

## **Local News October 25th, 2010**

### **LSK picks members for Kenya's judicial team**

The Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) is conducting elections for two members of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) to serve in the Judicial Service Commission. The elections conducted countrywide Monday morning is expected to pick two people, one male and one female as required by the new constitution. There will be 16 polling stations based at all the high court stations countrywide each with a presiding officer.

The Returning Officer will be based at the tallying center at the LSK offices, Valley Arcade, Nairobi. There are currently 17 male and 14 female candidates. There are two sets of ballot papers, one for the female and the other for the male candidates and two separate ballot boxes per polling station. The voters' roll has 4,493 members. Members who have not renewed their membership, those on suspension or the inactive ones on the LSK records are not eligible to vote.

### **Nairobi mayor grilled over cemetery scandal**

Nairobi Mayor Geoffrey Majiwa is being grilled by the Kenya Anti Corruption Commission (KACC) over the 283 million shillings cemetery scandal. Majiwa was arrested by the KACC officers Monday morning and taken to Integrity Centre. KACC spokesman Nicholas Simani said the mayor is likely to be arraigned in court on Tuesday. Majiwa was implicated in the scandal in which the City council lost millions of shillings in the purchase of the 120-acre piece of land at Mavoko Council Council at a grossly over valued price. It was further claimed that the piece of land was not suitable for a cemetery. Majiwa was among fourteen people facing charges over the matter including former local government Permanent Secretary Sammy Kirui, Director of Legal Affairs Mary Ng'ethe and former Nairobi Town Clerk John Gakuo. Majiwa has denied involvement in the matter and even threatened to sue the Kenya Anti Corruption Commission and the Attorney General for implicating him.

### **Gospel artist challenges believers to be in prayer always**

Christians and those who are serving in the gospel music industry have been asked to be prayerful if the ministries God has entrusted them with have to excel. Speaking to our news desk Monday, Siphrosa Akinyi, a gospel artist from Kitale said that prayer is a key component in a Christian life and ministry. Akinyi was speaking ahead of her album launch together with Watoto wanaomtegemea Mungu set for this coming Saturday the 30th 2010 to be held at the Kitale Museum from 1pm. She noted that the album titled "Wakati wa kuomba na kutubu" is a wake up call to believers to always be Prayerful.

The guest speaker will be the Word of Truth and Fish Media Managing Director Reuben Kigame who will also be performing during the launch. Other guest singers include Mary Atieno Ominde, Doreen Otipa, Loice Mwangi, Gpex celebrants and the Revelation crew. Charges will be 50 shillings for children and 100 shillings for adults, money that will go towards assisting the watoto wanaomtegemea Mungu ministry in Kitale.

*End...Chumba Sylvanoh*

### **Sh22 Billion Earmarked for SMEs**

The African Development Bank has approved about Shs22 billion to the African Guarantee Fund to enable SMEs gain access to credit. A statement released from Tunis, Tunisia said the bank's board had approved the facility to improve SME business development. AGF is an AfDB pan-African initiative set up in partnership with the Danish and Spanish foreign affairs ministries and their partner agencies. The initiative was launched as a follow-up to last year's Africa Commission Report, which recommended SME strengthening of financial and technical support. The AGF will operate as a separate corporate entity to provide loan guarantees for the benefit of SMEs in partnership with financial institutions, including microfinance institutions as well as non-bank financial institutions such as leasing companies.

### **Sarkozy Calls for Permanent African Security Council Seats**

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has stated that it is a "scandal" that Africa has no permanent seat on the UN Security Council at a summit of French-speaking countries in Switzerland over the weekend. Outlining his aims for France's presidency of the G20 and G8 nations, Sarkozy also supported places for India, South America, Japan and Germany on the UN decision-making body. African nations form 27 per cent of the UN membership but are only entitled to three of the 10 non-permanent seats on the Security Council.

Abdou Diouf, the former Senegalese president who heads the International Organisation of Francophonie, said Africa was "underrepresented in bodies where decisions are taken that concern it directly". Sarkozy also promised to reform the international monetary system when France takes over the helm of the Group of 20 rich and emerging nations on 12 November and the Group of Eight industrialized nations next year.

### **G20 summit agrees to reform IMF**

Finance ministers from the G20 leading economies have agreed reforms of the International Monetary Fund, giving major developing nations more of a say. At a meeting in South Korea, they agreed a shift of about 6% of the votes in the IMF towards some of the fast-growing developing countries. Those nations will also have more seats on the IMF's Board, while Western Europe will lose two seats. But the US will retain the veto it has over key decisions. Such decisions require an 85% vote and Washington holds 17% under the IMF's weighted voting system. The ministers also agreed to refrain from competitive devaluations of their currencies and move towards more market-determined currency systems.

### **Paternal health 'disregarded in breast cancer cases'**

Women at risk of breast cancer miss out on tests and early diagnosis because their father's family's health history is disregarded, a study has suggested. Canadian researchers say in *Lancet Oncology* that women were more likely to report a history of the disease on their mother's side. They found women with a maternal cancer history were five times more likely to be referred by family doctors. A UK cancer charity said a father's history was "often overlooked". It is thought that between 5% and 10% of breast and ovarian cancers are the result of a genetic inheritance. This is equally likely to have come from either the father or mother.

