

Local News 19th July 2010

Kenyan 'bomb pastor' out on bond

A man said to be a pastor who police arrested Saturday for being in possession of explosives has been arraigned in a Nairobi court. 'Pastor' John Kamau of Victory Church and two accomplices were charged with being in possession of explosive materials and were released on sh 500,000 bond. The church where the suspect was reported to have been a pastor disowned him on Sunday saying he was not one of them.

It also emerged that Kamau is a nominated councilor in Githunguri. Kamau and his accomplice, Samuel Chege Gitau a quarry man were intercepted in Runda estate as they drove in a Four Wheel Drive car towards Githunguri where it is suspected they wanted to use the explosive. The bomb had been made from ammonium nitrate, which weighed more than one kilogramme. There were also detonators. Detectives from the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit (ATPU) have taken over investigations.

Administrator assures of calm in the North Rift Region

Eastern Rift Valley Deputy Provincial Commissioner Wanyama Musyambo has dismissed reports carried in a section of the media of hate leaflets being distributed in Tinderet as non factual. Addressing journalist in his office, Musyambo said the incident which happened two weeks ago was purely an issue between the management of a tea factory and a few people who failed to get jobs in the company and revealed that seven were arrested.

He assures of calm in the region saying no particular community has issued threats but stated that the security team is on high alert especially in the so called hot spot areas. The administrator has also disclosed that chiefs and assistant chiefs have been given instructions that they will be accountable for any form of hate speech in their jurisdictions. District peace committees have also been instructed to move out and preach peace and warned against blanket condemnation of a community saying they will deal with individuals calling on Kenyans from notion that there must be clashes after the constitution vote.

End...Carolyn Koech

WTM takes civic education on draft constitution to Kaimosi

Word of Truth ministries and 97.1 fish FM managing director Reuben Kigame says time is ripe for Kenya to get a new constitution but not as in the current draft form. Speaking in Mahanga, Kaimosi in Western Kenya where the ministry has taken its civic education on the draft constitution, Kigame said that those opposing the draft have enough reasons and should not be tagged as anti reformists.

He says that there being a No and Yes choices, gives Kenyans a reason to choose between the two. Kigame is however calling on Kenyans to read and understand the draft in order to make informed decisions at the August 4th referendum.

End...David Macharia

Sexual offences on the increase in the country

The office of the public prosecution has released figures showing a gradual increase in sexual offences in the country. According to the director of the public prosecution Keriako Tobiko this is evidenced by the number of sexual cases prosecuted since the enactment of the sexual offences act in 2009. The figures show that Eastern province has the highest number of sexual offenders who have been taken to court in the last four years, with 1,128 having been charged in court between 2006 and 2009. **Coast province** follows closely with some 1,008 cases filed within the same period. The public prosecutor has however hailed the media for highlighting sexual offence cases prosecuted saying the move has helped to track down the offenders.

IIEC prepares for the **August 4th referendum vote**

With two weeks remaining before Kenyans go to the referendum vote, the Interim **Independent Electoral Commission** is working to see the exercise goes on smoothly as planned. The commission is today beginning training of regional electoral coordinators, their deputies and constituency coordinators in readiness for the upcoming referendum. At the same time, constituency election coordinators are conducting interviews for polling officials who will start training at the end of the week.

IIEC has stated that the constituency election coordinators will act as the returning officers and will not be posted in their own constituencies during the referendum.

Experts to discuss access to HIV care

An International Conference on HIV/AIDS kicks off today in **Vienna, Austria** to push for expanded access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. The conference is expected to bring together over 20,000 delegates working in the field of HIV, policy makers and persons living with **HIV** from across the world. The conference comes against a backdrop of a **global economic crisis** that has threatened investments in the prevention of the **pandemic**. The year 2010 is also the deadline year for universal access to treatment and care set by world leaders.

The conference also comes at a time when spirited scientific research for a possible **HIV vaccine** and another on Pre-exposure prophylaxes (Prep) to be used as preventative measures are ongoing. Dr Allan Bernstein, Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise Executive Director said scientists working on a HIV vaccine were looking for a globally effective and acceptable vaccine that would be durable and safe.

Kenya warned over park highway

A forum of international conservation organizations has called on the Kenyan and Tanzanian governments to carry out joint environmental impact assessments before the commencement of the proposed construction of a highway through the **Serengeti National Park**. Under the Kenya Coalition for Wildlife Conservation and Management, the 31 agencies said although the road will be done in **Tanzania**, Kenya needs to get involved and carry out the study to evaluate the impact that the project will have on the larger Serengeti ecosystem and the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

Failure to do so, the activists warned would have detrimental consequences on the two countries wildlife and tourism sectors. The proposed construction of the highway linking the urban towns

of Arusha and Musoma on [Lake Victoria](#) and that will see 64 kilometers go through the Serengeti National Park is scheduled to start next year in a bid to enhance the mobility of Tanzanians who have to skirt around the park and in the process travel for more than 418 kilometers. Eastern Africa Environmental Executive Director Hadley Becha urged the two countries to consult the guidelines as set out in the [East African Community Protocol for Natural Resource Management](#) and Environment.

Vaccine patch may replace needles

Traditional flu jabs could be rendered obsolete by a hi-tech skin patch which delivers vaccines painlessly, say US researchers. The patch has hundreds of microscopic needles which dissolve into the skin. Tests in mice show the technology may even produce a better immune response than a conventional jab. Writing in [Nature Medicine](#), the team of researchers said the patch could one day enable people to vaccinate themselves. Each patch, developed by researchers at [Emory University](#) and the [Georgia Institute of Technology](#), contains 100 "microneedles" which are just 0.65mm in length.

