

Local News 30th June 2010

Give us more time to read the draft constitution Kenyans ask.

With only a month to the August 4th referendum where Kenyans will be expected to either accept or reject the proposed constitution, majority of the citizens are still unfamiliar with the contents of the draft.

As a result, some of the people we interviewed feel that if the referendum date is postponed, it will give room for amendments of the contentious issues and offer enough period for everyone to read the document. From those we spoke too, it appears that those who have read the constitution have already made their decisions on which side to vote while those who have not read the draft don't know which side to sail on. However the Eldoret residents have pledged to maintain peace during the referendum period in spite of their democratic differences.

Ends: Gladys Kimaiyo

Hawkers association object opening of market

The Eldoret hawkers association has objected to the opening of the West and Kahoya hawkers markets due to poor hygiene. Speaking during an exclusive interview with our reporter, The national secretary general of the hawkers association Gerald Mutakha cited among other factors the absence of latrines as a condition that hinders the normal operation in the markets. At the same time Mutakha said, the management of the association should be left to the organisation and should not be politicized. Despite the Eldoret municipal council relocating the hawkers to the two markets, some have been returning at the Central Business District to conduct their business, a move that's against the law.

Ends... Wesonga Job

Rates of adopting cases increase countrywide,

Kenyans are being advised to ensure that they following the due process of the law before adopting, fostering or assuming guardianship roles. The call follows an increase in cases of children adoption among the locals countrywide. Speaking at a workshop in Eldoret, Chief children's officer from the ministry of gender children and social development Jacinta Omondi said, this is aimed at ensuring that the current new laws are followed.

The new laws target at enduring the safety of all children with or without parents in the country. At the same time District children officer Uasin Gishu Phillip Nzenge said the government will not register any other Children's homes within the district. He added that the current homes must be registered with the department to ensure that children's needs are well taken care off instead of benefiting some individuals.

END.....JAMES GITAKA

A new bill to protect the informal sector,

Workers from the informal sector will adversely benefit from a micro and small enterprise bill to be tabled in parliament next month. The bill aims at protecting and representing grievances from the informal sector, apart from providing a conducive working environment for the informal sector. Some of the informal workers from Eldoret town that our reporter spoke to aired their views concerning the bill.

On his part, the chairman Eldoret jua kali industry James Kibiso noted that the bill will also provide a fund that will boost the informal sector among other positive benefits. This was said today (on Wednesday) in Eldoret town during an educational forum that targeted members of the informal sector on the bill ahead of its tabling in parliament for discussion come next month (July).

END.....JAMES GITAKA

Civic by-election candidates told to desist from hate speech.

The aspirants of Makongeni and Arison wards civic by elections in Samburu West district have been told to desist from propagating hate speech during their campaigns. Speaking in Eldoret during a meeting organized by IIEC in conjunction with National Democratic Institute which aims to pass regulations and conduct during the civic elections, the Treasurer Liason Committee North Rift region Andrew Yatich said that the political parties should hold a joint rally campaign to end tribalism in the region.

He also called upon the registrar of political parties to ban the candidates who defy the regulations from the exercise. At the same time, he urged Kenyans to co-exist peacefully disregarding politicians' sentiments that might incite them especially during this referendum campaign period. The Makongeni and Arison civic by elections scheduled for 12th July was as a result of the deceased councilor and the other refusing to take an oath of office.

End...Stanley Magut

Businesses go up in smoke in South Kinangop

Traders at the Engineer trading centre in Nyandarua South district Tuesday lost thousands of shillings worth of stock in a late afternoon inferno. It is alleged the fire started from the chimney of one of the cafés a few yards from the DC's office, before spreading fast to nearby stalls, barber shops and hair salons. Residents blamed the inadequacy of fire fighting equipment for the huge loss, adding that the fire fighting strategies need to be enhanced, especially now that the trading center serves as Nyandarua South district headquarters.

Ends...David Macharia

Ruiru County Council Given Ultimatum to rectify Sewer Mess

Ruiru district public health officer Francis Mwangi has ordered the area County Council and

Ruiru water Company (RUJUWASCO) to rectify the sewerage and trash challenges in the area, failure to which the two will face the law. Mwangi affirmed that his office will not sit and allow a cholera outbreak to occur as it did last year. An overspill of sewage in the area now flows into Ruiru River that is depended upon by area residents for domestic water, which Mwangi pointed out as a great health hazard.

The health officer ordered the Rujuwasco to improvise manholes and sewerage tanks, to end sewage dumping at Ruiru stadium and into nearby rivers. He noted that his office held talks with the county council last year and a way to rectify the mess was reached at, but which has not been implemented to date.

