

## **LOCAL NEWS September 21, 2010**

### **Women mark the international peace day**

As a way of marking the international peace day, women in Uasin Gishu County gathered at 64 stadium in Eldoret to celebrate the return of peace in the area after the post election violence.

The over 100 women vowed to empower both the youth and old men in championing for peaceful coexistence in the region. According to Mary Chepkwony who is the chairlady of Rural Women Peace Link, an organization formed during the post election violence to preach peace in 14 districts in the North Rift region, women bear the huge responsibility of fostering peace and integration.

Chepkwony added that there is need for women to be empowered on the gains that are in the new constitution noting that many women were traumatized during the post poll violence period. Meanwhile, the organization's team leader Celine Korir challenged the youth to elect competent leaders with the technical know-how who will be able to address their issues from the county's position. Kirir said the county's wealth will come about not thorough politics but through effective service delivery, emphasizing that residents must not allow anyone to impose leaders on them.

*ENDS...Caro Koech*

### **Int'l court to launch cases in Kenya violence**

The prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, says he will launch cases against as many as six suspected instigators of post election violence in Kenya that left more than 1,000 people dead in 2007-08. Luis Moreno Ocampo says in a statement he will present two separate cases to judges before the end of the year charging between four and six people he believes "bear the greatest responsibility for the most serious crimes." Tuesday's statement did not mention the names of any potential suspects or give more detail on when Moreno Ocampo would file the cases to judges at the court, who would have to authorize any arrest warrants.

Kenya asked the court to help investigate the violence, but its commitment to cooperate with the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal was called into question last month when the country refused to arrest Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir during a visit. Al-Bashir has been indicted for genocide for allegedly masterminding atrocities in Sudan's Darfur region. Moreno Ocampo underscored in his statement that both Kenya's president and prime minister - political rivals in the disputed election that led to the violence - have publicly expressed support for his investigation.

### **Kenya polls body seeks more powers**

The Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) wants direct powers to disqualify candidates engaged in vote buying and bribery. IIEC Chairman Issack Hassan Tuesday admitted that the malpractice was common in by-elections and had remained one of the commission's biggest challenges. Hassan said the commission was hoping the new Elections Bill would help address the perennial vice once and for all. He said the commission had learnt crucial lessons from the by-elections and the August 4 referendum, which would help it in drawing recommendations on the pending electoral law.

According to the new Constitution, the Bill is one of the urgent legislations that need to be debated and

passed by Parliament within a year after the effective date. It seeks to consolidate the various laws governing elections into one.

### **Youth applauded for maintaining peace**

As the world marks international day of peace, youth have been lauded for maintaining peace especially in the just concluded referendum and the by-elections in Kenya. Speaking Tuesday, Ministry of Youth affairs and sports Eldoret West district officer Jacob Chepkwony said that unlike in the past when the youth had been ill advised by politicians to cause chaos the ministry sensitization efforts have bore fruits. Chepkwony added that youth have gained knowledge on democracy and self reliance prompting them to avoid being bribed to cause mayhem in the elections.

At the same time, he was optimistic that Kenyan elections will never be marred by chaos since people have learnt the importance of voting basing on principals and integrity and not electing an individual. He said that this was significance in economic developments yet to be achieved if their talents will be tapped for economic purposes.

*Ends.....Stanley Magut.*

### **Kenyan minister rebuked for telling off ICC**

Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Minister, Mutula Kilonzo, is under siege following his remarks on the International Criminal Court (ICC), with several lobby groups terming the remarks reckless and betrayal of Kenya's commitment to end human rights abuse. Barely two weeks after signing an agreement allowing the ICC unfettered investigations, the minister reneged by telling ICC Prosecutor Louis Moreno- Ocampo to quit the country for good.

The move has earned him a strong rebuke from several quarters, including International Centre for Policy and Conflict Executive Director, Wainaina Ndungu, Kenya National Human Rights Commissioner Hassan Omar, Law Society of Kenya's Apollo Mboya, Nominated Member of Parliament George Nyamweya, and renown lawyer Gibson Kamau Kuria. The ministers was quoted in the media as saying that with the passage of new the constitution, Kenya now has strong structures and mechanism to punish violence culprits. Kilonzo is reported to have said Kenya police and judiciary have sufficient capacity to deal with suspects responsible for the chaos that followed the controversial 2007 general elections.

