

## **Local News October 6th, 2010**

### **Wako now seeks more time from ICC**

The circus between the government and the International Criminal Court [ICC] continued on Wednesday, with the government asking for more time before it hands over minutes of security meetings held prior to the violence that rocked the country in 2008. Attorney General Amos formally wrote to the ICC on Wednesday asking for two more weeks before the specific minutes investigators were asking for are submitted.

A source familiar with the correspondence between the government and ICC said that Mr Wako who is the State's chief legal advisor had sent the request. As he spoke, Five ODM MPs from Rift Valley turned the ICC heat on their own party, saying the Hague-based court should investigate mass action planned at the ODM headquarters that resulted in chaos at the height of the post-election violence. The MPs claimed that the Pentagon, which is the party's top leadership, held secret meetings at which mass action and violence was organised.

### **Matatu owners asked to form cooperatives**

Matatu owners have been asked to form cooperatives and employ professionalism in the industry if they are to enjoy a highly profitable business. Addressing PSV owners Wednesday in Eldoret chairman matatu owners association and INVESCO assurance company Simon Kimutai challenged them to properly understand then take charge of their business but stressed the need for compliance to the rule of law. Saying matatu industry contributes to over 30% of the country's income Kimutai urged them to work hard in groups saying it's difficult and expensive working as an individual.

He also noted that he's in support of a recommendation which states that no individual will be licensed to own and manage PSV alone in the next few years saying this will help in giving rehabilitation services. The chairman matatu owners association added that small vehicles will also be wiped out of town to reduce congestion and this will begin in Nairobi. He told the matatu owners to comply with the law and refuse to be black mailed by law enforcers

*Ends.....Caro Koech*

### **Measures to be put in place to promote the tourism sector in the country**

'A national association of community based tourism enterprises seems to be the only option to save the deteriorating situation in Kenya's tourism industry.' This is according to participants at the North-Rift region African conservation centre workshop held in Eldoret town Wednesday . Speaking during the workshop, participants blamed lack of a strong regional co-ordination for the poor performance of the tourism industry in the region. The national association set to be formed will provide advisory role and be a mouth piece for community based tourism enterprises in the country and at the same time act as a national forum that support community based tourism organizations, linking them with the government and other stakeholders.

This comes at a time when the North-Rift region is experiencing lack of a proper framework and co-ordination making the region to be locked out of benefits and developments in the industry. The workshop, organized by African conservation center with the help of African wildlife federation and ecotourism Kenya was attended by different stakeholders in the tourism industry from the North-Rift region.

*End...Maria*

### **Committee on implementation of new Kenyan law in an impasse**

The parliamentary oversight committee on the implementation of the new constitution begun its work on a false start after failing to agree on a chairperson. The two political wings in the coalition government could not reach a compromise forcing the meeting to be postponed. The ODM wing wanted Budalangi MP Ababu Namwamba to chair the committee while PNU was rooting for Abdikadir Mohammed, leading to the impasse. Last week, parliament failed to constitute the committee after disagreeing on the list of nominees but on Tuesday the house overcame the hurdle after making minimal changes to the list.

The team was expected to hit the ground running considering it was already late in starting its mandate but on Wednesday morning the team's meeting was scuttled after politics took centre stage, overriding the spirit of consensus that was evident. Namwamba who was being fronted by the ODM party was the vice chair of the parliamentary select committee on the constitution but PNU favoured the former chairman of the committee Abdikadir Mohammed. Speaker Kenneth Marende will have to convene another meeting for the committee to pick its chairperson before it can embark on the long journey ahead.

### **Brace for severe food shortage, Kenyans warned**

Deputy Prime Minister Musalia Mudavadi on Wednesday urged Kenyans to prepare for severe food shortage in the coming months due to the La Nina weather phenomenon. However Mudavadi said that the government has put in place adequate measures to deal with the impending dry spells further adding the government is in the process of boosting its grain reserves. The government statement comes barely weeks after the Kenya Meteorological Department said the October to December short rains would be depressed and poorly distributed with prolonged dry spells even in the most agriculturally productive areas across the country.

