

Local News 18th Feb 2011

Southern Sudanese in Eldoret plan to celebrate independence.

The Sudanese community living in Eldoret has organized what they call [Southern Sudan Independence](#) party that will be held tomorrow in Kapsoya estate. A majority of Sudanese nationals both in [Kenya](#) and [Southern Sudan](#) voted for a separation from the North in a referendum. In a statement, the community has appreciated Kenyans for their neighborly reception throughout the years.

At least 96 percent of those in Kenya plan to go back home and be part of the building the new South Sudan republic. A total of 15,000 Southern Sudanese nationals registered for the cessation referendum in Kenya with 5,000 registered in Nairobi.

Ends...Pat

Youth in rift valley threaten to sue the government,

The youth in [rift valley province](#) say they will go to court to petition the government to get its priorities right. Rift Valley Youth for Peace and development chairman Amos Olempaka says the government has been busy politicizing almost every agenda in government at the expense of Kenyans. Olempaka says that if the government fails to respond to the issues affecting Kenyan youth then they will be forced to move to court as provided for in the new constitution.

Olempaka further says the youth in [rift valley](#) are keen to see the full implementation of the constitution and will not relent to urge for it.

END JAMES GITAKA

Politicians asked to put country's interests first

Politicians need to put the country's interests first to avoid any form of disunity among Kenyans. Speaking during a council meeting at Catholic university in Eldoret, Catholic Archbishop Cardinal John Njue said the current bickering among politicians especially on the International Criminal Court and the judicial nominations have only served to bring divisions.

Cardinal Njue asked Kenyans not to be swayed by the political wave in the air. Njue said political leaders should be instrumental in bringing people together for the good of the nation. He again asked the two principles to work together and come up with decisions that will ensure harmony in the country.

On the already formed institutions to implement the new constitution, Njue said those institutions must have the right people who can deliver. The recent judicial nominations by [President Mwai Kibaki](#) have generated a heated debate with many questions arising on the process used.

End...Carolyn Koech

S. Korea sailor freed by pirates dies in Kenya

A South Korean sailor freed last week from four months' captivity by [Somali pirates](#) died today in an apparent fall from his Kenya hotel room, Seoul's foreign ministry said. [Kim Yong-Hyun](#), chief engineer of the 241-ton Keummi 305, appears to have fallen from the veranda of his third-floor room, a ministry statement said.

Kim, 68, was one of 43 crew members -- two Koreans, two Chinese and 39 Kenyans -- freed on February 9, four months after their fishing trawler was hijacked in Kenyan waters. The boat arrived Tuesday in the Kenyan port of [Mombasa](#) under escort by a Finnish warship. Its captain Kim Dae-Geun, 54, has described his months in captivity as "hell", saying he feared constantly for his life because his captors continually threatened the crew with loaded guns.

Government put to task over drug barons

Members of parliament have demanded action by the government against suspected leaders involved in [drug trafficking](#). However in parliament those accused of facilitating the business asked the government to quicken their investigations on the issue saying it has tarnished their names. [Gichugu MP Martha Karua](#) wanted the government to explain the reasons as to why the issue has taken long to be concluded.

Meanwhile, internal security minister Prof. [George Saitoti](#) has stated that the government has put in place measures to curb [drug trafficking](#) in the country.

Regional News

Ugandans to vote on Museveni's 25-year grip on power

The people of Uganda are going to the polls shortly with [President Yoweri Museveni](#) hoping for re-election to extend his 25 years in office. Opposition leader [Kizza Besigye](#) is standing against him for the third time and has warned of protests if he is "cheated" of victory. But Mr Museveni said Egyptian-style protests could not happen in [Uganda](#).

Correspondents say the veteran leader is likely to win because of his sheer spending power as a candidate. Ugandan officials have sought to reassure voters that there is adequate security for the polls after the mass circulation of text messages warning people to stock up on food and fuel in case of trouble.

African News

Libya protests: Death in al-Bayda as unrest spreads

At least one person has been killed in protests across [Libya on Thursday](#) in what anti-government activists described as a "Day of Rage". [Amnesty International](#) says a man was shot dead when security forces

opened fire in the city of al-Bayda. Police and protesters also clashed in Zentan and Benghazi, where one witness told the BBC at least 16 people are believed to have been killed.

