

Local News 14th May 2010

Kenya Rural Roads Authority set to maintain roads in Eldoret

The on going rains across the country has made most of the roads impassable especially those in the rural areas, making food transportation to the market difficult. Following this, the Kenya Rural Roads Authority - (KeRRA) is asking farmers from rural areas within Eldoret town to be patient as they are soon set to begin repairing the roads.

The Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) regional manager Engineer Laban Shachille disputed earlier claims from farmers that the roads will return to the usual poor condition after maintenance saying the quality of materials that they will be using will first be checked and approved by the department's laboratory.

Shachille revealed that contractors assigned to specific roads will soon be assuming their responsibilities and undertake their duties under the supervision of field officers from the Kenya Rural Roads Authority -(KeRRA).

He revealed that they have given local contractors first priority in the allocation of the maintenance contracts.

Ends....Job Wesonga

Eldoret West market traders support centralization of their business

The move by the Municipal council of Eldoret in 2008 to centralize business has begun to bear fruits to traders in Eldoret. Traders at West Market in Eldoret who spoke to Fish FM said the move has led to a big turn out of customers during market and non-market days thus boosting their businesses.

The Municipal council of Eldoret in 2008 moved all hawkers from the central business district to conduct their business at the West Market with an aim of decongesting the CBD. Charles Lutali, a trader at the west market business center said they did not received well the councils move at that time but now they find the market to be a strategic point for their businesses.

Lutali was however quick to say that the on going rains are interfering with their business since they dont have a place to shelter. He urged the Eldoret Municipal Council to construct more stalls in the market to enable them work effectively at all seasons.

Ends...Gladys

Clerics asks state to ensure Kenyans access a copy of the draft before ballot

The Kenya Christian Constitution Forum has called on the government to ensure that all Kenyans access a copy of the proposed constitution before they cast the ballot at the referendum.

At the weekly Consultative meeting held Thursday, the group's Vice chair Rev Joseph Likavo of the International Vision Centre Eldoret, urged Christians to stand firm and be wary of people who are against God's will.

Likavo expressed fears that lives of many unborn children will be terminated if the clause touching on abortion is retained in the draft.

Likavo also called on the government to speedily investigate the alteration of the draft during the printing process, adding that the hitch could derail the constitutional dispensation exercise. He said the church will recruit its own civic educators and poll agents all over the country to block any possibility of doctoring the referendum outcome.

Likavo at the same time urged the government to keenly select the symbols that will not separate Kenyans on the basis of their positions on the draft constitution. The meeting resolved that gospel musicians in Eldoret will work on a song about the draft constitution, which will then be released next week.

End.....Stanley Magut.

Government committed to resettle IDP's

The government has not forgotten about the Internally Displaced Persons who were left homeless following the 2007 post election violence. Speaking in his office in Nairobi after meeting with leaders of the IDP's, Prime Minister Raila Odinga assured IDP's still living in various camps across the country that the government will do all it can to ensure that they are resettled quickly. Raila says they will also promote peace and reconciliation among different communities in the country as a way to avoid a repeat of the post election violence.

Over 1,300 Kenyans lost their lives and thousands others displaced following the post election violence that broke out due to the disputed 2007 election results

ENDJOSEPH NJANE

Kenya referendum date set for Aug 4

The interim Independent Electoral Commission has declared that Kenyans will vote on the proposed constitution on August 4. Chairman Issack Hassan announced this morning that the referendum will be held at the expiry of the 90 days period provided by the review act, after the publication of the Draft.

The draft was published last Thursday and the commission is set to announce the referendum symbols next week. The Committee of Experts on the Constitution Review is currently conducting a month long civic education scheduled to end in three weeks.

Budget speech to be read on June 10

The 2010-11 fiscal year budget speeches for the East African Community (EAC) member countries will be read on 10 June 2010. This was agreed upon by the EAC finance ministers in a pre-Budget consultative meeting held in Kampala Uganda. The EAC is composed of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi and the budget speeches will be read simultaneously by the member countries finance ministers on the said date.

During the consultative meeting the finance ministers unanimously reached consensus on issues earlier agreed upon by the member countries treasury permanent secretaries and other finance technocrats. Among issues agreed upon was the harmonization of import duties and other physical issues on EAC which will be reflected in the budget proposals.

Regional News

Somali pirates release UK tanker

Somali pirates have released a British-flagged ship with 26 crew on board after a ransom was paid, the EU anti-piracy mission (Eunavfor) says. Its statement says the ransom was dropped to the pirates holding the St James Park chemical tanker at Somalia's port of Garacaaad on Thursday. The statement did not say how much money was paid.

The vessel was on its way from Spain to Thailand when it was seized on 28 December.

