

Local News 16th June 2010

Kenya church leaders denied meeting permit

The Nairobi City Council has declined to issue a permit for the planned meeting by church leaders at Uhuru Park set for Thursday. In a statement, the church leaders said they had planned to hold a memorial service for the victims of Sunday's attacks at the park on Sunday. Six people died during the attacks that occurred as a group of church leaders led a prayer meeting which turned into a campaign rally for the No team at the Park on Sunday.

131 other people were injured, 112 treated and discharged while 21 are still admitted at Kenyatta National Hospital and another one at Nairobi Hospital. Following the City Council move, the memorial service will still be held on Thursday but the venue has been changed to All Saints Cathedral church in Nairobi.

Trained and talented youth programmes underway

The Kazi Kwa Vijana initiative is now set to expand from the current manual labour in a bid to accommodate both talented and trained youth. The Eldoret West Youth officer Jacob Chepkwony says, the government has now promised to consider trained youth in the initiative by incorporating them in its institutions and programmes before they are permanently employed by parastatals and different agencies to help curb unemployment.

Chepkwony also said that the government has set up a talent academy that will be training and nurturing the youth who are talented in different areas. At the same time, the officer urged the youth to ground themselves in development programmes and help the government achieve its development strategies. Chepkwony encouraged the youth to involve themselves in entrepreneurship activities noting that the world is turning towards business oriented jobs other than white collar jobs.

Ends... Wesonga Job

Eldoret Mayors' delegation to America

Eldoret municipal council mayor, William Rono will be leading a delegation of five to Minneapolis America later this month for the sister cities international celebrations. The tour will also see them discuss on the development of Eldoret town to the international community.

Among the officers accompanying the mayor are the treasurers who will present a report on bottle necks of revenue collection, the director of environment who will expound on garbage management strategy and the education officer who will put forward the state of schools within the Eldoret municipality.

Mayor Rono said that he will be presenting a document on areas the city of Minneapolis has promised to fund and this will help develop Eldoret town. He also said that industrial areas, residential estates, physical features and shopping centers among others in Eldoret town have been digitized in a bid to attract distant investors. He was quick to note that the only remaining task is the funding of the digitization process of which he said will be his main agenda to

persuade the sister cities in Minneapolis to chip in and fund it in partnership with the Government of Kenya. This move is meant to achieve the goals as envisaged in the vision 2030.
Ends.....Stanley Magut.

Parents and Guardians accused of street children

Measures that have been put up by the government to counter cases of drug abuse have begun bearing fruits. This is after a revelation that there has been a reduction in cases of drug abuse among the street children in Eldoret town. However, the Uasin Gishu District children protection officer Philip Nzenge has accused some wananchi of dragging the efforts by giving the street children money that they use to buy drugs and glue.

Nzenge revealed that the government has budgeted for the street children across the country, a move that will enable the children's department cater for their basic needs. The children's officer urged parents and the community at large to take their parental responsibilities seriously if street families are to be eradicated completely.

End.....John Chikamai.

Mps charged with hate speech

Roads assistant minister Wilfred Machage, and his two colleagues Joshua Kutuny and Fred Kapondi have been charged in court with hate speech. The trio denied the charge. The three were arrested and interrogated for several hours at the Criminal Investigation Department headquarters before being arraigned in court.

Fred Kapondi and Wilfred Machage have been released on a cash bail of 100,000 shillings each while Joshua Kituny was awarded 200,000 shillings cash bail. In addition, the three are to report daily at the CID offices at 9am. Police applied to the court to remand the MPs in their custody to give them time to conclude the probe since they were only arrested a day before they were arraigned in court.

Kazi Kwa vijana initiative has so far been successful

The kazi Kwa vijana initiative has helped young people improve their lives since it's provided for them some income and also helped them fight poverty. The programme that kicks off after every financial year saw 200 youth being recruited from Eldoret West district in the last financial year.

The Eldoret West District Youth Officer Jacob Chepkwony note that , although the process had minimal challenges, those who were selected engaged in various activities including tree planting projects which have been rated successful. He urged the youth to engage in development projects since there is devolution of resources at constitutional levels which makes it easy for them to access. The kazi Kwa vijana initiative that is being carried out across the country is being overseen by the Ministry of State on Youth Affairs.

Ends.....Gladys Kimaiyo

Saitoti warns hate speech mongers

Internal security minister Prof. George Saitoti has appealed for calm amongst all Kenyans as the government proceeds with investigations into last weeks' deadly explosions at a NO campaign rally in Uhuru Park Nairobi. Speaking at a parliamentary session on Wednesday, Saitoti also warned hate speech mongers that they will not be tolerated, especially in this period when Kenyans are campaigning for or against the proposed new Constitution.

Saitoti added that investigations are ongoing to determine the people who carried out the attack that left 6 people dead. Emotions ran high among honorable members when Ikolomani MP Bonny Khalwale challenged the minister to clarify to Kenyans the possible source of the grenades that detonated at the fatal Uhuru Park Rally.