Ends...David Macharia

Internal Security ministry says crime rate has reduced in Nyanza.

Internal security ministry says incidences of crime in Nyanza province have gone down despite reports that seem to indicate otherwise. Assistant Minister for Internal Security Orwa Ojode denied that there was an upsurge in violent crime in areas of Nyanza. Giving statistics, the assistant minister stated that there was a decline of 393 cases of crime cases reported in the region. He noted that while there were cases still under investigation, the general crime trend decreased and a number of measures have been instituted to deal with the vice. Orwa said stern action would be taken against police officers who use road blocks to extort money from motorists.

Ends...Patroba Ojwang.

Presidential pardon sees death row inmates released.

President Mwai Kibaki has pardoned 20 prisoners through an order that has seen the release of the reformed inmates. The 20 death row inmates were from Kamiti and Shimo la Tewa maximum security prisons. Following the pardon, some of the inmates sentenced to hang were instead given life sentences. The 20 from the two prisons have been released after spending more than 30 years behind bars. Most have been set free on compassionate grounds, given that they are reformed, or are ailing.

Ends...Patroba Ojwang

Church takes Civic education to Cheptais.

National Council of Churches of Kenya on Tuesday organized a Civic education drive for church leaders, professionals and residents of Mt. Elgon district. The forum was facilitated by Fish FM Managing Director Reuben Kigame upon the invitation of the council at the Cheptais ACK Church. During the function, copies of the draft constitution were distributed to the residents who were taken through both the acceptable and contentious clauses.

Participants complained that though the committee of experts was funded to avail the constitution for them, they had neither received copies of the document nor had been given civic

education. The residents were particularly concerned on the land clauses given that the area has been experiencing land related conflicts. Kigame revealed that other fora have been planned for this week in Ikolomani and Butere on Thursday while more areas to be visited include Hamisi, Nyanza among other parts of the country.

Ends...Patroba Ojwang

Burundi opposition leader Rwaswa admits he is in hiding

Burundi's main opposition leader and former rebel leader Agathon Rwaswa has confirmed that he has gone into hiding. In a taped message sent to a local radio station, Rwaswa said he had fled because he feared for his safety. He went missing a week ago, ahead of presidential elections which took place on Monday with incumbent Pierre Nkurunziza as the only candidate.

The election was the second major vote since the end of the country's brutal 12-year ethnic-based civil war. Diplomats have warned that the country is still in danger of slipping back into conflict. Five opposition parties claimed those polls were rigged and pulled out of the presidential ballot.

Regional News

Illegal Ghana gold mine owner arrested after collapse

Police in Ghana have arrested the owner of an illegal gold mine which collapsed on Sunday after heavy rains, burying large numbers of miners. There are fears that an estimated 100 people have been killed in the accident in Dunkwa-on-Offin, central Ghana. At least 15 people survived.

Rescue workers are continuing search efforts, but have been hampered by flooding.

The West African nation is one of the continent's largest gold exporters. Municipal chief Peter Owusu-Eshia said the owner had allegedly hired 136 people to work in the mine. As the mine was being run illegally, it is unclear how many were in the mine at the time of the incident.

England World Cup fan 'trespass' charges dropped

Charges against the England fan who walked into the players' dressing room after the World Cup match against Algeria have been dropped. Cape Town Magistrates' Court heard that Pavlos Joseph, 32, from Crystal Palace, south London, paid a 750 rand (£65) admission of guilt fine on Tuesday. He was accused of trespassing, but said he was only looking for a toilet. The case against the Sunday Mirror's Simon Wright, who denies harbouring Joseph, has been delayed until 7 July. The 44-year-old journalist is accused of sheltering Joseph from police and will appear charged with "defeating the ends of justice". He has been granted 3,000 rand (£260) bail and has had his passport confiscated.

Global News

Oaxaca in southern Mexico shaken by 6.2 magnitude quake

A 6.2 magnitude earthquake has struck the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca. The quake, which hit at 0222 local time (0722 GMT), also rattled buildings in Mexico City, some 355km (220

miles) away, sending people on to the streets. Oaxaca civil defence officials said they had not had any reports of injuries or major damage. The quake's epicentre was some 120km (75 miles) west-south-west of the city of Oaxaca, the US Geological Survey said. The earthquake, which was initially classified as magnitude 6.5 but revised down to 6.2, hit when many people were asleep.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel faces electoral test

Voting has begun for a new German president in what is being seen as a test of the popularity of Chancellor Angela Merkel's government. The role is largely ceremonial but the election may also become a verdict on her raft of austerity measures. Her candidate, Christian Wulff, faces a strong challenge from former East German rights activist Joachim Gauck.

