

Local News 8th October 2010

KRA posts 13.2pc rise in returns

Kenya Revenue Authority has posted a 13.2 percent growth in its first quarter between July and September this year. The 140.4 billion shillings collections have been attributed to improved economic performance in the country during the quarter where the economic growth escalated from 4.7 to 5.4 percent. The Customs Services Department collected 51.3 billion shillings in the first quarter while the domestic taxes raised 88.5 billion shillings, which represents a growth rate of 12.7 percent over the same period last year.

However the controversy between the ministry of Energy and oil marketers over the excise duty which accounts for 53 percent of all petroleum taxes saw revenue collected from this area decline by 5.5 percent to 15 billion shillings. Some 153,359 new taxpayers were brought into the tax net. KRA director general Michael Waweru projected the possibility of the authority exploiting money transfer services in making payments which when approved would be implemented under the Common Cash Receipting System which facilitates the electronic payment of duties, fees and taxes.

Kenyans urged to cheer team

Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka has called on Kenyans to turn up in large numbers today to cheer the National Team Harambee stars as they play Uganda Cranes for the Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers match. Musyoka at the same time, encouraged the National team to do their best and win the match in order to progress in the qualifying rounds. He heaped praise on the national team, saying the presence of Captain Denis Oliech and star striker Macdonald Mariga among other capable players, the sky was the limit for the stars. The Vice President made the remarks Friday when he visited Harambee Stars during a training session at the Nyayo National Stadium.

He urged the players to aim higher, adding that soccer all over the world is a major income earner and called on the youth to join in the game. The Vice President said Kenyans were proud of the teams that represent Kenya in various competitions. He called on Kenyans to have faith in the Kenyan coaches, citing former coach of Harambee Marshall Mulwa as a living example.

Kenya Airways acquires another aircraft

National flag carrier Kenya Airways has taken delivery of an additional aircraft, Boeing 737-300, with an aim of satisfying the increasing travel market demands. The aircraft will be operating the regional routes to boost the ever increasing demand. The equipment registered as 5Y-KYN has been leased from KLM. Chief Executive Officer Dr. Titus Naikuni said that the additional aircraft was in tune with Kenya Airways strategy to increase the level of efficiency across the network by offering passengers more convenience. With the additional B737, Kenya Airways fleet is now at 30 aircraft. The national carrier has placed orders for two Embraer 190 aircraft expected to be delivered early next year. KYN has a seating capacity of 127 seats in economy class and 10 seats in the business class configuration.

KACC now steps in to probe Charterhouse

The Kenya Anti Corruption Commission now says Charterhouse Bank should not be re-opened until investigations by the anti-graft agency into the institution's activities are completed. In a statement on Friday, KACC Director Dr Patrick Lumumba said the commission had launched

investigations in the bank's dealings in public interest. Charterhouse Bank was placed under statutory management in June 2006 by the then Finance Minister Amos Kimunya following a request by the Central Bank after it was suspected of carrying out suspicious transactions. Dr Lumumba said the Commission had received "additional information from highly placed sources on the activities of Charterhouse Bank which it is currently examining with a view to establishing acts of corruption and economic crime and bringing the perpetrators to book."

He added that the new Constitution binds all persons and corporate entities to observe national values which include good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability. The bank is currently the focus of a probe by the Parliamentary Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade.

Social Congress Party to revitalize itself

The Social Congress Party has begun its operations of revitalizing the party from the National level down to the grassroots. Addressing journalists Friday in Eldoret at a regional meeting which drew officials from the North Rift and western province, the party National chairman Atati Kengere said they are looking to strengthen the party which for a long time now has been considered dead. Kengere said they are changing the leadership from a one man show party to a vibrant party that abides by dynamic ideas from officials across the country. Apart from revamping the party, Kengere said the party was formed on platform of fighting corruption which they vow to intensify its fight ahead of the 2012.

The party is appealing to the Members of Parliament to put aside their political interests and put in place necessary measures geared towards the implementation of the new constitution to avoid creating a constitutional crisis during the elections. The party was formed in 1992 BY the late George Anyona, a former cabinet minister. From Eldoret the officials head to Meru, Garrisa on the revamping mission.

TLB to conduct a road check in Eldoret town in a bid to weed out

un-road worthy vehicles A matatu operator in Eldoret town has been apprehended for possessing fake transport licence. Speaking with Fish Fm Friday, the acting chairman Transport Licence Board-TLB John Anunda said several cases of matatu operators possessing fake TLB license have been discovered since the license renewal exercise begun on Monday. Anunda revealed that only four firms have been licensed to issue the licenses adding that unlicensed firms have invaded the market and issued fake ones.

