

## **Local News 31st May 2010**

### **Kenyan court rejects another Kadhi case**

The High court in Mombasa has thrown out a case seeking to suspend the August 4 referendum owing to conflict on the inclusion of Kadhis' courts in the proposed Constitution. Justice Mohamed Ibrahim ruled that the case was not within the jurisdiction of the Mombasa High Court dashing the hopes of Christian leaders who had filed the suit.

The application was filed in 2009 by three clergy under the Mombasa Pastors' Fellowship umbrella who were protesting failure by the Committee of Experts to declare the inclusion of Kadhis' courts as a contentious issue. The Pastors' Fellowship was seeking the definition of what amounts to contentious issues in the constitution review process. In their application, Bishop Joseph Kimani, Reverend Musyoka Nzui and Agnes Mbinya had asked the court to issue conservatory orders and suspend the operations of some of the sections of the Constitution of Kenya Review Act 2008. The Mombasa Pastor's Fellowship was represented in the case by lawyer Gikandi Ngibuini.

The ruling comes barely a week after the Constitutional Court in Nairobi ruled that the courts are illegal in the current constitution but added it could not make any verdict on the proposed Constitution. One more case filed by the clergy against the new law is pending at the High Court in Nairobi.

### **UN's Ban presses countries to join war crimes court**

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has urged all states to sign up to the International Criminal Court and rejected criticism the body was a court only for African crimes. Delegates from member states are meeting in Kampala over the next 10 days to discuss the achievements of the ICC, set up in 2002 as the world's first permanent war crimes court, and seek to give it extra powers to prosecute crimes of state aggression.

But Ban denied the court is being selective in only targeting African cases. The ICC has been ratified by 111 member states, but large powers such as the U.S., Russia, China and India have not. NGOs have urged nations to make strong commitments to the ICC and step up their efforts to arrest indicted suspects. Kenya is being represented by lands minister James Orengo and

Attorney General Amos Wako

### **Voter register inspection underway in Matuga**

Preparations for inspection of voter registers are underway in Matuga. Area elections coordinator Sidi Kahindi said that the exercise will start as soon as everything is set. The Coordinator who is also the returning officer for the by-election said that people should avail themselves during the inspection to avoid disappointments during the elections.

She said those who had registered were expected to go to their registration stations to check if their names appeared in the register so that anomalies can be corrected immediately. Kahindi said that although a provisional register will be used for the inspection the principle register will be ready when all the data from the country has been verified and input.

### **World Bank approves \$330 m loan for Kenyan energy**

The World Bank has approved a \$330 million loan for Kenya to expand its national grid and support its emerging geothermal power generation. Kenya's largest economy relies on hydropower to generate about 65 percent of its electricity but it is prone to power shortages and cuts, which were aggravated last year when a drought dangerously lowered the nation's dam water levels. The multi-million dollar loan is a part of \$1.4 billion being invested in the electricity sector by the government, the World Bank and other development partners.

A statement from the World Bank released on May 27, the Washington-based body said the lack of reliable energy lowers the annual sales revenues of Kenyan firms by about 7 percent and reduces Kenya's growth rate by about 1.5 percent annually.

Kenya is seeking to diversify its sources of electricity and hopes to lean more on geothermal and wind energy in future. Kenya plans to raise the electricity generated from geothermal to a minimum of 5,000 MW by 2030

### **Parents told to ensure their children are immunized**

A 3 day forum is being conducted in Eldoret aimed at sensitizing public health officers in the North Rift region on how they may reach all Early Childhood Development-ECD going children in the region with health services. Speaking at the forum today in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu District

nutritionist Angeline Kolif said they want to ensure that all ECD children gets sufficient vitamin A in their quest of reducing child mortality rate in the country.

Kolif stated that the sensitization of the programme should be encouraged at all social places in a bid to make the exercise a success. She appealed to parents to ensure that their children get immunized and vitamin A doses without failure.

