

## **Local News 18th August 2010**

### **IIEC sets date for Kenya mini polls**

The by-election for Starehe constituency will be held September 20 the same date for Makadara and Juja constituencies. Making the announcement, Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) also set Wajir South by election for October 13. Speaking when he handed over the writs for the seats (IIEC) Chairman Ahmed Isaack said nomination of candidates start next week.

The electoral body warned that it will automatically disqualify any candidate found guilty of hate speech during the forthcoming by elections even if they win in the election. The polls follow the nullification of the election of Bishop Margaret Wanjiru and Abdirahman Ali Hassan. The former MPs are expected to defend theirs seats

### **Kitutu Masaba IDPs Face new challenge**

The plight of internally displaced persons in Kitutu Masaba constituency has worsened after five of their groups lost close to 1.5 million shillings in a deceitful scheme. The IDPs who had raised the funds through Central Kitutu IDP chief's Camp self help group had intended to purchase land to settle after living with friends and relatives for the last three years.

The group's interim chairman Arita kibaso said the people entrusted with the money have disappeared, but one of the suspects was arrested by criminal investigation officers before being released under unclear circumstances.

### **Kenya truth body to begin public hearings**

The Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) will conduct its first public hearing in November this year. The sessions will begin in Mount Elgon, where the commission has already taken statements from witnesses. The Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Commission Patricia Nyaundi said on Wednesday that the commission would conduct hearings touching on individuals, institutions and events.

Nyaundi further explained that the institutional hearings would be aimed at promoting institutional reforms. The commission also announced that it would train 300 officials next week who would be involved in taking statements from witnesses in other parts of the country. The TJRC is expected to release its final report in November 2011.

### **Raila takes a one week break**

Prime Minister Raila Odinga left the country last night for a brief holiday in Italy. According to the director of communication in the PM's office Dennis Onyango, the PM will be taking a few days rest. The PM will be in the European country for a about a week and is expected to return ahead of August 27th to attend the ceremony at which President Mwai Kibaki will unveil the new constitution.

Last month the PM was admitted at the Nairobi hospital for about a week after undergoing a head surgery to release a head pressure that had build outside his brain.

*ENDS.....NEWSROOM*

### **War on Malaria Gets Boost as Medicine Cost Comes Down**

Kenyans can now get highly effective malaria drugs from their local pharmacies at affordable prices. In a new deal entered by the Global Fund and several international drug manufactures, the medicines, which cost as much as Sh500, will now go for a tenth of this price. And although by on Tuesday the Head of Malaria Control Division in the Ministry of Health, Dr Elizabeth Juma, was predicting that the first consignment of the highly subsidised medicines would be in the country within a few days, the Nation has confirmed that the medicines are already in circulation.

A spot check in several pharmaceutical outlets in Nairobi's Central Business District indicated that the medicines were already in circulation. Unfortunately, pharmacies are making a killing because members of the public may not be aware of the subsidised drugs.

### **Mental Illness as a Silent Predator in the Developing World**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), mental and neurological disorders represent the leading causes of global health disabilities. The organization estimates that over 80 percent of people with mental and psychosocial disabilities live in developing countries and have little to no access to any form of psychological or psychiatric treatment.

Mental disabilities are charged with a massive stigma, forcing many to remain hidden and excluded from mainstream society. Michelle Funk, from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse at WHO in Geneva has noted that people with mental disabilities experience human rights violations and discrimination in the fields of education, employment, and housing. He says that the low priority governments give to psychiatric treatment poses numerous problems for those who are poor and afflicted with some kind of illness. Nevertheless, a little bit of funding and a change in perception has the potential to go a long way.

### **Regional News**

#### **Uganda charges 32 over bombings**

Uganda has charged 32 people in connection with the July 11 bomb attacks in Kampala which killed 76 people as they watched the World Cup final, the country's chief prosecutor has said. Four Ugandan alleged masterminds were among the 32 who were charged with 76 counts of murder, 10 counts of attempted murder and committing acts of terrorism, the director of public prosecutions Richard Butera told AFP.

The four Ugandan men were paraded before the media last week and described how they had orchestrated the attacks at two separate sites on the evening of football's World Cup final. Butera

said all the defendants were charged with the same offenses and will be tried together in one case. Among the defendants are 14 Ugandans, 10 Kenyans, six Somalis, one Rwandan and one Pakistani, according to a list published Tuesday by the state-controlled New Vision newspaper. All the suspects were remanded to prison by Chief Magistrate Deo Ssejjemba, who also ordered the media to stop publishing information about the investigation.