Ends.....Ben Ogoi

22 still hospitalized following the blasts at Uhuru Park.

Twenty two people are still receiving hospital treatment at Kenyatta National Hospital and Nairobi hospital following the attack on a No campaign rally that left 6 dead and many injured. Internal security minister George Saitoti, while giving a ministerial statement on the Uhuru Park blasts in parliament on Wednesday said up to 131 people were injured in the three explosions. Saitoti pointed out that 104 were treated and discharged at Kenyatta National Hospital as five others were treated and discharged at Nairobi hospital. The minister also says investigations are on going but preliminary probing has established that the weapons used to launch the blasts were three grenades.

The minister noted that rallies on both the Yes and NO sides will continue as security will be provided by the government.

Ends...Patroba Ojwang

Lower Eastern legislators meet President Kibaki

President Mwai Kibaki today at his Harambee House Office held discussions with legislators from the lower Eastern Province. The meeting deliberated on how to address several development needs affecting the area in efforts geared towards revamping vital sectors of the region's economy. During the meeting President Kibaki assured the 15 legislators led by the Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka that the Government was determined to undertake equitable development in all parts of the country. The President said that the region's unique developmental needs would be addressed in order to unlock the economic potential of the region and to guarantee improved living standards among the area residents. The Head of State affirmed that Kenya was firmly on the path to success and urged Kenyans to steadfastly rededicate to building a prosperous and united nation.

Among the sectors that the leaders cited as regional economic priorities were expansion of

existing infrastructure particularly the tarmacking of the Kibwezi-Kitui-Maua road which was earmarked and designed for improvement many years ago among others vital road links. The leaders noted that the maize issue was a critical source of agony among the Ukambani residents with regard to both the low prices being offered to farmers as well as how to comprehensively deal with the maize contaminated by aflatoxin. The meeting also deliberated on education matters dwelling on the upgrading of Machakos Technical Institute into a full fledged university and improvement of other existing academic facilities.

Scout Moot: Kenya waives visa fees

The government through the Ministry of Immigration and Registration of Persons has waived visa fee for those who will be participating in this year's 13th world Scout Moot. Speaking during a media briefing in Nairobi Wednesday, the Vice president Kalonzo Musyoka said the event will be of great importance for Africa since it is the first World Scout Moot to held on the continent. Kalonzo who is also the Chief Commissioner of the Kenya Scouts Association (KSA) assured all the participants of their safety noting that the government has put in place appropriate security measures. Over 1000 scouts from across the world are expected to participate in the event which will be officially opened by the president who is the Patron of the KSA on the 27th July this year. The event will be held in four venues with the main site being the Rowallan National Scout camp in Nairobi. The other three expedition centres include Nyeri, Embu and Machakos. The World scout moot is a gathering of young adults aged 18-25 years and held every four years in order to orient them to activities geared towards nation building.

Carry your own cross over incitement, Members of Parliament told

Youth drawn from the North Rift region are telling politicians accused of incitement to take responsibility for their actions. The youth under the banner "The Western Kenya pressure" said they are greatly disappointed with the conduct of the leaders for allegedly inciting one community against the other by claiming that they were being targeted by what they termed as imaginary forces. Led by the group secretary General, Obadiah Chesire, they said that these claims are violating the National Cohesion and Integration Commission's Act. They are now calling on their fellow youth to stand firm in championing for change and to embrace peace and harmony to avoid the repeated of 2007/2008 post election violence. Chesire, said the arrest and charges against a few members of parliament on incitement claims will serve as a lesson to Kenyans saying it was time the culture of impunity was dealt with. They are also calling on the government security agencies to take stern action against inciters without favor.

Ends.....Caro Koech.

Regional News

Global Fund freezes Zambia aid over corruption concern

More than \$300m (£200m) of health funding to Zambia is being suspended by the Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. It said it was concerned about alleged corruption in connection with one or more grants to the health ministry. The Global Fund said it would continue paying for life-saving treatments. It is not the first time Zambia has lost aid amid corruption claims: Sweden and the Netherlands stopped health aid and the EU halted road-building funds.

A Global Fund statement said on Wednesday that the national authorities have failed thus far to provide assurances of appropriate action regarding fraud. Money would be released direct to suppliers, but not to the Ministry of Health.

Global News

BP bosses arrive for Obama crisis talks

BP executives have arrived at the White House to meet US President Barack Obama after he vowed to make the oil company pay for the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. In his first TV address to the US as president, Mr Obama said he would tell BP's chairman the firm must set up a fund to compensate those affected.

Oil has been leaking into the Gulf since a drilling rig leased by BP blew up on 20 April, killing 11 workers. BP has been accused of failing to follow proper procedures. As oil has washed ashore in Gulf coast states, affecting businesses and wildlife, the rhetoric from US politicians has become increasingly bitter and the firm's share price has tumbled, with billions of dollars being wiped off its value. Obama initially invited BP chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg to the White House meeting.

