

Local News 6-5-10

President calls for sobriety ahead of referendum

President Mwai Kibaki says the government will avail 5 million copies of the draft constitution to Kenyans and will be translated into Swahili and Braille to ensure the draft document is circulated nationally.

Speaking at the unveiling of the proposed draft, the head of state urged Kenyans to view the referendum with the seriousness it deserves. He thanked Kenyans who have so far registered as voters saying this will enable them participate at the referendum noting it's their civic right. He appealed to Kenyans to understand contents of the proposed constitution saying it will cut back on misinformation.

He says constitution making is about the people of a country and asked Kenyans to be tolerant of each other's view concerning the constitution. Premier Raila Odinga also addressed the gathering echoing on the president's comments.

Marende's appeal to Kenyans on published draft.

Speaker Kenneth Marende has called for all Kenyans to read the contents of the draft constitution to enable them make informed choices at the referendum. Marende also called on all Kenyans to make use of the remaining time to register as voters in the ongoing voter registration that ends Sunday.

He appealed to Kenyans to focus on the country's nationhood saying this must be realized regardless of whichever side one is leaning to at the referendum. He spoke as the published proposed constitution was launched at the KICC Nairobi.

Church dismisses claims of using tithes to campaign.

Christian leaders have dismissed those saying the church will use tithes in their campaigns against the draft constitution. Speaking in Moisbridge, the church of United Christian Churches of Kenya Bishop Dr. Gerry Kibarabara said the tithes belong to the church adding that they will continue with the fundraiser among Christians. He insists that Kenyans want a document that will unite them urging everyone to go participate in the referendum in peace.

He says church leaders are not interested in any political seat, but are out to protect Kenyans against possible repercussions in the future.

The Bishop asks the government not to treat the process as its personal property but listen to the views of Kenyans to allow for amendments which he says are still possible. Christians will be holding a major prayer rally at Uhuru Park on Saturday. He was speaking in the presence of more than 100 pastors.

Increase of Street Children reported in Eldoret.

The number of street children in Eldoret has greatly risen according to the District Children's officer in the larger Uasin Gishu district Philip Nzenge. According to Nzenge, this is partly as a result of the 2007 post election violence. The North Rift region, Nyanza and Western provinces were worst hit by the violence that left more than 1000 people dead and 650,000 homeless.

High standards of hygiene needed to curb jigger infestation

Parents have been called upon to maintain high standards of hygiene to curb jigger infestation in their residential. Speaking during the launching of Wareng district Area Advisory Council-AAC at Mayor's Chambers in Eldoret which advocates for the best interests of a child, Uasin Gishu children's officer Philip Nzenge said children have been the major victims of jigger attacks. The officer said that the AAC will see the children's department address the issue and avert dropout of children from schools due to effects of jiggers' infestation.

Nzenge confirmed that the problem of jiggers that had hit Langas Estate residents in Eldoret has been contained and they are ready to counter it incase of an outbreak. The Children's officer further asked National Environmental Management Authority NEMA, to be vigilant on those who dump garbage anyhowly and should be brought to the book.

Eldoret motorcycle operators complain of police harassment

The motorcyclist operators in Eldoret are calling upon the government to intervene against police harassment and want license fees reduced. Police officers have been reported for notorious arrests while undertaking their duties; this is contrary to the stipulated rules that govern the cyclists.

Accidents involving vehicles and motorcycles are often blamed on the cyclists without any investigations. While speaking today with Fish one of the motorcyclist operators at Eldoret town cited that police officers are used to making unlawful arrests thus pinning down their businesses. He adds that although business was moving smoothly, license fee is too high for the new comers. He however urged the government to intervene in the situation in order to boost their business.

Dagaa retailers in a state of dilemma

Following the closure of Dagaa fishing in Lake Victoria by the government until the 1st of August this year, Dagaa retailers have been having a hard time. They have had to purchase the commodity from Ugandan fishermen who have hiked the prices especially to Kenyan buyers. Fish vendors have not had a smooth time either having to incur great expenses during transit and

the menace of the police.

Speaking to Fish FM in Eldoret today, Dagaa retailers and fish vendors expressed their distress on the situation. The effect has been acute with some of the retailers failing to send their children back to school. The retailers have requested the government to consider their predicament and help them where possible.

Proposed constitution now published.

It's a step closer to the referendum as the Attorney General Amos Wako has just published the proposed draft constitution. Wako released the document this morning the last of the 30-day period stipulated by the law for him to publish the draft. But speaking at the KICC Nairobi at the event on the published law, AG Amos Wako said the IIEC will now prepare the country for a referendum through which Kenyans will exercise their right to vote.

The AG said he has lived up to the promise not to alter anything on the document assuring Kenyans that the document is whole. The IIEC will have seven days within which to publish the referendum question and announce the referendum date 14 days later. According to the referendum rules drafted by the commission, the IIEC has ruled out the possibility of a multiple choice referendum.

African News 6-5-10

Nigeria swears in new president

Nigeria's acting President Goodluck Jonathan has been sworn in as head of state following the death of President Umaru Yar'Adua after a long illness. Mr Jonathan, in charge since February, will appoint a deputy and serve out the rest of the current presidential term until elections due next year. Mr Yar'Adua died late on Wednesday in the capital Abuja. TV broadcasts were interrupted with the news. Seven days of national mourning have been announced. Mr Jonathan took the oath of office in front of government ministers and other officials at the presidential villa in Abuja almost 12 hours after Mr Yar'Adua died. The ceremony was performed by Chief Justice of Nigeria Alloysius Katsina-Alu. Mr Yar'Adua, who was 58, will be buried in a Muslim ceremony later on Thursday in his northern home state of Katsina, officials said.

International News

UK general election voting begins

Millions of people across the UK have started casting their votes in the general election. Polling stations up and down the country opened at 0700 BST and people will be able to cast

their ballots until 2200 BST. More than 44 million people are registered to vote. The first declarations are expected at 2300 BST.

As well as picking MPs for Westminster, voters will elect councilors in 164 local authorities across England. Voting in the general election will take place in 649 constituencies, with nearly 4,150 candidates standing for election across the country.

Mumbai gunman sentenced to death

The only gunman captured alive after the 2008 Mumbai attacks has been sentenced to death by an Indian court. Mohammed Ajmal Amir Qasab, a Pakistani citizen aged 22, was found guilty on Monday of many charges, including murder and waging war on India. When sentencing, the judge said there was no chance of his rehabilitation and Qasab has the right to appeal. The attacks left 174 people dead, nine of them gunmen. Relations between India and Pakistan have still to recover.

India blamed Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba for the attack. After initial denials, Pakistan acknowledged the attacks had been partially planned on its territory and that Qasab was one of its citizens.

Sport News

45 countries to participate in senior championships

45 countries will be taking part in this year's edition of the senior athletics championships on the 28th of July to 2nd August at the Nyayo national stadium, in Nairobi. Organizers said this during the unveiling ceremony of the official mascot 'SHUJAA'. The unveiling signals the final leg of the preparations ahead of the continental event. Kenya currently tops the list with the highest entries followed by Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Senegal. Other countries include Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and Gabon.