### **South African public sector workers strike over pay**

Public sector workers in South Africa have begun an indefinite strike after rejecting the government's offer of a pay rise. Unions affiliated with Cosatu, South Africa's main union federation, have been holding out for an 8.6% rise, more than the latest government offer of 7%.

Many schools and hospitals are expected to be affected by the protest. Last week tens of thousands of public sector workers staged marches to hand over their demands. Police, teachers, doctors, and nurses are demanding an 8.6% pay hike and improved housing subsidies. They are also lobbying for a medical aid subsidy and night-shift allowance.

### **Summit closes without decision on land case**

Southern African leaders on Tuesday gave themselves six months to review a stand-off between Zimbabwe and a regional court that ruled against President Robert Mugabe's land reforms. The tribunal of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), whose leaders wrapped up a two-day summit in Namibia's capital Windhoek on Tuesday, ruled in 2008 that 78 white farmers could keep their land, saying they had been unfairly targeted because of their race.

But Zimbabwe has refused to respect the verdict even though Harare has signed the treaty creating the court, which has no power to enforce its rulings except through decisions of a summit. Political analysts had expected the SADC to avoid taking decisive action for fear the contentious issue could split the bloc, which has struggled to act with a united voice on Zimbabwe. Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba, who took over as SADC chair at the summit, said the organisation needed to work on imposing its mandate more firmly.

### **China landslide leaves more than 60 people missing**

More than 60 people are missing after a landslide triggered by days of heavy rain swept through a town in south-western China. Officials said people in Puladi, in Yunnan province bordering Burma, were trapped in their homes as they slept. Mudslides and floods have killed more than 1,500 people across China in recent months.

About 500 people are still missing in Zhouqu county, Gansu province, after a landslide enveloped the town there. More than 1,200 people have been confirmed dead after the disaster hit earlier this month. The mudslides in Gansu and Yunnan are the latest in a series of weather-

related disasters after unusually heavy summer rains.

## **Global News**

### **Ex-US security firm workers deny Afghan killings**

Two ex-employees of a security company owned by the US firm formerly known as Blackwater have pleaded not guilty to charges of killing two Afghans in 2009. Justin Cannon and Christopher Drotleff allegedly opened fire at the scene of a road accident in Kabul. They worked for Paravent, part of Xe, formerly Blackwater, which was blamed for killing civilians in Iraq in 2007.

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai has said private security firms must end operations there in four months. The ultimatum is expected to create big problems for Nato and other international bodies which rely on tens of thousands of private security employees. The legal team for the two men maintains the guards opened fire at the scene of the accident in self defence.

### **North Korean plane 'crashes in China'**

A North Korea aircraft, which may be a fighter jet, has crashed in China close to the country's shared border, according to South Korean reports. It is believed the pilot, who was killed, may have been trying to defect to Russia, according to unnamed intelligence sources cited by Yonhap. The crash happened on Tuesday afternoon in Liaoning province. Photographs of the wreckage reportedly taken by a local resident showed a North Korean flag on the plane's tail.

## **Sports News**

### **Ulinzi braced for Gor**

League leaders Ulinzi Stars face an in-form Gor Mahia in a mouthwatering Kenya Premier League midweek clash at the Nyayo National stadium tonight. The army men currently have a two point lead and a win will increase it to five while Gor could leapfrog Mathare United and move into fourth place should they emerge victorious. Tonight's match will be an intriguing clash of styles with the sleek passing and movement of the enterprising and youthful Gor side up against the more physical, robust and direct approach by Ulinzi.

Mighty Kogalo as Gor are popularly known will again be without key personnel as Anthony Akumu and Musa Mohammed are all away on national team duty with the under 20s in Eritrea. Ulinzi won the first leg 1-0 in a match played in Oserian

### **GB rowers win Youth Olympics gold**

Rowers Georgia Howard-Merrill and Fiona Gammond won Team GB's second gold medal of the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore with victory in the women's pairs. The duo beat Australia's Emma Basher and Olympia Aldersey by 0.74 seconds, while the Greek team of Eleni Diamanti

and Lydia Ntalamagka finished third.

British duo Ed Nainby-Luxmoore and Caspar Jopling missed out on a medal as they finished fourth in the men's pairs, 3.72 seconds behind Jure Grace and Grega Domanjko of Slovenia who won gold. Greece's Michalis Nastopoulos and Apostolos Lampridis took silver with Australia's Matthew Cochran and David Watts picking up the bronze.