A total of 1,244 elected representatives take part in the ballot. Half are federal legislators and half state-parliament nominees. The president has little power and the role is largely symbolic.

Agricultural Bank of China begins share sale

A share sale at Agricultural Bank of China - set to be the world's biggest initial public offering (IPO) - has begun in Hong Kong. Retail investors have been queuing outside bank branches to pick up the AgBank prospectus. It will also float on the Shanghai market. The bank, the last of China's so-called 'big four' to go public, aims to sell a 14% stake for \$23bn (£15.3bn).

UK-based bank Standard Chartered has said it will invest \$500m in the bank. Qatar and Kuwait are already set to invest \$3.6bn in the IPO. Other likely investors include Singapore's sovereign wealth fund Temasek Holdings, Hong Kong businessman Li Ka Shing and Rabobank of the Netherlands. The final share price for the IPO launch will be issued on 7 July.

International News

Larry King says its time to end career.

Larry King known to anchor the nightly interview show by the same name is set to leave the program after 25 years with CNN. Talk show host Larry King says its time to hang up his nightly suspenders. The 76 year old says he'll end his run on Larry King Live, in the fall, but will remain with CNN for occasional specials. CNN says a replacement for King's timeslot will be made in the week's ahead. A statement from the network says King defined the art of Television Interview with his ability to interview people from all walks of life making him an icon. King says this will give him more time with his family.

Sports News

Manchester City agree deal for David Silva

Manchester City are set to sign Spanish International winger David Silva from Valencia for an undisclosed fee. City have agreed a five year-year deal with the 24-year old who will complete a medical and sign for the club once his involvement in the World Cup is over. He said the Premier League is one of the best competitions in the world and that he wants to bring success to City.

Silva is City's second major signing of the summer, following the capture of Hamburg's German international defender Jerome Boateng. Manager Roberto Mancini hailed Silva as "one of the best midfielders in Europe."

Fernando Torres backed by Spain strike partner Villa

David villa has defended his Spain team-mate Fernando Torres following criticism of the Liverpool striker's performances in the world cup. Torres who underwent knee surgery before the tournament, struggled in the group phase and was substituted during Spain's second round win over Portugal.

Villa's goal in the 1-0 victory against Portugal- his fourth of the world cup- set up a quarter-final showdown with Paraguay. It came mid way through the second half, before which the Portuguese kept Spain at bat with some resolute defending.

Stars fail to shine

Superstars have failed to deliver goals at the World Cup with Kaka, Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney managing just one between them. And that came softly to Ronaldo three minutes from full-time in Cape Town as Portugal tore hapless North Korea to shreds in the most one-sided match of the tournament. Rooney flew home with his disgraced England team-mates after failing to score in four matches and maintaining a sad record of never netting at the showcase of international football.

Brazil midfielder Kaka came to South Africa after months of thigh-injury concerns and instead of celebrating his goals was sent off against the Ivory Coast. Argentina coach Diego Maradona has jumped to the defence of Messi, who has done just about everything except score as his team stormed into the last eight with a 10-goal haul. Rooney and Ronaldo have been the biggest disappointments with Portugal also out of contention after losing an Iberian derby against Spain in Cape Town to a David Villa goal.

Africa rallies behind Ghana

Ghana, uplifted by the enthusiasm of an entire one billion-strong continent, will be bidding to become the first African nation to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup when they play Uruguay at Soccer City on Friday. Ghana's 'Black Stars' are the lone flag-waver for Africa in the first World Cup staged on the continent and there is an emotional outpouring of support for them against one-time football powers Uruguay.

Ghana became only the third African team along with Cameroon (1990) and Senegal (2002) to reach the last eight at the World Cup when they downed the United States 2-1 in Rustenburg last Saturday. South Africa 2010 was trumpeted as Africa's long-awaited opportunity to host the world's greatest sporting showpiece, but only Ghana has survived after the demise of hosts South Africa, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Algeria at the group stage.

Now after their fighting win over the United States, the Black Stars have the opportunity to do what no other African team has previously achieved and progress to the semi-finals of the World Cup.

Ronaldo 'broken' by Portugal exit

Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo says he feels like a "broken man" following his side's 1-0 World Cup second-round defeat to Iberian neighbours Spain. The Real Madrid star cut a frustrated figure as David Villa earned Spain a quarter-final match with Paraguay. It completed a disappointing tournament for Ronaldo, who failed to reproduce his club form for Portugal. Ronaldo, who notched 33 goals for Real last season, scored only once for his country during their World Cup campaign in South Africa, in the 7-0 group victory over North Korea. However, he was unable to exert any influence over Tuesday's last-16 game in Cape Town and was a subdued figure in the second half as Spain tightened their grip and the tactics of Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz left him increasingly isolated up front.