

Local News 13th September 2010

Investigations on chebarus business centre scandal starts

In the spirit of ensuring that the new constitution is operating effectively, residents from Trans-Nzoia County have teamed up in the fight against corruption. Through them, the corruption commission has begun investigations regarding Chebarus business centre land scandal in Cherangany constituency. The commission has started investigating on how Chebarus land is owned, divided and how it is set to be used through an official petition by Benjamin Mburu and Emmanuel Wangila who are residents of Marura.

Mburu and Wangila are sons of the 100 families from Sitatunga farmers association, who received the land from the first president of the republic of Kenya, the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta during his visit in the area in early 70s. Documents delivered to the director of the Kenya Anti Corruption Commission P.L.O Lumumba by the two shows that there has been strife over the land between residents and politicians on how it will be divided. Jesse Masai who was running for the Cherangany parliamentary seat in 2007 general elections, hailed the two citizens and promised to team up with the KACC director to ensure that the matter is resolved in a transparent manner. Masai has also urged citizens to utilize law firms so as to solve their problems and to shun from hate speeches and actions that might disrupt peace in the new Kenya.

Nyanza leaders read malice in the poverty index report

Political leaders from Nyanza have disowned the recently released poverty index report saying it does not reflect the real situation on the ground. Finance assistant minister Oburu Oginga and education assistant minister Ayiecho Olweny are alleging that the results have been doctored.

The leaders say constituencies in Nyanza risk losing over a hundred million shillings budgetary allocations should the data be used in financial allocations. They notes that it is questionable that poverty indices in all Nyanza constituencies are reported to have gone down by a very high margin compared other constituencies in the country that are going up dramatically.

Public officers holding political offices put on notice

The African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption now wants the Kenya Anti Corruption Commission director PLO Lumumba to take action on public officials still holding positions in political offices. They want the KACC director to ensure that such people resign immediately. Led by the network's chair Musikari Kombo, the parliamentarians stated that failure by cabinet ministers to vacate offices is a violation to the new constitution. Kombo says they have written to Lumumba demanding that action be taken noting that the continual holding of office by ministers amounts to corruption.

National military recruitment launched today

The national military recruitment drive is being launched today at the defense headquarters. The

assistant director for public communications in the defense ministry Bogita Ongeru says this is the first recruitment drive under the new constitution and will be preceded over by the deputy chief of the general staff Lieutenant Julius Karangi. The recruitment exercise will require the defense forces to reflect on the regional and ethnic diversity of the people of Kenya. The exercise that will be taking place at the defense headquarters and later rolled out across the country will be enrolling officers to join the Kenya army, the Kenya air force and the Kenya navy.

Ends.....Muhonbja Kirwaye

Africa 'needs billions more aid' says Blair commission

The commission set up by ex-UK Prime Minister Tony Blair to find solutions to poverty in Africa says the continent needs billions more dollars in aid. The Commission for Africa says the world's poorest continent has made "extraordinary progress" since 2005. But poverty reduction has also become more challenging in many parts of Africa, it says. The commission's report has been published ahead of a global poverty summit in New York later this month.

Africa, this report argues, has changed a great deal in five years. There has been what the commission calls "dramatic" economic growth and a surge in trade and investment, not least because of the demand for Africa's natural resources from countries such as China and India.

Regional News

Mandela 'blasted Blair over invasion of Iraq'

Nelson Mandela felt so betrayed by Tony Blair's decision to join the invasion of Iraq that he made a furious phone call to a UK minister to protest. Labour MP Peter Hain, whose biography of the ex-South African president is published today, said Mr Mandela was "breathing fire" down the line. The former Welsh Secretary said Mandela felt Blair's good work was "blown out of the water" by the war. Hain said the criticisms were made formally, not in a private capacity.

Hain said he told Mandela that he respected his feelings but that the prime minister "acted out of conviction". Hain grew up in South Africa, where his anti-Apartheid campaigner parents knew Mandela - whom he now describes as "a friend and a hero

Zimbabwe arrests four US Aids workers 'without licence'

Zimbabwean police have arrested four US health workers suspected of running an unregistered clinic and dispensing Aids drugs without a licence, the US embassy in Harare says. Two Zimbabwean health workers were also detained. All six are expected to appear in court later, the embassy said in a statement. The medical team, which worked from two clinics in Mutoko and Harare, denies the charges.

The Christian volunteer health team from California includes a doctor, two nurses and a

community worker. They mainly looked after Aids orphans and HIV-positive patients, the US embassy said.

Global News

Belgium Church to set out response to abuse scandal

The head of Belgium's Roman Catholic Church is to announce how it will deal with cases of alleged widespread child sexual abuse. An independent commission set up by the Church to investigate alleged abuse found that it had occurred in every Belgian diocese over decades. The commission said some victims were infants when the abuse started and that 13 had committed suicide as a result.

The Church is under pressure to prevent further abuse and help the victims. The level, extent and duration of abuse revealed last week shocked even members of the commission set up by the Church to investigate the allegations. Although the commission's investigation said it found no evidence of a systematic cover-up, the Church will now have to find a way of dealing with past abuses and also explain how it is going to prevent further abuse happening in future. our correspondent adds.