They are designed to penetrate the outer layers of skin, dissolving on contact. Co-author, Professor Richard Compans from Emory University Medical School, said the vaccine does not have to penetrate deeply because there are immune cells present just below the surface of the skin.

Regional News

Sudan dissent brutally suppressed, says Amnesty report

Sudan's security services have been accused of a campaign of violence and intimidation against anyone expressing opposition to the government. [Amnesty International](#) says former prisoners have reported arbitrary arrests, beatings and torture. Its report comes less than a week after Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir was accused by the [International Criminal Court \(ICC\)](#) of genocide. He denies the charge, saying he does not recognise the court's jurisdiction. Bashir already faces an ICC arrest warrant, issued in March last year, for war crimes and crimes against humanity for the actions of his security forces in Darfur. The Amnesty report describes the actions of Sudanese security forces as a "rule of fear" against government critics.

Global News

British author of death penalty book held in Singapore

Singapore police have arrested the British author of a book about the city-state's use of the death penalty. Alan Shadrake, 75, is being detained on criminal defamation charges which carry a two-year prison sentence. However, the government says the book - which includes an interview with a former hangman - has not been banned. Shadrake told reporters before his arrest that he was expecting trouble when he went to Singapore at the weekend to promote his book. Shadrake's book, *Once a Jolly Hangman - Singapore Justice in the Dock*, includes an interview with [Darshan Singh](#), the former chief executioner at Singapore's Changi Prison, who has since retired. It also includes interviews with human rights activists, lawyers and former police officers.

Moody's downgrades Ireland rating

Ratings agency Moody's has downgraded the Irish Republic's sovereign bond rating to Aa2 from Aa1. The ratings agency said the move had been driven by the government's gradual but significant loss of financial strength. And it expects the country's economic growth to be below its historical trend in the next three to five years. In June, it was revealed the [Irish Republic](#) had officially moved out of recession in the first quarter of 2010. [Ireland](#) has suffered a severe contraction in GDP since 2008, causing a sharp decline in tax revenue.

Sports News

Iten Leads the North Rift Super league.

Elgon View FC stood in stunned silence after going down 2-1 in a crowded Iten grounds as Iten United forward Onyango James, delivered his thunder shot in the 63rd minute of the North rift Super League and helped Iten United to remain at the top of the league with 14 points. Daniel Koech opened the score for Iten United in the 30th minute before Elgon view FC equalized in the 45th minute through Nick Argut, and Onyango James netted the decider in the 60th minute. In another match Kapsabet United FC ranked second in the league with 13 points outshined Gardens United 2-1, via goals from James Tirop who scored twice, as James Rono pulled one back for Gardens united in a exhilarating match played at Kenyatta stadium In Kitale [on Sunday](#). In Huruma Grounds, Huruma United played a 1-1 draw with Chades FC,with Eraso Sammy and Fredrik Kiplagat scoring for their respective teams North Rift supper league matches contues this coming weekend.

End...Jimmy Kitiro

FIFA doing the rounds

Hot on the heels of the [World Cup](#) in [South Africa](#), FIFA kicked off a whirlwind two-month tour today to inspect nine candidates vying to host the 2018 or 2022 tournaments, the first stop in [Japan](#). A five-member team from the sport's world governing body was to arrive in the western megacity of [Osaka](#) at 0820 GMT on a four-day trip to see stadiums, facilities and presentations there and in [Tokyo](#).

They will go on to [South Korea](#), [Australia](#), the Netherlands-Belgium (joint bid), [Russia](#), [England](#), Spain-Portugal, the United States and Qatar in that order and draw up reports on the feasibility of each bid. FIFA's 24 executives will choose the 2018 and [2022 World Cup](#) hosts [on December 2](#) in [Zurich](#). Immediately after arrival, the team, led by Chilean Football Federation president [Harold Mayne-Nicholls](#), was to inspect by helicopter the site in Osaka for an 83,000-seat stadium which would host the opening match and final.

Business News

EA Cables issues profit warning

East African Cables has warned that it might not post profit for the year ended [December 31, 2010](#) following the poor performance of its Tanzanian subsidiary. The cable manufacturer said although the Kenyan outfit has remained financially sound and profitable, its manufacturing facility in Dar-es-salaam had not, a situation that will impact its overall performance this year. Sales volatility in the Tanzanian utility sector was also cited as one of the reasons the unit might register losses which will be reflected in the soon to be released results for the first half of the

year.

The issuance of a profit warning is in line with the CMA regulations that require a listed company to make such an announcement in cases where there is “a material discrepancy between the projected earnings for the current financial year and the level of earnings in the previous year.”

East African Cables however said it has taken corrective measures to address the situation by restructuring its top management in the East African Cables Tanzania who would be expected to turnaround the outlet.

Phoenix acquires new plane in Kenya

Phoenix Aviation Limited has acquired a Beechcraft King Air 350 twin engine turbo prop aircraft which will strengthen the Company’s charter and [air ambulance services](#). The aircraft is one of the very latest versions in the tried and tested King Air range. It cruises at 300 mph at an altitude of 35,000 feet and has a range of 1,600 miles. There are eight luxury seats in double club configuration and another seat for a flight attendant.

When used for medical evacuations the King Air 350 has the capacity for two patients who are cared for by an ICU qualified [flight nurse](#) and a doctor using state of the art support equipment. Sati Reel, the Managing Director of Phoenix Aviation Limited, said, “This aircraft has comprehensive instrumentation including weather radar. The King Air 350 is ideal for conditions in East and [Central Africa](#) and can be flown in and out of 1,200 metre unpaved airstrips.”

[Phoenix Aviation](#) also runs a repair and maintenance facility at Wilson Airport.