

- **Referendum date set as Church insists ‘No’**

A meeting of bishops expected to give the Roman Catholic Church position on the Proposed Constitution is under way in Nakuru.

The top leadership of the Church, however, remained tight-lipped on their verdict after a section led by John Cardinal Njue campaigned against the Proposed Constitution.

The 24 bishops are meeting at St Mary’s Pastoral Centre for their annual Kenya Episcopal Conference.

- **Electronic voting here but will it end rigging?**

On Monday Kenya entered electronic age voting by opening up 18 constituencies to computerised voter registration triggering questions if the system is rig-proof.

Politicians were ecstatic the system guarantees democratic and tamper-proof electoral system that would make impossible manipulation of voting outcome at polling centres and ‘top-up’ games at tallying centres as witnessed in 2007 presidential election, leading to a disputed results and violence.

- **Kiplagat vows to stay put until tribunal determines his fate**

Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission chairman Bethuel Kiplagat says he will not quit until a tribunal is appointed to look into his past.

A defiant Kiplagat stuck to office on Tuesday, distancing himself from a resolution by commissioners that he steps aside to allow for investigation.

- **Minister: It’s official Mbingo ours**

Kenyans in Mbingo Island in Lake Victoria have a reason to smile after a two-year dispute with Uganda over ownership of the island.

Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetang’ula announced that the dispute between the two neighbours had been resolved.

- **The tree of life saving Ukambani’s starving**

Standing centrally in Kyambi Manzi’s homestead in Muthunzuu village, Mwingi District is a leafy tree of medium height.

It’s called the ukwaju tree and in this part of the country, is held with the reverence of a saviour, a literal oasis in the desert.

- **Kenya in a spot over push to trim ICC powers**

Kenya is said to be among African countries lobbying to trim the powers of the International Criminal Court during review of the Rome Statute in Uganda, next month.

Civil society has accused the Government of pushing the agenda when the international court is beginning to investigate post-election violence.

- **Recruit KAA chief afresh, MPs insist**

Parliament maintains the recruitment of a new [Kenya](#) Airports Authority MD must be redone.

The House departmental committee on Transport also wants Manpower Services Ltd kicked out as the recruiting agency.

- **President's party goes slowly on 'No' opponents**

Party of National Unity (PNU) is softening its hard line stand against churches and opponents of the Proposed Constitution as it emerged from a three-hour meeting.

At the meeting chaired by Energy Minister Kiraitu Murungi, members of the management committee resolved to wait and see the outcome of the consultations initiated by President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga on Thursday, last week.

## **Business**

- **KenGen plan to switch off IPP generators may cut power costs**

Consumers may soon pay less for power after energy producer KenGen switches off thermal power generators.

- **Premier League cash cow**

Gor Mahia and Tusker have collected the highest revenue so far after eight rounds of Kenya Premier League (KPL) matches.

According to an analysis by Ticket Masters, the two teams also top in attendance.

- **Kiplagat now an isolated man**

Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission chairman Bethuel Kiplagat on Tuesday lost the support of the entire commission, putting in jeopardy his tenure.

The commissioners wrote to the Ministry of Justice informing it that Mr Kiplagat had agreed to step aside and asked Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Mutula Kilonzo to ask the Chief Justice to form a tribunal to investigate the chairman.

- **Kubai sons claim city hotel land**

Freedom fighter Fred Kubai's family are claiming shares in a prime city property sold by a bank to a private developer.

The late Mr Kubai's sons — Gideon, Blacklaw and Andrew — on Tuesday produced documents to show that he (Kubai) was a director of Tourist Paradise Investment Ltd, which first leased the property on Museum Hill in Nairobi from the Government in the 1960s.

- **Uhuru pushes for consensus ahead of vote to avert chaos**

PNU is seeking to meet church leaders to search for a compromise on the new constitution as Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta distanced himself from either the "Yes" or "No" side.

Secretary-general Kiraitu Murungi said party leaders would meet on Thursday next week to discuss further how to mobilise their supporters to vote during the referendum.

"Only then can a voter be able to vote for or against the draft constitution during the referendum," the Imenti South MP said.

- **Voters can change polling centres after referendum**

Voters can register anywhere in the country, then transfer to their preferred polling area after the referendum.

Speaking at a meeting with journalists in Nairobi on Tuesday, Interim Independent Electoral Commission chairman Issack Hassan said the main purpose of the current drive was to enable Kenyans to vote during the referendum on the proposed constitution.

"You can register as a voter anywhere in the country now because what we are interested in now is the referendum," said Mr Hassan.

- **Alcohol war targets supermarkets**

The Government will target supermarkets and convenience stores at petrol stations in its fight against widespread alcohol consumption in Central province.

Central provincial commissioner Japhter Rugut said the government might consider banning sale of alcohol in supermarkets and in shops located in petrol stations in the province.

- **Students seized over drugs trade**

Three Egerton University students have been arrested over drug peddling.

Area head of police Johnston Ipara said officers, acting on a tip-off, raided the students' hostels at the Njoro campus on Saturday and carried out a search, which led to the arrest of the three.

He said 48 rolls of bhang and one-and-half kilogrammes of stones were also recovered from the students' hostels.

## **Business**

- **Rains to cool down energy cost**

Electricity bills may come down next month following the heavy rains countrywide.

Water levels increased to 1,052 metres at Masinga dam, the uppermost reservoir in the seven forks cascade.

KenGen operations director Richard Nderitu said that the Joint Emergency Committee is set to meet next week to consider the termination of a further 60 megawatts of the remaining 140 megawatts of emergency power still operational in the country.

- **Rise in global oil costs pushes up local prices**

Motorists will pay more to keep their vehicles on the road after marketers increased pump prices due to international escalation of cost of crude oil and refined petroleum products.

A spot check in Nairobi's central business district by the *Nation* on Tuesday revealed that the cost of petrol had crossed the Sh90 mark per litre and diesel Sh80 as marketers effected varying upward price adjustments.

- **Coach Oyugi tears into FKL**

Kenya Football Coaches Association secretary Bob Oyugi has termed the Kenya Under-17 team preparations as the worst he has ever seen of a national representative side.

"In my life as a coach of the youth, I have never seen such disastrous preparations. How can we let our youth train for two days and then go for an international fixture," Oyugi said on Tuesday.

Kenya under-17 were humiliated 3-1 by soccer minnows Somalia last Friday in an African Youth Championship, qualifier, first leg first round match in Djibouti.