### **Collapsed buildings**

Minister for Industrialization Henry Kosgey has noted that the perpetrators of the illicit trade do not respect international boundaries because they work in networks and therefore it requires concerted efforts to deal with the menace. The Minister said that the illicit trade if not curbed urgently would make the East Africa region an undesirable destination for trade and investment. Speaking Wednesday during the official opening of the Regional Anti-Illicit Trade Conference in Nairobi, Kosgey said many Kenyans have suffered due to this trade citing the collapse of several buildings because of the substandard building materials while faked seeds have caused crop failure.

Other speakers were the first Ugandan Deputy Prime Minister Eriya Kategaya, minister for the East African Community Prof. Hellen Sambili, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industrialization Eng. Karanja Kibicho and Secretary General of the East African Community Amb. Juma Mwapachu.

### **Kenya's AG seeks dismissal of MP's case**

Attorney General Amos Wako now wants the High Court to dismiss an application by Kamukunji Member of Parliament seeking to halt the hearing of an election petition against him.

The legislator Simon Mbugua wants the hearing stopped pending the outcome of a constitutional matter that seeks to stop the vetting of judges and magistrates as spelt out in the new constitution. Through State Counsel Kepha Onyiso, the Attorney General argued that Justice Fred Ochieng was legally in office contrary to Mbugua's petition that questions his legality. Onyiso said there was no clause in the new constitution indicating that judges and magistrates ceded their judicial powers awaiting vetting as proposed in the new law.

The AG now wants the court to dismiss Mbugua's application arguing that it had no merit. Mbugua wants the High Court judge to stop hearing his election petition on grounds that he has no legal authority, and that his character is in question. Late last week, the Kamukunji legislator filed a case seeking to stop the vetting of magistrates and judges.

### **List to powerful MPs law committee passed**

Parliament has finally established the crucial Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee after days of disagreement on the membership of the committee. Members endorsed the 27 names that will oversee the implementation of the Constitution over the next five years. Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka who tabled the list in the House urged MPs to set aside their partisan interests in the implementation of the new law. Lawmakers who opposed the passage of the Constitution during the referendum were not left behind in supporting the Motion, with Kuria MP Wilfred Machage and Cherengany counterpart Joshua Kutuny leading the bandwagon.

Machage however took a swipe at the House Business Committee for leaving out members of the No team arguing that they should not be punished for the stand they took. But he was reprimanded by the Speaker of the National Assembly Kenneth Marende for 'praising' the Luo community after they left the Suba community to take up spots reserved for the scrapped Nyanza Province. The suspended Roads Assistant Minister had complained that the marginalised communities had been left out of the team, but thanked ODM team for including two MPs from the community in their list.

### **DR Congo rebel leader arrested over mass rapes**

UN peacekeepers and the army in the Democratic Republic of Congo have arrested a rebel leader suspected of leading attacks involving mass rape. The UN said Lt Col Mayele of the Mai Mai Cheka rebel group was captured in a joint operation in North Kivu province. Between 300 and 500 people are thought to have been raped during violence in eastern DR Congo in July and August. Peacekeepers were criticised for failing to stop the attacks, some of which took place close to a UN base.

A UN spokesman said Lt Col Mayele, who was arrested in the province's Walikale region, was in custody at a Congolese military court in the provincial capital, Goma. A deputy in the Mai Mai militia, he was handed over by the group's leader, named as Cheka, UN officials said. It is unclear why Cheka turned against Lt Col Mayele, says the BBC's Thomas Fessy in Kinshasa. Regional news October 6, 2010 EU and Libya reach deal on illegal migrants The EU and Libya have reached a deal on stemming illegal migration but Brussels offered only a fraction of the aid requested by Tripoli.

EU commissioners agreed with the Libyan government to supply up to 60m euros (£52m, \$83m) in aid over three years in return for protection for migrants. Libya's leader, Muammar Gaddafi, was asking for 5bn euros a year to boost border controls. His country is a key route for Africans seeking to enter the EU illegally.

