

Local News 19th October 2010

Kenyans to mark 1st heroes' day

Kenyans are preparing to mark the first Heroes' day Wednesday. This day has been set aside to celebrate individuals who have made this country proud since independence. Heroes' day also known as Mashujaa day replaces Kenyatta day following the passing of the new constitution.

End...Mary Gombe

Kenyan lawyers to get tips from ICC experts

Three advocates practicing at the International Criminal Court at The Hague are due in the country over the weekend to share knowledge with Kenyan lawyers on the workings of the court. Courtney Griffiths, who is the defence lawyer of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, will be joined by the Prosecutor of the Special tribunal on Sierra Leone Desmond Silva and another unnamed lawyer in the visit.

Law Society of Kenya Chairman Ken Akide who is organizing the event told the press that the trio would speak to about 30 to 40 lawyers. The three lawyers will offer lectures next Monday at a Nairobi hotel. In the forums they will answer questions from the participants and clarify issues. It is expected they will share their experiences.

National examinations set to kick off under tight security

Security in Eldoret town has been tightened as different stakeholders from the ministry of education finalizes preparations ahead of this years national examinations set to kick off this Thursday. Eldoret West District Educational Officer Jackson Daido said that strict measures will be taken into consideration to curb cases of cheating in examinations.

According to Daido, all examination papers will be transported under tight security. At the same time, candidates will be thoroughly frisked before sitting for any paper. Daido said that this year has recorded an increase in the number of candidates, with 2,950 registered candidates compared to last year's 2,843. Daido owes this increase to the free day secondary education that has seen many students especially those from poor backgrounds enroll in secondary schools. Speaking barely two days before the onset of the examinations, Daido however says that the weather changes may however pose as a great threat to the effective administration of the examinations especially in remote areas.

The examination is set to be administered in a total of 55 examination centers, with a total of 1,562 boys and 1,388 girls sitting for it in Eldoret West district. 124 private candidates will also be sitting for the examination.

ENDS..... Mariah

Kenya's Amina Mohammed elected COP president

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs Amina C. Mohamed has been elected President of the COP (Conference of State Parties) to the UNTOC for a term of two years.

Mohammed is leading a high-powered Kenyan delegation to the 5th Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) which got underway in Vienna today. She succeeds Ms Elizabeth Verville of the United States of America (USA), who represented the America Group. The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime addresses issues of transnational organized crime such as drug

trafficking, human trafficking, trafficking in arms, piracy, slavery and forced labour among other issues.

Raila tells Kenya's youths to shun tribalism

Prime Minister Raila Odinga has challenged the youth to shun tribalism and rise to the service of the nation in order to achieve the aspirations of the founding fathers. He reminded the youth that it's only through dedicating themselves to greater causes as the national heroes that they will positively contribute to the destiny of this country.

The Premier noted that for the country to move forward, Kenyans need to love one another and put aside once and for all the historical mistrust that existed between them. The Prime Minister observed the perhaps a time has come for the country to discard the quota admission system for high schools.

He suggested that a system should be created where students and teachers are allowed to seek admission or teach in schools in any part of the country. He said that the government was committed to providing quality education to all Kenyans and had deliberately chosen to invest in the education sector. Raila spoke when he addressed students and teachers of Lenana school, Kenya High and Precious Blood on the eve of the first ever Mashujaa day.

Musyoka condemns arson attack

Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka has condemned the suspected arson attack at Endarasha Boys Secondary School that killed two students. Musyoka regretted that such arson incidences often occur when students are preparing for national examinations. The VP said the burning of Endarasha secondary school in Nyeri on Monday and the recent arson at St. Joseph's Seminary in Mwingi are some of the incidences that have occurred as students prepare for national examinations.

Speaking today during the 3rd graduation ceremony of Zetech College held at the Railways Club, Nairobi, Musyoka at the same time, said the Government will ensure that courses provided by tertiary institutions are relevant to the needs of the country in line with Kenya's Vision 2030. He said the Vision 2030 demands Kenyans to think beyond their traditional education set up. The Vice President asked tertiary institutions have been asked to explore innovative ways to accommodate the growing numbers of qualified candidates so as not to deny them a chance to pursue higher education.