Sports News

South Africa to deport 17 Argentina football supporters

South Africa is to deport 17 Argentina football supporters arrested on suspicion of being troublemakers, police said. They were described as a possible threat to public order who could disrupt the World Cup. The 17 were on a list of 800 known hooligans barred from attending matches in Argentina that authorities there gave to South Africa. Five other Argentina supporters also voluntarily left South Africa. The 17 were picked up in a police raid early on Wednesday on premises in Pretoria where 165 football supporters were staying.

Murray seeded fourth at Wimbledon

Andy Murray has been seeded fourth at Wimbledon with defending champion and world number two Roger Federer handed the top seeding. Defending champion Serena Williams is top seed for the women's singles with sister Venus at number two. Federer, six-time Wimbledon champion, received the number one seeding despite being supplanted by Rafael Nadal at the top of the world rankings.

The grass-court Grand Slam starts on 21 June with the draw on Friday. Spaniard Nadal, who was

unable to defend his Wimbledon title last year because of a knee injury, overtook his Swiss rival after winning his fifth French Open crown in Paris earlier this month.

Business News

Commodity prices remain stable at market

As midweek passes on, Fish FM has verified that the prices of products at the Eldoret municipal market have remained fairly stable. Traders have however maintained that availability of some commodities has greatly been affected by poor transport networks from the farms, adding that proper transport is key for their daily success. Shortage of vegetables has been attributed to diversion of producers to maize farming, and exportation of especially cabbages to Uganda. Some vegetable sellers also noted that as much as rain may be good for crop performance, too much rain like the one being witnessed across the country is detrimental to the performance of kales, tomatoes and cabbages, while aquatic plants like arrowroots do best at a time like this.

Here are the prices of some of the products as they traded at the Eldoret municipal Market today. A kilogram of dry maize sold at 22 shillings while a 90 kilo bag of green maize went for a constant 600 shillings. Potatoes stood at 20 shillings a kilo for the fourth week running while the same measure of carrots traded at 30 shillings. A tray of eggs vended at a wholesale price of 230 shillings, while a crate of tomatoes went for 2,800 shillings. A reported acute shortage of cabbages caused a piece to go for as high as between 35 shillings and 50 shillings. Millet and wheat went for 40 shillings a kilo while sorghum and beans sold at 60 shillings per kilogram. A 60 kilo bag of kales sold at 1,300 shillings, 500 shillings ahead of a bag of spinach, while the demand for parsley caused a kilo to go for 250 shillings.

Ends...David Macharia

Kenyan traders worry over EAC tariffs

With 14 days to the ratification of the East African Common Market Protocol, Kenya's business community is raising serious concerns that threaten to the success of the process. Speaking during a Special Prime Minister's roundtable on Wednesday, Kenya Association of Manufacturers Chairman Vimal Shah said East African member States were not acting in unison in implementing common duties and custom regulations, creating an uneven trading ground. He cited issues such as non-implementation and respect of common external tariffs, saying they were creating pressure on Kenyan businesses that wanted to expand across the region. Of particular concern, he said, was the slow amendment of the relevant laws and statutes to accommodate the new economic regime.

Although most countries are at an advanced stage of passing new laws for the enactment of the protocol, there is a lot to be done to take care of other laws touching on customs and taxation. The coming into force of the common market protocol is meant to facilitate the free movement of labour, services, capital and goods but Shah has reservations of its implementation come July 1. He said that while the East African Customs Union was set up with clear objectives such as

promoting domestic, cross border and foreign investment, liberalising intra-regional trade in goods among other, this is yet to happen.

New venture for Kenya transport sector

In a bid to transform the local public transport sector, several companies have established a public private partnership that aims to promote the use of high capacity buses in major cities across the country.

The Cooperative Development and Marketing ministry, Cooperative Bank , General Motors East Africa (GMEA), Invesco Assurance and the Matatu Owners Association will work together to streamline urban public transport starting with Nairobi in an effort they hope will reduce congestion. The vision envisages a decongested Central Business District (CBD) by allowing few designated high-capacity buses to drop and pick passengers within the area. The partnership will provide a concessionary package in which GMEA will supply their high capacity Isuzu buses; Cooperative Bank will finance the acquisition of the buses, while Invesco Assurance will provide a comprehensive insurance cover.

Kenyan insurer seeks to curb fraud

As part of its objective to take charge of the claims process and consequently reduce fraud cases REAL Insurance has introduced a Motor Assessment Centre, where accident vehicles will be assessed and the extent of damage established in monetary terms. Chief Executive Officer Joseph Kiuna said pre-insurance inspection will also be carried out at the centre, as the company seeks to streamline the process from accident to repair for all their motor insurance clients. The centre, located on Lanet Road in Nairobi's Industrial Area and which has been put up at a cost of Sh10 million, has the capacity to assess up to 50 vehicles at a time.

Motor assessment centers, he explained are common in South Africa and Botswana where they have managed to achieve up to 20 percent savings in motor repair costs.