The ICC wants those suspected to have planned and executed the post-poll violence after the December 2007 presidential elections arrested, prosecuted and charged to end what it called impunity. The violence left 1,300 people dead and 350,000 displaced.

### **Stop domestic violence, society told**

Reports indicate that cases of domestic violence are on the rise and children bear the big burden of having to deal with the consequences of this vice. To mark the international peace day, Eldoret South Member of Parliament Peris Simam held a workshop with her constituents in Eldoret aimed at empowering them on how to address cases of domestic violence at the grass root level. Simam said when these issues are addressed a perfect environment will be created which will foster economic development among many other developmental projects in the area.

She is therefore challenging women to be pillars of peace in the community. On the other hand the Eldoret South Member of Parliament called on men who are affected by domestic violence to speak out irrespective of their small percentage. She said that as much as human rights are adversely addressed in the new constitution people need to change their attitude adding that they need to be empowered on the new laws. Currently figure of men being abused stands at 3% compared to 49% of women

*Ends...Caro Koech*

### **Political fortunes change after by election**

Former MP Dick Wathika has announced his retirement from politics as he conceded defeat in Monday's poll won by Mike Kioko aka Sonko. Sonko tipped the scales in Makadara with a surprise win against heavyweights Reuben Ndolo and Wathika himself an immediate former MP.

Meanwhile, Narc Kenya Chairperson Martha Karua has expressed satisfaction at the winning trend set by her party in Juja and Makadara by elections.

She says this is an indication of how the party is going to perform at the general elections in the year 2012. Saying the win served to show Narc Kenya's popularity, Karua explained that the party still won despite facing contenders who used a lot of money and material possession in the by election. Kabogo who bounced back as Juja MP said Narc Kenya was now the party to watch after it carried the day in Makadara and Juja in the mini poll. He said that this was an indication that the party enjoyed support from Kenyans having taken the Juja and Makadara seats.

*End...Pat Ojwang*

### **ICC set to meet victims**

Officers from the International Criminal Court department of victims participating in reparation section VPRS are to arrive in the country next week in readiness for investigations. The officials will be establishing contact with victims by linking them with the court registry. However the Executive director, Eldoret Centre for Human Rights and Democracy Ken Wafula feels that the officers should go to the grassroots if they are to meet genuine victims unlike in the past. He says the centre will help mobilize what he terms the real victims in case they are contacted.

Among the areas he wants them visit include Eldoret, Nakuru and Kericho. Barely a month ago, an official from the ICC was in the country and stated that they would set up a liaison office in Nairobi to help during the investigations.

*Ends...Carolyne Koech*

### **Regional News**

#### **Somalia's Prime Minister Sharmarke resigns**

Somalia's Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke has resigned amid a power struggle with the country's president. President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed's UN-backed government is battling Islamist group al-Shabab for control of Mogadishu. Sharmarke has been under intense pressure to resign for some months. In May, he rejected as unconstitutional a vote by parliament, calling for him to stand down. The two leaders disagree over a new draft constitution. A vote of confidence in the prime minister had been due to take place at the weekend but was postponed.

### **Zimbabwe PM Tsvangirai anger over violence**

Zimbabwe's prime minister has warned he may boycott elections due next year if campaigning turns violent. Morgan Tsvangirai made the comments after at least five people were injured when stones were thrown at political gatherings in the capital on Sunday. The meetings were to discuss the planned reform of the constitution. Tsvangirai, who joined a unity government last year, said the attackers had been hired to prevent people from expressing their opinions.

His Movement for Democratic Change party agreed to share power with President Robert Mugabe's Zanu-PF after elections in 2007 which were marred by violent attacks on MDC supporters. Under their coalition deal, the longtime rivals agreed to draw up a new constitution followed by a referendum and then fresh elections.

