

## **Local news September 6, 2010**

### **Farmers in the North Rift Region want minister to address their plight**

Farmers in the North Rift Region have given the agriculture minister Dr. Sally Kosgei a 14 days ultimatum to straighten out issues that are currently affecting them. The more than 100 farmers who met Monday in Eldoret town cited the high cost of farm input which they termed as a big disappointment considering they usually sell their products at a throw away price yet farming is their main source of livelihood. Led by the North Rift Region Kenya Farmers Association (KFA) director Kipkorir Menjo, the farmers asked the government to revive the institution so that they can buy the farm inputs at an affordable price. The farmers added that the pricing, storage and poor management has greatly affected them leading to a fall in commodity prices. Menjo accused the government for its reluctance in reviving the KFA yet millions of shillings were set aside to help revive some parastatals in the country such as Uchumi and the Webuye paper mills. Currently a 90 Kg bag of maize is selling at 1,500 shillings down from 2,300 shillings.

*Ends.....Caro Koech*

### **The council to seek legal action against Bandaptai contractor,**

The Eldoret Municipal council will take legal action against the Bandaptai road contractor who has since not completed the construction of the Bandaptai bridge. Speaking at his office Eldoret Mayor William Rono said the council was aware of the problems the pedestrians were facing especially those plying the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital route. Following the heavy rains being experienced in the region most roads in and out of Eldoret Town have been rendered impassable as a result of poor drainage systems in the town.

*End James Gitaka*

### **Resource distribution to counties to be fair:Musyoka**

Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka has dispelled fears that distribution of resources to county governments will disadvantage large counties saying the exercise will be guided by the population among other considerations. Kalonzo assured residents that there will be equity in the distribution of financial, infrastructure and development resources. The Vice President said devolved governments would accelerate development at the grassroots while setting up modalities of establishing industries at county level. The Vice President was addressing his constituents at Mwingi town during an education forum on the teacher recruitment exercise in the area. Kalonzo revealed that plans for the construction of the multi-million road network from Kibwezi-Kitui-Usweni were at an advanced stage with its completion expected to open up the area for more businesses. The Vice president said leaders from the Ukambani region would converge at Machakos on Friday in a meeting that will bring together political leaders, professionals, civil society and civic leaders to discuss the implementation of the new

constitution and the impact of the county governments on development in the region

### **World Bank supports Kenya's energy sector**

Coast Province is the lead beneficiary of a 16 billion shillings energy sector recovery project funded by the World Bank. The project aimed at improving quality power supply in the country will be implemented by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company. As the sector embraces alternative sources of energy including geothermal, solar and wind, it is also boosting the country's hydroelectric supply with 16 billion shillings targeting at developing supply at the Coast Province. The funds will be channeled towards increasing KPLC's capacity distribution lines, upgrade transformers, building new lines as well as creating new sub-stations to ensure constant and reliable power supply. The completed projects in Coast Province under the energy sector recovery have so far cost 113.8 million shillings while a further 5.5 billion shillings will be spent on reinforcement of several sub stations in the country. Meanwhile, KPLC in partnership with Kenya electricity Transmission Company is constructing two major transmission projects in the South Coast at a cost of 100 million shillings.

### **More to join Kenya's private varsities**

The government is now reaching out to private universities to enroll government-sponsored students in a bid to increase access to higher education which is often limited by space in public universities. Higher Education Minister William Ruto made the ambitious partnership call on Monday, saying it could result to a double intake of the government-sponsored students which currently stands at 24,000 per year. He made the appeal when he met Vice Chancellors and Council Chairmen of the 25 registered private universities in the country for a consultative meeting at the Ministry's Jogoo House headquarters. Government-sponsored students currently pay an average of 35,000 Shillings annually for both tuition and accommodation as the government foots most of the tuition bill.

