

Local News October 5th 2010

Residents in Wareng urged to be keen at electing leaders

A group of civic leaders from Wareng County have taken issue with a section of potential candidates who have shown interest in vying for the senator and governorship seats at the expense of initiating development for the benefit of the local community. The civic leaders asked the residents to be keen at electing aspirants who will be supporting development of the region and avoid falling for leaders whose integrity and leadership qualities are in question. Addressing the press in Eldoret, one of the civic leaders Kiplagat Tallam observed that there was need for aggressive civic education to the people at the grass root on contents in the new constitution ahead of the next general election.

Tallam asked the government to let enough room for the process in order to enable the citizens understand the effect of the new constitution which was promulgated on August 4 once fully operational. He pointed out that as leaders and voters, they will put in measures to vet those interested for various elective seats in the county and warned those lobbying for the same to be prepared for a titanic battle with the people.

End...John Chikamai

Kenya's AG denies torture claims

The Attorney General Amos Wako on Tuesday denied allegations that the Kenyan police and army carried out executions and torture to residents of Mt. Elgon who are seeking compensation from the government. Wako through the senior Deputy Solicitor general argues that the East African court of justice has no jurisdiction to hear the matter in which residents of Mt. Elgon have sued the government over torture by the army during the Okoa Maisha operation. The AG claims that the protocol envisaged in article 27-2 of the treaty for establishment of the East African community has not been concluded.

The operation by the security personnel was launched in 2008 following a spate of criminal activities in the Mt Elgon area which left dozens of people killed and others mutilated. The aim of the operation was to bring to book those who carried out the criminal activities as well as recover all firearms held illegally. However there were claims that the security personnel were involved in human rights abuses during the operation, claims denied by the administration

Kenyan parliament endorses law implementation committee

Parliament has endorsed a list of nominees to the parliamentary implementation and oversight committee. The two coalition parties amended their lists which drew a lot of acrimony last week in a bid to look for acceptance. PNU dropped Kathiani MP Wavinya Ndeti replacing her with Kimilili MP Dr Eseli Simuyu while ODM's Mohammed Mahamud was replaced by nominated MP Sofia Abdi. Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka while presenting the new list said it was arrived at after intense consultations. Kalonzo said though the members whose names were dropped might feel aggrieved, parliament must move on as the time for the implementation of the new constitution was ticking away fast.

He said though all MPs were qualified only 27 could be picked to ensure parliament delivered on its mandate. He said the list abides by the principals of the new constitution which requires that a third of all appointments to the any public body be members of either gender. Last week members of parliament, notably those allied to the PNU party opposed the list claiming they had not been consulted.

The new list from ODM now includes:

Alfred Khangati, Mohamed Maalim, Elizabeth Ongoro, Joseph Nkaiserry, Ababu Namwamba, Joyce Laboso, Danson Mwazo, Benedict Gunda, Charles Onyancha, Julius Murgor, John Mbadi Millie Odhiambo, Racheal Shebesh and Lucas Chepkitony,

From the PNU side the list has:

Beth Mugo, Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Kilemi Mwiria, Cecily Mbarire, Eseli Simiyu, Abdikadir Mohammed, Philip Kaloki, Amina Abdullah, Martha Karua, Ekwe Ethuro, Charles Kilonzo, David Ngugi and Wilfred Ombui.

Seconding the motion land minister James Orengo urged members to learn to look at each other as Kenyans and not members of political outfits. Orengo said the major challenge that has bedeviled the country since independence has been tribalism which must be shunned by all Kenyans. Kuria MP Wilfred Machage while supporting the list said it represented the face of Kenya.

Gichugu MP Martha Karua said the rejection of the earlier list was an indication that parliament would not be taken for granted. Wavinja Ndeti while supporting the motion said she would shelve her ambitions for the sake of the implementation of the new constitution. Ndeti had earlier indicated that she would oppose the removal of her name from the list. However, on Tuesday she claimed some politicians from her community were scared of her rising star but noted that she would not allow parochial politics to hold the country back. While lauding ODM for ensuring more women were given a chance to serve in the committee, Ndeti said PNU must learn to respect the minority.

Laikipia West MP Mwangi Kiunjuri said the list has members capable of spearheading the process. Kiunjuri however, took a swipe at party bosses saying that have mismanaged the politics of the country hence putting parliament in the mess like it did on Thursday. Attorney General Amos Wako said the country was impatiently waiting for the implementation of a new constitution. He cited the issue of the provincial administration which has been blown out of proportion despite the new constitution saying the system had five years to conform.

Bills on new Kenyan law deferred

The vetting of Judges and Magistrates Bill, the Judicial Service Bill and the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution Bill drafted by the Justice Ministry failed to be formally introduced in parliament on Tuesday despite been slated on the order paper. House speaker Kenneth Marende suspending the introduction of the 3 bills slated for first reading saying the move is aimed at providing a leeway for wider consultations as well as to determine the constitutionality of introducing the bills without the input of the relevant parliamentary committee that was formed on Tuesday.

