

Local News 22nd May 2010.

Overnight rain floods, roads troubles residents

A heavy downpour witnessed overnight in Mombasa has turned most roads in the city into dams, and vehicles were literally swimming their way through, while pedestrians and commuters were stranded for long hours this morning.

Our reporter on the ground David Macharia says residents of Kiembeni, Bamburi, Ziwa la Ng'ombe and Mtopanga in Kisauni district are the worst hit, as sewerage systems in these areas have blocked, causing a blend of sewage and surface run-off to take over possession of the transport channels. Commuters using the Likoni Ferry channel are also suffering due to congestion.

The residents are now appealing to the Municipal council to unblock the drainage system to rid the roads of the mess, noting that it's also a health hazard. However, the council secretary Tabman Otieno earlier in the week appealed to private developers and residents to work with the council in cubing the establishment of improper housing, which he termed as the main cause of drainage hiccups.

End...David Macharia

PSV drivers in Eldoret complain of municipal council askaris harassment.

Public Service Vehicles drivers in Eldoret town have complained of the municipal council askaris disrupting their activities in the stages. The drivers and the conductors said that the council Askaris have been ordering them to produce their licenses, badges and even apprehending them whenever they don't wear uniforms a duty belonging to the traffic police.

They told Fish Fm that the move has impacted negatively on their work as many drivers are now quitting the job for the fear of being arrested. At the same time, they want the government to intervene and clearly point out the duties of the municipal council askaris.

EndStanley Magut.

Prime Minister Raila Odinga to visit Egypt, England, France and Norway

Prime Minister Raila Odinga will tonight be traveling out of the country on a three day tour to Egypt, England, France and Norway. In Egypt the Prime Minister will make consultations with President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr. Ahmed Nazif among other Egyptian leaders.

He will then proceed to Oslo in Norway where he will attend a conference of presidents and government officials on world climatic change after which the Prime minister will officially open engineering technological unified deal between Africa and England. He will finalize his trip in France by attending a conference which will be tackling issues that affect France and Africa.

Kenyan IDPs in dire situation

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) has raised concern with the government's failure to resettle Internally Displaced persons almost three years after the post election violence. The commission which blames lack of coordination between various line ministries concerned with the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons also says the disconnection between the ministries has been hindering the resettlement agenda. KNCHR's Collins Omondi says the government had so far been working at cross purpose and that time to resolve the matter was running out. Omondi also added that the presidential directive given last September to resettle all IDPs within two weeks was yet to be implemented six months down the line. He also said that the concerned ministries needed to start working within a clearly defined structure to prevent duplication of roles.

Agro biodiversity key to adaptation

Mechanisation, increased use of fertilisers, and the planting of hybrid seeds have underpinned huge increases in the world's agricultural output over the past 40 years. Biotechnology is the latest scheme, but agronomists warn that climate change could wipe out that progress unless farmers begin combining these with indigenous knowledge, this is according to Dr Frank Attere, the Special Assistant to the President of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). AGRA is an NGO working to achieve food security in Africa by promoting productive and sustainable agriculture among smallholder farmers.

The Alliance aims to do this by ensuring the availability of good seeds, the protection of healthy soils and better access to information, markets and financing, storage and transport. A paper released at one of the side events of the big biodiversity conference taking place in Nairobi, reveals that as fears rise over the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity, traditional agricultural and pastoralist communities worldwide are amongst those with the most resilient mechanisms to cope.

Kenyan Saccos urged to be prudent

The managements of local Savings and Credit Co-operatives (Saccos) have been urged to ensure that their institutions are financially sound and professionally run. Newly appointed Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority Chief Executive Officer Carilus Ademba said the regulator is now in place and would be keenly monitoring the operations of the sub-sector in an effort to safeguard the billions of shillings in investor funds.

The Regulatory Authority which was established by the Sacco Societies Act, 2008 with a view to license, regulate and monitor the operations of the deposit taking Saccos, became operational a few weeks ago and is expected to be enhanced by regulations which should be gazetted in the next one week. The Act was assented to in December 2008 but has not been operationalised until the beginning of this month when the CEO took office.

The sub-sector, which boasts Sh180 billion in savings and Sh200 billion in asset base, has been unregulated until now, a situation that saw many people join 'get rich quick' schemes in their thousands but also lost billions of shillings in the process.

Sports News

Arsenal secure signing of Chamakh

Arsenal have confirmed the signing of Morocco striker Marouane Chamakh on an unspecified long-term deal. The 26-year-old, who had been linked with the Gunners since last summer, is to join on a free transfer when his contract with Bordeaux expires. In February he revealed Liverpool, Tottenham and Arsenal had all been in touch with him about possible moves.

Although born and raised in France, Chamakh qualifies for Morocco through his parents. He was part of the Morocco side that reached the final of the 2004 Africa Cup of Nations and has scored 27 goals in 53 appearances for his country. Arsenal chief executive Ivan Gazidis added that he was "delighted" the north Londoners had beaten off much competition to sign Chamakh.

Algeria's Saadane stands alone

Algeria boss Rabah Saadane says he is representing 'all African coaches' as he prepares for the World Cup. Saadane is the only local coach in charge of an African team in South Africa.

The hosts are led by a Brazilian; Nigeria and Ivory Coast are coached by Swedes; a Frenchman is in charge of Cameroon and Ghana's coach is Serbian. Saadane was in charge the last time Algeria went to the World Cup, in 1986, and he is proud to have led the team to the finals - especially when so many of his counterparts are from overseas. But he was reluctant to criticise national FAs who sign up foreign coaches for major tournaments.