

## **Local News 24 May 2010**

### **Civic education on the proposed draft constitution to kick off today**

The civic education exercise on the proposed draft constitution is set to kick off today across the country. This is despite the numerous challenges that have befallen the committee of experts. COE director Dr. Ekuro Aukot says some of the issues the committee has to address is giving Kenyans facts about the document other than fictions that have arose at the campaigns for and against the constitution that are already underway.

The team is also set to tackle the issue of typing errors in the document and the allegations that there are two separate copies of the proposed draft law.

### **HIV risk for men during pregnancy**

Men have double the risk of catching HIV if their partner is pregnant, say researchers. A study of more than 3,000 couples in Africa also backed previous research showing women are more susceptible to HIV infection when they are pregnant. The researchers speculate that changes in a pregnant woman's immune system may contribute to the increased chance of her partner becoming infected. A UK charity said the findings showed the importance of antenatal testing.

The findings have been presented at the International Microbicides Conference in Pittsburgh, alongside a separate study showing a microbicidal gel is safe to use during pregnancy to prevent HIV transmission. Young women of reproductive age are among those at greatest risk of HIV infection in countries with high levels of disease.

### **Weight 'key' in kidney transplant**

Matching up the weight of donors and recipients boosts success in kidney transplants, suggests French research. A study of over 1,000 transplant patients found those receiving a small kidney in proportion to their weight were more at risk of complications. In the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, the researchers said the findings would give surgeons a new chance to improve long-term survival.

But a UK expert warned a donor shortage would limit weight-based matches. The team followed the transplant patients for an average of six years after their operation.

### **Kenya's PM holds talks with Mubarak over Nile waters**

Prime Minister Raila Odinga who is on a two day official visit to Egypt held talks with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak on a lingering crisis over sharing the waters of the Nile river. Egypt says it is carefully weighing its response to a new agreement signed by five upriver countries which could affect its current majority share of the river's waters.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency says Mubarak and Raila a on Sunday reviewed cooperation between Egypt and other Nile basin countries "in irrigation and agriculture." Egypt initially shunned the framework agreement signed this month by Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania because it fails to protect what it calls its "historic" water rights. A 1929 colonial-era treaty gives Egypt majority rights to the Nile's waters.