At the same time, he called upon the Municipal council of Eldoret to bring order in the main terminal stages displaying the current state as pathetic as well as lack of sanity in the roads causing an upsurge in road accidents. Meanwhile, he warned Eldoret matatu operators of a possible road check any time to weed out un-roadworthy vehicles and any operator who will have not complied with the order.

End..... James Gitaka

Kenya bans cotton exports to Uganda

Kenya government has banned the illegal exportation of cotton to Uganda saying the market for the commodity was now readily available in the country. Cotton Development Authority (CDA) has also warned Ugandan middlemen who have been defrauding Kenyan farmers. The Authority Director, Mica Powon said cotton farmers in Western, Nyanza and Rift Valley Provinces of the country have been losing millions of shillings to Ugandan middlemen who buy their produce at

a throw away prices and later sell the same at higher prices. Powon directed provincial administration in the three regions to nab such middlemen who have been conning cotton farmers using fake weighing scale machines. He was addressing farmers in Amagoro, Teso North District during a field day at the farm of Barnabas Nyapara, one of the best cotton farmers in the area with 25 acres of the crop. The Director said his firm in conjunction with the local provincial administration in Teso will launch daily surveillance along the Kenya- Uganda border in order to ensure the culture of exploiting Kenyan cotton farmers by some Ugandan businessmen was eradicated.

Isaiah 61 ministries uphold its vision

Isaiah 61 ministries has called on believers to establish integrity and moral values through seeking guidance from the word of God Talking at the African commanders conference at Isaiah 61 ministries in Eldoret, Evangelist. Elizabeth Chatemana from Zimbabwe said that their aim is empowering widows through setting up projects to assist them. Chetemana also encouraged women to let their life rooted in Christ saying that hope is found in him alone.

In the same event, Pastor Rose Mutabaruke from England added that the ministry has been extended to help even widowers. She also urged Christians to be ambassadors of Christ by following his commandments and also bringing the lost back to salvation. The conference is marking 10 years after it was launched.

End...John CHIKAMAI

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to China dissident Liu Xiaobo

Jailed Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo has been named the winner of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. The award, announced in Norway's capital Oslo, is certain to anger Beijing, which had earlier warned against the move. Norwegian Nobel Committee president Thorbjørn Jagland said Liu was "the foremost symbol of the wide-ranging struggle for human rights in China". Jagland earlier admitted he knew the choice would be controversial. Jagland said during the announcement of the award that China's new status in the world "must have increased responsibility".

The victims of 1992 clashes give an ultimatum to the government.

Survivors of the 1992 clashes in the North Rift region have given the government one month to resettle them. Speaking Thursday at a demonstration in Turbo, their spokesman John Musyami claimed the government turned a deaf ear to their pleas despite a promise to resettle them after the passage of the new constitution. The 3, 500 registered victims now living in Lugari district were evicted from Nandi, Kamasai, Uasin Gishu and Trans nzoia where they lost property and some died during the ethnic clashes. They claim the victims of the post poll violence had been compensated leaving them to fend for themselves. They're now appealing to the ministry of special programmes to resettle them failure to which they will take to the streets of Eldoret. The ultimatum expires on 30th this month.

End.....Stanley magut.

AP linked to Sh80m theft arrested

Investigators have called the arrest of an Administration Police allegedly involved in the 80 million shillings theft a breakthrough. The suspect was picked up Thursday night as he performed his guard duties at another bank in Nairobi, police say. The AP is accused of escorting the fraudsters posing as G4S employees to the Cooperative Bank in Nairobi and stole 80 million shillings. The arrest is crucial to police who want crucial information that could lead to the capturing of other suspects still at large. Another police officer involved in the investigations says that the suspect had admitted giving out his official uniform and firearm to a colleague, but denied involvement in the actual robbery.

Regional News

Mugabe aide condemns 'desperate' Zimbabwe PM Tsvangirai

A top official in President Robert Mugabe's party has rejected criticism from Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai as "desperate". The prime minister had accused the president of violating the constitution and their 2009 power-sharing deal. But Jonathan Moyo told the press that Tsvangirai was just "making noise". The row is a clear attempt to ratchet up tensions ahead of polls due next year. She says Tsvangirai's attack on the Zimbabwean president was one of his strongest ever rebukes of Mugabe. At a news conference in Harare on Thursday Tsvangirai said he has defended President Robert Mugabe at his own cost politically.

Danube toxic sludge fears calmed as death toll rises

Pollution levels in the River Danube from Hungary's toxic sludge spill have declined, officials said, calming fears of an ecological disaster. However, fresh concerns have emerged that toxins from the drying sludge could be spread through the air. The death toll from the disaster rose to five on Friday as one of those injured died in hospital. Three people are still missing after the reservoir at an alumina plant in Ajka, western Hungary, burst. Up to one million cubic metres (35m cu ft) of sludge is estimated to have flooded the surrounding area, destroying homes and pouring into rivers which feed the Danube.