Experts demand counterfeits audit

The government has been asked to conduct an extensive audit of counterfeits coming into the country in order to effectively deal with the menace.

The Regional Coordinator of non-governmental organization Health Action International, Gichinga Ndirangu, said today that the lack of data on counterfeit products especially medicines was the greatest impediment to tackling the problem. Ndirangu said that the extent of counterfeits in the country could not be explained and this posed a serious risk. He was addressing a joint press conference with the Medicines sans Frontiers' and International Treatment Preparedness Coalition where they also raised concern about the Anti Counterfeit Act 2008. The groups also want the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) to be given the lead role in combating counterfeit medicines at the port instead of the Kenya Revenue Authority.

Department of Environment urges citizens to maintain cleanliness

The municipal council of Eldoret environment department in collaboration with the departments of Public health, Engineering and Treasury has issued a notice to all business community within Eldoret town to adhere to the pre-licensing conditions aimed at ensuring cleanliness in the town. The councils Environment Director Joseph Chelule has said that the pre-licensing conditions include painting of the premises, providing a chamber for litter, ensuring enough space in front of the business premise as well as planting an environmental tree in front of the building.

Chelule says these conditions will ensure that the town is healthy and green and has told those business people who will not adhere to the conditions to close down. Citing the provisions in the new constitution Chelule has said that the new constitution recognizes cleanliness as one of the basic rights and has urged the people of Eldoret municipality to work closely with the council to ensure their rights are provided.

End....John Chikamai

All set for KCSE exams

357,789 students were today taken through rehearsals ahead of this year's Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education - KCSE which starts on Thursday. Another 1,029 students from Southern Sudan will also sit the exams in centres across the country. This year's exams will be held under strict regulations introduced by the government to curb rampant cases of cheating.

For the first time the students were required to register for the exams using their birth certificates. Colored passport size photos will also be a compulsory requirement to avoid cases of imposters sitting for the exams. The government and the Kenya National Examination Council- KNEC have expressed confidence that this year's examinations will be free of cheating. Nairobi, Garissa, Nyanza, Mombasa and Eldoret have been identified as the hotspots for such malpractices.

Raila at Family Bank launch

Prime Minister Raila Odinga has underscored government's commitment to transform the country to a middle income earner for the vision 2030. Being the chief guest during Family Banks unveiling of a new brand, the PM recognized the role played by the management of the banking institution in steering it towards the current success position. Raila called for the access to capital by Kenyans for investing to eradicate poverty urging for the promotion of entrepreneurs. The Family bank has launched a new brand identity and introduced strategic investors.

The finance institution started as a building society in 1984, later translating into a banking institution. The bank has been targeting small and medium sized enterprises and other clients from the middle to lower job cadres. Speaking earlier, Central bank governor Njuguna Ndungu termed the launch a success that is to be emulated.

Ends,,,Patrobas Ojwang'

Class 8 pupil in critical conditions after abortion

As standard 8 pupils prepare for their national examination due next month, a KCPE candidate in Keiyo North constituency, in Elgeyo Marakwet County is admitted at the Iten district hospital in

critical condition following a failed abortion. The two midwives who helped the Kiptingo primary school pupil to secure the failed abortion are in custody at Iten police division headquarters for interrogation. It is alleged the girl approached the two women to help her terminate the pregnancy so that she could sit for the exams. Area chief Lukas CHESOSIO said they nabbed the women last evening after they accomplished their failed mission at the victims' home, noting that there was a rise in related cases at the school since so far two other students had dropped out.

A nurse at the hospital who sought anonymity said the pupil was out of danger and there was no cause for alarm adding that she will be discharged soon to enable her prepare for the exam set for next month.

End.....Caro Koech.

Sack the implicated ministers, Centre for human rights calls out.

Centre for human rights and governance wants the two principals to sack cabinet ministers who have pending cases in court. Speaking today in Eldoret, chairman Centre for Human Rights and Governance Richard Maiyo said that officers implicated in corruption scandals were still holding their offices contravening the constitution.

