

Local News 17-5-10

It's Green and Red for the referendum symbols

The Interim electoral commission IIEC today settled on the green color symbol representing yes and the Red color symbol representing No ahead of the August 4th referendum. The commission met this morning and agreed to finish the selection of symbols. Top officials who met for the exercise said they had received many suggestions submitted to them by the public.

Elsewhere, two legislators from Rift Valley are threatening to go court to stop the referendum over the circulation of illegal draft. The legislators claim the erroneous draft was still being distributed despite assurance from the Attorney General and Committee of Experts that it had been recalled.

PM calls for tolerance

Prime Minister Raila Odinga has urged Kenyans to tolerate and accommodate divergent views in the review debate. Speaking in Nairobi Raila asked Kenyans to observe patience with those pursuing contradictory views in the constitutional debate, to foster unity of the nation ahead of the referendum. He urged the religious leaders to give Christians room to read the published draft to guarantee them a chance to vote the referendum with their consciences.

He assured Kenyans not to worry and get sucked into the controversy surrounding the initial printing of the fake copies arguing that anomaly which might have been engineered by those opposed to reforms was intercepted in time.

Ends...Joseph Njane

Water crisis in Mombasa as Mzima pipe malfunctions

Mombasa residents are bracing themselves to face the looming water shortage after the main pipe from Mzima springs burst yesterday. According to the Mombasa Water Company PR officer, Sarah Lang'at, company engineers will start repair work today. She added that investigations are underway to ascertain if the breakage was natural or instigated by illegal siphoning by unscrupulous water vendors.

Mombasa city suffers greatly from clean water shortage, and this has led to cholera outbreaks in the recent past. And still at the Coast, The body of a young man aged 19 was found at the shore of the Indian Ocean near Nyali Bridge Monday morning. Police are yet to verify his identity and the cause of his death but it's believed he must have been swimming when the waves overwhelmed him. This comes only two weeks after two fishermen drowned while swimming.

Ends...David Macharia

KCCF to educate Kenyans through the web

Kenya Christians on constitution forum KCCF Eldoret region will teach Christians on contentious issues in the draft constitution through the internet. KCCF will record video teachings and post them to www.justicebeourshield.blogspot.com

KCCF vice chair, Rev. Joseph Likavo says the material will be vetted by NCCK lawyers before posting to avoid legal implications. The church has kept its stand of shooting down the proposed constitution after their concerns on Kadhi and abortion clauses were not addressed.

End...Magut Stanley

The Kenya schools and colleges music festival fixture

All is set for this year's Kenya Music Festivals event for primary schools secondary schools and colleges across the country. The event focuses on nurturing talent, improving language, building self esteem and promoting different cultural identities through cultural dances among the youth. The timetable for this year's Rift Valley schools and colleges' music festival has been officially released.

Uasin Gishu District Senior Quality Assurance education officer Silas Otieno, Schools within Uasin Gishu region are to hold their festivals before 9th June so that the winners can proceed to a regional competition to be held on 9th to 10th June for the Primary schools and 11th to 12th June for the secondary schools at Bishop Delamy school formerly Harambee Secondary school.

According to the organizers, the Rift valley provincials Music Festivals will be held between the 28th June and 3rd July in Kitale town. The National Festivals will be held from 1st to 11th August 2010 at Masinde Muliro University, in Kakamega, Western Province. Meanwhile, the Rift Valley Provincial Science congress competition will be held from 20th to the 22nd of May in Nanyuki High School in Laikipia district.

Ends....Job Wesonga

Smokers cautioned by Ministry of environment

The environment ministry is cautioning public smokers against the act of smoking anywhere but identify designated smoking zones. Environmental Director Chelule Joseph cautions smokers to avoid smoking in public areas as it is harmful to others who are not smokers.

He urged public vehicle owners to provide a place for smokers before they board the matatus in order to reduce environmental pollutions. Speaking to Fish FM, Chelule warned that tobacco users risk having the product banned unless they follow the rules prohibiting public smoking.