Turkish reform vote gets Western backing

The US and European Union have welcomed the result of the Turkish constitutional referendum. Voters in Turkey gave strong backing to a package of changes to the country's military-era constitution. The changes are aimed at bringing Turkey more in line with the EU, which the government wants to join. This result will help PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who made the reform a test of his leadership, ahead of elections next year.

With nearly all votes in the referendum counted, about 58% had voted "Yes" to amending the constitution. Erdogan said the result meant the country had "crossed a historic threshold toward advanced democracy and the supremacy of law".

Sport News

Fish United beat Cheles FC 4-1

Fish United FC beat Cheles FC from Marakwet four goals to one in a match played over the weekend in the ongoing FKL North Rift super league. Fish United first goal was scored by Mohammed Iman in the 34th minute before he added the second goal at the 37th minute. Allan Omuka netted in for Fish United the 3rd goal at the 51st minute before Benard Burudi sealed the fourth goal for Fish United at the 84th minute. Cheles FC's lone goal was the first to be scored at the 26th minute by Ken Kiprono. The match was played at Kapsoya Chief's grounds.

End...Chush

Mwaniki spearheads Nyeri win

The team of Charles Mwaniki, Amos Kariuki, Ben Mathu and Harrison Hiuhu won the 12th Dasani Golf Gala held at the Nyeri Club. With a team aggregate score of 106 stable ford points, the team booked the only team slot into the gala finale and an opportunity to compete for the overall prize, a fully paid trip to the Gary Player Invitation Championship to be held at the Fancourt Golf Resort, George, South Africa, in November.

Handicap-17 Hiuhu led the winning team with a score of 37 points, Kariuki contributed 35 points whilst both Mwaniki and Mathu recorded 34 points. The Dasani Golf Gala now moves to the Thika Sports Club where members of Makuyu, Ruiru and hosts Thika will battle for two team slots into the Dasani Golf Gala. From Thika, the Gala will move to the Limuru County Club and then to the Coast before returning to Nairobi and to the Vet Lab Sports Club and finally the Muthaiga Golf Club.

US seal World Championship title

The United States captured their first world championship basketball title since 1994 with a 81-64 victory over Turkey in Istanbul. It was the Americans' fourth world crown and comes two years after they won the Olympic title in Beijing. Oklahoma City star Kevin Durant shone once again with 28 points while Lamar Odom added 15 points and 11 rebounds. Phoenix Suns forward Hedo Turkoglu led Turkey with 16 points, despite being hampered by a knee injury. In the bronze medal match, Lithuania defeated Serbia 99-88.

Business News

US sees high jobless rate continuing

President Barack Obama's new top economist said Sunday he expects the US unemployment rate, which has edged up to 9.6 percent, to remain high for some time. The US economy lost 54,000 jobs last month, but incoming chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, Austan Goolsbee, declined to predict where the jobless rate might stand at the end of this year. The slow pace of economic recovery prompted President Barack Obama to outline a new package of stimulus measures earlier this week -- including 50 billion dollars for infrastructure projects -- to revive small business and tackle unemployment.

Republicans want all the tax cuts passed by former president George W. Bush to be renewed before they expire at the end of this year, arguing Obama will slow growth by hiking taxes on the rich.

Central bankers agree new rules

Central bank governors and senior regulators have agreed on new rules designed to prevent a repeat of the recent financial crisis. At a meeting in the Swiss city of Basle, they agreed a deal requiring banks to hold more capital in reserve. They say it should mean banks having a greater ability to absorb losses in future crises without taxpayer help. Lord Turner, chairman of the UK's Financial Services Authority, said the new rules represented "a major tightening of global capital standards and will play a major role in creating a more resilient global banking system".

European Central Bank chief Jean-Claude Trichet said the new regulations - called Basel III - were "a fundamental strengthening of global capital standards".

In a joint statement, the US Federal Reserve and other major US banking regulators said the deal "provides for a more stable banking system that is less prone to excessive risk-taking".

Kenya invites bids for new port construction

Kenya has invited bids for the first phase of construction of a new port along its coast in Lamu, involving the building of three berths. The port is part of a proposed \$22 billion development plan meant to connect Kenya to Southern Sudan and Ethiopia. The project will also include a pipeline, roads, a railway, and airports in major towns along the way. The ministry said the berths would be expected to handle container ships with capacities of 100,000 deadweight tonnes (dwt), general cargo ships with 30,000 dwt and bulk cargo ships of 100,000 dwt.

The other amenities to be built along with the berths include access roads, railway sidings, warehouses and buildings, the ministry said. Kenya has been improving and expanding its infrastructure with the aim of attracting and retaining investors who often complain its dilapidated facilities increase the cost of doing business. Southern Sudan, which is due to hold a referendum in 2011 on whether it wants to separate from the north, hopes to export some of its oil. Kenya hopes its neighbour will use its facilities for the exports.