

## **LOCAL NEWS 24TH AUGUST 2010'**

### **The case against Kalembe Ndile fails to kick off**

For the second day, the case in which former Kibwezi Member of Parliament Kalembe Ndile is accused of holding unlawful meeting in Eldoret failed to take off after the prosecutor failed to produce the file before the court.

The chief magistrate at Eldoret law courts Charles Mbogo ordered the case to be mentioned on 27th September 2010 due to missing file which he stated had been referred to the director of public prosecution on 8th August had not been returned. He also ordered that prosecutor Charles Khaemba amends the charge sheet adding the bond he already took in Nairobi will be extended up until then.

At the same time, Ndile's lawyer marti Nyamu said they were happy the court was able to find the charges defective and they were going to move swiftly to take the plea at the high court. Speaking outside the court, Ndile termed the whole thing as harassment by some state organs and his political rivals. He said he had been denied the right to freely associate with the public. He has been charged alongside Benjamin Koros.

*Ends.....Caro Koech.*

### **Kenya Cabinet okeys crucial Bill**

The Cabinet on Tuesday approved the Bill for the creation of the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution and would sit again on Wednesday to discuss Friday's promulgation ceremony. The Cabinet meeting chaired by President Mwai Kibaki reiterated the government's commitment to a speedy and smooth implementation of the new Constitution.

The Bill will pave way for an Act of Parliament to provide for the functions, powers, qualification of, and appointment procedure for members of the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution and for connected purposes. The commission is expected to be in place within 90 days from the effective date while Parliament is obligated to enact various legislations and sets out the timeframe for the enactment ranging from 60 days to five years.

### **Kenyan women demand top jobs**

The Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya (FIDA) now wants the office of the Attorney General, the Chief Justice and the Director of Public Prosecutions occupied by women. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, FIDA Chairperson Naomi Wagereka said time had come for Kenyans to embrace and give chance to women leadership. The lobby group had earlier indicated that it would forward 15 to 20 names of women it felt qualified to be appointed for the slots created in the Judiciary.

FIDA also urged women not to shy away from the leadership opportunities presented by the new Constitution. The lobby group also asked the government to continue conducting civic education

at the grassroots so as to help Kenyans know of the opportunities created by the new Constitution. Wagereka added that civic education be envisaged in the implementation phase of the new Constitution.

### **Fuel tanker explodes in Kenyan town**

A fierce fire has engulfed Ugunja Township in Ugenya district after a petrol tanker transporting fuel to a neighboring country exploded. The fierce inferno engulfed several shops and houses in the area. According to witnesses, the trailer full of fuel disengaged from the head in the middle of the busy road before overturning and bursting into flames.

The eye witness said that the trailer rolled back before plunging into a ditch and bursting into flames. Siaya police boss area OCPD Peter Kiplagat could not establish the cause of the accident and promised to give details once investigations are through. Kiplagat said that no casualty had been reported within the first hour of the accident. Ugunja town and the entire Siaya region has no fire engine and has to rely on the services from Kisumu, close to 100 kilometres away.

### **Hate speech: Kenyan MPs question double standards**

The government was on Tuesday at pains to explain to parliament why it had not prosecuted Trade Minister Chirau ali Mwakwere over allegations of hate speech. The house wanted to know why despite a formal complaint by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission over the minister's utterances bordering on hate speech during the Matuga by election campaigns, no legal action has been taken so far.

Legislators questioned why the Mwakwere's case had been treated differently where as three MPs namely Kuria MP Wilfred Machage (Kuria), Fred Kapondi (Mt Elgon) and Joshua Kotuny (Cherengany) were charged in court for hate speech, without their cases being forwarded to the AG.

Attorney General Amos Wako however defending the move claimed the procedure used to prosecute the three was well within the law. Wako said the police had launched investigations adding that they will release their findings to him within the next two weeks after which he will scrutinize the evidence and issue a verdict on the way forward based on the evidence presented. Member of Parliament for Gwassi John Mbadi however expressed concern on the issue maintaining the government was portraying double standards in its handling of the cases.

