanced by church leaders and politicians in the No camp, who had wanted Kenyans to be given an opportunity to vote separately on the contentious issues.

The No camp has objected to provisions on land, abortion clause and the inclusion of Kadhis courts. The IIEC is expected to reveal the symbols that will be used in the referendum and the date of the poll next week. According to the law guiding the process the referendum should be held by the first week of August.

Regional News

Libya air crash inquiry under way

Aviation officials in Libya are investigating the plane crash that killed 103 people at Tripoli airport. The flight recorders have been recovered and handed over to analysts for clues on what

brought down the Afriqiyah Airways flight on Wednesday. Police and rescue workers wearing surgical masks and gloves have been combing the wreckage of the Airbus A330 near the runway. The sole survivor, a child reported to be Dutch, is being treated in hospital. Dutch officials say 61 of their nationals were killed in the crash. Other passengers included nationals from Libya, South Africa, Germany, Britain and France. The plane - carrying 93 passengers and 11 crew - crashed as it arrived from Johannesburg, South Africa.

Thai army 'to seal off protests'

The Thai military says security forces plan to surround a protest encampment in Bangkok with armoured vehicles. A spokesman said that routes into the sprawling encampment would be closed and protesters would be free to leave but not enter. The move comes a day after the government announced and then cancelled a plan to cut off water and power supplies to the protesters.

The group has been occupying key parts of the capital since 14 March. They want Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to dissolve parliament and call fresh elections. He had offered polls on 14 November - but the two sides failed to agree a deal because of divisions over who should be held accountable for a deadly crackdown on protests last month.

Kyrgyz regional offices 'seized'

Supporters of the ousted President of Kyrgyzstan, Kurmanbek Bakiyev, have taken over local government offices in the southern city of Osh, reports say.

They entered the building after gathering in Osh, Kyrgyzstan's second biggest city, eyewitnesses report. The interim government has vowed to restore order in Osh. A violent uprising last month left more than 80 people dead and swept President Bakiyev from power. He has now fled to Belarus.

Sports

Webber expects tough Monaco race

Mark Webber says he is not expecting 2010 pacesetters Red Bull to dominate this weekend's Monaco Grand Prix. Webber won easily in Spain on Sunday as Red Bull extended their pace advantage over their rivals but expects the pack to close up on Monaco's street track. Red Bull blitzed the field in Barcelona after a major aerodynamic facelift to the car and Webber took pole 0.8 seconds ahead of the closest rival car, Lewis Hamilton's McLaren, and 0.106 secs in front of his team-mate Sebastian Vettel.

But the short, slow corners of Monaco's twisting street circuit are expected to dilute Red Bull's advantage over their rivals.

Pacquiao targets one last fight

Five-weight world champion Manny Pacquiao says he will have one last fight after securing a seat in the Philippine Congress by a huge margin. Pacquiao's chief financial adviser Michael Konzc added that 6 November and 13 November had been set aside as potential dates for his next fight. Unbeaten Floyd Mayweather or Mexican Antonio Margarito are likely opponents. The Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Texas is set to hold the fight, though Konzc added that negotiations with potential opponents have yet to begin. The boxing world is desperate for a clash between Pacquiao and 33-year-old American Mayweather, who are not only the two best welterweights, but widely regarded as the two contenders for the unofficial title of pound-for-

pound champion.

O'Neill to stay as Villa manager

Aston Villa owner Randy Lerner has confirmed that Martin O'Neill is staying as the club's manager after the pair held talks on Tuesday. There had been rumours that O'Neill, 58, was ready to walk away, with the former Celtic boss said to be unhappy at Lerner's transfer policy. Lerner added that midfielder James Milner will not be leaving the club. The 24-year-old has had a fine season and earned a place in England manager Fabio Capello's preliminary 30-man World Cup squad.

Milner has two years left on his contract and has attracted interest from several clubs, but Lerner intends to hold on to the winner of the Professional Footballers' Association young player of the year award.

An organizational performance index is launched

Kenya Institute of Management –KIM has launched organizational performance index for small and medium enterprises in the country. The director of- KIM, Nicholas Letting, during the inauguration at a hotel in Eldoret town, said that the index which ranges from 0-10 is meant to promote and improve production of the small enterprises. Letting said the company that will score 3 as rated by the index is considered to be weak hence should improve its performance in the market.

The system will employ Questionnaires format where the targeted firm is supposed to respond to the questions in terms of leadership, quality of production, environmental management and financial management. The Institute's consultants will then prepare and evaluate the firms' report as per the index and help the firm improve on its weak points. Currently there are 20 registered Small and Medium Enterprises-SMEs in Kenya and the institute is targeting to register over 20 SMEs in Eldoret.