

Local 26 April 2010

Govt releases performance results of public agencies

State Law office has been named the best performing institution in the year 2008/2009 followed by the ministry of Agriculture and state house in the second and third positions respectively. Speaking while presiding over the official announcement of performance contracts evaluation results of public institutions at Kenyatta International Conference Centre this morning President Mwai Kibaki said that his government will continue to provide the necessary resources and support to ensure that all institutions perform as expected.

The head of state noted that the main objective of introducing performance contracting is to bring even administration of public service and improve lives of Kenyans. Announcing the results, Prime Minister Raila Odinga noted that the performance of local authorities recorded remarkable improvement. He also stated that tertiary institutions performed exemplary well.

In 2008, the Ministry of Gender, Sports and Social Services led the first ten ministries while the Ministry of Local Authorities was rated the worst performer.

EAC partners woo investors

With less than three months to the implementation of the East African Community Common Market Protocol, the region's governments and the business community have come together to work out how to attract and retain investors.

This will be the key focus in the third East African Investment Conference that opens in Uganda from April 27- 30 under the theme EAC Common Market: The Preferred Investment Destination which signals the implementation of the EAC Common Market.

The EAC countries will take the opportunity to showcase the various investment opportunities that the region offers, while the conference will also discuss the possibilities of joint partnerships, direct investments, industrial growth and economic development in the region.

Other key topics which will be discussed include climate change and food security, commercializing agriculture, promoting competitiveness and value addition, investment in renewable energy, extractive industries. As in the previous fora, the partnerships in infrastructure development will take centre-stage in this meeting with particular focus being on incentives for joint investment ventures to support the

road, rail and maritime transport systems.

Committee appointed to oversee national bio safety authority

The newly appointed agriculture minister Dr Sally Kosgei has appointed Professor Miriam Kinyua as the chair of the team that included Grace Thitai, Prof Moses Limo, Otula Owuor, Dorcas Kamunya, Willy Bett and Ditenri Shah. Through the latest issue of the Kenya gazette, the appointees will effectively set up procedures that will guide importation and exportation of genetically modified organisms in the country.

The appointed officers will serve for a period of three years. A recent report by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate – KEPHIS conducted on behalf of the parliamentary committee on Agriculture said Kenyans have been consuming genetically modified maize for 3 years now.

Regional news April 26th 2010

Zuma reveals he is HIV-negative

South Africa's President Jacob Zuma has revealed that he is HIV-negative. Launching a government programme of counselling and testing, he said he had decided to reveal his status so as to promote openness about Aids.

Zuma has been open in the past about being tested for Aids, but has never before revealed the results. Zuma, who has three wives, was criticised for promiscuity after it was revealed he had sired a child out of wedlock.

Global 26 April 2010

UK envoy 'escapes suicide bomb'

A suspected suicide bomber has carried out an attack near the convoy of the British ambassador to Yemen in the capital, Sanaa, reports say. Ambassador Tim Torlot is safe but at least one person - reported to be the attacker - is dead, security sources were quoted as saying. The UK Foreign Office said it was closing the embassy to the public.

The UK and US temporarily closed their embassies in January amid security threats from an al-Qaeda off-shoot. The closures came in the wake of the Christmas Day bomb attempt on a US jet flying to Detroit, which was claimed by a Yemeni-based group calling itself al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

There are mounting fears that Yemen is becoming a leading al-Qaeda haven.