

LOCAL NEWS June 2, 2010

300 people killed on Kenyan roads in May

Nearly 300 people were killed across the country in road accidents in the month of May alone, while 1,000 suffered serious injuries, according to statistics from Traffic Headquarters in Nairobi. Police said the figures are the highest ever recorded in a single month, since the beginning of the year, raising fears of an increase in reckless driving and laxity in compliance with traffic regulations by motorists.

Eighty percent of road accidents in the country are as a result of dangerous driving and poor maintenance of vehicles, according to the police. Between the months of January and April, the fatal cases involved were around 200 or even less, which means May, was the worst month in the country's calendar. The highest number of accidents occurred in Nairobi, Rift Valley, Coast and Central Provinces.

Orphans mark Madaraka in style

As Kenyans all over the republic marked Madaraka day on Tuesday, over 300 orphan pupils from Lugari district joined in. Instead of going to the customary stadium, however, the pupils converged at Irene Murunga's for a special treat. Murunga who is a member of the Women with HIV AIDS Kenya gave learning materials to each of the pupils. She noted that the move was geared towards attaining academic independence for orphaned pupils who are vulnerable and are at times unable to join school due to lack of equipment. The children braved the scorching sun, danced for hours and filled the air with songs of gladness.

End...Carolyn Koech

Traders cite various factors affecting supply.

Traders at the Eldoret Municipal Market have cited the ongoing heavy rains among the factors that have greatly affected supply of various commodities to the market. They say that the availability of vegetables has greatly been affected, leading to an increase in the prices of tomatoes and kales, while the price of spinach has remained stable.

The ongoing heavy rains have had adverse effects in some areas of the country, with Tana River, Tana Delta and Bura districts experiencing loss of lives and crops to floods, and Marakwet District experiencing landslides in the last couple of weeks.

Ends...David Macharia

New ferries finally arrive

The government has made good its promise to ship in two German made ferries today. The two arrivals docked at the port of Mombasa this morning at 8 o'clock, aboard a Singapore ship from

Beluga projects. The vessels are expected to come in handy and ease transport problems for thousands of commuters who use the Likoni channel daily. Construction of the vessels started in June 2008 at a cost of 1 billion shillings and ended in November last year. Kenya Ferry Services will now advertise the tenders for the expansion of the docking areas for the new vessels next week. The new ferries which have a capacity to carry 500 passengers and 60 vehicles each per trip will start operating in the next three weeks.

Eldoret commuters suffer lack of transport

Traffic police in Eldoret town Wednesday impounded over one hundred vehicles in an ongoing crackdown on faulty vehicles. This left passengers stranded since they had no means of transportation. Eldoret OCPD Muinde Kioko noted that the move is to ensure that all public vehicles adhere to the set traffic rules and regulations in a bid to curb road accidents. Meanwhile drivers in Eldoret town have raised their concern over alleged harassment by the traffic police without informing them of their offences. However Eldoret OCPD Mwinde Kioko has refuted the claims saying they are following the set rules noting that the impounded vehicle will be inspected before being prosecuted.

END...JOHN CHIKAMAI

MP claim Govt plans to harass maize farmers

Some members of parliament from Coast and Eastern provinces have advised maize farmers to stop selling their produce to the national cereals and produce board after the government reduced buying price from 2,300 shillings to 1000 shillings. Bura MP Dr. Nur Nassir Abdi has rubbished claims by the government that the maize was affected by the heavy rains that occurred early last month thus forcing them to reduce the buying price. His Mutito colleague Kiema Kilonzo claimed that the move is aimed at benefiting some politicians and some prominent business persons who are importing GMO maize from other countries and later selling it in the country. The two members of parliament were addressing the press early today outside parliament buildings in Nairobi.

Ends..... JOSEPH NJANE

Gvt asked to release money for civic education

Claims of a delay in the release of money meant to fund the ongoing civic education programme on the proposed draft constitution continues to elicit mixed reactions. The Centre for Multi-party Democracy has accused finance minister Uhuru Kenyatta for what it termed as politicizing the matter. Members of the organization now want Uhuru to release all the funds needed by the committee of experts on the constitution review and are asking President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga to intervene in this matter that they said might paralyze the nationwide civic education programme.

Ends.....JOSEPH NJANE

Makadara parliamentary seat declared vacant

The Makadara parliamentary seat has officially been declared vacant. National speaker Kenneth Marende has made the announcement just a month after the high court nullified the election of Dick Wathika as the area Member of Parliament after finding faults in his 2007 election. The announcement now gives the interim independent electoral commission a chance to begin preparations for a by election in Makadara constituency an area that has over seventy thousand voters.

