

## **LOCAL NEWS 14TH JUNE 2010**

### **Religious leaders from the North Rift condemn Sundays attacks**

Various religious leaders and officials from Non governmental organizations in North Rift region have sharply condemned Sunday's Uhuru park blast the lead to the death of six people and 75 others injured. At a press briefing held Monday in Eldoret the leaders now want the government to launch an immediate investigation on the attacks and ensure that the culprits have been apprehended.

At the same time the leaders and officials have asked the government to take full responsibility of the medical bills of those injured and assure both No and the YES campaigns of their security.

*END.....JAMES GITAKA*

### **Security chiefs meet after Kenya blasts**

President Mwai Kibaki has instructed the security arm of government to get to the bottom of Sunday's blast that happened at Nairobi's Uhuru Park killing 6 people and leaving 112 others injured. The twin explosions rocked the venue just as the NO campaign rally on the draft constitution was ending. After an urgent security meeting held on Monday morning, the President instructed all relevant security and other government agencies "to move with speed and establish the circumstances that led to the stampede, and subsequent deaths and injuries." The meeting was also attended by Vice President Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka and Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

The Head of State appealed for calm from the nation "as the government seeks to get to the bottom of the heinous crime against the Kenyan people." Kenyatta National hospital was a beehive of activities on Monday with confirmation that it had treated more than 112 people who were injured during the blast. Twenty one people remained admitted with serious injuries.

### **RIFT VALLEY URGED TO EMBRACE PEACE**

Rift valley residents have been urged to engage in peace building activities in their respective areas beginning at the grass root levels. Addressing the press Monday during a sensitization forum held in Eldoret, Eldoret West District commissioner Leonard Ngaluma said peace must be observed all the time if success is to be realized. Speaking at the same forum, Amos Lempaka an official from the Rift valley youth for peace and development challenged the youth in the region to avoid being misused to cause violence urging them to maintain peace during forthcoming referendum Lempaka also asked the government to create more peace programs and employment opportunities targeting the youth to avoid cases of insecurity.

*END.....JOHN CHIKAMAI.*

### **No winner found for African leaders' prize**

A 5 million dollars prize for former African leaders who set examples of honest, democratic government will not be awarded for a second year running, the sponsor said on Sunday. Mo Ibrahim, a Sudanese-born telecommunications entrepreneur, founded the world's largest

individual award as a way to encourage good governance in a continent blighted by corruption and a frequently loose adherence to democratic principles. A seven-member prize committee, chaired by former United Nations' Secretary-General Kofi Annan, met on Saturday but did not select a winner, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation said. The committee did not choose a winner last year either. It told the foundation there had been no new candidates and so no winner had been selected. Democratically elected former leaders of sub-Saharan African countries who left office in the past three years are eligible for the award.

### **Stop stigmatizing Epileptic patients**

Chiefs in Eldoret town have been urged to create awareness and educate wananchi about epilepsy. This call comes after it was revealed that most people view epilepsy patients as having been bewitched. Speaking in Eldoret during a sensitization forum, the Eldoret community development officer Anne Gathoni said this is the only way that the myth can be overcome adding that the condition can be treated.

She at the same time called on the community to avoid stigmatization of epileptic patients but instead asked them to treat the patients like other normal persons. She added that they should also be taken to school so that they can be educated. The one day forum targeted chiefs from three districts of Eldoret west, Eldoret East and Wareng districts.

*END....JOHN CHIKAMAI*

### **UAE approves Embassies in Kenya, Uganda**

The Abu Dhabi Cabinet has approved the setting up of two embassies in Kenya and Uganda. The cabinet also approved the restructuring of the boards of the General Authority for Youth and Sports Welfare, the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Awqaf, and the Emirates Securities and Commodities Authority. They also endorsed the cooperation agreement signed between the UAE and Turkmenistan on setting up joint cooperation and another agreement on air services.

The ministers also approved the agreement between the UAE and Kazakhstan which waives holders of diplomatic passports from pre-entry visa. The Cabinet meeting chaired by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, also ratified the air transport agreement signed between the UAE and Greece.

### **Israel sets up inquiry into deadly Gaza flotilla raid**

Israel has set up an internal inquiry into its deadly raid last month on a convoy of Gaza-bound aid ships. Israel earlier rejected a UN proposal for an international probe, but has now agreed to include two foreign observers in its own inquiry. Nine Turkish activists were killed when Israeli commandos stormed the ships in international waters on 31 May. Meanwhile, Middle East peace envoy Tony Blair says he hopes Israel will allow more humanitarian items into Gaza.

Washington welcomed the announcement of the inquiry, describing it as "an important step

forward". But Turkey's foreign minister said Ankara had "no trust at all" that Israel would conduct an impartial investigation.

## **Global News**

### **'Green light' for global biodiversity science panel**

An international meeting has given the green light to the formation of a global "science policy" panel on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Proponents say the new body will "bridge the gulf" between scientific research and urgent political action needed to halt biodiversity loss. More than 230 delegates from 85 nations backed the proposals at a five-day UN meeting in Busan, South Korea. The international panel is expected to be formally endorsed in 2011. Among the main roles of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will be to carry out peer reviews of scientific literature in order to provide governments with "gold standard" reports. It is expected that the IPBES will be modelled on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which plays a major role in shaping global climate policy.