This week's protests are the first in Libya, where dissent is rarely allowed. Pro-government activists were also out on the streets in the capital, [Tripoli](#). They shouted slogans in support of Libya's leader, [Muammar Gaddafi](#).

Pro-democracy protests have recently swept through several Arab nations, with the presidents of [Tunisia](#) and [Egypt](#) forced to resign amid growing unrest.

Sport News

320 Athletes sign up for National cross-country

Athletes from four countries including [Sudan](#), Tanzania, Emirates and Uganda are set to take part in this weekend's [National Cross Country Championships](#) which will be held at the Nairobi's Uhuru gardens.

[Athletics Kenya](#) will use the event to select two teams to represent Kenya in the inaugural [Africa cross country championships](#) in Cape Town, South Africa and the [World Cross country championships](#) in Punta Umbria Spain. The stage is set for the [national cross country championships](#) which will be held [this Saturday](#) at the Uhuru gardens here in Nairobi.

Over 320 athletes are expected to take part in the event in which it doubles up as a qualifier for the world and Africa cross country championships and also for a share of the jackpot.

Shock Winner of 'Unpredictable' Race Highly Possible On Saturday

The junior men's 8km race has for a long time been dubbed "the race of the unpredictable". The competitors are young, on the cusp of joining the senior ranks, and have nothing to lose. They will be keen to do well and increase their bargaining power as they are about to pen new contracts as seniors.

The 8km junior men's race will be the second of the day come Saturday during the [National Cross Country trials](#) at Uhuru Gardens. It will be a race that will have six World Junior and Youth champions, their understudies, as well as hitherto unknown entities keen to sneak into to the global limelight.

Sunday match beginning of new dawn for Kenya football, say Rathbone and KPL chief

THE start-of-season DSTV/SuperSport Super Cup was launched on Thursday by the [Kenyan Premier League](#) and their broadcast rights holders SuperSport International. The 2010 Premiership champions [Ulinzi Stars](#) and FKL [Football Kenya Limited] Cup holders Sofapaka clash at the National Stadium, [Nairobi on Sunday](#), kick-off 4pm. The league itself starts [on February 26](#) but there will be a lot of interest in the form of the Super Cup contestants as they are regarded as main contenders for the League title this season.

The two teams have their preparations for the new season up and running, already having been involved in continental football

South Africa striker Mphela resumes training with club

Bafana Bafana striker [Katlego Mphela](#) has resumed training with his club Mamelodi Sundowns after a three week strike. The 26-year-old had refused to play for the club while attempting to force a move to Serbian side Partizan [Belgrade](#).

But following a meeting with [Sundowns' President Patrice Motsepe](#), they have resolved their problems.

After turning down bids from Birmingham City in the English Premier League and Russian side Terek [Grozny](#) last year, Sundowns' decision to reject an offer from Partizan during the January transfer window angered Mphela. In protest, he refused to train with the team.

Business News

Kenya mulls green energy for villages

The [Rural Electrification Authority \(REA\)](#) says it is piloting a business model for powering Kenya's villages using renewable energy. The project, being carried out together with the [Ministry of Energy](#) and [Japan International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\)](#), seeks to promote commercial use of renewable energy as opposed to the regular home consumption. REA Chief Executive Officer Zachary Ayieko said the programme is being designed to ensure that it offers institutions incentives for commercial sale of electricity generated to households, businesses, and other customers.

The project will include setting tariffs that are commensurate with consumers' ability and willingness to pay and, if necessary, providing capital subsidy to assure the operator gets a reasonable profit. JICA is expected to offer technical assistance in design and feasibility studies, training, and social organization.

The objective is to develop a system of incentives sufficiently attractive for private sector to do business in off-grid areas. The government as well as donors will provide funding for the public and community-services facilities.

Safaricom to freeze staff hiring

Mobile operator Safaricom says it is freezing any new staff hiring for the rest of the year as part of a cost cutting strategy. The move comes at a time the region's most profitable company is experiencing stiff competition in the telecoms market that threaten to eat into its revenues.

Safaricom Chief Executive Officer Bob Collymore on Thursday said the operator was currently implementing a new strategy that will help it respond more effectively to market changes in the sector. Safaricom will be looking to maximise the efficiency of its current employees, a move that could see them adopt double roles within the organisation. It is currently reviewing the current market dynamics as it looks for how best to complement the declining voice revenue.