

Local News 23rd August 2010

A case against Ndile for holding illegal assembly to be mentioned Tuesday

A case in which former Kibwezi MP Kalembe Ndile is accused of holding illegal assembly failed to take place Monday at the Eldoret law courts. Senior resident magistrate Nathan Shiundu disqualified himself from presiding over the case after lawyers representing Ndile told him to step down and the case be referred to the chief magistrate for further directions. The Chief Magistrate C.J Mugo ordered that the accused appear before the court Tuesday 24th August 2010 at 11am for mention.

It is alleged that on 23rd July this year, Ndile alongside Benjamin Koros also present in court held an unlawful meeting at the Eldoret bus stage. Barely two weeks ago, Ndile appeared before a Nairobi High Court judge Justice Luka Kimaru where he was given a bond of 100,000 shillings to avoid being arrested. The Eldoret court had issued a warrant of arrest against him. Ndile was represented by lawyers Martin Nyamu and Nathan Tororei.

End...Carolyn Koech

Kenya seizes ivory, rhino horns

Two suspects have so far been arrested over Sunday's seizure of 317 pieces of raw elephant ivory weighing 2 tonnes and five rhino horns at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi. Investigations are continuing over the source and sender and recipient of the illegal cargo, which had been disguised as only avocado fruits. Most of the tusks seem to have been collected from natural deaths of about 150 elephants over the last 20 years with the latest likely to be six months old.

None of the tusks had the indelible ink used for marking government held stocks. DNA tests will be conducted to determine the tusks actual origin. The seizure and arrests was a joint operation involving the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Revenue Authority, Lusaka Agreement Task Force, the Kenya Police and the Trans-global Warehouse security personnel.

Kenyans must now revolutionise leadership

Renowned cleric Timothy Njoya has termed the new Constitution, which is set to be promulgated on Friday, as a gateway for the country's reform revolution. Rev Njoya said the new laws reflect a new dawn for the country but at the same time cautioned Kenyans to ensure they elect leaders of integrity so as not to compromise the authority of the new Constitution.

He argued that the new Constitution would only bear tangible results if Kenyans stopped accepting handouts from their leaders during election campaigns. Rev Njoya also challenged Parliament to demonstrate increased commitment to the reform agenda. He further called upon

the country's civil societies to help Kenyans vet all those vying for leadership positions.

Kenyan water firm under probe

The Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company is under probe. This follows the launch of investigations into its activities by the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC) following public complaints. The Assistant Director in charge of preventive services at the anti graft body, Prof Jane Onsongo said provision of water to city residents is an important utility service that should not be compromised. Speaking at the launch of the examination into the operations of the Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company at the Kenyatta International Conference Center (KICC) Monday, Onsongo said among the issues the anti-graft body will be investigating are irregularities in metering and billing systems, accounting, abuse of office and conflict of interest. The other areas are irregularities in human resource management, irregularities in procurement, bribery demands, malpractices in financial management and malpractices in procurement. She said the investigation that is supposed to take some 45 days to complete, will see KACC identify and profile corruption prone functional areas and define applicable mode of interventions through giving advise on how to seal them.

Kepsa calls for transparent vetting of Kenyan judges

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance wants the vetting of judges as contained in the new constitution to be free of political interference. In a consultative forum organized by the ministry of justice, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) said the vetting must be competitive and free from personal interests. KEPSA board member Evans Munare said that the private sector is calling for fairness in the vetting process of judiciary officials in order to come up with competent officials.

Speaking at the forum today, Justice Minister Mutula Kilonzo said the constitution implementation is faced with various challenges that will need proper consultation from various sectors including the private sector. The promulgation of the new document will see the enactment of some laws such as that of vetting of public officials, the electoral law, the Judicial Service Commission and the Supreme Court

Kenyan Trade Union back new Kenya Constitution

The Central Organization of Trade Union (COTU) says the proposed constitution has adequately addressed the issues of workers in the country. The Union says that for the first time workers would be allowed to hold demonstrations without any confrontations from security officers as witnessed in the past. David Macharia reports, Speaking at the start of a four day sub-regional organization workshop for trade union from East Africa in Nairobi, COTU Assistant Secretary General Benson Okwaro called on workers to be vigilant on the implementation process of the new law.