Maiyo said Higher Education Minister William Ruto should step down to pave way for investigations of charges against him. At the same time, he said that president Kibaki and the premier Raila should not allow impunity to destroy the quality of leadership Kenyans yearned for through the passing of the new constitution. He added that Kenyans will not shut their mouths but they will push for such ministers' resignation if the two principals will not act according to the provisions of the constitution.

End.....Stanley Magut.

Local government Minister to launch Eldoret municipal law courts,

The Eldoret Municipal Council will on Monday next week officially launch the Eldoret Master Plan that will enable the council expand the towns resources in line with the vision 2030 and the millennium development goals.

The Master plan will set aside specific areas for industries, estates, institutions and organizations in order to accommodate the fast growth and expansion of Eldoret town. The launching ceremony that will be held at the municipal grounds will be graced by the Minister for Local Government Musalia Mudavadi also the deputy prime minister who will also officially open the Municipal law courts. The Municipal Law Courts has been established to strengthen the implementation of the town by-laws. The council aims at uplifting the face of Eldoret which is home to International Athletes.

End...James Gitaka

Regional News

ICC to proceed with Bemba war crimes trial

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has agreed to pursue the war crimes trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba, Democratic Republic of Congo's ex-vice-president. An appeals panel at the court in The Hague rejected an appeal from his lawyers to dismiss the case. Bemba is accused of leading militias in neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR) in 2002 and 2003. The troops, which intervened in a power struggle in CAR, are accused of murdering and raping civilians. But

Bemba, 47, has argued that he was not in command of the militia after it crossed the border. Bemba was arrested in Belgium in 2008 and extradited to The Hague. He is the most high profile suspect so far to be brought before the ICC.

Ethiopia used aid to bribe voters - Human Rights Watch

Ethiopia's government has been denying foreign aid to opposition supporters, a Human Rights Watch report says. It urged donors to make sure their aid money was distributed transparently. Ethiopia is one of the world's largest recipient of development aid - in 2008 international donations to the country totaled \$3bn (£1.8bn).

Its government has not yet commented on the report but has rejected similar accusations in the past as "ridiculous and outrageous" Human Rights Watch says its findings are based on a six-month investigation last year.

Niger junta head Djibo sacks spy chief amid 'coup plot'

The military ruler in Niger has sacked his intelligence chief following the arrest of several junta members accused of plotting a coup.

No official reason has been given for the dismissal of Seyni Chekaraou but he is reportedly close to former deputy military leader Col Abdoulaye Badie.

Col Badie was one of those arrested last week. There are fears that the splits in the junta could threaten the transition to civilian rule. A referendum is due to be held later this month on a constitution that would reduce the power of future presidents, with elections scheduled for January.

Global News

Attack on Chechen parliament in Grozny leaves six dead

Six people were killed and 10 others injured when at least three militants stormed parliament in the restive Russian republic of Chechnya. Shouting Islamist slogans, they launched a bomb and gun attack as deputies arrived for work, and two guards and an official were killed. All of the attackers were killed, according to Ramzan Kadyrov, Chechnya's Kremlin-backed president. Deputies inside the building managed to escape by moving to an upper floor.

The attack was condemned by the EU foreign policy chief, Baroness Ashton, who was quoted by AFP news agency as saying: "No circumstances can justify the use of terrorist violence and suicide attacks."

New Zealand's Christchurch hit by powerful tremor

The New Zealand city of Christchurch has been shaken by a strong earthquake, six weeks after a more powerful tremor caused extensive damage. The 5.0-magnitude tremor cut power and telephone services, and some residents fled into the streets, reports said. The earthquake hit at about 1130 local time (2230 GMT on Monday).

Christchurch, on South Island, is still recovering from the damage caused by a 7.1-magnitude quake on 4 September, although nobody was killed. The quake on Tuesday struck around 10km (six miles) south-west of the city and its epicenter was 9km (five miles) below the ground, the country's geological agency GNS Science said. The city has been shaken by many aftershocks since last month's earthquake destroyed buildings and roads. Some of Christchurch's most

historic buildings were damaged beyond repair

BP links staff bonuses to safety performance

BP's new boss Bob Dudley has told the company's 80,000 employees that safety will be the sole measure for bonus payments in the fourth quarter. Dudley said in an email that payments would be linked to "reducing operational risks" and "excellent safety and compliance standards". He added that existing bonus arrangements would be honored for the first nine months of the year.