### **Kenyan anti-graft body revives investigations**

The Kenya Anti Corruption Commission (KACC) says investigations into grand corruption scandals have been revived. However, the commission boss Dr Patrick Lumumba says Kenyans should be patient as thorough investigations to sustain prosecutions are carried out. Addressing the press at KACC headquarters on Monday Lumumba also announced that the commission has partnered with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to sensitize Kenyans on corruption. KNHRC Commissioner Hassan Omar said the fight against corruption requires concerted efforts from all Kenyans. Omar said the two commissions would come up with a joint policy document that will highlight the necessary partnerships required to reduce corruption.

### **KACC promise to deal with corrupt leaders**

The Kenya Anti Corruption Commission (KACC) says the creation of counties in the devolved

government system might create new avenues of grand corruption but warns that the commission will be vigilant to ensure that resources allocated to the regions are not embezzled. The commission boss Dr Patrick Lumumba said prevention was vital in the fight against graft which he says must begin in the grassroots. Lumumba also defended himself against allegations that he has been talking too much and doing little since assuming office saying that he remained undeterred in the fight against corruption. The new constitution requires that at least 15 per cent of all revenue collected by the central government be disbursed to the 47 counties. The allocation of the funds will depend on factors such as population, infrastructure, the economic needs of a county and its viability.

### **MP claims life is in danger**

Naivasha MP John Mututho who sponsored the recent passed Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2010 claims his life is in danger. Mututho claims he has received several threatening messages through his phone since the bill was assented to by the President last month. The MP said he had reported the matter to the police for investigations. Mututho expressed alarm over the misinterpretation of the new law which he blamed on the failure by Kenyans to read and understand the contents of the alcohol control law that comes into effect by October 27. Manufacturers and bar owners have 90 days to comply with the act. The MP claimed the new law was rubbing the beer industry the wrong way and he has received death threats which he has reported to the authorities. Mututho expressed concern that the law was now being referred to as the changaa law yet its core objective was to regulate the beer industry.

### **Wife to Kenya ACK head dies**

The wife to Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Archbishop Eliud Wabukala is dead. Caren Nakhumicha Wabukala is said to have collapsed in her house on Sunday evening and on arrival to the Nairobi Hospital and after examination she was pronounced dead. Earlier she had attended a colourful enthronement ceremony of the second bishop of the Diocese of Nairobi. This was happening as the Archbishop checked in at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on his way to London for a Global South meeting scheduled to begin today. A memorial service will be held on September 9, 2010 at All Saints' Cathedral, Nairobi.

The body will then be laid to rest on Saturday in Butonge Location, Bungoma District. Archbishop Wabukala married Caren in 1976 and they had six children - three boys and three girls. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Raila Odinga has sent his of condolences to the family, friends and members of the Anglican Church where Caren served with dedication. The Prime minister wished the archbishop strength and courage to cope with the loss and assured him of support where needed.

### **South African trade unions suspend public sector strike**

The unions have called a halt to the strike to allow them to consider the government's offer. South African trade unions have suspended a strike which has paralysed schools and hospitals for the past 20 days. Trade union leaders said the move would allow members to consider the latest government offer. Some 1.3 million civil servants went on strike demanding an 8.5% pay rise, while the government has offered 7.5%.

The strike has seen strong criticism of President Jacob Zuma, who the unions had helped bring to power in 2009. The government had said it cannot afford the unions' demand. But last week Zuma ordered his ministers to negotiate an end to the strike. The strike has been suspended to allow unions to consider the government's offer.

### **Mass arrests over Mozambique food riots**

Police in Mozambique have arrested 142 people over last week's riots which led to 10 deaths. A jump in the price of bread and other goods sparked three days of protests on the streets of the capital Maputo. A further six have been detained, accused of inciting violence in the northern Nampula province. The Mozambique government has resisted calls to take action to reduce the price of bread, saying the hikes are "irreversible".

