

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010**

## **Local News**

### ***Musicians take NO campaign to Bunyore.***

The campaign against the draft constitution was yesterday taken to Bunyore where residents turned up in large numbers for the Bunyore Gospel Musicians Katiba rallies. The twin rallies which were held in Esibuye and Luanda shopping centers in the local dialect outlined the musicians' opposition to the proposed draft. Fish FM MD Reuben Kigame, said that the constitutional process was not all inclusive and that citizens had no business voting for a draft they had not read. On his part, Reverend Douglas Jiveti says a majority of Kenyans have not read the draft constitution and it would be unfair for them to vote on what they haven't read. The event organizer Kuya Absalom said the rallies were a success as the residents got enlightened on the draft constitution and said more meetings were on the way.

### ***Kenya marks World press freedom day***

The role of the media in Kenya to the society is critical to the nation's development as Dr. Levi Obonyo Head of Department of communications at daystar university notes. He says as the country marks world press freedom day today, media outlets ought to give priority to news from the provinces and rural areas which are not covered as much. The don says much thought should be given to the role the journalist plays in bringing social change and calls on media houses to use the platform given to unite communities. The theme of World Press Freedom Day is 'Freedom of Information: The Right to Know.'

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Local

3 May 2010

### **IIEC boasts of ten million new voters**

Over ten million Kenyans have been registered countrywide as new voters in the on going voter registration exercise. The exercise is set to conclude this coming Wednesday with 10,036,451 having been registered as per today. The Interim Independent Electoral Commission IIEC has stated that it has hit the minimum target it had set of registering ten million new voters. Meanwhile, the Federation of Kenya Women Lawyers FIDA today launched a campaign to sensitize women to go and register as voters after it emerged that only a few women had taken

the bold step.

Local/03/05/10

### **Importation conference launched.**

Suitable systems of importing consumer commodities could be the main channel towards achieving economic development and boosting investor confidence in the country. The permanent secretary in the ministry of home affairs, Dr. Ludaki Chweya, says most holders of public offices have declined to follow the stipulated guidelines, a thing that has jeopardized their service delivery.

He has also called on Kenyans to embrace modern technology and competence in carrying out their respective duties, observing that this will boost the standard of local businesses and attract the foreign market.

Dr. Chweya was speaking Monday in Nairobi during the opening of a three-day workshop on importation.

Local

news 03/5/10

### **FIDA oppose FGM**

Parents have been warned against forcing their daughters to undergo Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). According to the director of the federation of women lawyers in Kenya (FIDA) Grace Maingi, such outdated practices have denied the girl child an opportunity to pursue further education. Maingi said this Monday in an exclusive interview with Fish FM in Nairobi.

### **NEMA to conduct an inspection on buildings in Eldoret,**

The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) will conduct an impact assessment exercise on the mushrooming buildings within Eldoret town. Speaking at his office Monday morning, Uasin Gishu District Environmental Officer Gilbert Magut said only a few buildings have complied with NEMA's requirements adding that they will ensure the law is followed to the later.

Magut said plans are under way to sensitize the public on sustainable ways of handling wastes in residential places as well as plant trees in some of the eroded areas in a bid to conserve the environment. This comes barely a month before the marking of the World Environmental Day. This year's celebrations will be held in Nakuru town on 5th June focusing on ways of dealing with global warming.

### **500 in for illicit brew in Eldoret**

Up to 500 suspects have so far been netted in an ongoing operation to arrest illicit brewers in Eldoret. Eldoret OCPD Muinde kioko told Fish FM that they have destroyed 20,000 litres of changaa from brewing dens at the town. Muinde says since the brewing business is lucrative the traders have come up with ways of concealing their operations. He notes that they've been successful from the tip offs received from the members of the public.

The OCPD says the brewing dens are grounds for criminals and they need to be phased out so the residents can be safe.

### **Regional news**

May 3, 2010

#### **Somali pirates move captive ships**

Three ships held captive by Somali pirates have been moved after Islamist insurgents seized one of their bases. The ships, reportedly with some 60 crew on board, have been sailed 110km (70 miles) up the coast from Haradhere to Hobyo, a pirate said. The fate of some 300 other hostages, including a British couple, is unclear. Reports indicates that a complex ransom negotiations risk being undermined by a possible turf war after multi-million dollar payments. Residents said several hundred insurgents from the Hizbul-Islam group took control of Haradhere over the weekend.

#### **BP vows to clean up US oil slick**

Oil giant BP has acknowledged it is "absolutely responsible" for cleaning up a huge oil spill after an accident at one of its wells off the US coast. BP boss Tony Hayward said the company was preparing for a "worst case scenario" that the spill would need to be contained for two to three months.

US President Barack Obama has described the slick as a "potentially unprecedented" environmental disaster. The BP-operated Deepwater Horizon rig sank on 22 April. Since then, thousands of barrels of oil have been leaking into the Gulf of Mexico every day. Late on Sunday, Obama said the slick was nine miles (14 km) off the coast of south-eastern Louisiana.

#### **US training military in Sahara**

A major joint military exercise with countries around the volatile Sahara desert region is beginning as part of a US programme of counter-terrorism. The three-week Operation Flintlock aims to improve the ability of the region's armed forces to work together to bring security to the area. It serves as a base for the group al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and has seen increased terror attacks. Drug smuggling is also growing, moving cocaine from South America to Europe. Flintlock 10 mainly involves Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. Other countries in the region are taking part, but in a more limited way.

## **Sports**

### **200 registered for Kenya's Sotokoto Marathon**

Over 200 athletes have so far registered for the 2nd edition of the Sotokoto half Marathon set to be held on May 23 in Nairobi. The organizers of the event say they are targeting to register 4000 participants for this year's event which will start at Uhuru gardens. The route for this year's event has been changed and will now start and finish at the Nairobi's Uhuru gardens thanks to new partnership between Sotokoto and the National Museums of Kenya.

Chief executive of the event Douglas Wakihuri said the aim of shifting the event from its traditional venue at the KWS was to get mass participation from the community. Over 10 foreign athletes including Sydney Olympics gold medalist Takahashi Naoko of Japan have confirmed their participation with defending champion David Tarus being in high spirits ahead of the challenge. Other countries expected to participate are USA, Australia, Lebanon and India with registration running until May 15

### **Kenya's Harambee Stars commence training**

The National soccer team Harambee Stars went into residential training Monday at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani ahead of their second round, first leg Africa Nations Championship qualifier against Uganda Cranes. However Coach Twahir Muhiddin is a worried man because a bulk of the players from Sofapaka called for national duty will not be available for the match set for April 22 in Kampala.

The players will be away in Rwanda taking part at the annual Cecafo Club Championships. Some of the players who were included in the Harambee Stars provisional squad are Kepha Aswani of Thika United), Stephen Waruru of Ulinzi Stars, Gor Mahia's George "BlackBerry" Odhiambo and Dennis Mukaisi of Tusker among others. The finals of the Africa Nations championship will be held next year in Khartoum Sudan.

Last week, the Uganda football federation (FUFA) rejected a request by Kenya to change the date for Cranes' first leg match against Harambee Stars in the annual Africa Nations Championship. Kenya had cited a clash in dates with the May 15-30 CECAFA Club Championship, and asked that the match be brought forward to May 8. But FUFA publicist Rogers Mulindwa said the request was not only at short notice, but that the Namboole venue would also not be available at the time. The Kenya appeal was to enable them to call six players from champions Sofapaka. The Cranes will also miss five URA players. Kenya's appeal to Sofapaka to release their players for national duty was also rejected by the club which said it would travel with their full strength team to Rwanda for the Cecafo Club Championship.

