

## **Local News 13th October 2010**

### **Kenyan women asked to take advantage of opportunities**

Kenyan women have been urged to take advantage of the diverse government initiatives aimed at dismantling impediments towards the realization of their full potential. Delegates, attending the ongoing Conference in build up to the official launch of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), acknowledged that many women are increasingly becoming breadwinners of their families unlike in the past. On Tuesday, First Lady Mama Lucy Kibaki commended the Government for instituting wide-ranging and well-timed measures to mainstream women in national development.

In a speech read on her behalf by the Minister for Special Programmes, Esther Murugi, during the official opening of the African Women's Decade Conference at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, the first lady said the Government had responded well in addressing various challenges facing women in their efforts to succeed in business and enterprise.

Mrs. Kibaki equated women empowerment to smart economics because it translated to empowerment of the entire families and societies at large.

### **Kenya Airways flight operations Continue Uninterrupted**

Kenya Airways has recorded an On Time Performance (OTP) of 86 percent as at 9.30 a.m. Wednesday morning flights departing from Nairobi. As at 10.00am, 21 flights have departed from the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport whilst 17 KQ flights have landed from across the Kenya Airways network. Kenya Airways CEO, Dr. Titus Naikuni, has again reassured the KQ passengers and the general public that the airline operations are functioning as scheduled.

The airline is set for conciliatory talks at the Labour Ministry later Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the airline welcomed the appointment of a conciliator to facilitate talks between Kenya Airways management and the Aviation & Allied Workers Union (AAWU) Kenya. The airline also welcomed the move by the Secretary General of Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU), requesting its affiliate union to call off the strike and return to the negotiating table for further talks. Reaffirming the airline's commitment to dialogue and to following the laid down dispute resolution procedures, Dr. Naikuni said the management was always open for negotiations with the Union.

### **India-Kenya Joint trade Committee meets**

The 6th India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) is meeting in Nairobi and both the nations are expected to talk about strengthening bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation.

Indian Commerce Minister, Anand Sharma, is expected to address the meeting and inaugurate the "India-East Africa Business Forum" and "Namaskar Africa" show on Thursday. The events are being organized jointly by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and COMESA Business Council. Anand Sharma is scheduled to meet President Mwai Kibaki, Prime Minister Raila Odinga and many other ministers of Kenya.

The JTC was set up at ministerial level in 1983 as a follow-up to the India-Kenya Trade Agreement signed in 1981, under which both countries accorded the most favoured nation status to each other.

### **IMF to help Kenya achieve development agenda**

Kenyans should take advantage of the goodwill being expressed by the development partners by concentrating more on development agenda and avoid politics, Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister for Finance, Uhuru Kenyatta has said. In an interview at the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) headquarter on Tuesday, Uhuru who led a Kenyan delegation to IMF said they had a fruitful discussion with the IMF Managing Director, Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Commenting on the recent World Bank and International Monetary Fund's Annual meetings, Uhuru said the meetings were successful and praised the Bretton Woods Institution for their support towards development in Africa.

Uhuru added that the World Bank has agreed to increase the Bank's fund for the poor and developing countries, IDA. The funds will allow African countries to continue with infrastructure, health, water and irrigation programmes.

### **Wajir South poll underway**

Voting kicked off smoothly in the Wajir South by-election today morning, with all 73 polling stations opening promptly at 6am. The Presiding Officer at the Habaswein Polytechnic Polling Station, Florence Kwamboka, said the process was slow as most voters sought help to mark the ballots. According to Kwamboka, there were no reported incidents at the polling centre which has 659 registered voters and 50 queues.

Wajir South has 21, 960 registered voters with Dagahaley Primary School being the largest polling centre with a total of 1,098 voters while Gulled Dere Dam is the smallest with only seven voters registered. Six candidates are contesting the Wajir South seat but the frontrunners are KANU's Abdirahman Ali Hassan who lost an election petition in July and Muhhamed Sirat of ODM-K. Kwamboka said the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) had engaged Political Parties and the Provincial Administration to ensure the voting is conducted peacefully.

### **Joy as first Chile miners rescued**

The first four of 33 miners trapped underground for more than two months in northern Chile have now been rescued. Florencio Avalos was first to reach the surface, at 0010 local time (0310 GMT), after being winched up in a capsule. He was greeted by family and hugged by President Sebastian Pinera. Next to emerge were Mario Sepulveda, Juan Illanes and the only non-Chilean, Bolivian national Carlos Mamani. In an address at the mine, Pinera declared the rescue a miracle. Smiling broadly, he thanked the technical experts who had made it possible and said it was a night of emotion.