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### **Prison's volleyball clubs clinches Paul Bitok international tournament over the weekend.**

African women volleyball club champions the Prisons beat Kenya pipeline 3 sets to nil while the men's Prisons team outshined the Posta 3 sets to 0 in a hotly contested Paul Bitok International tournament over the weekend at Eldoret Polytechnic. The winner took one hundred and twenty thousand shillings while the runners up went away with eighty thousand shillings together with trophies. The Prison's Women volleyball club met with their Kenya pipeline colleague two months ago in the finals that were held in Bombers, Mauritius where Prisons clinched the African volleyball club champions' title.

Meanwhile the prison's men volleyball club is the fifth volleyball club in Africa. Paul Bitok the national coach of the Rwandan volleyball team said that the tournament was meant to unite East African countries through Sports. The event attracted two women and one men volleyball clubs from Uganda but they were all eliminated in the first rounds. The Paul Bitok International tournament was sponsored by Motel Legacy, Saroyo Water Company and Brazafic Enterprises Company from Brazil.

*Ends.....Stanley Magut.*

### **Schumacher escapes Massa penalty**

Mercedes driver Michael Schumacher will not be punished for his part in an incident with Ferrari's Felipe Massa during the Canadian Grand Prix. The seven-time champion was referred to the stewards after he made contact with Massa near the end of the race. The incident damaged the front of Massa's car, with the Brazilian needing to come in for a new front wing. Renault's Robert Kubica and Toro Rosso driver Jaime Alguersuari were handed reprimands for two separate incidents. Kubica was reprimanded for "a dangerous entry to the pits" while

Alguersuari was referred to the stewards following his collision with Williams driver Rubens Barrichello. Schumacher and Massa were battling with six laps to go when the German appeared to cut across the Ferrari as he returned to the racing line at Turn 12. The back of the Mercedes clipped the front of the Ferrari, knocking Massa's front wing, with the Brazilian having to take evasive action and briefly going across the run-off area. Mercedes team boss Ross Brawn, speaking before the ruling, defended his driver.

### **Boston edge closer to NBA title**

Paul Pierce scored 27 points as Boston Celtics beat Los Angeles Lakers 92-86 to take a 3-2 lead in the NBA finals. The Celtics, who had trailed 2-1, will take the title if they win game six in Los Angeles on Tuesday, with a possible game seven decider on Thursday. Lakers legend Kobe Bryant scored 38 points but received little support. Boston led 73-65 going into the final period and although the Lakers closed the gap, the home side are now within one win of a record 18th championship. Pierce, the Celtics captain, was their star player but there were sparkling cameos from Kevin Garnett and Rajon Rondo, who both scored 18 points.

### **Business News**

#### **A new bank opens in Eldoret**

Prime bank have launched their 13th branch in Eldoret town. Speaking at the official launch of the bank over the weekend, assistant manager George Aloo said the branch will be operating 7 days a week and will be offering unlimited services to its customers. Prime bank has other branches in Kenya and other countries including Nairobi, Kisumu, Malawi and Botswana respectively . Aloo said that Eldoret town has been a place of choice for the bank following its strategic positions and the high rate of development .

*End .....James gitaka*

#### **Housing Finance hails Budget**

Mortgage Finance Company Housing Finance has lauded the proposal by Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta to increase the lending threshold of banks to mortgage to 40%. Housing Finance Chief Executive Officer Frank Ileri says the move will increase the supply of housing in the country and should not be seen as competition from banks as the sector needs more financing than both the banks and mortgaging companies can provide. In the 2010/2011 budget speech Uhuru reduced Stamp Duty on Debenture ,Mortgages and Charges from 2% to 1% to stimulate the Real Estate and property market land.

Rent late payment penalty was also reduced from 2% to 1% with waiver period on current outstanding interest up to 30 June 2010 and amnesty on taxation for remittances brought in by Kenyans in the Diaspora. A 25% tax waiver on developers wishing to develop infrastructure on the ground has also been welcomed with Ileri terming the proposal as one aimed on opening up

the country and making other remote areas more attractive. The Minister also reduced tax on raw materials for manufacture of cement

### **Kenya to get 80pc rise in home Internet use**

Internet Service Provider (ISP) AccessKenya has announced an increase of its home Internet speeds and extension of night hours in a bid to entice more domestic customers. The ISP said it had increased home Internet bandwidth speeds from the previous 64kbps to 128kbps during daytime. The new move follows a survey that shows that over 85 percent of home users prefer to use the Internet from 6pm to 10am. The same study shows that home Internet will grow by 80 percent by 2012. Access@Home users will be able to beat traffic by working from home and later go to the office with the extension of night time speeds from 6pm to 10am,” said Jonathan Somen, AccessKenya Group’s MD. He said that the availability of Internet access was a catalyst for innovation.