ENDs....John Chikamai

Regional News

Nigeria militant backs Jonathan

A former Niger Delta militant has said Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan is the best person to solve the crisis in the oil-producing region. Victor Ebokawe, also known as General Boyloaf, said that, because President Jonathan is from the region, he understands its problems. Ebokawe also said that Jonathan should contest next year's elections. Militants have carried out attacks which have cost Nigeria millions in lost oil revenue over the years. Last year, thousands of militants laid down their arms in return for promises of training and jobs.

But this programme showed signs of started to unravel during the power vacuum while former President Umaru Yar'Adua was sick.

Legal threat' over Winnie film

Production on Jennifer Hudson's film biography of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela is to start despite threats of legal action, the film's producer has said. Speaking at the Cannes Film Festival, Andre Pieterse said lawyers for the ex-wife of former South African President Nelson Mandela had written to him. He said the letter "contained the threat" of action that could stop production. The film, titled Winnie, also stars Terrence Howard as Nelson Mandela.

Pieterse said the letter also stated that Ms Madikizela-Mandela "would like to see the script and approve". But Pieterse said he and director Darrell Roodt had decided the film would be based on a "well researched" screenplay "without any influence from any of the main characters".

Iran agrees Turkey nuclear deal

Iran has signed an agreement to send uranium abroad for enrichment after mediation talks in Tehran with Turkish and Brazilian leaders. Iran's foreign ministry said it was ready to ship 1,200kg (2,645lb) of low-enriched uranium to Turkey, in return for fuel for a research reactor.

The plan could revive a UN-backed proposal and may ward off another round of sanctions. Meanwhile, France has announced progress at the UN on fresh sanctions. The West, worried that Iran is trying to build a nuclear bomb, has been pushing for stiffer sanctions against Iran but Tehran denies having a nuclear weapons programme.

UK ash cloud restrictions easing

Flight restrictions have been lifted at Heathrow, Gatwick and other airports after closures prompted by the return of a volcanic ash cloud to UK airspace. After many airports faced restrictions over the weekend and into Monday, just four are currently closed: Belfast City, Londonderry, Shetland and Orkney.

The industry has warned that knock-on disruption could last for some hours. British Airways boss Willie Walsh called the latest restrictions "a gross overreaction to a very minor risk".

International News 17-5-10

Israel denies Noam Chomsky entry

Renowned US scholar Noam Chomsky has been denied entry to the West Bank by Israeli immigration officials. Prof Chomsky, renowned for his work on linguistics and philosophy, was planning to deliver a lecture at Birzeit University. Prof Chomsky, 82, had been trying to enter from Jordan. An Israeli interior ministry spokeswoman said it was to trying to clear the matter up and allow Prof Chomsky to enter.

The interior ministry spokeswoman, Sabine Hadad, said they're trying to contact the military to clear things up and if they have no objection he should be allowed in. Prof Chomsky has frequently spoken out

Heathrow and Gatwick shut by ash

Britain's two busiest airports have closed as a volcanic ash cloud drifts further south, causing major disruption for many thousands of people. A no-fly zone imposed by the Civil Aviation Authority forced Heathrow, Gatwick and London City airports to shut down completely until 0700 BST. Flights are also grounded in parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland. Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds Bradford airports

have re-opened after restrictions in the north were lifted. The closure of Heathrow and Gatwick airports at the beginning of the working week is expected to hit business travelers and holidaymakers hardest.

Sports News

Fish United silence Kapsoya Rangers.

Fish United put up an impressive performance to beat Kapsoya Rangers FC 5 goals to 2 on Sunday. The match is part of the Mtaani tournament played at Kapsoya Chief Grounds. Scorers for the winning side included Benjamin, and Mathok. Fish United Coach Lucas Lusigi says the Rangers had their player Ben score twice against them.