### **Closure of key roads in Kenya's capital**

Major roads in Nairobi will be closed between 3am to 1pm on Wednesday as military conducts final rehearsals for the Friday's promulgation of the new Constitution at Uhuru Park. Nairobi Traffic Commandant Patrick Lumumba announced on Tuesday that Uhuru Highway, Valley Road, Ngong Road and Haille Sellasie Avenue will remain closed on Wednesday for the said period and on Friday during the celebrations.

Police are advising motorists from Mombasa Road to access the city centre through Lusaka and

Landhies Roads. Motorists from Westlands will divert at Museum Hill roundabout and go through Ojijo road and Kipande road into globe cinema roundabout. Those coming from Ngong road will branch off at Nyerere road and access the city from University way. Lumumba said Cathedral Road and City Hall Way will also be closed and motorists are advised to use alternative routes until they are opened at 1 pm. Police say the road closures have been occasioned by military drills and other rehearsals which will be taking place at Uhuru Park grounds.

### **Case to block new Kenya law dismissed**

The High Court in Nairobi has struck out a case that sought to challenge Friday's promulgation of the new Constitution. Justice Hannah Okwengu has ruled that the court did not have the powers to hear the case and subsequently dismissed it. Mary Ariviza, a church agent during the August 4 referendum filed the case last Thursday claiming that the Interim Independent Electoral Commission had not published the referendum results in the format required by law. The IIEC and the Attorney General however argued that the High Court lacked the authority to entertain the petition, arguing that such powers lay with the Interim Independent Constitutional Dispute Resolution Court (IICDRC).

In her ruling, Justice Okwengu ruled that Section 44 (1) of the Constitution Review Act bars the High Court from hearing matters relating to the constitution review since there is a special court mandated to hear matters relating to the constitution review process and the referendum.

Speaking to the media after the ruling, Deputy Solicitor General Muthoni Kimani welcomed the decision, saying it had removed any hindrance to this Friday's promulgation. Ariviza had wanted the court to quash the gazettment of the referendum results and block Friday's promulgation.

### **Human rights commend North Rift IIEC coordinator,**

The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy Eldoret has highly commended the workmanship of Eldoret North IIEC coordinator Japheth Lagat over the transparent and professional way exhibited during the just concluded referendum. Addressing journalists at his office this morning Programmes coordinator centre for democracy Nick Ommito said the Officer has proved his professionalism since no complains have so far been raised concerning the results. This comes barely 4 days to the promulgation of the new constitution by President Mwai Kibaki on Friday.  
*End.....james Gitaka*

### **Kenyan media gets thumbs up**

The Kenyan media has been lauded for fair and balanced reporting during campaigns for the referendum on the new constitution. A commissioner with the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) Ken Nyaundi said the media proved to be "an excellent partner in civic education and identifying demagogue out to split the country." Nyaundi said the media observed

fairness and was balanced in its reports apart from being in the forefront in advocating peace and national cohesion unlike the situation in the 2007 general election.

Nyaundi who was speaking during the launch of a report by Peace Pen Communications dubbed "Spotlight on Media Coverage of the Kenya Referendum Campaign 2010" urged the media to remain within the platform of objectivity in their coverage of events. The report on a survey carried out between July 21 and August 3, 2010 however seems to contradict Nyaundi's sentiments and indicts the local media for unbalanced news reporting, sensational coverage and inflammatory reporting.

### **The chairman of the Kenya Editors Guild Macharia Gaitho has challenged**

Media houses to offer direction to the public on matters of national importance like the recently concluded national referendum. Gaitho, said the media houses need to declare openly their positions on such matters to guarantee balanced and objective reporting to the citizenry. Herman Igambi of Royal Media expressed similar sentiments saying media houses must be bold enough to take firm positions for the country to move forward.