The rescue operation began shortly after 2315 local time (0215 GMT) with a technical expert, Manuel Gonzalez, being lowered down the 624m (2,047ft) shaft. After they have been reunited with their families, the miners will be flown to hospital in the nearby city of Copiapo, which is on standby to receive them.

### **Governments Urged to Make Cities Safer**

Kenya marks the International Day for disaster reduction today with a call on governments to sign up for a global campaign to make cities safe. With a large population of urban dwellers living in informal settlements, the Kenyan authorities are being encouraged to commit to improving the standards of these areas as a way of reducing disaster risks. Due to poor planning in the urban areas, the residents are left vulnerable to fire, floods, technological accidents, diseases and epidemics. These disasters disrupt people's livelihoods, destroy the infrastructure, divert planned use of resources, interrupt economic activities and retard development. According to the National Disaster Operation Centre run under the Ministry of Special Programmes, more

than 6,000 people have died in Kenya in the last three years as a result of both natural and human-induced disasters. Last year, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) reported that 3.8 million had been affected by extreme weather related disasters. This year, the UNISDR secretariat is encouraging more mayors and local governments to join the 100 cities that have already signed up to the global campaign.

### **US navy hands nine Somali pirates to Kenya**

The US navy has handed Kenyan authorities nine Somali pirates captured in the Gulf of Aden last month while attempting to hijack a German vessel, police said. The nine men boarded Antigua-Barbuda flagged, German-owned MV Magellan Star on September 8 and spent nearly 20 hours searching for the crew who had locked themselves up in a secure room. The US naval officers also Tuesday handed over five rifles, which included three AK-47s and several rounds of ammunition they seized from the pirates.

Kenyan courts in Mombasa have sentenced at least 25 Somali pirates to prison since early September, while hundreds others are still awaiting trial

### **Hunger index shows one billion without enough food**

One billion people in the world were undernourished in 2009, according to a new report. The 2010 Global Hunger Index shows that child malnutrition is the biggest cause of hunger worldwide, accounting for almost half of those affected. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia were shown to have the highest levels of hunger. The report's authors called on nations to tackle child malnutrition in order to reduce global hunger. The Global Hunger Index is produced by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.

### **Trial confirms prostate drug promise**

A drug discovered in the UK could help thousands of men with advanced prostate cancer, experts say. Trials involving men who had exhausted all other treatment options found abiraterone acetate extended life by an average of four months. Researchers hope that in less advanced cases, the benefits could be greater. The drug's makers, the pharmaceutical firm Janssen, are now seeking a licence which would allow it to be used on the NHS. More than 36,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year in the UK - more than 10,000 die from the disease. If the disease spreads beyond the prostate, a small gland found near the bladder, then it becomes far more difficult to treat.

### **Red Cross Steps Up Efforts to Save 65,000 Starving Pokot Residents**

The Kenya Red Cross Society has embarked on a massive supply of relief food in the greater Pokot district as thousands of families in parts of the North Rift region face starvation. KRCS manager in charge of North Rift Patric Nyongesa says more than 65,000 people from Pokot West, Pokot North and Pokot Central are to benefit from more than 2,700 tonnes of cereals and cooking fat. The Meteorological Department has predicted depressed rainfall in the next two months, dashing hopes of a bumper harvest this season. In the meantime, The World Food Programme (WFP) has resumed distribution of relief supplies to thousands of families in the

larger Turkana district.

## **Regional News**

### **Trial starts for ex-Guantanamo detainee Ahmed Ghailani**

A former Guantanamo inmate accused of involvement in a US embassy bombing in Tanzania was part of an al-Qaeda group determined to kill Americans, prosecutors have said. In opening statements at Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani's trial, prosecutors said he had bought the truck and gas tanks used in the 1998 Dar es Salaam attack. The defendant denies helping al-Qaeda kill 224 people in two bombings. Ghailani is the first Guantanamo Bay detainee to face a civilian trial. Lewin told the jury they would hear testimony from a former al-Qaeda "insider", who has pleaded guilty.

The prosecutor added that some of the bombings' survivors would also serve as witnesses. Lewin said that after Mr Ghailani fled to Pakistan, he "never dreamed that one day he would face all these witnesses - here in an American courtroom".

### **Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi 'will not vote'**

Burma's detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi will refuse to vote in the general election on 7 November. Her lawyer, Nyan Win, said that although her name was on a voters' list, she would not take part in a poll organized by the military. Ms Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory in the last election in 1990 but the junta annulled the result, and kept her in near continuous detention. The poll is seen by many as a sham that will just cement the military's power. Some 25% of seats are guaranteed under the new constitution for the military, which means unelected military officers will sit in parliament.