The bills drafted by the justice ministry prior to the formation of the parliamentary oversight implementation committee has since seen a section of critics allege the justice minister overstepped his mandate. They argue that in law the newly formed 27 member parliamentary oversight implementation committee should be in the loop on the contents of the bills and be allowed time to scrutinize and make any recommendations and adjustments as deemed fit before the formal introduction of the bills to parliament for debate.

German terror suspect now arrested

Police in Kenya have now arrested a German terror suspect, moments after they issued a countrywide alert warning of his presence in the country. Police spokesman Erick Kiraithe sent a

statement to newsrooms within hours first stating that the German was in the country, and later informing the media that the suspect had been arrested in Mtwapa and his deportation was underway. Kiraithe had initially said that they were informed that the suspect left a note for his mother saying that he would not return home alive. He said that preliminary investigations revealed that the suspect left a note for his mother in Germany suggesting that he would not return there alive. The police sent an urgent appeal to the public to immediately divulge any information that may lead to his apprehension. On Monday, Germany's interior minister warned against "alarmism" about the threat of terrorist attacks, after the United States, Britain and Japan issued a travel alert for Europe.

KICC title had been transferred to individual

The title to Kenya's landmark building, the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, had amazingly been transferred to an individual, but it has been re-possessed and handed back to the State. The seizure is part of a programme where 500 public utility plots valued at 5 billion Shillings have been reclaimed and their Title Deeds handed over to the relevant government institutions.

Speaking when the title for KICC was handed over to the Ministry of Tourism, Lands Minister James Orengo stressed the government's commitment to preserve all institutional lands. The Lands Minister called on all district land officers to prepare an inventory of undocumented public land and forward the list to the Ministry for immediate action. Prime Minister Raila Odinga put all land grabbers on notice and prevailed upon them to return any public property in their possession. The Premier further called on the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC) to step up its efforts in dealing with unscrupulous individuals. The Premier said such action will reduce the level of land grabbing which has been prevalent in the country. KACC Director Patrick Lumumba said that KACC would move expeditiously in its quest to reduce impunity.

Kenya pushes for standard goods in EA

President Mwai Kibaki on Tuesday reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to the attainment of uniform standardization of goods within the East African Community region. President Kibaki made the remarks when he held discussions with members of the East African Business Council Board at his Harambee House Office. The President challenged the council members to prepare and forward specific proposals for the attainment of required standards for consideration by member States in order to attract both local and foreign investors. During the occasion, the Head of State thanked the Council members for their dedicated efforts in ironing out various impediments in making the EAC region an attractive investment destination.

Regional News

Two Algerian Christians 'did not break Ramadan rules'

Two Christians who were on trial in Algeria for breaking Ramadan fasting rules have been cleared of wrongdoing. Human rights groups said the trial was a violation of the right to religious freedom under the constitution. Hocine Hocini and Salem Fellak were arrested in August during the month of Ramadan, after they were seen eating lunch on the building site where they worked in Kabylie, northern Algeria. The men's lawyer called the verdict a "victory for justice". The two men admitted they had been eating, but said they had done it discreetly, and felt they had done nothing wrong.

The judge at the court in Ain El Hamman threw the case out because "no article [of law]

provided for a legal pursuit" against the men, thereby rejecting the prosecutors' request for three-year prison sentences. Two similar cases are scheduled in the coming weeks.

Indonesia cancels Netherlands visit over arrest threat

Indonesia's President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, has called off a state visit to the Netherlands because of a threat that he could be arrested. A separatist group, the Republic of South Moluccas (RMS), has asked a court to order his detention in connection with alleged human rights violations. Yudhoyono said that if he had gone ahead with the three-day visit, it might have led to a "misunderstanding". Indonesian authorities crushed the RMS after it declared independence in 1950.

Sports News

Oliech rallies his troops

Harambee Stars captain Dennis Oliech says the team has put the disappointment of losing to Guinea Bissau behind them and are focused on Saturday's game against Uganda. Oliech believes dwelling on the previous result is detrimental towards the team preparations for the must win Group J encounter at Nyayo National Stadium. Stars fell to a shock 1-0 defeat to their West African rivals in Conakry last month amidst allegations of rival camps within the squad. The result also cost Twahir Muhiddin his job as Stars coach and the subsequent appointment of Jacob Mulee to resuscitate the team's chances of appearing in the Africa Cup of Nations for the first time since 2004.

Mulee said that he is not concerned about his team's history in this fixture though his wary of the talent in Bob Williamson's side who beat Angola 3-0 in Kampala. Uganda top the group with three points while Kenya lies in third place. Mulee and his coaching staff took the team through their paces at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani on Tuesday morning with the notable absentee being Inter Milan midfielder MacDonald Mariga. The coach also revealed that Mariga's brother Victor Mugabe is the only fitness concern in camp as he is suffering from athletes foot.