*END....John Chikamai.*

### **Police deny matatu welfare accusations**

The police chief Uasin Gishu district Bernard Muinde Kioko has denied accusations filed by the Matatu welfare association against the police for harassing matatu operators. Kioko said that the police only enforce rules and by laws given to them. Job Wesonga talked to the OCPD and filed this report. The police boss also challenged the association to produce evidence for their accusations adding that the police do not deal with propaganda but specific incidents and numericals in terms of the number of filed cases of harassment.

He further urged the association to move to court with the registration numbers of the police officers who they claim have demanded bribes from matatu operators adding that matatu operators are always on the wrong and would want to redirect their mischief to the police.

He further revealed that so far no matatus are being held in custody at the Eldoret police headquarters adding that all the matatus that were netted were given back to the owners to repair them so that they adhere to the traffic code.

*Ends....Job Wesonga*

## **African News 31-5-10**

### **Libya plane crash 'not technical fault'**

A plane crash in Libya that killed 103 people on 12 May was not caused by mechanical failure, according to a preliminary inquiry. The "black box" recorders indicated that the Afriqiyah Airways plane had enough fuel and made no call for help. A nine-year-old Dutch boy was the sole survivor of the crash.

Most of the dead were Dutch citizens killed when the plane missed the runway at Tripoli airport as it flew in from South Africa.

## **Global News**

### **German President Koehler quits amid row over military**

German President Horst Koehler says he is resigning immediately, following criticism of remarks he made about German military deployments abroad.

Koehler, whose job is largely ceremonial, had linked missions such as the Afghanistan deployment with the defence of economic interests. His remarks drew criticism from a number of German politicians.

### **Turkey rocket attack 'kills six' at naval base**

Six Turkish soldiers have been killed and seven injured in a rocket attack on a navy base in the country's south, state media reports. Suspected Kurdish rebels fired on a military vehicle carrying troops in the Mediterranean port of Iskenderun. Soldiers at the base fired at the attackers but it was not clear if any were injured.

The government has recently intensified efforts to end the Kurdish insurgency. Three Turkish soldiers were in a critical condition and were taken to a military hospital in the capital, Ankara, according to the Anatolia news agency.

### **Deaths as Israeli forces storm Gaza aid ship**

More than 10 people have been killed after Israeli commandos stormed a convoy of ships carrying aid to the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army says. Armed forces boarded the largest vessel overnight, clashing with some of the 500 people on board. It happened about 40 miles (64 km) out to sea, in international waters. Israel says its soldiers were shot at and attacked with weapons; the activists say Israeli troops came on board shooting.

There has been widespread condemnation of the violence, while the European Union has called for an inquiry to establish what happened. The six-ship flotilla, carrying 10,000 tonnes of aid, left the coast of Cyprus on Sunday and had been due to arrive in Gaza today.

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### **GSU team takes the AMACO volley ball tournament title**

The General Service Unit team took the male title at the Africa Merchants insurance company

volley ball cup by hammering Kenya Posta 3 sets nil at a tournament played at Kipchoge Keino stadium Sunday. Kenya pipeline knocked out Blue triangle 3 nil to take home the female category title. Speaking after the tournament, Kenya volley ball federation chairman David Leting noted that the qualified teams will proceed to Japan in October for an international tournament led by the team manager Derilillo Kulisawa.

Leting revealed that the teams will also compete for Alfred Khang`ati cup which will be held next month in Western Kenya at Bungoma High School grounds. He appealed to the youth to join volley ball clubs and develop their talents instead of involving themselves in wanting activities.

*END....JOHN CHIKAMAI*

### **Fish United 3-Munyaka FC 2**

Fish United beat Muyanka FC three goals to two in a thrilling match held Sunday at Kapsoya grounds. Fish united coach Lucas Lusigi says the match was part of the mtaani tournament which has been going on for some time now. Scorers for the Fish United side included Bernard, Jackson, and Jayce while Munyaka's goals were scored by Dennis and James.