### **Iranian leader Ahmadinejad begins Lebanon visit**

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has arrived in Lebanon for a visit seen as a boost for Tehran's Shia ally Hezbollah, an enemy of Israel. The two-day visit will include a tour of villages along Lebanon's tense border with Israel. The region was devastated during the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel and rebuilt partly with Iranian money. During his visit, Ahmadinejad will meet President Michel Suleiman and Prime Minister Saad Hariri. He will also attend a rally in the capital Beirut organised by Hezbollah.

### **Blast at Iran Revolutionary Guards base kills 18**

An explosion at a base belonging to Iran's Revolutionary Guards has killed 18 people and injured 14. Reports are emerging of the blast at an ammunition store on Tuesday in north-western Lorestan province. The injured were taken to Khoramabad, 300 miles (500 km) southwest of Tehran. An elite military force, the Revolutionary Guard was set up shortly after the 1979 Iranian revolution to defend the country's Islamic system. It has since become a major military, political and economic force in Iran.

## **Sports News**

### **Lungaho sounds war cry**

National women's volleyball coach David Lungaho is targeting at least a second round spot in the upcoming FIVB Women's Volleyball Championships in Japan. Kenya has been grouped in Pool B alongside 2006 finalists Brazil, Italy, Netherlands, Puerto Rico and the Czech Republic. Lungaho is confident that his experienced squad which is captained by Brackcides Agalla will hold their own especially against the top tier nations. Lungaho spoke after the team received the national flag from Prime Minister Raila Odinga today. The tournament runs from October 29 to November 19 and Kenya will be based in the southern city of Hamamatsu.

### **Togo's final chance**

Fifa has threatened Togo with an international ban unless their football federation holds elections for a new Executive Committee early next month. The world governing body has accepted a request from the Togolese federation (FTF) to extend the deadline for elections until 6 November, but says no more will be granted. Fifa's emergency panel accepted the FTF's request to postpone a scheduled vote for 16 October because interim leader General Seyi Memene is out of the country for medical reasons. In December last year, Fifa imposed an interim panel to run the FTF after an internal power struggle - and the West Africans having already missed one deadline for elections in July.

Four candidates will stand for the post of chairman of the new federation, including the former vice-president of the suspended body, Gabriel Ameyo, and former treasurer general, Essoyaba Boukpassi.

### **Benjani quits international game**

Zimbabwe captain Benjani Mwaruwari has retired from international football following the Warriors' 0-0 draw at home to Cape Verde on Sunday. The 32-year-old, who signed a one-year deal with Blackburn Rovers in August, wants to focus on his club career. The former Manchester City striker had been Warriors captain since 2006, a period in which the team has fared poorly in qualifiers for both the Africa Cup of Nations and the World Cup. Despite being Zimbabwe's highest-profile player, Mwaruwari struggled to gain the approval of fans, many of whom felt that he rarely reproduced the form that he showed in European club football. Injury ruled Mwaruwari out of Zimbabwe's maiden appearance at the Nations Cup finals in 2004, but he scored for the Warriors in a 2-1 defeat of Ghana at the 2006 edition.

## **Business News**

### **Drought hits KenGen full-year pretax profit**

Kenya's biggest electricity producer, KenGen, posted a 47 percent slump in full-year pretax profit on Wednesday to 2.41 billion shillings (\$29.9 million) after drought hit its hydropower production. The company said it had failed to meet an energy production threshold because of the dry conditions -- chiefly in the first half of its financial year that ended June 30, 2010 -- and its revenues had been adjusted down by 1.25 billion shillings.

Revenues from the sale of electricity fell 14.8 percent to 9.81 billion shillings. Earnings per share fell to 0.89 shilling from 0.94 shilling and KenGen said it would pay out a 0.50 shilling per share

dividend, the same as in the previous year. The power generator relies heavily on hydroelectric dams and production typically falls when there is drought. It is diversifying energy sources to geothermal and wind. KenGen hopes to increase production by 140 MW to around 1200 MW by the end of the year, with another 130 MW to be added in 2012

### **Standard Chartered to raise 3.3b pounds**

British-based emerging markets bank Standard Chartered on Wednesday said it planned to raise about 3.3 billion pounds (3.8 billion euros) by selling new shares to boost its capital. The lender added that the rights issue will help it meet new Basel III international banking rules, which call on how much capital banks should hold in reserve and are designed to avert another financial crisis. Standard Chartered said it will issue a new share for eight existing ones at a unit price of 1,280 pence, which is 33 percent lower than its closing level on Tuesday.

The rights issue will "give the group greater capacity" to meet the Basel III regulations, which stipulate that internationally active banks have to hold capital equal to at least seven percent of their assets. Banks have until 2019 to comply but some rules take effect in 2013. The extra funding will also allow the bank to continue its expansion in emerging markets around the world.