### **Global News**

#### **Japan warns China against 'extreme nationalism'**

Japan has warned China that both nations must avoid stirring up "extreme nationalism" in their ongoing row over the detention of a Chinese sea captain. The Japanese government said it wanted to use all possible channels to avoid any further escalation. China says it has suspended senior government-level contact with Japan. It has demanded the immediate release of the skipper, being held over a collision between his boat and Japanese patrol vessels in disputed waters.

#### **Delhi Games village 'unfit for athletes'**

The Commonwealth Games Federation head has demanded the Indian government take immediate steps to improve conditions at the athletes' village in Delhi. Team delegates have described the accommodation as filthy, unhygienic and unfit for human habitation. But organisers of the event, which runs from 3 to 14 October, said the facilities would be excellent.

Meanwhile, police said 23 labourers were injured as a bridge being built near the main Games venue collapsed. It is the latest setback to an event plagued by construction delays, allegations of corruption and a dengue fever outbreak in the Indian capital.

New Zealand, Scotland, Canada and Northern Ireland have demanded their teams be put up in hotels if their accommodation is not ready. Michael Fennell, the Commonwealth Games Federation president, said he had written to the Indian cabinet secretary urging immediate action.

He said "many issues remain unresolved" and the athletes' village was "seriously compromised".

Although team officials had been impressed with the international zone and main dining area, he continued, they had been "shocked" by the state of the accommodation itself. Indian media is reporting that only 18 of 34 residential towers at the village are complete. Two days before the village officially opens to the first of 7,000 athletes and officials, New Zealand chef de mission Dave Currie suggested the Games might even be cancelled.

### **Sports News**

#### **Cullen in Sevens squad**

The worst kept secret in Kenya rugby is finally out with Grey Cullen the notable inclusion in the national sevens squad for next month's Commonwealth Games. Cullen forced his way into the side on the back of

strong performances for Shujaa in the Middlesex and Castle Sevens in Zambia where he captained the side. Veteran Innocent Simiyu has been dropped to the non traveling reserves bench alongside his brother Victor Sudi and Ben Nyambu.

Wilson Kopondo and Andrew Amonde made the cut after being on the fringes of the squad last season while Leon Adongo has been rewarded for a strong showing in the closing stages of Kenya's campaign in the 2009-2010 International Rugby Board (IRB) Sevens Series. Kenya clinched the bowl title in Melbourne four years ago after a 26-12 win over Tonga. Humphrey Kayange and company have been drawn in Pool A with defending IRB Series champions Samoa, Uganda and Papua New Guinea. The former Kenya captain thinks the absence of legendary Samoa playmaker Uale Mai will do little to dampen the potency of the Pacific Islanders. The team departs for India on October 4.

### **Bridge collapses at games arena**

A footbridge under construction at the main stadium for the Delhi Commonwealth Games collapsed on Tuesday, injuring up to six labourers, police have said. The structure, a steel arch supporting an approximately 50 metres (164 feet) footbridge, fell down just outside the main Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium which will host the opening ceremony and athletics when the showpiece event begins on October 3.

It was being built to link the parking lot with the stadium. Police had sealed off the area. The elevated footbridge collapsed onto the car park tarmac below, while the steel supporting arch was still standing. Construction work for the games, expected to draw 7,000 athletes and officials to the Indian capital, has been severely delayed and doubts have been raised about the quality of the construction. India's chief anti-corruption body found a host of problems with construction work in a July investigation, including dubious contracts and the use of poor quality materials.

The chief technical examiner from the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) inspected 15 sites around the national capital and found a number of irregularities and suspect practices by contractors and public bodies. The collapse came as the Commonwealth Games Federation went public with complaints about the athletes' village, which was described as "filthy," "uninhabitable" and "not fit for humans" by participants and officials

### **Beckham has Trinidad & 2018 plan**

David Beckham is to launch a football festival in Trinidad and Tobago this weekend while trying to boost England's hopes of staging the 2018 World Cup. The former England captain's visit for an event run by his own academy coincides with the Under-17 Women's World Cup final in Port of Spain. Fifa president Sepp Blatter and vice-president Jack Warner are to attend. Warner holds one of the 24 votes on the Fifa executive committee, which names the 2018 and 2022 hosts in December. He heads the Concacaf organization and is a government minister in the Caribbean country.

