

Local News 1st September 2010

President Kibaki appeals to the international community

President Mwai Kibaki has appealed to the international community to appreciate the delicate situation of Sudan and act proactively instead of isolating the people of Sudan. Addressing the 14th COMESA summit of Heads of State and Government which opened on Tuesday at Lozitha in Swaziland, President Kibaki emphasized that the people of Sudan should be encouraged to play their rightful role in the community of nations.

Noting that the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is at a critical stage, the President also called on all COMESA member states to support and encourage the people of Sudan to resolve the outstanding issues in the CPA amicably as they prepare to hold a referendum in January next year. The Head of State, however, applauded the Sudan leaders for agreeing to work together for a peaceful and prosperous country, saying so far positive achievements have been realized, most notably being the recent general elections. On volatile peace and security in the Horn of Africa, President Kibaki urged COMESA members to play a more active role in support of AU and IGAD's efforts to restore peace in Somalia.

UN Agency Hails Move to Protect African Folklore and Traditional Knowledge

The United Nations agency charged with protecting intellectual property worldwide has welcomed the adoption by a number of African States of a new legal instrument that seeks to protect the continent's traditional knowledge and folklore. The instrument, adopted earlier this month in Swakopmund, Namibia, by member states of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), is designed to preserve and protect the use of Africa's diverse knowledge systems and cultures for the continent's sustainable development.

It will enter into force following ratification by six ARIPO member states. Developed by African experts over a six-year period, the Swakopmund Protocol is a response to the misappropriation and misuse of the continent's traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Govt to Conduct Census for Kenyans With Albinism

The Government has heeded to a request by persons with albinism in Kenya and plans to conduct a national survey to determine their current population. Planning Minister Wycliffe Oparanya said on Tuesday the Ministry was unable to include a special code for the albinos in the just concluded national population and Housing survey as their petition had come late. The census results do not therefore include figures to show their current number. But Oparanya told Parliament the Ministry has taken note of their concerns and was planning to have a special census using the provincial administration.

The albinos through the Albinism Society in Kenya had petitioned the Government on several issues including the national census which they said would help in proper planning of their needs. The parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunities has recently questioned the State's commitment to the protection of albinos and urged the Government to commission a national

headcount of people with albinism to determine their exact population.

Business News

Interest Rates on Government Bonds on the Rise Again

Interest rates on government securities, which have been on a downward trend, have edged upwards following the conclusion of the Sh31.6 billion infrastructure bond. In a move that points towards a possible shift of the yield curve in the coming weeks, most of the Treasury bonds have seen their returns rise as investors seek to reverse a year-long slide. With a shift in the curve, it could herald increase of interest rates. Of the 61 listed bonds, 36 reported an increase in yield in the week ending Friday August 26, as the result of the new bond which attracted 7.293 per cent rate against the offered coupon of six per cent. It had an average maturity of 7.25 years. With inflation at 3.6 per cent, all the Treasury bills maturities have lately been below inflation including the 364-day paper.

Global News

Tony Blair book describes Gordon Brown as 'difficult'

Tony Blair has described Gordon Brown as "difficult, at times maddening" in his long-awaited memoirs, which are published on Wednesday. The former prime minister added it would have been "well nigh impossible" to stop Brown taking over when he resigned in 2007. Blair also said he was "sorry for the lives cut short" by the Iraq War, but did not regret the 2003 invasion. The book, entitled A Journey, has taken three years to write. It will focus on his time in Downing Street, also touching on issues such as the Iraq war.

Asylum seekers stage breakout protest in Australia

Around 70 asylum seekers have broken out of a detention centre in the Australian city of Darwin to stage a protest. Police are negotiating with the detainees to return to the compound. The refugees, whom the police believe to be mostly Afghans, unfurled bed sheets with messages asking for help and mercy. The breakout follows two days of protest by more than 100 Indonesians at the same facility.

The protesters told Australian media that they were angry at the time it is taking for their cases to be processed. Some said they had recently been told that they did not qualify for refugee status in Australia.

Chile mine owners ask for forgiveness after collapse

The owners of the Chile mine which collapsed, leaving 33 workers trapped, have apologised to miners and their families. CEO of the San Esteban mining group, Alejandro Bohn, said he "must ask forgiveness" for the "pain" caused. Drilling work to rescue the miners has begun, but

officials believe it could take three to four months. A team of Nasa experts advised officials to be honest with the miners and not to give them "false hopes".

The miners, who are 700m (2,300ft) underground, have been told it could take a long time to get them out of the San Jose mine, but have not been given dates.

Obama hails end to US combat operations in Iraq

President Obama has hailed the end of US combat operations in Iraq, saying the US has paid a "a huge price" to "put Iraq's future in its peoples' hands". In a speech delivered in a rare Oval Office address, he said he was "awed" by the sacrifice of the US military. But he said America's "most urgent task" was now to "restore our economy". He said the US would continue to support Iraq's government and people.

Four Israelis shot dead near West Bank settlement

Four Israelis have been shot dead in the West Bank, Israeli police say. Their vehicle came under fire on a road between the settlement of Kiryat Arba and the Palestinian village of Bani Naim, near the city of Hebron. The military wing of the Palestinian Islamist movement, Hamas, said it had carried out the "heroic operation". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it showed there should be "no compromise" on Israeli security demands at the relaunched direct peace talks. Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad also condemned the attack, saying it went "against Palestinian interests".

Yemeni flight pair 'not planning attack', cautions US

US officials have said they do not believe two Yemeni men arrested in Amsterdam after flying from Chicago were planning a terror attack. The men were detained at Schiphol airport after they were found to have checked luggage onto a US internal flight but not boarded it. Airport authorities had earlier found "suspicious items" in one of the men's luggage but had cleared it to fly. The two men are being held by the Dutch authorities. They are being held "on suspicion of a conspiracy to a terrorist criminal act". The Dutch authorities have until Thursday to charge or release them.