However, the announcement comes at a time when Wathika is preparing to make an appeal against the judgment at the Nairobi high court.

ENDS.....JOSEPH NJANE

MP on the spot over a reconstruction of classrooms destroyed by storm

Parents, teachers and pupils of Sigot primary school in Mosop constituency today held a peaceful demonstration demanding quick action to be taken by the area MP to renovate classrooms whose roofs were blown away by a storm accompanied by strong wind in April this year. Area councilor Hezbon Metto says the MP David Koech has refused to help in releasing funds from the CDF kitty claiming that the 1.2 million estimated for the renovation is too much. The pupils are now forced to study under horrible conditions, being exposed to the sun, cold and pools of stagnated water which puts the children's health at stake.

The councilor alleges that even after organizing a fundraising in the past the MP refused to attend. The school head Kiptarus Maiyo says if the situation won't be salvaged it could lead to closure of the school saying the walls are about to collapse. Three classrooms were wholly blown off while two were partially destroyed. The school has a population of about 150.

Ends Carolyn Koech

Prices of various commodities.

These were the prices of different commodities at the Eldoret Municipal Market today; A kilogram of dry maize went for 23 shillings while 90 kilograms of green maize sold for 600 shillings. Millet and wheat both went for 40 shillings while a kilo of sorghum is selling today for 60 shillings. One kilo of potatoes and oranges went for 20 shillings each while that of tomatoes, green grams, cowpeas and groundnuts were sold at 100 shillings each. A 60 kilo bag of kales sold for 1,300 shillings to exceed that of spinach that went for 800 shillings. French and ordinary beans both sold at 50 shillings a kilo.

Ends... David Macharia

Regional News

Liberia sends seven to US on cocaine-smuggling charges

Liberia has deported seven people to the US after they were arrested for allegedly trying to ship 4,000kg of cocaine there, the government says. The suspects are accused of trying to bribe top Liberian officials to protect large cocaine shipments "since 2007". The men have now been charged by prosecutors in New York with conspiracy to import cocaine. In recent years West Africa has become a transit point for drugs en route from South America to Europe and the US. Liberia's Solicitor-General Watkins Wrights read out a government statement, saying that the seven men were from Russia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Ghana.

Sports News

Linet Masai wins Kenya police race

Reigning world 10,000m champion Linet Masai registered an outstanding performance to win the 5,000m final in a time of 15 minutes 52.1 seconds in the first day of the Kenya Police athletics championships at the Nyayo National stadium.

In other races, Geoffrey Ngeno of Nairobi Area clocked 28 minutes 7.39 seconds to win the 10,000m finals. Philemon Limo of Eastern registered a time of 28 minutes 29.19 seconds to finish 2nd five seconds ahead of Dennis Masai who finished 3rd. Reigning Africa 3,000 m champion Richard Mateelong won his heat in a time of 8 minutes 35.8 seconds to qualify for the finals. Catherine Kagwira won gold in the long jump followed by Purity Ingakara and Margret Mumbi who finished in the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. The two day event will be used to select a team to represent Kenya Police at the national athletics championships to be held later this month at the Nyayo national stadium in Nairobi

Safaricom sponsors Kenya athletics event

The 17th edition of the African Athletics Championships has received a 20 million shillings sponsorship boost from Safaricom which will see the company assume the title sponsorship of the continental event. The event which is expected to bring together participants from all over the continent begins on the 28th of next month in Nairobi. Apart from monetary support, Safaricom will also provide technical support to local organizing committee worth 3.5 million shillings. Over 1,200 athletes are expected to participate in the event which will be used to select a team to represent Africa in the Continental championships due to be held in Croatia in September this year. The event will be held between the 28th of next month through to 1st of August at the Nyayo national stadium in Nairobi

Barcelona reveal Fabregas talks

Barcelona say they are in official negotiations with Arsenal to sign Gunners captain Cesc Fabregas. The Spanish giants said that talks with Arsenal over a deal for the midfielder, who is with Spain's World Cup squad, "became formal" on Tuesday. Arsenal declined to comment

when they were contacted. Barcelona have made it clear they regard Fabregas, 22, who played in the youth team at the Nou Camp before moving to north London seven years ago, as one of their chief transfer targets this summer. They are reported to have already bid £30m for the player, with Arsenal believed to be holding out for closer to double that amount. Fabregas signed an eight-year contract with the Gunners in 2006 and has been quoted as saying he would only join Barcelona if he left the Emirates.