### **ODM picks flag bearers in Kenya's mini polls**

The Orange Democratic Party ODM has given direct nominations to three candidates to vie on the party's ticket in the September 20 by-elections. Making the announcement, the Secretary to the Elections Board Dr Joseph Misoi said the party considered party loyalty and guidelines on party nominations when granting the direct nominations. Former Starehe MP Margaret Wanjiru Kariuki was given a direct nomination to fight it out with former cabinet minister Maina Kamanda for the seat.

Wanjiru who is also a former assistant minister lost the seat after Kamanda successfully petitioned against her election in 2007 citing electoral malpractices. The party also nominated former Makadara MP Reuben Ndolo to fly the ODM flag in the Makadara by-election after he successfully petitioned against the election of Dick Wathika. Wanjiru welcomed the nomination saying the party picked her owing to its insistence on democratic processes that allows for varying views among its membership.

This now flies in the face of some party officials who had insisted that those who campaigned against the party's grain in the buildup to the referendum on the new constitution be shunted by the party

### **Training of Kenya's statement takers commences**

The Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission on Tuesday rolled out a nationwide training of statement takers. The first group of 160 statement takers are being trained simultaneously in Kisumu, Nyeri, Nakuru and Kakamega. The statement takers will be trained in transitional justice and human rights issues, the mandate of the TJRC, gender and statement taking as well as trauma management. Addressing the Nyeri trainees commission chairman Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat said while Kenya was moving into a new era with the promulgation of a new constitution, the country still needed to deal with its past.

Kiplagat said that the information that the statement takers collect from Kenyans who have suffered gross human rights violations and historical injustices would help set the record straight on the true version of the country's history. The second group of statement takers will be trained in Mombasa, Garissa, Embu and Nairobi from the August 31.

At the end of a three-day training period the statement takers will be sworn in before they embark on collecting statements over the next 5 months. At the end of statement taking period, the Commission expects to have recorded 90,000 statements and memoranda. The mandate of the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission is to inquire into human rights violations including those committed by the state, groups or individuals. It includes but is not limited to politically motivated violence, assassinations, community displacements, settlements and evictions.

### **Tight security ahead of Kenya fete**

Security has been beefed up within the city centre and its environs ahead of Friday's promulgation of the new constitution. Members of public attending the celebrations will be taken through tight security checks before entering Uhuru Park. Addressing the press at Uhuru Park, Senior Police Commissioner J.K Ndegwa said several roads within the city centre will be closed on Friday.

On Monday, police also warned of heavy traffic jams and closure of some major roads in Nairobi on Thursday morning to allow the military to stage a full and final parade rehearsal at Uhuru Park. Some of the roads to be closed include parts of Uhuru Highway, Haile Selassie Avenue, Kenyatta Avenue and Valley Road. The closure will take place between 3am and 10am. Nairobi Area traffic boss Patrick Lumumba asked for cooperation from motorists. The military will display all their equipment in public on Thursday and Friday. There will be a fly past, march past, guard of honour, military displays among other exercises. Among the equipment to be displayed include, troop carriers, armoured personnel carriers, tanks, mobile hospitals, radar communicators, planes and some jets that were recently acquired.

On Sunday, Chief of General Staff Gen Jeremiah Kianga led the country's top security commanders in a colourful rehearsal. President Mwai Kibaki is expected to append his signature to the new constitution on Friday in an event expected to be attended by several international dignitaries

### **Kenya VP asks Kamba leaders to unite**

Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka has challenged leaders and professionals to unite and play a greater role in the development of the country. Kalonzo said there is need for professionals to support the Government in exploring ways and means of exploiting untapped resources which if fully utilized can uplift the people's living standards in the country.

The Vice President was speaking Tuesday in Nairobi during an investment forum in which MPs from the Ukambani region called for political unity ahead of 2012 elections. Those who addressed the meeting included assistant ministers David Musila (Defense), Gideon Ndambuki

(Agriculture) and MP Mutomo Isaac Muoki, professionals and elders from Ukambani and other areas in the country.

### **Vice President speaks on constitution,**

Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka has expressed optimism that with the new constitutional dispensation, wananchi will steer the country towards a vibrant middle income economy. Kalonzo said that the new constitution will greatly help residents in the region and urged them to support the implementation of the constitution ahead of its promulgation on Friday this week, noting that many investors have expressed their interest to invest in the country.