He also cautioned the politicians not to divert the public interest in favor of their political

interest. He further added that the impact on working people and vulnerable groups all in the name of economic globalization calls for urgent and immediate concerted actions within the trade union movements. The conference set to end this Thursday and will be looking at the challenges East African countries have been facing with respect to unions over the past years

Kenyans urged to emulate the late Wamalwa's patriotism

President Mwai Kibaki has paid glowing tribute to the late former Vice-President Michael Kijana Wamalwa and called on Kenyans to emulate his patriotism. As the country commemorates the 7th anniversary since the death of the former Vice-President, President Kibaki recalled that the late Wamalwa played a frontline role in the struggle for reforms in the country, adding that Kenyans shall forever be grateful to the contribution of the great patriot and gentleman. Melkizedek Mbwanga with the details, President Kibaki noted that constitutional reforms were particularly dear to the late Wamalwa who believed they would open a new chapter of freedom, development and prosperity for the country. As the country embarks on the second leg of implementing the constitution, President Kibaki appealed to Kenyans to remember the words of the late Wamalwa that although Kenyans are of many tribes, many religions and many cultures, that is not a weakness but the strength of this republic. The Head of State further recalled the late Wamalwa's assertion that the constitution is the defender of the weak, the protector of the mighty and the not so mighty, and the modern defender of the faiths. The President, therefore, urged Kenyans to remain steadfast so that the dream of a new constitution that many of the Kenyan people have fought for can be realized.

Cattle raiders kill one in Kenyan Village

One person was killed and a 15 year old boy seriously injured after a dawn attack in Kawap village in Samburu North. The raiders who are said to be over 60 ambushed the unknowing villagers and made away with over 500 cattle. The local leaders have condemned the incident saying it is time the communities embraced peace and did away with the retrogressive practice.

According to the Area police boss Hesborn Kadenge, the cattle rustlers armed with sophisticated weapons over powered the local police reservists who were stationed at the village. Kadenge added that security officers from regular and administration units have been deployed to the area to pursue the attackers. About 78 households have been left with no source of livelihood and the Kenya Red Cross Society says they are tasked to respond to the situation.

Two Kenyans honoured with Dag Hammarskjold Medal

Two Kenyans have been posthumously honoured by the United Nations Secretary-General for diligent service. The families of the late Nivah Odwor and Milkah Malenya, led by Hon. Fred Gumo, were presented with the medals by Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetang'ula. Hon. Wetang'ula was representing the UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon. We now join Jimmy

Kitiro with the details, Ms. Odwor, a Kenyan and UN Volunteer since July 2009, worked for the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until she met her death at the hands of the massive earthquake which rocked the country in January this year. Earlier in her career, the late Ms. Oduor was a volunteer with the Kenya Red Cross Society in Nairobi, before she went on to serve in Nepal as a UNV District Electoral Advisor.

Similarly, Ms. Milkah Malenya had worked with the United Nations for 18 years. In 2002, she transferred to New York, where she worked with UNIFEM. In 2005, she joined the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) as an administrative assistant where she dedicated all her energies until she was taken ill and passed away in February 2009. Speaking during the ceremony, Hon. Wetang'ula said the two ladies dedicated their lives to serving mankind at all levels. He recognized their sacrifice in taking up duties in harsh and often hostile situations normally shunned by some international workers. The next of kin to whom the medals were presented may display them in events commemorating the recipients or UN Peacekeepers.

IIEC confirms Promulgation ceremony

The Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) has published the final referendum results setting the stage for the promulgation of the new constitution. The move is seen as a blow to the court cases challenging the referendum process and is likely to render the twin cases null and void. The time given to present the cases ended on Friday about the same time the two cases were filed. Legal experts say the IIEC could argue it was never served with the application and in law could argue it was unaware such cases existed giving it leeway to publish the final result after the expiry of the period allowed.