BP is struggling to repair its image following the Gulf oil spill disaster. A spokesman for BP said the majority of staff usually received bonuses, although there was a big disparity in the amount paid. Dudley took up his new post earlier this month after his predecessor Tony Hayward stepped down amid heavy criticism of his handling of the oil spill. The total bill for fighting the spill and compensating victims currently stands at about \$11.2bn (£7bn).

Booker author Rohinton Mistry in Mumbai university row

Celebrated Indian-born author Rohinton Mistry has strongly objected to his book being dropped from the Mumbai University curriculum. Such a Long Journey was withdrawn after the nationalist Shiv Sena party staged protests against its "derogatory" references to party members. Mistry labeled the move "a sorry spectacle of book-burning".

The novel - shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1991 - was on the university's second-year Bachelor of Arts syllabus. A Shiv Sena official met the university's vice-chancellor and objected to the book, which was removed from the syllabus last month.

Many in the arts community - including noted documentary film-maker Anand Patwardhan - have strongly objected to the move which they say was implemented too hastily under the university's "emergency provision" rules.

Mexico forces seize huge marijuana haul in Tijuana

Mexican security forces have seized 105 tones of marijuana with a street value of at least \$340m (£214m) - the biggest such haul in the country in years. Heavily armed troops and police raided several homes in the city of Tijuana, on the border with the US, exchanging gunfire with suspected traffickers. The marijuana was found wrapped in some 10,000 packages. Drug gangs are increasingly producing marijuana in Mexico, rather than smuggling the drug from South America.

The operation began after municipal police came under fire from gunmen in a convoy of vehicles as they were on patrol in Tijuana, which lies just across the border from San Diego, California. One officer and one suspect were injured in the exchange of fire.

Sports News

GFC 105 tops North Rift super league

In the North Rift super league standings top and bottom three, GFC105 tops the league with 32 points after playing 14 matches , Kapsabet United falls second with 28 points for 14 matches while Fish United is third with 27 points for 15 matches. At 10th position is Gardens united holding 13 points after playing 12 matches while Chelsea FC which has played same matches has 11 points at 11th position with Sitori FC trailing the list with no match played.

In the North Rift ongoing matches, Kapsowar United will host Chelsea FC tomorrow, Kapsabet All Stars and Kapsabet United will lock horns at Kipchoge Stadium Kapsabet, and Gardens United will face Kapchorwa FC while GFC105 will be playing Huruma United. On Sunday Huruma United and Kapsabet All Stars will be at Huruma grounds while Chelsea FC meets Iten United at Iten grounds. At the same day Elgon View will face Kapsabet United as Gardens United plays against Kapsowar.

End...Stanley Magut.

Rooney wants to leave-Ferguson

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson confirmed Tuesday that star striker Wayne Rooney has said he wants to leave the club. Speculation about Rooney's future at the club has raged for days after

Ferguson dropped the 24-year-old England international for last Saturday's Premier League clash with West Bromwich Albion. It came just days after Rooney publicly contradicted Ferguson's claims that he was suffering from an ankle injury by telling reporters he was fully fit.

Ferguson finally broke his silence on the saga at a press conference on Tuesday, confirming that Rooney had requested to leave Old Trafford but denying any argument with the player. A shell shocked Ferguson said he had first been made aware of Rooney's desire to leave before the start of the new season when informed by United chief executive David Gill.

Cosafa cup postponed

The Council of Southern African Football Associations (Cosafa) has postponed the 2010 Cosafa Senior Challenge until next year. The annual competition was scheduled to take place in Angola between 13-17 November. The postponement is due to what Cosafa calls the failure of the

Angolan government to honor their earlier commitment to stage the event. Angola hosted the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations. Patel went on to say the event will be held next year in another country. Fifteen countries make up Cosafa and Zimbabwe is the current holder of the Cosafa Senior Challenge title after they beat Zambia 3-1 on home soil in the 2009 final. The competition has been staged in each of the last 13 years, starting with the inaugural event in 1997. 2010 is the first time since the inauguration of the tournament that it will not be staged.