The Vice-President pointed out that the Government had developed a clear youth agenda to nurture and provide the country's youthful population with lifetime gainful opportunities. The Vice President who was speaking Tuesday in Nairobi during an investment forum in which MPs from the Ukambani region urged the Kamba leaders and professionals to unite and forge a common agenda to accelerate development in the region.

### **Kenya's reformists want recognition**

People who clamored for reforms of the country want the government to honor their contributions during the ceremony to promulgate the new constitution on Friday. Chairman National Network of Victims and Survivors Wafula Buke today urged the government to recognize their participation in the country's reform process.

Mr Buke started featuring on the national platform of the 'struggles for change' in late 80's when as a newly elected Chairman of the Students Organisation of Nairobi University (SONU), he was arrested during a rally and taken to the infamous Nyayo House Torture Chambers. After 16 days of unbearable suffering, Mr Buke said he was taken to court and pleaded guilty to charges amounting to being a spy thereby serving his five year jail term

### **Kenya's Safaricom finally announces new rates**

Market player Safaricom has lowered its call rates by 6 shillings for calls within the same network while calls to other networks have decreased by 9 shillings. Calls within the Safaricom network will now cost you 2 shillings while those to other networks will cost you 3 shillings. Safaricom has been pressured by the decision by both Zain and Yu last week to reduce call rates to all networks by 50 percent. However unlike its competitors, Safaricom which enjoys the largest subscriber base has put conditions on its subscribers with the charges being subjected to the amount of airtime purchased by callers. Airtime worth Ksh 1000, 500, 250 and 100 will attract the cheapest rates while those purchasing airtime worth Ksh 5 and 10 will benefit very little with just a Ksh 3 reduction.

### **Wareng county council set to construct more markets.**

Residents of the County Council Wareng will benefit from construction of markets in its towns earmarked by the council. Speaking today, chairman of the county council of Wareng Paul Kiprop said that Moi's bridge town upgrading is under way together with Cheptiret, Tarbo and Naiperi town so as to improve service delivery to the residents. He added that the move is also meant to spur economic growth in the regions in a bid to actualize vision 2030 goals.

At the same time he revealed that inadequate funds have slowed the processes due to a delay in disbursement of about 50 million shillings from the ministry of local government. Meanwhile, the council has held a consultation meeting on how to approach the issue so as to complete its projects in time.

*Ends. Stanley Magut.*

### **Regional News**

#### **South Sudan plans mass return ahead of referendum**

South Sudan is preparing to repatriate some 1.5 million southerners from the north and Egypt, ahead of a referendum due next January on whether the south should secede. The proposals suggest returnees will travel on trains and buses, as well as boats down the River Nile. Some two million people have already returned to the south since the end of a two-decade conflict in 2005. However, some aid workers have questioned the plan's feasibility. If the proposals are implemented, thousands of people could be arriving each day to a grossly underdeveloped region struggling to cope with its current population. The proposals stipulate that necessary requirements for returnees must include sufficient resources and security to make the movement possible, with an estimated budget of \$25m (£16m).

#### **Zimbabwe's MDC co-founder Gibson Sibanda dies**

A co-founder of Zimbabwe's former opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change, has died aged 66. Gibson Sibanda was a prominent trade union leader before Zimbabwe's independence in 1980 and was arrested several times for his activities. He helped form the MDC in 2000 but left five years later after differences with leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

Sibanda joined a breakaway faction of the MDC and at the time of his death was a minister in the unity government. A spokesman for his party said Sibanda had been suffering from cancer for some time and died in Bulawayo. Sibanda and Tsvangirai were both trade union leaders when they decided to set up the MDC to counter what they said were President Robert Mugabe's disastrous economic policies.