Somali pirates 'seize Taiwanese ship off Madagascar'

Somali pirates have hijacked a Taiwanese-flagged ship off Madagascar in their most southerly attack yet, the EU naval force says. The Feng Guo No 168 fishing boat and its crew were said to have been seized 270 miles (435km) east of Madagascar. This is far from the part of the Indian Ocean normally patrolled by international warships trying to prevent pirate attacks. However, some sources indicate that the incident may have been a false alarm. The lack of a government in Somalia means pirates can operate freely. EU naval spokesman Lt Col Per Klingvall said there were one Taiwanese, three Chinese, two Indonesian and eight Vietnamese crew on the vessel.

US sees 95,000 jobs lost in September

The US economy shed another 95,000 jobs in September, the fourth in a row that jobs have been lost, according to figures from the Labor Department. The fall was almost double August's 54,000 job loss number, despite that, the percentage figure for those out of work remains at 9.6%. Government payrolls fell and private hiring was less than expected. The news increases expectations that the US Federal Reserve will take further action. Any moves by the Fed to boost the economy are widely expected to include asset purchases rather than further interest rate cuts.

Private employment increased by 64,000, well below August's pay roll rise of 93,000.

Migrants feel recession aftermath

Migrant workers are suffering worst in the aftermath of the global recession, according to a special report commissioned by the BBC World Service. Foreign workers in developed nations are more likely to be jobless than their native-born counterparts, as the employment gap widens between the two. At the same time, immigration to developed countries has slowed sharply. The research was done for the BBC by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), an independent agency in Washington. But despite the job losses among migrant workers, the overall amount they send in remittances to their families back home fell less than expected last year and is expected to bounce back.

Sports News

Mulee backs Kenya to beat Uganda

Kenya football coach Jacob 'Ghost' Mulee is confident the Harambee Stars can overcome arch-rivals Uganda in this weekend's 2012 Nations Cup qualifier. Uganda travel to Nairobi on a high and on top of Group J after a 3-0 victory over Angola in their opening qualifier. Kenya, on the other hand, went down to a surprise 1-0 away defeat to minnows Guinea Bissau. Twahir Muhidin resigned after that loss opening the way for Mulee's third spell in charge of the Harambee Stars.

The 42-year-old believes that this weekend is the best opportunity for Kenya to relight their Nations Cup challenge. Mulee is the only man to have taken Kenya to the Nations Cup in the last 18 years, that was in 2004 where the Harambee Stars failed to make it past the group stage. Mulee is looking to repeat the feat in taking the East African side to Gabon and Equatorial Guinea in 2012.

Wanjiru expected for Chicago marathon

Two defending champions will highlight the deepest field of elite runners to date when the 33rd Chicago Marathon begins on Sunday. The field includes Russia's Liliya Shobukhova and Kenyan Sammy Wanjiru. Both won last year's race. Also expected to race are Steve Jones and Joan Benoit Samuelson, who were Chicago champions 25 years ago. Jones is making a recreational run while 52-year-old Benoit Samuelson is trying to qualify for a fifth straight U.S. Olympic trials in the marathon if she finishes in 2 hours, 46 minutes or lower.

Liverpool could face points loss

Liverpool are likely to face a nine-point deduction if parent company Kop Holdings goes into administration. League rules say a deduction can be applied if a parent company insolvency is caused by the club's management. Sources suggest owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett would struggle to argue that the running of the football club has not affected the holding company. Liverpool could enter administration if a sale to the owners of the Boston Red Sox is not completed by 15 October. If Hicks and Gillett manage to block a £300m takeover of the club by New England Sports Ventures (NESV), their holding company could be put into administration by the Royal Bank of Scotland as a result of their £280m debts.

Dundee to go into administration

Dundee are to go into administration for the second time in seven years after failing to negotiate

a deal over an outstanding tax bill of £365,000. The First Division club are yet to make an official statement. However, a senior insider at Dens Park admitted the drastic step was "imminent". Several redundancies are certain to follow and the club are sure to receive a punitive points deduction. Players and staff received half wages on Wednesday after a delay in payment. The Dens Park club had hoped to arrange a one-off payment to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and arrange a settlement plan for the remaining debt. And investor Calum Melville had pledged to fund such a move. A spokesman for Melville told the press Scotland on Wednesday that the businessman had lodged £200,000 with the club's solicitors to aid the talks with the tax authorities and help with the payment of wages.