Beckham made the commitment to visit Trinidad when he met Warner at the World Cup finals draw in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2009.

## **Business News**

### **Kenya to automate postal services**

The Postal Corporation of Kenya is considering automating its services to increase both volume and trust among its customers. Permanent Secretary in the ministry of information Dr Bitange Ndemo said the automation process and tracking of mail would ensure efficient sending and receiving of mail enabling the post office to compete with the private sector players. Statistics show that following the global economic meltdown there was a 15-20% decrease in mail volume compared to peak volumes before the crisis. In Kenya since the privatization of the sector in the 1990's when the corporation was a monopoly the service has faced intense competition from the private sector. And the only way for the post office to remain relevant according to the ministry of information is to automate.

According to Universal Postal Union director general Edouard Dayan the post office must use the Internet which is its greatest threat of survival. The 2010 Universal Postal Union strategy conference is set to kick off on Wednesday in Nairobi and is expected to take stock on what has been achieved since the Dubai conference in 2006.

### **Fresh effort to market Kenya abroad**

The Brand Kenya Board has entered into a partnership with the Kenya Overseas Business Alliance (KOBA) to promote the country as a top business and investment destination to citizens in the Diaspora and foreign investors. The Board's Chief Executive Officer Mary Kimonye said that through the partnership, they hope to achieve their mandate of improving Kenya's image, visibility and competitiveness both locally and internationally. The collaboration will see the two parties organise an expo next week in London which will among other things provide a platform for investors to network and establish business relationships.

KOBA Chairman Sam Ochieng' disclosed that they intend to use their wide reach to inspire other Kenyans living abroad to embrace and market Kenya in those countries. Present during the official launch of the collaboration was Finance Permanent Secretary Joseph Kinyua who expressed the government's commitment to eliminate barriers that many investors face when seeking to establish their operations in Kenya. Pointing to the amount of remittances that the government gets which is way above to what it receives from development partners, the PS particularly reinforced the importance of Kenyans in the Diaspora. Kenya has the highest number of African nationals living in the United Kingdom behind South Africa and Nigeria.

### **Kenyan insurer to double share capital**

CIC Insurance is set to double its current share capital from Sh600 million to Sh1.2 billion through a Rights Issue. This follows an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) that saw shareholders pass several resolutions, including an approval for the de-merger of the company's life and general lines of insurance business. The company's board is scheduled to meet and determine the price and the date of the rights issue. CIC Insurance share price is presently estimated to be in the region of Sh35 and Sh38.

The company's de-merger of life and general insurance business is part of safeguarding and consolidating its present successes by shielding each class of business from the "toxicity" of the other as learnt from the

experience of the global financial crisis.

### **TPS rights issue raises Sh1.6b**

Tourism Promotion Services (TPS) Eastern Africa Limited, the owner of Serena Hotels managed to collect Sh1.6billion from their Rights Issue where they sought to raise Sh1.18 billion, according to the figures from the issues' lead arrangers. The total number of shares that were taken up was 22.8 million valued at Sh1.1million against the 24.7 million shares on offer. The 1.7 million lapsed rights or shares that were not taken up during the issue were put on offer and an application for 10.4 million shares was received. At the discounted price of Sh48, this translated into Sh501.5 million bringing the total amount raised to Sh1.6 billion. Commenting on the transaction, Managing Director Mahmud Janmohamed said this was a good indication that the firm's growth plans were right on track.

### **Mozambique to register cellphone users**

Mozambique plans to register non-contract mobile phone users, weeks after an anonymous viral text message campaign fuelled riots that killed 14, independent media reported Tuesday. The new law would improve security for internet banking and prevent crime, communications minister Paulo Zucula told O Pais newspaper. The registration of non-contract clients was part of a communications strategy approved by the government in 2006, Americo Muchanga, director general of the Mozambican National Communications Institute, told the mediaFax newsheet.

Text message services were temporarily shut down earlier this month after the deadly riots which the government blamed on text messages urging protests against bread price increases by up to 22 percent. Only about a quarter of Mozambique's 20 million people have cell phones, most of whom non-contract users, and the number has been growing by about 50 percent a year since 2004, according to the UN's International Telecommunication Union.