

LOCAL NEWS 22 April 22, 2010

Roads, Health, youth factored in Eldoret municipal budget.

The Eldoret municipality has factored in its budget of 2010-2011 to do road maintenance boost the health sector and empower the youth. Eldoret Municipality has prepared a 599 million shillings budget of the year 2010- 2011 with half of the budgetary allocation going into the Education sector health sector and the maintenance of Roads. Eldoret municipal Town clerk Stansilus Ondimu told Fish FM that the council's budget will also benefit the youth and women by making them self reliant.

The 2010-2011 financial budget will also embark on a 10 million shillings street lighting excise within the Central business district and the estates as well as some of the slum areas in to enhance security. The Budget will proceed to the local government authority for approval and later in June the council will urge the public to give their views.

Findings of the Uwezo survey on education in Kenya.

Uwezo Kenya, an initiative that seeks to promote school literacy today released a study that paints a grim picture of literacy in Kenyan schools. Uwezo Kenya coordinator Joyce Kinyanjui says the findings of their study are aimed at initiating talking points among the education stakeholders and find solutions to the challenges arising.

Concern has been raised about the children who go to school in the North Eastern Province who happen to make up only 1.6 per cent of pupils aged 6-16 in private schools leaving the rest without schooling. The findings also suggest that 86 per cent of all children in Kenya attend public schools as 9 per cent are in private schools.

Between 5 and 7.4 per cent of children are out of school in the country. Uwezo Kenya is an East African Initiative that seeks to assess the ability of children between the age of 6-16 to read in English and Kiswahili and do mathematics based on class two level.

The fight on drug abuse to be intensified

Youth are the most affected group by cases of mental problems in Kenya. Speaking today in Eldoret during the mental health nurses 13th chapter annual scientific conference, Agnes Ngunjiri, the chairlady of mental health nurse's said this is because many young people engage in drug abuse.

Ngunjiri said it's time for the war on this vice to be intensified by educating young people on the dangers it poses to both their physical and mental health. She also called on parents to take time to guide and counsel their children and help them on how to deal with issues of stress.

Speaking at the same forum, national Director of nurses Evans Kiprotich said that they are working with the government to see that they employ more nurses to curb the nationwide shortage. The two days mental health nurses' 13th chapter annual scientific conference that began today in Eldoret ends (Friday) tomorrow.

The government receives crash report

The puzzle surrounding the unexplained KQ 507 crash in Douala Cameroon three years ago will soon be solved after the government received the accident report from Cameroon. According to a statement from Kenya airways CEO Titus Naikuni, the national carrier will comment on the report once it receives it from the government.

Kenya Airways Boeing 737-800 with over 100 passengers on board disappeared from the radar on the morning of May 6 2007. Its wreckage was to be discovered later in the remote village of Mbanga Pongo in Cameroon in what proved to be the hardest disaster to have hit the national carrier so far. The development is in accordance with Annex 13 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation where Kenya was accredited to the investigation through the Minister of Transport.

Naikuni says the airline expects the government to avail the report to them following which they will be in a position to comment on it in the next few days.

Regional News

SA investigates luxury rail crash

Brake failure is being investigated as the possible cause of a luxury train crash in South Africa which killed four people, a safety official says. The train derailed near the capital, Pretoria, on Wednesday with 55 tourists on board and 30 members of staff.

The victims were all female employees, one of whom was four months pregnant and went into labour at the scene, losing her baby. According to train owners Rovos Rail, seven people remain in hospital. Rovos Rail's Rohan Vos said one person remains in a critical condition.

Zimbabwe divided over Iran visit

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is due to arrive in Zimbabwe, despite protests by the MDC party of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. The MDC has called Ahmadinejad a "war-monger, a trampler of human rights [and] an executioner".

It has also expressed concern that the visit could affect an attempt to improve relations with the West. Ahmadinejad has been invited by President Robert Mugabe, who has been hit by Western sanctions.

Tsvangirai was due to visit Europe for talks this week on getting the sanctions lifted but his trip was hit by the volcanic ash flight ban. Ahmadinejad is due to open a trade fair in the second city Bulawayo on Friday, which the MDC compared to "inviting a mosquito to cure malaria".

Mystery rocket explodes in Jordan

A rocket has exploded near the southern Jordanian city of Aqaba, damaging a warehouse but causing no casualties. It was one of two fired early today morning which landed in Jordanian territory - the other fell harmlessly into the sea. There are conflicting reports as to where the rockets were launched.

Israeli military sources say they came from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, but both Egyptian and Jordanian officials denied they were fired from their countries. Israeli media reports say that the rockets were aimed at the Israeli town of Eilat. According to an unnamed Jordanian security official, both were Katyusha rockets.

US oil rig blaze survivors land

A boat carrying about 100 survivors of an explosion and fire on an off-shore drilling platform off the US coast has docked in Louisiana. A relative of one of those aboard told the Associated Press that the survivors were being examined by doctors before being reunited with their families.

The Deepwater Horizon rig, in the Gulf of Mexico, is still burning hours after the blast on Tuesday night. The US Coast Guard is still searching for at least 11 missing oil workers. Meanwhile, fire boats are still battling the blaze on the rig, which is reportedly tilting about 70 degrees and threatening to topple over.