Dunford reaches butterfly final

Jason Dunford has qualified for Wednesday's 50m men's butterfly final at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. Dunford cruised through his heats at the Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Swimming Stadium winning heat 6 in a time of 23.61 seconds and holding off South Africa's Mark Roland Schoeman in the second semi final to win in a time of 23.45 seconds. The athletics programme also gets underway on Wednesday with former World Champion Eliud Kipchoge spearheading Kenya's challenge in the men's 5000m final. Meanwhile, Australia were denied a clean sweep of golds on day two of the swimming competition, which was dominated by a fistful of fast and furious 50m races.

Yobo asks Fifa to end Nigeria ban

Captain Joseph Yobo has made a passionate plea to Nigeria's sports authorities to ensure that a Fifa ban on the country is swiftly reversed. Fifa slapped an indefinite ban on Nigeria on Monday because of the government's interference in the sport. This leaves Saturday's Nations Cup qualifier with Guinea in doubt and Yobo wants a quick resolution to the issue. The Super Eagles are trying to revive the team's flagging fortunes after their unimpressive showing at the 2010

World Cup finals in South Africa where they made a first-round exit.

But the infighting and government interference in the administration of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has overshadowed plans to revitalize football in the country. The Fenerbahce defender insists that the players' quest to revive Nigerian football would be hampered if there is no quick effort to end the NFF's problems.

Village receives bomb threat

Indian police searched the Commonwealth Games athletes' village today after receiving an anonymous call warning of a bomb, a police spokesman Rajan Bhagat has said. No-one was evacuated from the 63.5-hectare (157-acre) facility where some 7,000 officials and athletes are housed in 1,168 apartments. The fenced-off village is guarded by hundreds of troopers and policemen and unauthorized entry is banned. The run-up to the Commonwealth Games, which began on Sunday, was dominated by concerns in participating countries about the danger of militant attacks on the 12-day event. India has promised "foolproof" security, with nearly 100,000 police and paramilitary forces on duty around the Indian capital.

Business News

Simba Colt, NIC make truck buying easy

Simba Colt Motors and NIC Bank have unveiled a new product targeting small and medium enterprises, corporates and individual motorists seeking to purchase commercial vehicles. In the new sales package, customers wishing to purchase a Mitsubishi FH 215 truck will now enjoy a zero deposit offer with repayments starting from a rate of 75,500 Shillings per month. With the new package, available at all Simba Colt Motors branches and dealer network across the country, entrepreneurs wishing to purchase a Mitsubishi FH 215 truck will also enjoy body building and insurance premium financing facilities with NIC Bank. Simba Colt Motors Group CEO Adil Popat said the joint offer is geared at facilitating economic growth for local SMEs and upcoming businessmen.

Exploratory work in Libya bears fruits

The Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company (TPOC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO), says it has started to see the fruits of the aggressive exploration work it has conducted in Libya since 2000. TPAO is one of several operators taking part in the annual North Africa Oil & Gas Summit in Vienna from 2-4 November this year. OPEC Secretary General H.E. Abdalla S. El-Badri will deliver a keynote address to the top decision makers from Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania who will be present at the fifth annual summit which is regarded as the industry's leading initiative to facilitate easy access to the North African oil and gas industry. The general manager of TPOC Libya, Dr. Ahmet Tandircioglu, says "the exploration wells drilled in Area 147/3-4 resulted as new oil discoveries which we plan to put on stream in the earliest time. Production testing operations currently continue and the initial results are promising." He believes that there is still significant exploration potential in Libya for companies with a good understanding of petroleum geology of Libya and ready "to test new play concepts".

Twitter CEO steps down

The co-founder of social networking site Twitter is standing down as its chief executive. Evan Williams, who has headed the company since 2008, is being replaced to allow him to focus on ways of making Twitter more profitable. Announcing the decision on Twitter's blog, Williams said Twitter needed to "meet its potential as a profitable company". He will be replaced by the current chief operating officer, Dick Costolo. Twitter has grown dramatically in recent years, with user numbers now topping 160 million, compared with three million two years ago. But Williams said that in order to continue to be successful, the company now needed to start converting that growth into profit.

Japan cuts interest rate further

Japan's central bank has cut its benchmark interest rate to almost zero as it tries to stimulate the country's faltering economy. Rates had been held at 0.1% since the end of 2008, but have now been trimmed further. Falling prices and the strong yen - which eats into the value of overseas earnings for Japanese exporters - have hit the economy. The bank said it would maintain near-zero rates until prices stabilised.

Apple faces 625 million dollar fines over patents

Apple has decided to challenge a legal decision that could see it pay up to 625.5 million dollars in fines for infringing several patents, the New York Times reported Tuesday. The firm's decision came after a federal jury in Tyler, Texas found Apple had infringed on three patents belonging to a company called Mirror Worlds in products including its iPod, iPhone and Macintosh computers. The jury awarded Mirror Worlds 208.5 million dollars in damages for each patent infringement, but the verdict has not been formally entered by the judge overseeing the case.

Apple filed an emergency motion on Sunday seeking to stall the process, the Times reported. Apple is arguing that it would be wrong for the jury to force it to pay three separate fines for the infringements, which are related in part to the way files are displayed on the company's popular tech devices. If the fines stand, Apple faces a payment that would be one of the largest patent awards in US history, the newspaper said. Apple declined to comment.