

## **Local News 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

### **Parliament set to reopen**

Parliament reopens Tuesday after two weeks break with the implementation of the constitution high on the agenda. Mps are to begin setting up a crucial team to oversee the transition of a new constitution. A constitutional implementation oversight committee will be mandated with the task of carrying the process of legislation forward, a role previously played by the Parliamentary Select Committee on constitution.

PSC Vice Chairman Ababu Namwamba said should members decide membership of the new committee will see 27 members shared between the PNU and ODM coalition partners. The new house committee will be charged with the role of prioritizing legislation overseeing its drafting and ensuring timelines are met and working closely with the Justice and legal affairs committee.

### **Security tight ahead of Kenya Music Festival**

Security is tight at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology and Kakamega High school in Kakamega, Western Province where the 84th edition of the Kenya National Music Festival is taking place.

Those wishing to enter the institutions are being screened by security personnel using metal detectors before being ushered in. Provincial Police Boss King'ori Mwangi said that the 44 schools in Vihiga, Kakamega and Mumias, districts offering accommodation to participants have each received two extra security officers with reinforcements being brought in from neighbouring districts of Teso, Busia and Bungoma South to patrol the town. Mwangi said a police inspector had been sent to Kenya Music Festival's (KMF) secretariat to help in addressing any security need that may arise.

The province is hosting the annual event for the first time ever. KMF executive secretary Benson Abwao said the event could not kick off as planned due to the referendum on the new constitution last week and has now been compressed to fit in 6 days instead of the initial 9. Over 80 000 participants from all over the country are expected at the fete, all hoping to walk away with the top prizes. The winners are expected to stage a state concert on August 17

### **Strategies and plans put in place to address HIV AIDS**

A one day seminar of the National Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV AIDS in Kenya was held Monday in Eldoret aiming at coming up with strategic plans which will enhance the fight against HIV AIDS. The North Rift regions program manager Lucy Ghati said they are developing National strategy on the scourge and they are giving room to both those infected and affected to air their views to be incorporated in the strategy.

Ghati urged Kenyans to stop stigmatizing and discriminating those living with the HI virus and instead involve them in the normal day to day activities. She appealed to the public to visit the VCT centers and know their status and asked those affected to seek medical attention and use the

anti retroviral drugs as directed. A similar forum is being held in Nyanza, Eastern and Central provinces.

*END JOHN CHIKAMAI*

### **Trial of former Kenyan Minister next month**

The trial of former Cabinet Minister Noah Katana Ngala over the transfer of the Nairobi Mayoral residence has been set for September this year. Ngala is facing charges of conspiracy to defraud the council of the multi million-shilling house on Isaac Gathanju Close, in the posh Lavington area. The former Minister, his wife Isabel Vicky Nzalambi, former Nairobi Mayor John Ndirangu, Elizabeth Nyambura Gicheha, Hashim Got Sat and Erastus Mwangi Mungai are facing trial before Senior Principal Magistrate Grace Wachira.

All the accused persons have denied that on unknown dates between February 1, 1993 and June 30, 2002 they denied jointly conspired to defraud CCN of parcel LR No.3734/261 where the mayoral house stands. Ngala has been accused of stealing, handling stolen property and presenting a falsified document.

### **Wetangula declares interest in presidency.**

More leaders continue showing interest to the country's presidency with Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetangula declaring his bid. Wetangula says he expects to contest the presidency after President Mwai Kibaki retires in 2012. The minister states that under the new constitution, he believes that he will be able to lead Kenyans and ensure development under his rule. Already some leaders from Western province led by Deputy Premier Musalia Mudavadi alongside Saboti MP Eugene Wamalwa have declared their ambitions.

### **Kenyan cops find stolen transformers**

Police in Kisumu have arrested a suspect found in the possession of six transformers belonging to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC). Nyanza police Chief Njue Njagi says that police arrested the suspect with the transformers valued at 3 million Shillings at Kibuye market following a tip-off. Njagi says that one transformer was found intact while five others had been dismantled.

The suspect operates a jua kali shed at the market where he had dismantled the transformers and arranged the copper wires ready for sale. Njagi said that police believe the suspect has been involved in the theft of transformers for a long time. He says that KPLC Kisumu office is assisting police to establish where the transformers were stolen. The police boss said more suspects were yet to be arrested in connection with the theft as the suspect is providing more information to the police.

## **Regional News**

### **Polls open in Rwanda's presidential election**

Rwandans voted Monday to elect their president, with incumbent Paul Kagame expected to win by a landslide. Kagame's supporters say he has brought both stability and steady economic growth since the country's genocide in 1994. His critics accuse him of suppressing opposition and undermining democracy. This is only the second presidential election since 1994, and five million Rwandans are registered to vote. Kagame won the election in 2003 with 95% of the vote. 'No apologies' Kagame faces three rivals in the election, all with links to the president's all-powerful Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

### **Charles Taylor 'gave Naomi Campbell diamonds'**

Ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor promised to give Naomi Campbell diamonds during a 1997 dinner in South Africa, the supermodel's former agent has told Taylor's war-crimes trial. Carole White said that Taylor and Campbell had been "mildly flirting". In her testimony, Campbell said she had received some "dirty stones", but she did not know who had had sent them.

Prosecutors say Taylor armed rebels fighting a decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone, in return for diamonds. Taylor denies 11 charges at the war crimes court in The Hague and he has denied having anything to do with the trade in so-called blood diamonds.