### **Travolta extortion case dismissed**

Charges against two people accused of trying to extort money from actor John Travolta following the death of his son in the Bahamas have been dropped. The case was dismissed after a motion was submitted at the request of the Pulp Fiction star and his family. Pleasant Bridgewater and Tarino Lightbourne were accused of trying to extort \$25m (£16m) from the actor following his son's death last year. Jett Travolta, 16, died in the Bahamas in January 2009 following a seizure.

### **Sussex vicar Alex Brown jailed for sham marriages**

A vicar has been jailed for four years for carrying out hundreds of fake marriages to bypass immigration law. The Reverend Alex Brown conducted 360 sham marriages during a four-year period at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in St Leonards, East Sussex. Co-defendants Vladimir Buchak, 33, and solicitor and pastor Michael Adelasoye, 50, were also jailed for four years. The Crown Prosecution Service said it was thought to be the largest sham marriage case yet brought to court.

The trio were found guilty at Lewes Crown Court in July of conspiring to facilitate the commission of breaches of immigration laws.

## **Sports News**

### **Bath sign French winger**

Boussuge Bath have signed France sevens and former Under-21 winger Jacques Boussuge on a one-year deal from Montpellier. The 25-year-old had been at the club during pre-season, scoring two tries in his final trial match. Boussuge has been a regular on the international sevens circuit for the last five years and was part of the France Under-21 World Cup-winning squad in 2006.

## **Business News**

### **EA firms urged to look beyond their borders**

Companies and businesses in the east African region have been challenged to explore opportunities outside their countries to expand. African Alliance Kenya Chairman Dr Dan Kagagi said east Africa provides immense opportunities for investors to get high returns with numerous developmental activities taking place. Dr Kagagi said as a frontier destination, the region provides rewarding prospects for companies to take their businesses to the next level.

Since the EAC Common Market Protocol came into force on July 1, economic prospects for the region's member states look certain for increased business activity. It boasts of a population of roughly 120 million, which provides a large market for regional businesses.

Speaking on the sidelines of the East African Investment Conference in Nairobi on Monday, Dr Kagagi highlighted a number of Kenyan companies that had already forayed into the EAC market, with some going as far as cross listing on regional bourses. He was however critical of the slow pace at which firms from other countries in the region have taken to venture outside of their borders. Top Chief Executives attending the two-day conference concurred arguing that investors would also be well advised to look at new areas for their investments.

### **Kenya: Google launches App Inventor for Android**

Mobile application developers now have a chance to sell their products internationally after Google launched the Android mobile market. In a web and mobile themed conference named G-Kenya, vice president for Europe and Middle East Nelson Mattos said local developers now have a chance to market their applications globally and make money out of their innovations. The new application development program works like a basic website editor, allowing users to drag blocks which contains images, text, sounds, timers, animations, and so forth, and allows full use of the features of Android phones, such as the accelerometer for tilting games and GPS tracking for location-based apps.

The launch of Android market by Google then provides mobile software developers with a chance to showcase their products worldwide. The Google conference also brings together over 1200 engineers, products managers, entrepreneurs and web developers to discuss web

application development. The participants will also receive training on web and mobile tools development and the entrepreneurial opportunities provided by the internet.

The G-Kenya conference also comes at a time when Google is expected to open a point of presence at Mombasa.

### **LG reduces GHG Emissions by 150,000 tons**

LG Electronics has set its agenda to cut down its carbon emissions by 150,000 tons by 2020.

According to the LG Electronic Regional marketing manager, East Africa, George Mudhune the solar industry cluster has been organized within the LG Group and is achieving vertical integration in the solar power industry: Youngman Ha, LG Electronics New Business Sales Manager also said the company has strictly eliminated usage of harmful substances in its manufacturing processes.

Its solar business has also been launched on the basis of environment - friendly leadership of LG Electronics. With the new LG photovoltaic module, Ha said the module is perfect for general applications, such as residential, commercial, or utilities. He said the quality assurance process of LG solar is more rigorous than the required Industry standards so as to ensure the best quality, superior durability, and performance: