

LOCAL NEWS 5TH JUNE 2010

NO vote campaign held in Kakamega

Christians and church leaders Saturday gathered at the Muliro gardens in Kakamega town for a prayer rally. The rally also saw the public being educated on the reasons as to why the church is opposing the proposed draft constitution. The meeting that's organized by the national council of churches of Kenya and the Kenya Christians on Constitution Forum (KCCF) was attended by wananchi, church leaders among other invited guests.

The meeting was also to pray for this country as preparations are underway for the upcoming August 4th referendum. Meanwhile, Higher Education Minister William Ruto will this Sunday lead other political leaders opposing the document to a NO vote campaign set to take place in Runyenjes and Mbeere areas in Eastern province

Ends.....Muhonja Kirwaye

Kenya launches Family Safety campaign forum

The media has been challenged to dedicate more time to communicating general human safety messages in their programmes to eliminate loss of lives through preventable accidents.

Medical Services Permanent Secretary Prof. James Ole Kiyapi regretted that many hospital beds across the country were being occupied by patients whose misfortunes would have been avoided if strict safety measures were observed.

Kiyapi said the ever growing Kenyan media industry has a capacity to create awareness on the measures and need for safety precautions and challenged the players to join in the on-going family safety campaign. The PS made the remarks today when he presided over the official launch of this year's International Annual Family Safety campaign forum at the Kenya railways club in Nairobi.

World environment day marked today

The World Environment Day is being observed Saturday across the globe. This year's theme is, Many Species, One Planet, One Future. In Kenya, the celebrations come at a time where The Kenya Wildlife Service is worried by the dwindling numbers of the country's wildlife, with over 10 animal species being on the brink of extinction. The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Species Survival Commission (SSC) report last year ranked the Kenyan black rhino, hirola, Gravy zebra, cheetah, Macow's shrew, Tana River red colobus, and ultimate shrew as some of the species that are endangered.

The KWS director, Dr Julius Kipng'etich, says that they have put up a spirited effort to save the black rhino. The conservation efforts will receive a big boost next week when KWS begins fitting tracking gear on all black rhinos.

Media to seek knowledge on climate change

Climate change adaptation is key to ensuring that the African continent saves itself from the serious effects arising from the distortion in climatic patterns. Prof Charles Basalirwa of Makerere Universities department of Geography however says, the current flurry of organizations that have sprung up to try and address the dangers of climate change are causing more confusion than helping the situation. Basalirwa who spoke at media meeting on Climate Change in Kampala accused media organizations and media colleges of jumping onto the bandwagon without first of all understanding the delicate issues on the subject. Climate change is a change in the elements of climate over a period of time, this could be over 30 years.

Govt to come down hard on IDP fund looters

More government officers suspected to have misappropriated the internally displaced persons- IDP's funds will be arraigned in court soon, special programmes minister Dr. Naomi Shabban has said. Shabban said investigators are seeking to cast a wider net in a bid to recover over 200 million shillings lost from the resettlement kitty. According to Shabban, three government officers including a district commissioner have been charged with misappropriation of the funds. Shabban however says that law enforcers are looking to extend their investigations into all areas that reported IDPs, adding that several officials from the special programmes ministry had also been questioned in relation to the scam.

The minister however said that the resettlement exercise was still on course, adding that the ministry of Lands is in the process of identifying suitable land for the resettlement of 6800 IDPs still living in tented camps across the country. Nearly two years after the launch of the internally displaced persons resettlement exercise began, hundreds are still languishing in camps. Their plight has partly been blamed on rogue government officials now suspected to have looted part of the 4 billion shillings resettlement kitty.

Regional News June 5th 2010

Nigeria - lead poisoning kills 100 children in north

Over 100 children have died of lead poisoning in Nigeria in recent weeks, health officials say. The number has been rising since March, when residents started digging illegally for gold in areas with high concentrations of lead. The victims were from several remote villages in the northern state of Zamfara. A total of 163 out of 355 cases of poisoning have proved fatal, a Nigerian health ministry has confirmed. Health authorities have set up two camps in the area to treat people who are suffering symptoms of lead poisoning. The deaths were discovered during the country's annual immunization programme, when officials realised there were virtually no children in several remote villages in the northern state.

Global News June 5th 2010

Japan's PM 'picks Yoshihiko Noda as finance minister' Japan's new Prime Minister Naoto Kan has selected Yoshihiko Noda to be the country's next finance minister, Kyodo news agency reports. Noda had been serving as a deputy finance minister under Yukio Hatoyama, who resigned as prime minister in a dispute over a US military base. Kan promised a "new start" after his Democratic Party (DPJ) chose him on Friday.

He is Japan's fifth prime minister in three years. Kan is expected to favour higher taxes and spending cuts to tackle Japan's national debt, the biggest in the industrial world. Noda, 52, also supports fiscal discipline.

Sports News June 5, 2010

Harambee Stars CHAN squad named

The national soccer team Harambee Stars squad that will face Uganda in the return leg match of the CHAN championship on Sunday at the Nyayo national stadium was named Friday night by head coach Twahir Muhidin. Harambee Stars head coach Twahir Muhidin trimmed his squad of 24 players that have been in camp to a final 18 man squad that will take on Uganda in the CHAN 2nd round return match at the Nyayo national stadium. The squad comprises of Lawrence Webo, Wilson Oburu, Julius Owino, Joackins Atudo, Pascal Ochieng, Hussein Mohammed, Edgar Ochieng, Mulinge Ndeto, Peter Opiyo, Humphrey Miano, Edward Kauka, Ramadhan Balala, Paul Were, Dennis Mukaisi, Kevin Omondi, John Baraza and George Blackberry Odhiambo. Harambee Stars lost the first leg match 1-0 in Uganda a fortnight ago and will have to beat the Cranes 2-0 to qualify for the championships.

Essien extends Chelsea contract

Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien has signed a two-year extension to his contract, keeping him at Stamford Bridge until 2015. The 27-year-old, who joined Chelsea from Lyon in 2005, has not played for the club since tearing a hamstring in December 2009. He has been ruled out of the World Cup with a knee injury suffered in January. Essien has won two Premier League titles, two FA Cups and one League Cup since joining the club. The midfielder, who was Chelsea's record signing at the time when he joined from Lyon for £24.4m, has scored 22 goals in 185 appearances for the Blues.