

Local News August 3rd, 2010

All is set for tomorrow's elections

The Interim Independent Electoral Commission -IIEC director James Oswago has assured Kenyans that all is set for tomorrow's elections. Oswago said that the polling stations will be opening tomorrow at 6 am and will officially be closed at 5pm in the evening to allow the counting process to begin on time. The IIEC director told all voters that as they go to vote they must ensure that they have their new generation identity card or a passport and the new IIEC voter's card

He noted that photocopies of ID Cards or passports will not be accepted and told the voters to go and vote in the polling stations that they registered as voters. Oswago urged Kenyans across the country to remain calm and to immediately leave the polling stations once they have cast their votes. 12 million Kenyans who are registered as voters are expected to take part in tomorrow's exercise.

Ends...Muhonja Mrace Kirwaye

All is set for Kenya's big day

With less than 24 hours to the referendum, preparations across the country are on top gear as the country braces itself for the historic moment. At the Interim Independent Electoral Commission - IIEC- nerve center at Bomas of Kenya its all systems go. Security has also been beefed up countrywide with nearly over 70,000 officers being deployed to guard the voting centers. Police hotlines have also been set up to enable Kenyans to report any insecurity incidences. On Monday, IIEC commissioner in charge of ICT Davies Chirchir said that all polling materials and personnel are already in place and assured Kenyans of a smooth exercise.

Meanwhile the YES and NO camps will this afternoon hold a joint press conference in Nairobi to appeal for peace during and after the referendum.

More calls for a peaceful referendum made

As Kenyans prepare to go to the referendum polls tomorrow, more calls are being made for Kenyans to maintain peace during and after the referendum. Addressing locals in Turbo, Uasin Gishu District last night, Netherlands ambassador to Kenya Laetitia Van Den Assum said this was a very crucial process in which Kenyans need to decide on informed basis and urged all Kenyans to maintain peace whatever the outcome and asked locals to respect other people's opinions on the proposed law.

Former director of the Commission on Human Rights and Democracy Maina Kiai used the opportunity to remind locals what happened in 2007 and cautioned them of the consequences of trying to bring about change through fighting. Kiai said the referendum gives a way for Kenyans to exercise their democratic rights peacefully. He noted that contentious issues haven't been addressed hence the need for Kenyans to think soberly on how they will be addressed after

the referendum. The two were visiting places perceived as hot spots in the Rift Valley to preach peace.

END...CAROLYNE KOEH

Kenyans urged to observe minute of silence

The vice chair of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission Mary Onyango is calling on Kenyans to ensure that they maintain peace throughout the country before and after the voting period. Speaking ahead of a peace walk that's set for later in the day, Onyango asked all Kenyans to observe a minute of silence this evening at 6:59 pm in memory of the lives lost during the 2007- 2008 post election violence.

The walk that will start Uhuru Park to KICC in Nairobi is aimed at urging Kenyans to vote peacefully tomorrow will see the participants light candles at the Kenyatta international conference center at that time.

She is calling on Kenyans to maintain peace in the country despite the outcome of the referendum on Thursday in order to avoid a repeat of what was witnessed in the country after the 2007 polls.

ENDS....MUHONJA GRACE KIRWAYE

Global News

Twelve die in Siberia plane crash

Twelve people have now died after a passenger plane crashed as it came in to land in northern Siberia on Monday, the Russian authorities have said. A passenger died in hospital from his injuries early today. Three crew members out of 15 people on the plane were pulled alive from the wreckage and remain in hospital. The Antonov-24 twin turboprop belonging to the Katekavia airline had been approaching the airport in the city of Igarka.

Eleven passengers and four crew members were on board the aircraft. The cause of the crash remains unknown, and rescue workers are now looking for the plane's flight recorders

Asia demand 'spurs Brazilian shark kills'

Demand for shark fin soup in Asia has been blamed for the illegal killing of nearly 300,000 sharks off Brazil, an environmental group has alleged. The Environmental Justice Institute in Brazil has accused a seafood exporter (Siglo do Brasil Comercio) of illegally killing nearly 300,000 sharks. It is suing for what it says is massive damage to the marine ecosystem. It alleges that many of the sharks were thrown back into the sea after their fins were taken for clandestine export.

The environmental group is suing the company for \$790m (£500m) in damages for its alleged sale of 290,000 sharks since 2009.

Sports News

Liverpool consider 'several' takeover bids

Chinese businessman Kenny Huang is one of "several" potential buyers to submit a bid to Liverpool chairman Martin Broughton. Huang, who is the head of Hong Kong-based investment company QSL Sports Ltd, values the club at about £325m. But it is understood that as many as six bids were submitted last week. Broughton and investment bank Barclays Capital, who are leading the sale, will elect a preferred bidder by the end of next week. Huang has been talking for several weeks to representatives of the Royal Bank of Scotland, with the aim of taking full control of the Reds, who have been up for sale since April this year.

Liverpool's main creditor, RBS is owed about £237m by American co-owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett.

Business News

Barclay customers to explore trade in US

In an effort to help entrepreneurs and small business owners broaden their international exposure, Barclays Kenya has organized a 10-day networking and business development trip to the United States of America for 140 of their Business Club members. The trip departs on August 8th and returns on 18th August 2010. The programme will include visiting businesses and centers of excellence in Miami and New York.

During a send off ceremony hosted by U.S. Ambassador Michael Ranneberger, the envoy lauded Barclays Kenya for the initiative. Barclays Chairman, Francis Okello, also was on hand to congratulate and send off the 140 customers.

"Adan Mohamed, Barclays Managing Director, said more than 13,000 entrepreneurs and small business owners have joined the Barclays Business Club, and have benefited from Barclays expertise and global network."

NMG posts rise in profit

Nation Media Group (NMG) has posted a 51.6 percent jump in pre-tax profit for the six months to June 2010. The group reported an increase to Sh891.6 million from Sh588.2 million posted in the corresponding period of 2009. Releasing the results to investors, NMG Group Chief Executive Officer Linus Gitahi attributed the good performance to improved revenue as well as a rise in turnover. During the period under review, turnover rose 17.3 percent to Sh4.4 billion while Nation Newspapers Division revenues grew by 14 percent.

Despite raising concern over the future of newspapers, Gitahi exuded confidence that print publications had a future in the Kenyan market. NMG which also runs a number of operations in East Africa reported improved performance in its subsidiaries.