Sports News

England drop Pietersen from squad

Kevin Pietersen has been omitted from England's limited overs series against Pakistan, which begins on Friday. Pietersen revealed the news on his Twitter page, which contained an expletive and was hastily deleted. The England and Wales Cricket Board later confirmed the story and that the 30-year-old batsman would play for Surrey for the remainder of the season. England play

Twenty20 internationals against Pakistan on Sunday and Tuesday, followed by five 50-over international matches from 10-22 September. Surrey's Steven Davies, 24, has been named as wicketkeeper for both the Twenty20 and one-day international matches.

Spurs wait on Van der Vaart deal

The Premier League is looking at Tottenham's deadline-day £8m transfer for Real Madrid midfielder Rafael Van der Vaart. Spurs moved for the 27-year-old Dutch international only two hours before the transfer window closed at 1800 BST. But the Premier League is examining the circumstances around the switch and a decision is expected later today. Spurs boss Harry Redknapp claimed Van der Vaart had been set to join Bayern Munich for £18m but the deal collapsed.

Van der Vaart helped Netherlands reach this summer's World Cup final, which Spain won 1-0, but has struggled to establish himself at Real since signing from Hamburg two years ago.

Sunderland pay £13m to sign Gyan

Sunderland have broken their transfer record to sign striker Asamoah Gyan from Rennes for a fee "in excess of £13m" according to the English club. The 24-year-old forward, who scored three times for Ghana at the World Cup, has signed a four-year deal. The Ghanaian could make his debut against Wigan on 11 September. Gyan's arrival comes on the day it was announced that striker Fraizer Campbell will be out for at least six months after rupturing cruciate ligaments. Sunderland boss Steve Bruce was delighted to have completed the Asamoah deal.

Tour legend Fignon dies aged 50

Two-time Tour de France winner Laurent Fignon has died at the age of 50 following a battle with cancer. The Frenchman won the Tour in 1983 and 1984 and was second in 1989 when he lost by eight seconds, the smallest margin in the history of the race. Fignon achieved 76 victories in his career, winning the Milan-San Remo twice and the Giro d'Italia in 1989. He announced in June 2009 that he had advanced cancer of the digestive system and was undergoing chemotherapy.

As a consultant with the France 2 television channel, he was present at the 2010 Tour despite his illness. He passed away at the Pitie-Salpetriere hospital in Paris and his wife, Valerie Fignon, announced his death through a hospital statement on Tuesday.

Ferreira quits international game

Chelsea's Portuguese full-back Paulo Ferreira has announced his retirement from international football. The 31-year-old told the Portuguese Football Federation it was a move he had taken "after deep reflection" and was motivated by "personal reasons". Right-back Ferreira won the first of his 62 caps for his country against England in September 2002. His decision to quit international duty follows that of Atletico Madrid winger Simao last week. Ferreira arrived at

Stamford Bridge in 2004 when he was reunited with his former coach at Porto, Jose Mourinho, who paid a then-British record fee for a full-back of £13.2m.

Japan's Abe seals Leicester deal

Leicester have completed the signing of Japan defensive midfielder Yuki Abe after he was granted a work permit. The 28-year-old, who has 49 caps for Japan, has joined the Championship side from J-League team Urawa Reds. A statement on the club's website confirmed: "Leicester have signed Yuki Abe from Urawa Reds as manager Paulo Sousa continues to bolster his squad." Abe could make his debut in Leicester's first match after the international break at Coventry on 11 September.

Bumper entry for Kisumu

Thirty two teams head to Kisumu this weekend for the Dala Sevens that is being staged at the Kisumu Polytechnic. Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) development officer Fred Ollows said that the growth in the number of teams is meant to capitalize on the growth of the oval ball game. Star studded Mwamba are top seeds for the third leg of the National Sevens Circuit and have been handed an easy passage through the group stages where they face Nakuru Mtaa and Daystar University.

Christie Sevens champions Kenya Harlequins hope to bounce back in the lakeside town when they line up against Kenya College of Accountancy (KCA), Eldoret Flames and Kisii. Last week's main cup semi finalists are also expected to go far in the main cup competition after being drawn in Pool C with Webuye, Mku and Molo RFC. Defending champions Strathmore University are still trying to pick up the pieces of a disappointing campaign. Despite clinching the plate in Nakuru, Mitch Ocholla's will be eager to make good against Pool E rivals Mombasa, Egerton and Law School. Nakuru who since the circuit's inception have been the perennial bridesmaids to the overall title face a Western Kenya triumvirate of Kitale, Eldoret and Bungoma in Pool D. Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) faces Nondies, Oryx and Kenya Polytechnic.

Loroupe hails athletes

Legendary Kenya athlete Tegla Loroupe believes recognition from the government is one of the reasons why Kenyan athletes have done well this season. The peace ambassador said on Tuesday that monetary rewards and national honours go along way to embolden Kenya's sportsmen and women who achieve amazing feats on global sports arenas. Loroupe said that the profile of sports needs to be enhanced so that Kenyans can appreciate the value of their heroes.

Loroupe is in the throes of organizing her annual peace and cultural show which will be known as the 'The Great Turkwel Race & Cultural Beauty Show which will be held on September 25. The race has been transformed from a social to a fundraising event, open to both individuals and

the corporate world, to experience the North Rift by participating in the fun and contributing to the improvement of the area's living conditions. Since the event's inception in 2006, Loroupe is satisfied with how it has forged harmony amongst the different communities in North Western Kenya.