#### **Equatorial Guinea executions over coup plot condemned**

The execution of four men in Equatorial Guinea for involvement in an attack on the presidential palace last year has been condemned by a rights group. Amnesty International says the men,

former military and government officials, were put to death within an hour of being sentenced. They were convicted by an army tribunal on Saturday, with no chance of appeal. Amnesty says the men were living in exile in Benin at the time of the attempted presidential assassination.

President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, who has ruled the oil-rich nation since 1979 after toppling his uncle in a coup, has survived several coup attempts.

### **Somali MPs killed in hotel suicide attack**

Somali gunmen have stormed a hotel close to the presidential palace and killed several MPs on the second day of an Islamist offensive, a spokesman for the African Union peacekeepers says. Maj Barigye Bahoku said at least 15 people had been killed in the attack. The men who were disguised as government soldiers approached the Muna hotel, opened fire on a guard, then one of them blew himself up inside the building.

The hotel raid comes on the second day of heavy fighting between Islamist al-Shabab militants and troops of the transitional government, who are backed by the African Union (AU). Maj Bahoku confirmed it was a suicide attack and said security forces were searching for the second gunman.

### **Aid agency warns of 'double disaster' for Niger**

Niger has been hit by a double disaster as recent floods compound an existing food crisis, a UK aid agency warned. Aid workers are struggling to help thousands of people affected by the floods which have hit many areas of West and Central Africa. Oxfam says the situation is stretching resources to the limit as it also tries to respond to the food shortages. The agency urged donors to help Niger face what it calls a second emergency.

Oxfam issued its warning as nearly eight million people, or half the population, are already facing hunger because of failed harvests. Now more than 100,000 people have been left homeless after heavy rains washed away their homes earlier this month, according to the United Nations.

### **South Africa's President Zuma on China trade mission**

South African President Jacob Zuma has flown into China for a three-day visit aimed at strengthening business ties. Zuma is expected to sign a series of trade agreements with his country's largest trading partner. His trip comes as he faces mounting problems at home, with more than a million public sector workers striking. Zuma is due to hold talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao during his mission to Beijing, the capital, and Shanghai. A delegation of no fewer than 300 businessmen and ministers is accompanying Zuma as he looks for tips from the Chinese on how to boost his country's growth rate. Zuma will also meet Prime Minister Wen

Jiabao and tour the World Expo site in Shanghai.

## **Global News**

### **Pakistan facing 'serious' threat of epidemic disease**

Pakistan's prime minister says the government is "seriously concerned" about the potential spread of epidemic diseases in the flood-hit country. Yousuf Raza Gilani was speaking during high-level talks aimed at preventing a mass health crisis. Doctors in many areas are reportedly struggling to cope with the spread of diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera. The UN says more than 17 million people have been affected by the floods, with about 1.2 million homes destroyed. There are fears of further flooding as the Indus river at Hyderabad, already at a 50-year high, is expected to rise even more.

### **Claudy bomb: conspiracy allowed IRA priest to go free**

The police, the Catholic Church and the state conspired to cover up a priest's suspected role in one of the worst atrocities of the Northern Ireland Troubles, an investigation has found. Nine people died in bombings in Claudy, County Londonderry on 31 July 1972. The NI Police Ombudsman's probe found that high-level talks led to Fr James Chesney, a suspect in the attack, being moved to the Irish Republic.

### **US troops in Iraq 'below 50,000' ahead of August target**

The number of US troops in Iraq has fallen below 50,000, ahead of a 31 August deadline when US combat operations are due to end, the US military has said. After taking office last year, US President Barack Obama set the August deadline to cut numbers below 50,000. Last week, the last US combat brigade left the country, seven years after the US-led invasion began. Under a US-Iraq deal, all US troops must pull out by the end of 2011.

### **Singer George Michael admits drug-driving**

Singer George Michael has pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of drugs and possessing cannabis. The 47-year-old was handed a six-month interim driving ban and is due to return to court for sentencing on 14 September. Michael was told by the judge that his offences were "a serious matter" and he could face imprisonment.

The pop star was arrested on 4 July in Hampstead, north London, after he crashed his car into a shop. The Wham! star, from nearby Highgate, was on police bail after crashing his luxury Range Rover with a branch of photographic store Snappy Snaps.