## **Regional News**

### **Sudan government 'committed to January referendum'**

A senior US senator has said Sudan's government has assured him it will hold a referendum on independence for the south and is committed to the outcome. John Kerry added that Sudan - which is under US sanctions - could benefit in important ways if it kept that promise. The chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee was speaking after a three-day visit to the country. Earlier, Sudan's president said the referendum should lead to further negotiations between north and south.

The vote - due on 9 January - is the result of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended the 21-year civil war between north and south, which left an estimated 2 million people dead.

## **Global News**

### **Cholera death toll jumps in Haiti**

The death toll from a cholera outbreak in Haiti has leapt past 250. More than 3,000 people are infected, said Gabriel Thimote, director general of Haiti's health department. Five cases of cholera were detected in the capital, Port-au-Prince, but UN officials said the patients had been quickly diagnosed and isolated. Officials say the disease is a serious threat to the 1.3 million survivors of January's earthquake who are living in tented camps surrounding the city. But Thimote expressed optimism the outbreak could be contained. Health officials have been trying to contain the outbreak in areas north of Port-au-Prince.

## **Sports News**

### **Ebuya and Momanyi seal wins for Kenya in Portsmouth**

Joseph Ebuya and Grace Momanyi took convincing victories in perfect conditions at the Bupa Great South Run in Portsmouth on Sunday. In the men's race, Ebuya staged a winning comeback from a back injury to smash Benson Masya's long-standing course record and UK all-comers' record of 45:56. The world cross-country champion set an aggressive pace from the gun and the Kenyan broke away from team-mate Vincent Yator and world 3000m steeplechase record-holder Saif Saaeed Shaheen from Qatar just after the two-mile mark.

Despite the lack of opposition, Ebuya maintained a strong pace and the 23-year-old, who raised a sprint finish in the closing stages, crossed the line in a world-leading mark of 45:16, to erase Masya's 1995 course-record. Ebuya's performance also propels him into the top-20 on the world all-time lists. In the women's race, Momanyi maintained her winning form with a comprehensive performance.

### **Alonso cautious over title hopes**

Fernando Alonso insisted the drivers' championship was still wide open after his win in the Korean Grand Prix saw him take the lead with two races to go. With both Red Bull drivers failing to finish, Alonso now has an 11-point lead over Mark Webber, with McLaren's Lewis Hamilton a further 10 points adrift. But Alonso pointed out everything could change in the

course of a single race. But Alonso did acknowledge his fifth victory of the season had been one of the best races of the year for the Scuderia. The European Grand Prix of 2007, which Alonso won for McLaren at the Nurburgring, took place in mixed weather conditions.

### **Man City 0-3 Arsenal**

Arsenal profited from the early dismissal of Dedryck Boyata to secure an impressive victory over title rivals Manchester City at Eastlands. Boyata fouled Marouane Chamakh when he was the last defender five minutes in. Arsenal then went ahead as Samir Nasri exchanged passes with Andrey Arshavin and fired home, before Cesc Fabregas had a penalty saved by Joe Hart. In the second half Alex Song curled home to double the lead and substitute Nicklas Bendtner slotted in a third. The result sees Arsene Wenger's men leapfrog West Brom, Tottenham, City and Manchester United into second, five points adrift of Premier League leaders Chelsea.

### **Business News**

#### **Nakumatt reopens after Vipin burial**

Nakumatt stores resumed operations Monday morning following closure on Sunday for the cremation of former director Vipin Maganlal Shah. The stores were closed on Sunday at 8.30am and resumed business on Monday at 8.30am. Vipin who was also known as Vimal who died last Friday was cremated on Sunday at 3pm at the Shamsham Bhumi in Kariokor. A former Operations Manager at the supermarket chain Samson Karanja described the late Vipin as a mentor who impacted positive skills on his staff.

Nakumatt Holdings Limited is the largest retail market player in East Africa and Rwanda, and still expanding to the wider East African region. Nakumatt has 29 stores dealing in general retail merchandise. Nakumatt's store formats range from convenience stores, supermarkets to hypermarkets which showcase distinct world-class shopping floor layouts and amenities. The stores pride themselves in delivering quality, value, service, variety and lifestyle enhancing products

#### **Privacy body to re-examine Google**

Britain's privacy watchdog is to look again at what personal information internet giant Google gathered from private wi-fi networks. The Information Commissioner's Office had investigated a sample earlier this year after it was revealed that Google had collected personal data during its Street View project. At the time, it said no "significant" personal details were collected. But Google has since admitted that e-mails and passwords were copied. Privacy watchdogs in numerous countries, including France, Germany and Canada, had also investigated the information.

#### **Singapore stock exchange bids \$8.2bn for Australian ASX**

The Singapore stock exchange (SGX) has unveiled a multi-billion dollar bid for the company that owns the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) in Sydney. If approved, the \$8.2bn takeover would mark the first stock exchange merger in the Asia Pacific region. The deal would enhance Singapore as a major financial hub in the region and benefit Australian investors by giving them greater access to Asian markets.

A merged exchange would hope to compete more effectively with Hong Kong. The Singapore bid values ASX at A\$48 (\$47.50) per share, nearly 40% higher its more recent traded price. The offer is made up of A\$22 plus 3.473 SGX shares for each ASX share.