## **Global News**

### **North Korea 'fires artillery into Yellow Sea'**

North Korea has fired shells into the Yellow Sea near its border with the South, South Korean sources say. A battery reportedly opened fire around 1730 local time (0830 GMT), directing shells into its own waters. The firing came just after the end of South Korean-US naval exercises which had provoked warnings of retaliation from the North. Tension between the two states rose this year after one of the South's warships was sunk. The South accuses the North of sinking the Cheonan in March with the loss of 46 sailors.

### **Germany shuts 9/11 plotters' mosque in Hamburg**

German police have shut down the Hamburg mosque where the 9/11 hijackers met before their suicide attacks on the US in 2001. Police said they believed the Taiba mosque was again being used as a meeting point for extremists. The cultural association that runs the mosque has also been banned. A German intelligence report last year said radical Muslims had travelled to military training camps in Uzbekistan after associating at the mosque.

He said 20 police officers had been searching the building and had confiscated material, including several computers, the Associated Press reported. There was no announcement of any

arrests.

### **Pakistan floods threaten key barrage in southern Sindh**

Waters have exceeded the danger level at a key flood barrier in Pakistan's southern province of Sindh. The Sukkur Barrage flooding means Sindh faces as much devastation as that seen further north in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces, say experts. Enraged survivors have been physically attacking government officials in flood-hit areas, amid widespread anger at the pace of the relief effort.

At least 1,600 people have died in the region's worst deluge in 80 years. With more than 14 million people already affected, the monsoon rains show little sign of abating.

### **Sports News**

#### **Fish United draw with Iten United**

In the North Rift Super league matches played over the weekend, Fish United went on a barren draw with Iten United in a hotly contested match at Kapsoya Chiefs' Camp. In other matches, Cheles FC thrashed Garden United 2-0 while Huruma United out-smarted Kapsowar 2-1 all the matches played at Huruma grounds.

Elgonview playing against Kapsabet All Stars drew 2-2 at the Racecourse playing ground.

*Ends....Stanley Magut*

#### **Gili set to become Ivorian coach**

Former Marseille coach Gerard Gili has emerged as the front-runner for the vacant post of Ivory Coast coach ahead of Tuesday's friendly with Italy at Upton Park. The Africans are looking for a new man after Sven-Goran Eriksson, the ex-England manager, left after the World Cup Finals. Both nations were disappointing in South Africa, with neither managing to negotiate their way through the group stage.

Ivory Coast Football Federation president Jacques Anouma has told Frenchman Gili, 57, he is in pole position to succeed Eriksson as he has been involved with both the Ivorian senior and youth teams for the past five years.

### **Business News**

#### **Hunt for new NOC boss begins**

The National Oil Corporation is searching for a new chief executive. Mwendia Nyaga who has been at the helm of the organization since October 2007 will be retiring in September this year but is anticipated to serve the company in a different capacity, in the advent of an anticipated corporate restructuring. Sumayya Hassan-Athmani, currently Deputy Managing Director, has been named by the Board of Directors to serve as the acting CEO.

The firm is modernizing the national geochemical laboratory, implementing the modernization of the National Data Centre while also exploring partnerships with respect to exploration blocks. The firm's strategic plan is aimed at ensuring stability in the supply and pricing of petroleum products in the country.

### **Chinese bank Everbright eyes \$3.2bn flotation**

China Everbright Bank has said it hopes to raise up to 21.7 billion yuan (\$3.2bn; £2bn) in a stock market flotation. The initial public offering (IPO) would be mainland China's second-largest this year. Last month, Agricultural Bank of China raised an estimated \$19bn in a dual listing in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Everbright, a medium-sized lender, said there was strong demand for its shares, with the allocation for institutional investors oversubscribed by 17 times.

Its final IPO price will be confirmed on Wednesday but is set to be between 2.85 yuan and 3.10 yuan per share, according to documents filed with the Shanghai stock exchange.

### **BP oil spill costs pass 6bn mark**

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico caused by the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion has so far cost BP a total of \$6.1bn (\$3.8bn), the company has said. The total includes the cost of the spill response, containment, relief well drilling, and cementing up of the damaged well. The sum also includes grants to the Gulf States hit by the spill. It also includes the \$319m paid out in compensation to some of those affected by the spill.

The firm said there were now 30,800 people working on the spill response. Oil is no longer leaking into the Gulf of Mexico following the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in April. An estimated 4.9 million barrels spilled from the damaged well in the 87 days from the beginning of the disaster until the leak was finally capped on July 15, the US government has said.

### **Saudi regulator delays BlackBerry ban**

Saudi's telecoms regulator has postponed a ban on BlackBerry until Monday so that suggested solutions to the kingdom's security concerns offered by the Canadian maker can be tested. The Communications and Information Technology Commission said the 48-hour grace period, ending on Monday evening, was given "to test the suggested solutions," a statement carried by SPA state news agency late on Saturday said. The CITC decision was also based on the "ongoing efforts by the providers of mobile services to meet the requirements of the commission's regulations."

A deal between BlackBerry maker Research In Motion (RIM) and Saudi Arabia was "virtually" sealed, an official at one of the three mobile services providers said on Saturday. The Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya television said that RIM has agreed in principle to grant access to Saudi authorities to decipher its messenger exchanges between users. A special server for the messenger services is to be set up in the highly security-conscious Gulf state, birthplace of Al-

Qaeda and its leader Osama bin Laden, Al-Arabiya reported. The Saudi telecommunications authority had announced that it had ordered mobile providers to block key BlackBerry services from August 6 or face a 1.3-million-dollar fine.