Dubai 'frees' Nigeria ex-governor

Nigerian political powerbroker James Ibori has reportedly been freed on bail in Dubai, where he was arrested on corruption charges. The former governor of oil-rich Delta state is accused of stealing \$290m (£196m) by Nigeria's EFCC anti-corruption agency. He has had to surrender his passport to ensure he does not leave the country, officials say.

The UK and Nigeria want to try him on corruption charges, which he denies. Last month, a group of Ibori's supporters attacked police and prevented them from arresting him in his home town of Oghara. Some Nigerians are asking how he managed to leave the country and travel to Dubai.

US guilty plea over Iran exports

A Taiwanese businessman has pleaded guilty in a US court to attempting to ship banned missile parts to Iran. Yi-Lan Chen was arrested in the US Pacific territory of Guam trying to ship thousands of components with dual military and civilian use. Such exports to Iran are banned under a US embargo. The Justice Department said the US-made parts "could make a significant contribution to the military or nuclear potential of other nations". According to the US Department of Commerce, Chen had organised at least 30 banned shipments to Iran in the last three years. Agents became aware of his activities and set up an undercover

operation to investigate.

'Control regained' in Kyrgyz city

The interim government in Kyrgyzstan says it has regained control of administrative buildings in the southern city of Osh. Supporters of the ousted president seized the buildings, in Osh and other southern cities, on Thursday. They appear to have remained in control of government buildings in Jalalabad, although there are reports of clashes and shots being heard in both cities. President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was overthrown last month. It followed a violent uprising that left 85 people dead. He fled with his family to Belarus, and was replaced by the interim government. But tensions remain high across the country as the government attempts to assert its authority.

Thai troops clash with protesters

Thai security forces have fired live rounds after moving in to seal off a heavily defended encampment of protesters in the centre of Bangkok. Protesters set fire to a police bus near foreign embassies as gunshots rang out, following clashes overnight that left one person dead in the capital. The area is like a warzone, with troops firing across a park at protesters. The demonstrators want Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to step down. Many of the red-shirts support former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup. Overnight, security forces shut down the electricity supply to the area around the large protest camp in the city centre.

Philippe Claudel wins foreign fiction award

French writer Philippe Claudel has scooped the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize with his novel Brodeck's Report. Claudel will share the £10,000 prize money with US translator John Cullen. The Frenchman directed and wrote the screenplay for Bafta-winning 2008 film I've Loved You So Long.

The annual book award is given to a living author whose work has been translated into English from any other language and published in the UK. The prize previously ran from 1990-95 and was revived in 2001 with funding from Arts Council England. Judge Boyd Tonkin called Claudel's work " a beautiful and disturbing novel that finds a bewitchingly original way to talk about the tragedies of modern history."

Sports

2018 bid asserts monetary muscle

David Beckham is due to hand over the 1,752-page book outlining England's 2018 World Cup

bid to Fifa in Zurich with promises of a commercial bonanza. The world footballing body is due to decide by 2 December on who will host the 2018 and 2022 tournaments. England faces rivalry from Russia and joint Spanish-Portuguese and Dutch- Belgian bids for the 2018 finals. Fifa is expected to net £2.1bn in TV and sponsorship from the 2010 World Cup, and bid organisers England 2018 estimate they can increase that income by a third, taking it near the £3bn mark. In 2005 Beckham played a part in helping Britain win the right to stage the 2012 Olympics and the Football Association is hoping he can have a similarly galvanising effect in persuading Fifa to allow England to stage the World Cup for the first time since 1966.

Al Ahly to take on local rivals

Egyptian giants Al Ahly have been drawn against their great rivals Ismaili in the group phase of this year's African Champions League. Alongside them in Group B are Algeria's JS Kabylie and last year's runners-up Heartland of Nigeria. Group A is a north versus south battle with holders TP Mazembe of DR Congo and Zimbabwe's Dynamos facing Esperance of Tunisia and Algeria's Entente Setif. The first group games will be played on the weekend of 16-18 July. Ahly scraped through into this stage of the competition with a stoppage time goal in their final knock-out match against Al Ittihad of Libya.

Nevertheless, their resources and the strength of their support make the 6-times winners favourites to make it to the semi-finals.

Sudan giants could meet in Confed

Sudanese giants Al Hilal and Al Merreikh have been drawn in the same pool of the Confederation Cup. The pair are in the competition after losing in the Champions League and must first beat Zimbabwe's CAPS United and AS FAN of Niger respectively. Two-time Confederation Cup winners CS Sfaxien and twice Champions League winners Enyimba could meet in the other group. There is one more round of knock-out ties before the group phase. Tunisia's Sfaxien must first get past Angola's Petro Atletico whilst Enyimba have been paired with Zambia's Zanaco. The first leg matches of the knock-out stage take place in the middle of July.