## **Sports News**

### **Kipketer not surprised his 800m record broken**

Kenyan-born Danish Wilson Kipketer has said he was not surprised to hear that David Rudisha

had smashed his long-standing 800m world record. Kipketer had held the record since August 1997 before Rudisha shaved two hundredths of a second from the mark by running 1 minute 41.09 seconds 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.

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 country, Kenya. Rudisha made history Sunday, setting a new world record in the 800-meters. The 21-year-old runner clocked 1:41.09 in the event at an international meet in Berlin, Germany.

### **Kenyan athletes will be among 120 runners who will participate in the**

annual Colombo Marathon to be held on 3rd of October this year starting at Torrington Square in Sri Lanka. This annual event organised by the Lanka Sportreizen is to be held for the tenth time after missing out last year due to security reasons. With the situation in the country coming back to normal, Sri Lanka hopes that this event will be a recreational destination in the future.

Already runners from Kenya, Germany and Japan have confirmed their participation. However, expatriates working in Sri Lanka are also expected to compete in the full marathon that covers over 21 kilometres. The men and women winners will receive a cash prize and an airline ticket from SriLankan Airlines.

### **Kenya's Mariga in talent search campaign**

Kenyan international football midfielder MacDonald Mariga is set to launch a special campaign to influence European coaches to come to East Africa to search for local talent. Mariga who plays his trade with Inter Milan of Italy says the East African region as a bloc has many talented football players who deserve to play in topflight European clubs. Last year, Mariga became a target for two first division clubs in Europe, Manchester City of England and the UEFA Championship, Internazionale Milan of Italy.

Manchester City under the coaching of the Italian-based, Roberto Mancini had agreed to pay 7 million pounds fee for the Kenyan but he failed to get a permit to play in England as Kenya is ranked lowly by the football governing body FIFA. Mariga made history as the first Kenyan footballer to win the UEFA Champions League in May this year.

### **Mauritania pulled out of the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.**

The Confederation of African Football has confirmed that Mauritania have pulled out of the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers. Mauritania's scheduled opponents, Burkina Faso, Gambia and Namibia, have been left in a group of three with its withdrawal meaning a change to the system of qualifying. The group winners will still go through automatically as well as the 2nd placed team in the group made up of five countries.

The final two spots will be filled by the two best runners-up from the ten remaining groups.

The best runners-up will be determined after excluding results of games played against the teams which finish in 4th place. Qualifying for the 2012 Nations Cup in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea begins on September 4.

### **Mascherano left out as Liverpool lose to Man City**

Liverpool manager Roy Hodgson said transfer speculation surrounding Javier Mascherano led to his omission from the team beaten by Manchester City. The 26-year-old was not in the Reds squad as they lost 3-0 and Hodgson said he might not pick the midfielder until the transfer window ends on 31 August. He said the sticking-point with Barcelona was that the amount offered was "way, way below" Liverpool's reported £25m valuation of Mascherano.

Before the defeat at Eastlands, Hodgson said he hoped matters would be resolved before the end of the transfer window so he could pick the Argentine again. Some reports circulating on Monday evening suggested the Catalan giants were offering only £12m for a player who cost Liverpool £18m three and a half seasons ago.

### **Wozniacki clinches Rogers Cup**

Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki cruised to victory in the Rogers Cup final with an assured 6-3 6-2 win over Russia's Vera Zvonareva in Montreal. Both players dropped serve early on, before Wozniacki edged decisively ahead with a break in the fourth game. The second seed was equally clinical in the second set, converting break points in third and seventh games while Zvonareva wasted four of her own.

Earlier Wozniacki beat Svetlana Kuznetsova in a rain-delayed semi. The 20-year-old, who lost to Kim Clijsters in last year's US Open final, will immediately head to New Haven for her final warm-up tournament ahead of a return to Flushing Meadows. Her hopes of lifting her first Grand Slam title in the absence of world number one Serena Williams will have been buoyed by her continued good form on a busy day's play.

