

Local News 30 May 2010

COE on the spot over wearing green T-shirts

The Committee of experts on the constitution review process has defended itself over allegations that they are trying to woo people in voting yes by wearing green T-shirts. Director in charge of civic education Dr Ekuro Aukot says they had produced the T-shirts long before the IIEC had declared the referendum colours.

Speaking at a civic education in Eldoret over the weekend, Aukot stated that those saying so are doing it out of proportion. Eldoret North Member of Parliament William Rutoh, Retired president Daniel Arap Moi and other No campaigners have criticized the CEO for being impartial during the civic education exercise by wearing green t-shirts. Those voting for the constitution come the referendum on 4th August will have to choose a green colour while those opposed to it will choose Red according to IIEC.

End...Carolyn Koech

Christians reminded that they are a chosen generation

The word of Truth ministries, the mother of your good news radio 97.1 Fish FM over the weekend headed to Sacho with the gospel of Christ. According to WTM coordinator Gideon Banda, the mission held at Sacho High School starting Friday to Sunday saw over 20 souls coming to Christ and at least ten other people re-dedicating their lives to Christ by Saturday evening. Speaking at the mission on Saturday, Banda reminded Christians that they are chosen, priest set, holy and assured to declare the works of the Lord.

WTM and Fish FM Managing Director Reuben Kigame spoke Sunday under the theme, “a chosen generation”. Sifa voices, a branch of WTM also ministered through gospel music at the mission.

End...Chumba Silvanoh

Imenti South Member of Parliament Gitobu Imanyara is reading mischief

on the governments' efforts of bringing to justice the perpetrators of the 2007 post election skirmishes. Imanyara is now alleging that the government is planning to protect major suspects

of the post election violence from facing charges at the International Criminal Court at the Hague.

Speaking to journalist at a hotel in Nairobi, Imanyara claimed that that the government wants the ICC chief prosecutor Louis Morreno Ocampo to suspend his investigations for a period of one year. According to Imanyara, the government has sent a delegation to an ICC conference to be held in Kampala starting Monday, to convince ICC to suspend its investigations in the country.

Comparing income with peers causes unhappiness

Comparing your income with those of family and friends is a recipe for unhappiness, a study has suggested. Researchers analysing data from a Europe-wide survey found three-quarters of those asked thought it important to compare their incomes with others. But those who compared salaries seem less content, especially if they looked at those of friends and family rather than work colleagues.

The paper in the Economic Journal also found the poor were most affected. The researchers, from the Paris School of Economics, used data from the European Social Survey covering 19,000 participants in 24 countries. They found that those who compared their incomes with others tended to be less happy.

Kenyan women lack maternity care

Fifty six percent of Kenyan women deliver with the aid of unskilled birth attendants while only ten percent of those who deliver in the presence of a trained health worker attend post natal care. Public Health Minister Beth Mugo says the statistics indicated the likely reason for the high maternal/infant mortality rates in the country.

She adds that although the country was rated among the 13 African countries that had a maternal mortality ratio of less than 500 deaths per 100,000 live births, there was still need for the country to scale up her intervention measures and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Mugo also says the government had so far embarked on the construction of model health centers for every constituency equipped with both maternal and child wards as an intervention measure. The minister was speaking at the launch of 'Mama's Million Shillings Campaign' in

collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund and its private sector partners aimed at mobilizing funds to facilitate quality health care for women.

Victims of Rights Violations Turn Their Eyes to Kampala

Starting in Kampala on Monday, representatives of governments, the United Nations and civil society groups will meet for the first time to review the workings of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and of the international treaty which set it up, the Rome Statute. The 10-day review conference will consider among other issues the question of extending the court's mandate, which at present covers war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

African countries comprise one of the largest blocs of signatories to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and are critical actors in the institution, but their role is often overlooked. The creation of real space on the African continent which is hostile to impunity for perpetrators will depend on the number of states implementing legislation that complements the statute. Those laws are necessary tools to bring about judicial cooperation between both the ICC and African countries on the one hand, and between African countries themselves on the other.

Eliminate Bottlenecks to End Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission

Making services for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) available without addressing the factors that keep mothers from accessing these services is an exercise in futility. Chewe Luo, senior advisor on HIV/AIDS to the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF says inadequate involvement of men and communities, and lack of information are some of the barriers that stop mothers from accessing PMTCT. Luo says virtual elimination of mother-to-child transmission in Africa - where 20 countries share over 85 percent of the global burden of mother-to-child HIV transmission - was possible if HIV counselling and testing services were expanded so that all mothers had access to effective antiretroviral (ARV) prophylaxis and treatment.

In 2008, 430,000 children became infected with HIV, 90 percent of whom lived in sub-Saharan Africa; in the absence of access to ARV treatment, most of them would die within one year of birth, according to UNAIDS. The UN World Health Organization is expected to release new guidelines on infant feeding in July this year.

Africa News

Africa: U.N. Biodiversity Plan Demands Voice for Women

Women provide up to 90 percent of the rural poor's food and produce up to 80 percent of food in most developing countries, and yet they are almost completely ignored when policy decisions are made about agriculture and biodiversity. That's about to change thanks to a United Nations agreement on biodiversity that will ask countries to ensure women are involved in decisions regarding biodiversity - including agriculture. The U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan under final discussion in Nairobi that sets the objectives and goals of a new international agreement on how to curb the loss of biodiversity will explicitly state that women must participate and funding will be tied to their involvement.

The Strategic Plan will set a number of specific biodiversity targets for 2020 and will be submitted to the 195 member countries for approval at a final meeting in Nagoya, Japan this October.

Global News

Top kill' BP operation to halt US oil leak fails

The latest attempt to stop the Gulf of Mexico oil leak has failed, the oil giant BP has said.

BP chief operating officer Doug Suttles said the firm was now shifting to a new strategy to stop the spill. In the failed procedure - known as "top kill" - the firm had been blasting waste material and heavy mud into a ruptured well. US President Barack Obama said the continued flow of oil was "as enraging as it is heartbreaking".

The worst oil spill in US history began when a drilling rig exploded and sank last month, killing 11 people. The thick crude has already permeated more than 70 miles (110km) of Louisiana's coastline, threatening fragile wetlands and putting the vital fishing industry at risk.

Deadly storm strikes volcano-hit Guatemala

A powerful tropical storm has struck Guatemala, bringing torrential rains that have added to the disruption caused by an erupting volcano. At least 12 people have died in mudslides and floods caused by tropical storm Agatha, which is moving in from the Pacific Ocean. The rains are complicating efforts to clear up ash from the Pacaya Volcano, which began erupting on

Thursday.

Guatemala's main airport will remain close for at least five days. Tropical storm Agatha - the first named storm of the Pacific Hurricane season - is expected to dump at least 50cm (20in) of rain on Guatemala, as well as El Salvador and southeastern Mexico. Some rivers have already burst their banks, destroying bridges and forcing more than a-thousand people to flee their homes.

Sports News

Nadal coasts past Hewitt in Paris

Second seed Rafael Nadal made comfortable progress into the French Open fourth round with a 6-3 6-4 6-3 win over Australia's Lleyton Hewitt. The Spaniard, who has won the event in four of his five appearances, will next face Brazil's Thomasz Bellucci. USA's Andy Roddick became the biggest seed to fall so far as he lost 6-4 6-4 6-2 to qualifier Teimuraz Gabashvili. Spain's David Ferrer suffered a surprise defeat to Jurgen Melzer, but Novak Djokovic beat Victor Hanescu. Although short of his best form and occasionally outworked by a tenacious Hewitt, Nadal recovered from losing his opening service game to win in two hours and 28 minutes.