The High Court was Monday due to hear a case filed by a voter who is challenging the initial publication of the results saying it was not done according to the law.

New Kenyan law ensures equity, says Muite

The new constitution to be promulgated this Friday has been described as one that will ensure equity for all Kenyans. Lawyer Paul Muite terms the 1963 constitution as having benefitted only a minority and that with the realization of a new one, Kenyans will start reaping benefits of the country's self rule 47 years after independence.

Speaking today, Muite said that it is time Kenyans were educated about the gains they are going to achieve from new law which, according to him, has already been promulgated. To him, the grand ceremony planned for this Friday "will just be a celebration." President Mwai Kibaki is scheduled to promulgate the new Constitution at a grand ceremony to be held at the historic Uhuru Park grounds.

Regional News

South Africa army keeps hospitals open during strike

South Africa's security forces have deployed outside hospitals as unions defy a court order to

keep essential services open during their strike. Police have fired rubber bullets at striking health workers, injuring several protesters in Durban.

The army has sent medical teams to 37 hospitals around the country to keep emergency health services open. Some one million civil servants began their strike on Wednesday, in a dispute over pay. The government on Saturday obtained an injunction against the strike, which the unions immediately condemned. The injunction forbids strikers from blockading state buildings and instructs those providing essential services to return to work.

Spanish hostages 'freed by al-Qaeda in North Africa'

Two Spanish hostages seized by al-Qaeda's North African branch nine months ago have been set free in Mali, officials say. Roque Pascal and Albert Vitalta were seized in neighbouring Mauritania last November. A third hostage, Alicia Gomez, was released in March. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) operates in the Sahara Desert and has kidnapped several westerners in recent months. Officials had denied claims in Spanish newspapers that the pair had been freed on Sunday. They are now said to be heading towards Mali's border with Burkina Faso.

President Jakaya Kikwete collapse alarms Tanzanians

There are fears for the health of Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete after he collapsed at the official launch of his re-election campaign. About 15 minutes into his speech, he slowed down, before slumping over the podium for several minutes. This is the third time the 49-year-old has collapsed in recent years but officials have tried to downplay the incident, saying he was only tired. The ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party says the president's schedule will remain unchanged. He is seeking a second, and final, five-year term at the 31 October election

Police move against hijacked bus in Philippine capital

Police in the Philippines have boarded a hijacked bus and begun to rescue hostages in what appears to be the end of a day-long siege. TV images showed hostages, mostly Chinese tourists, leaving the vehicle. However, at least one body could be seen at the front of the bus.

It is not yet clear what has happened to the gunman, a former policeman who seized the bus early on today morning. It is reported that the gunman was making a bid to get his job back. Police moved against the bus after hearing shots fired inside the vehicle. They smashed windows and glass doors with hammers.

Global News

Pakistan floods: Senior UN figure criticises response

A senior United Nations official has called on the global community to urgently step up its

response to the floods that have struck Pakistan. Louis-George Arsenault, director of emergency operations for Unicef in New York, described the lack of support as "quite extraordinary". The humanitarian crisis was the largest "in decades", he warned. Arsenault spoke as the International Monetary Fund was due to start talks with Pakistani officials in Washington.

The talks will allow the IMF to assess how best to help. It says the floods that have struck Pakistan pose a "massive economic challenge" and it will review the country's budget and financial prospects. The UN says it has raised close to 70% of the \$460m (£295m) it called for in its emergency appeal. Some \$54m are in uncommitted pledges, and \$263m are resources available now.

Sports News

Kipketer hails Rudisha

Wilson Kipketer has said he was not surprised to hear that David Rudisha had smashed his long-standing 800m world record, forecasting a big future for the young Kenyan runner. Denmark's Kenyan-born Kipketer had held the record since August 1997 before Rudisha shaved two hundredths of a second from the mark by running 1min 41.09sec in Berlin, Germany on Sunday. Kipketer believes it is a positive outcome for athletics, in which he is still involved as a coach and consultant.