## **Business News**

### **Kenyan youth to get internships**

Unemployed Kenyan youth will in the next few weeks start benefiting from a programme that will link them with six months internship and work experience in the private sector. This follows the introduction of the soon to be launched 'Kenya Youth Empowerment Project' (KYEP) which aims to equip jobless youth of between the ages of 15 and 29 with the skills they need in order to be gainfully employed.

The Sh1.2 billion four-and-a-half year program will be partly funded from a Sh4.8 billion loan from the World Bank and managed by the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) which Project Director Linda Thompson says will help address the skills gap in the labour market..

Besides being in the 15 to 29 age bracket, interested people will need to have at least eight years of education and be out of work for a year. Applicants will then be selected randomly with the

successful ones scheduled to start their training on November 1.

### **HP trumps Dell in \$1.6bn 3PAR bid**

Computer maker Hewlett Packard (HP) has launched a \$1.6bn (£1bn) bid for data storage firm 3PAR, trumping a \$1.2bn offer made by rival Dell last week. Along with IBM, the two firms are looking into more profitable business areas outside of making computers. The bids come as part of a glut of merger and acquisitions activity in the technology sector, including last week's \$7.8bn bid for McAfee by Intel.

The HP bid helped to push Wall Street higher in early morning trading. The main Dow Jones index was up 69 points, or 0.7%, at 10,282.19.

### **Kenya mobile phone subscribers hit 19m**

Kenya's mobile phone penetration is up to the 51 percent mark in the first quarter of 2010 with mobile subscriptions up 2.7 percent to 19.9 million from 19.4 million in the previous quarter. Industry statistics from the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) show that at the end of March this year, the population under mobile coverage stood at 86 percent, against a land coverage of 35 percent.

The regulator attributes the increase in the number of mobile subscriptions to multiple SIM ownership and increased number of service providers offering attractive promotions. The number of prepaid subscriptions grew during the quarter under review by 2.6 percent compared to 7.2 percent growth in the number of post paid subscriptions. During the quarter, tariffs fell as a result of a more competitive landscape with operators jostling to acquire and retain subscribers by offering incentives.

### **Low cost insurance for Kenyans**

Eagle Africa Insurance Brokers has introduced a low cost comprehensive in and outpatient medical cover targeting low-income earners. Dubbed 'Afya Milele Halisi' the new scheme will see one pay as little as Sh35 a day, with the cover giving one medical security as well as three other family members.

Eagle Africa Managing Director Sam Ncheeri said the new product serves as a tool of improving the low level of insurance penetration in the country by giving products that best suite individual lifestyles. Afya Milele Halisi has been underwritten by APA insurance and will offer two payment options with premiums as low as Sh11,640 per annum or Sh1,066 per month. The scheme provides cover of between Sh50,000 and Sh300,000.

### **Young Kenyans now buying homes**

The increasing availability of mortgage finance coupled with flexible repayment terms is driving

up the number of young professionals who are seeking to own homes. HassConsult Property Development Manager Farhana Hassanali said on Tuesday that with the growth of the real estate sector, many mortgage providers have emerged and so have the avenues for investments which have in turn pushed young people into saving for the initial mortgage deposit.

However, projects such as the various housing developments that are taking place in the outskirts of Nairobi have seen deposit rates pegged at 10 to 30 percent of the cost of the mortgage with long repayment periods, which the manager said is affordable for many Kenyans. Recent findings have shown that many Kenyans are moving away from rentals and into home ownership particularly in areas surrounding Nairobi where land is overpriced.

### **Kenyan accountants seek State appointments**

The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) has disclosed its intention to lobby for its members to be appointed to the commissions established under the new Constitution. Chairman Michael Itote said the public sector is short of skills in finance and accounting thus the need to have their members who will ensure financial accountability and good governance. With the implementation of the new law, he said ICPAK hopes that the government will seek to hire professionals from the private sector as opposed to those from the 'old boy network'. This would require the government to put in place a transparent process where qualified people who can deliver the required change are picked.