

LOCAL NEWS 17th SEPTEMBER 2010

Prices for essential commodities expected to rise

The prices of essential commodities in Eldoret such as maize, beans, tomatoes, onions and vegetables are expected to increase in the coming month. Currently, 2kg of beans is selling at 120 shillings compared to last week's price of 100 shillings, with maize selling at 40shillings per 2kg, tomatoes and onions at 30 and 70 shillings respectively. Tabitha a cereal seller at Kahoya market since it was opened, says the main challenge they are facing in the market is a decrease in the number of regular customers which has lowered their profits. Tabitha also says that the prices of cereals will increase due to scarcity when the sunny season begins. Commodity prices have been increasing following the high cost of life.

End...Mary Gombe

Wathika likely to recapture Makadara: Poll

A poll by Strategic Insight now indicates that Dick Wathika of PNU is the most preferred political candidate for the Makadara by-election. According to the poll, 34.1 percent of the 2,500 respondents were in support of Wathika while 30.4 percent preferred ODM's Reuben Ndolo. Mike Mbuvi of Narc-Kenya comes in third with 20.9 percent while Joshua Kitivi of the Orange Democratic Movement of Kenya (ODM-K) and Lindy Wafula of Nuru party had 10.3 percent and 4.3 percent respectively.

The survey further indicated that both Ndolo and Mbuvi could move up their points if they efficiently mobilised their campaigns' committees. It also showed that despite Makadara's urban character, ethnic affiliation was still a determinant in how people intended to vote. The study which had 52 percent of the respondents being male also gauged the general mood of the respondents, the popularity of the aspirants and the competing parties. Starehe and Juja constituencies are also scheduled to have their by-elections on September 20. In Starehe, the main contestants are ODM's Margaret Wanjiru and PNU's Maina Kamanda.

Kenyatta blood week around the corner

The Kenyatta blood week is around the corner again where the Eldoret Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, partnering with Hope International, Kenya Red Cross Society and Blood Link usually carry out the process of blood collection famously known as 'Drives' and is done in 2 to 3 session in schools and other learning institutions. The campaign which is usually done as far as Turkana, Western, Kapsabet to Kapenguria however faces many challenges.

According to Mwanisa, a Public Relations Officer at the centre, among the the key challenges is the rarity of blood type O-ve and unwilling cooperation from donors. But according to Kosgei who is a receptionist at the centre, there are a few persons with blood type O-ve who are usually contacted in times of emergencies. During this week they will carry out Barazas, Advertisement

on media which is specifically meant to teach the public on the need of donating blood. The most recent drive was in Chepkorio which was done last month.

END.....Wilfred Kipkoech

At least 4,000 Non graduate teachers to be promoted

The deal reached at by the teachers' body Knut and the treasury two months ago to promote non graduate teachers has come into fruition. The education ministry has issued instructions to the Teachers Service Commission to effect the promotions as soon as possible. Over 4,000 non graduate teachers will now be promoted after the government released 1.4 billion shillings towards the cause.

Making the announcement, Education permanent secretary James Ole Kiyiapi stated that the government has promoted over 78,000 primary school teachers who have served for 15 years and above from the time they were trained.

UNICEF says child mortality falling

The number of children who die before reaching their fifth birthday has fallen by a third in the past two decades, but there are still more than eight million deaths each year according to UNICEF. UNICEF said the deaths are increasingly concentrated in India, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan and China. According to latest estimates by a UN Children's Fund offshoot, the number of under-five deaths decreased from 12.4 million per year in 1990 to 8.1 million in 2009.

The global under-five mortality rate has dropped in that time from 89 deaths per 1,000 live births to 60. UNICEF said this means that 12,000 fewer children are dying each day around the world compared to 1990. The highest child mortality rates are in sub-Saharan Africa, where one in eight children dies before their fifth birthday -- nearly 20 times the average for developed regions (1 in 167).

Regional News

Liberia hails \$1.2bn debt pardon by Paris Club

Liberia's government says the decision by a group of creditor nations to write off its debt will allow the country to write a "new Liberian story". The 19-nation Paris Club pardoned \$1.2bn (£764m) worth of debt owed by the West African country. Liberia's Finance Minister, Augustine Ngafuan, told the press that debt servicing took up large amounts of its national budget. At the end of June 2007, the country's external debt was about \$4.4bn.

On cancelling the debt, the Paris Club said it welcomed "Liberia's determination to continue to implement a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy and an ambitious economic programme providing the basis for sustainable economic growth.

MI5 head warns of serious risk of UK terrorist attack

The UK faces a continuing serious risk of a lethal terrorist attack taking place, the head of MI5 has warned. Jonathan Evans raised concerns over the number of soon-to-be-freed inmates who are "committed extremists and likely to return to terrorist activities". He also said Somalia and Yemen were important concerns for MI5, as a source of serious plots against the UK.

And, he said, the security service had not expected dissident republicanism to grow as it had in Northern Ireland. Evans, who made the rare public remarks to the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals in London, said dealing with international terrorism remained the main focus of MI5's efforts.

Global News

Japanese PM Naoto Kan announces cabinet reshuffle

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan has announced a new cabinet, three days after being re-elected as leader of the governing Democratic Party of Japan. Analysts say the reshuffle is aimed at boosting public support for the government. Yoshihiko Noda remains in the key post of finance minister. The new economics minister is Banri Kaieda, who backed Kan's rival for the party leadership - veteran MP Ichiro Ozawa. Nearly half of Japan's lawmakers voted for Ozawa in the leadership contest and Kaieda's appointment is seen as an attempt to unify his fractured party.

Seiji Maehara is the new foreign minister and Shozaburo Jimi was retained in financial services. Maehara, the former transport minister, replaced Katsuya Okada, who left to become secretary general of the DPJ. Defence Minister Toshimi Kitazawa will stay in his post, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku.

Pakistan 'needs more flood aid'

International donors must "step up to the plate" once again to help flood-hit Pakistan, UK charity Oxfam has said. Oxfam's call comes as the United Nations (UN) prepares to launch a new appeal for Pakistan, seeking to treble the \$460m (£295m) raised so far. Jane Cockling, Oxfam humanitarian director, said the crisis in the country was "far from over yet". The UK aid appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) has so far raised more than £54m. Oxfam says that almost four million affected people in Pakistan have yet to receive food aid.

The UN says more than 70% of Pakistan's flood-affected population lack access to safe drinking water, while more than 80% did not have access to clean, functioning toilets

Tropical Storm Karl becomes hurricane over Gulf

Tropical Storm Karl has been upgraded to a hurricane having gathered strength as it passes over the Gulf of Mexico. The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) classified Karl as a category two storm after its maximum sustained winds reached 160km/h (100mph). Before moving into the Gulf, Karl made landfall in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, where it downed trees and cut power.

The Mexican authorities have now issued a hurricane warning for 300km (186 miles) of the coast of Veracruz state. Meanwhile out in the Atlantic Ocean, two more hurricanes are churning, including a powerful category three storm, Hurricane Igor.