The 1997 world indoor champion sees a bright future for Rudisha. Kipketer won Olympic silver and bronze, but never gold, as he was forced to sit out the 1996 Olympic Games while he waited to be granted Danish citizenship following a switch in nationality from his native Kenya.

Kenya's Rudisha eyes record improvement and golds

David Rudisha has hopes of improving his 800 metres world record before setting his sights on Olympic and world championship gold medals, the Kenyan told Reuters on Monday. Rudisha broke the men's 800 world record in Berlin on Sunday with a time of one minute 41.09 seconds, improving the mark held by Dane Wilson Kipketer since 1997 by two hundredths of a second. Rudisha had planned to make an attempt on the record this year but initially wanted to do it at the world challenge meeting in Rieti, Italy, later this month. In Berlin, Rudisha told pacemaker Sammy Tanguy to run a sub-49 second first lap, before blasting through the final 400 metres. He indeed ran 600 in 1.14:54, in front of over 47,000 cheering spectators in the Olympic stadium.

Nigeria football election on hold

Elections into the executive committee of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) have been put off till Thursday. The elections were initially scheduled for Saturday, but were postponed following unresolved complaints raised by some candidates. Confusion had surrounded the elections after a court injunction and calls for its adjournment last Thursday. According to a

communiqué released by the NFF, all petitions will now be dealt with before Thursday. The NFF has been dogged by problems since the country's dismal performance at the World Cup in South Africa when Nigeria were eliminated after managing only a draw against South Korea in the group stage. The former President Sani Lulu and his deputy were both impeached by the board. Regional FA elections which were meant to be held in the country before the national elections have still not taken place.

Business News

EAC calls for harmonization of labour laws

East African trade unions have called upon their governments to harmonize the existing labour laws to eliminate cross border national comparisons of labour costs as it will encourage employers to move to areas that offer cheap labour. The unions claim their countries are under attack from multinational corporations that are engaged in cutthroat competition and profit maximization.

Speaking at a conference that brought together trade unions from across the EAC region today, Benson Okwaro Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of COTU said that Multinationals are driving policies advocating for free markets without regulation. International Trade Union Council, Sylvain Kiza, a liaison officer for Kenya said the theme of the conference 'How to advance the organizing agenda in East Africa' will aid in proposing viable solutions to the problems. The conference is set to run for a four day period ending this Thursday and will be looking at the challenges East African countries have been facing with respect to unions over the past years.

World stocks above one-month lows

World stocks stabilized just above last week's one-month low today as an encouraging euro zone business survey and positive corporate merger activity news helped ease concerns about a global economic slowdown. Mining shares gained as financial markets bet Australia's inconclusive weekend elections would lead to a change of government which would spell the end to a plan to impose tax on major iron ore and coal mines.

A Markit survey showed the euro zone's economic recovery moderated slightly this month but companies are more optimistic about the coming months. HSBC (HSBA.L)'s plan to buy stakes in South Africa's Nedbank (NEDJ.J) in a potential \$6.8 billion deal also brightened investor sentiment.

In Asia, a wave of mergers is boosting values as acquirers leverage on relatively lower valuations and cheap funding costs to buy companies. An estimated \$58 billion worth of mergers involving Asian companies were playing out during the day. Positive corporate news helped ease concerns that a renewed spike in U.S. unemployment may force the Federal Reserve to implement additional monetary easing.

Bring it on, says Kenya phone company

Zain Kenya said on Monday that it expects to weather out competition in its quest to gain market leadership even as other operators begin to respond to the latest Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK) measures to lower call rates.

Zain Kenya Managing Director Rene Meza said that the operator expects to leverage on the experience of Bharti Airtel, its new shareholder, which brings on board a business model of low margins and high volume. Meza said Bharti brings with it experience and the financial muscle that will see it beat the competition as it changes its strategy to target the mass market. His sentiments come barely a week after Essar Telecom's Yu also announced a 50 percent slush of its cross network calls. Safaricom, Zain's biggest rival controlling an estimated 78 percent of the market, has also alluded to a new tariff structure later this week.