## **Regional News**

### **Ethiopian opposition leader Birtukan Mideksa freed**

Ethiopian opposition leader Birtukan Mideksa has been freed from jail. Her release comes four months after the government's landslide win in elections. She was one of several opposition leaders imprisoned for life after the 2005 poll. They were later pardoned, but Birtukan was rearrested for violating the terms of her release. The 36-year-old said she had been freed because she had applied for a pardon.

### **Nato supply lorries set ablaze by gunmen in Pakistan**

Gunmen in Pakistan have torched some 20 oil tankers carrying fuel for Nato vehicles in Afghanistan in the latest such attack in recent days. A driver died in the ambush near the south-western city of Quetta. The number of attacks on tankers has soared in the last week since one of the main routes into Afghanistan was shut by the Pakistani authorities. The Torkham crossing was closed after three Pakistani soldiers died in a Nato air strike near the Afghan border. Islamabad has not yet said when the Khyber Pass crossing will reopen.

### **Kenyan swimmer seeks gold at CWG**

Kenya's top swimmer Jason Dunford will seek the country's first medal at the ongoing Commonwealth Games in New Delhi India when he competes in the final of the 50 metre butterfly on Wednesday. Dunford won heat 6 of the qualifiers in a time of 23.61 seconds to reach the semi finals where he once again held off South Africa's Mark Roland Schoeman, the Commonwealth Games record holder to win in a time of 23.45 seconds.

### **Nigeria restore sacked official**

Nigeria have re-instated sacked football federation secretary-general Musa Amadu in a bid to have the country's Fifa ban swiftly reversed. Fifa banned the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) on Monday because of governmental interference in the sport. Last month's decision by the Nigeria Sports Commission to force Amadu to stand down from the NFF did not go down well with Fifa. Amadu returned to his office on Tuesday in keeping with one of Fifa's demands. Amadu's return is sparking optimism that Fifa might rescind its ban in time for the Super Eagles to tackle Guinea on Sunday.

The World Cup finalists had been due to contest their second 2012 Nations Cup qualifier in Conakry but the timing of this Group B clash is now uncertain.

### **Commonwealth success for Du Toit**

South African Paralympic star Natalie du Toit won her fifth Commonwealth Games gold medal with a narrow victory in her 50m freestyle event. The 11-time Paralympic champion, who competed in the open water event at the Beijing Olympics, finished strongly to win in a time of 29.17 seconds. Australia's Annabelle Williams, who led at the turn, was second in 29.42. England's Stephanie Millward, who was a talented able-bodied swimmer before being diagnosed with MS, took bronze. The 29-year-old, who hails from Wiltshire, but trains in Swansea, said she had to work hard to make up for a poor start.

## **Business News**

### **Kenya Airways expands capacity to Far East**

National carrier, Kenya Airways has increased its capacity to the Far East in a move aimed at meeting the rising demand by traders especially those flying to Bangkok and China. To increase the baggage capacity for the traders, Kenya Airways will now be flying a Boeing 777, the largest aircraft in its fleet which is capable of carrying 322 passengers, a marked improvement from the Boeing 767 aircraft with 216 seats that had been operating on the route previously. Kenya Airways Chief Operating Officer Bram Steller said that the additional capacity was expected to take care of the surge in trader traffic and to give the airline an edge in attracting traders -and their excess baggage- from Africa. Steller said the airline was well on course with the planned African route expansion program, with the Nampula city of Mozambique lined up next.

### **Kenya's HF bond issue over-subscribed**

Housing Finance's recent bond issue has been over subscribed by 41 percent. Housing Finance, Managing Director, Frank Ileri said the issue raised Ksh 7 billion against a target of Ksh 5 billion. The Ksh 5 billion is the first tranche of a Ksh 10 billion fixed and floating domestic bond by Housing Finance. The bond is to be listed at the Nairobi Stock Exchange at the end of the month. Ileri hailed the success of the bond, which he said demonstrates a robust local investor appetite for bonds.

The bond issue was fully subscribed by local investors with institutional investors taking up 98 percent of the issue and retail investors taking take up the rest. The Bond has a maturity period of seven years with both fixed and floating rates. Floating rate bonds accounted for 20 percent of the subscription with the remaining 80 percent going to fixed rate subscribers. The bond offer opened on September 20 and closed on 1 October.