Bradford sign Leeds hooker Diskin

Bradford Bulls have made their ninth signing for next rugby season by bringing in long-serving Leeds hooker Matt Diskin. One-club man Diskin, 28, has seen his opportunities over the last 12 months limited because of the arrival of Australian Danny Buderus in 2009. And he has now chosen to take up the option of a three-year deal at Odsal.

Potter does not take up office at Odsal until 15 November after seeing out his contract with St Helens, who he guided to two consecutive Grand Finals. But the Bulls have already signed nine new players as they bid to turn things round after missing the Super League play-offs for the second successive season.

England bid for 2014 World Cups

The England Hockey Board has joined forces with boxing promoter Frank Warren to table a bid to host the 2014 men's and women's Hockey World Cups. If successful, it will be the first

international event to be held at a legacy facility at the Olympic Park following the 2012 London Games. It would also be only the second time the men's and women's tournaments had been held simultaneously. The bid has the financial backing of UK Sport and Events for London, who will inject £980,000 and £500,000 respectively should it prove successful.

A successful bid would see Warren, who is Britain's most high-profile boxing promoter; lead the promotion and ticketing for the World Cups. England last hosted a World Cup in 1986, when the men's tournament was held in Willesden, north-west London. England finished second, their best performance.

Business News

Kenya urged to borrow leaf from Singapore

The government should give a chance to professionals to run technical projects that will see the country achieve its economic blueprint, Vision 2030. Speaking during a forum following the ministry of public works officials' trip to Singapore permanent secretary John Lonyangapuo emphasized on the need for the improvement of infrastructure and tax incentives to enable the country see increased foreign investment.

Both Kenya and Singapore gained independence in early 1960s from their British colonial masters but five decades later the difference in development is colossal with Kenya classified as a third world country while Singapore is in the first world category. It is these similarities and contrasts that have seen both governments sign agreements to assist Kenya gain valuable economic lessons from its peer.

Among the reasons forwarded for the slow development in Kenya over the years is the lack of a shared vision and politicians being given the task of implementing projects, a job that should be left to professionals? Lonyangapuo stressed on the need to attract foreign direct investment that has contributed to Singapore's economic success.

Diaspora remittances to Kenya on the rise

About 2.6 million Kenyans or 14 percent of the adult population regularly receive an average of Sh60, 000 a year from their relatives residing abroad. A new survey by the World Bank indicates that the money is remitted in seven transactions in a year through banks and other money transfer companies such as Money gram and Western Union although some of it is sent through informal channels.

The study involved 2,423 recipients, 35 percent of whom said they received money from their relatives in USA; 25 percent from Europe, 12 percent from Asia and the Middle East and the remainder from Africa. The lowering of communication costs in the country which makes it easier for Kenyans to communicate with those in the Diaspora has played a major role in facilitating the remittance process, the study further discovered.

According to the findings, the inflows benefit an average of four other family members or relatives while an estimated 20 to 30 percent is invested either in small businesses, education or saved with the various financial institutions.

Family Bank enlists strategic partner

Family Bank has entered into a partnership with a strategic investor in a move that is set to enhance its competitiveness in the industry. The new investor Afric Invest, is set to inject one billion shillings into the bank to shore up its core capital and give it financial muscle to expand its product offering and increase its market share.

Making the announcement, Family Bank Chairman Titus Muya said Africa Invest will take up two seats in Family Bank's board and it is expected to offer additional concessionary loans, management expertise and shore up its corporate governance standards. Africa Invest is a Pan African private equity fund manager set up as a joint venture between the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) and Norway's Nor fund.

The new strategic partner is said to have bought a stake in Family Bank although it was not clear what percentage. With new partners on board, Family Bank's core capital rose to Sh3 billion while assets under management shot up to Sh17 billion.