

## **Local News 9th October 2010**

### **Mohammed steps down in Kenyan law implementation team tussle**

Mandera Central MP Abdikadir Mohammed has resigned as the chairman of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee. The move is aimed at ending a stalemate over the chairmanship of the constitution implementation and oversight committee that had threatened to paralyze the affairs of the crucial committee. Budalangi MP Ababu Namwamba now takes over as chairman of the committee. ODM's nominated MP Millie Odhiambo also stepped down as the vice chair with Githunguri MP Njoroge Baiya taking over the position during a meeting convened by Mohammed today morning.

This new arrangement ends the tussle that had pitted ODM and PNU over the leadership of the implementation and oversight committee that will spearhead the realization of the new constitution. Earlier ODM had threatened to stall the committee's operations after failing to block the election of the chairperson, saying they would pass a vote of no confidence in Mohammed. Prior to its composition the committee faced another hurdle with members questioning its constitution and both parties had to make slight adjustments before members could agree to endorse it.

### **Kenya: Hundreds Displaced in Northeast Clashes**

At least 600 families have been displaced in inter-clan clashes over land in Kenya's northeastern district of Garissa, According to the officials, the clashes, between the Abdalla and Awdag sub-clans of the Ogaden left two people dead and some houses burned. Tension remains high in the area with the government declaring a dusk to dawn curfew.

However the locals led by Anwar Bagdad are appealing to the government to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice and peace re peace is to stop the fighting . The fighting started on 5 October in the villages of Bulla Sabul and Masalani before spreading to other areas of Garissa town.

### **Medical Education to Receive U.S.\$130 Million in American Grants**

The United States will invest \$130 million over the next five years to transform African medical education and increase the number of health care workers on the continent, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced. In partnership with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the department is awarding grants to African institutions in a dozen countries under its Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI). This partnership works with U.S. medical schools and universities to form a network that includes about 30 regional partners, country health and education ministries, and more than 20 U.S. collaborators.

Grant recipients include the University of Botswana, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, the University of Nairobi in Kenya among others. The program is designed to support PEPFAR's goals to train and retain 140,000 new health care workers and improve the capacity of partner countries to deliver primary health care.

### **Implementation of Tobacco Treaty Will Save 200 Million People – Report**

At least 200 million people in the world will be saved by the year 2050 if the tobacco treaty is implemented. This is according to a report by the Environmental Rights Action, Friends of the Earth, Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) and Corporate Accountability International. The report also alleged tobacco companies interference in the implementation of the global tobacco treaty formally known as the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Director of Corporate Accountability International, Gigi Kellet, said tobacco companies initially tried to bully the global community out of advancing the treaty and that it is now attempting to bully countries out of enforcing it. According to the report, each year, tobacco kills more than five million people and that 80 per cent of the victims are in underdeveloped countries.

### **HO Head Calls for Better Services, Care for Mentally-Ill Patients**

The regional director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for Africa, Luís Gomes Sambo, has urged all the governments, partners and communities to defend the betterment of services and care provided to all people that suffer mental and physical diseases of long duration. The appeal is part of the message on the occasion of 10 October, World Mental Health, to be commemorated this year under the theme "Mental Health and Physical Illnesses of Long Duration: The Need for Continuous and Integrated Cares.

He added that the community needs support to increase the awareness and knowledge on mental health, in order to reduce the pathologies-related stigma. The government should improve the units of mental health, create services at all levels of the health system and send the patients for an early and adequate treatment. It is also important to start and keep rehabilitation programmes for mentally-ill patients, which will facilitate their reintegration into the community. Such initiatives will contribute to reduce stigma and exclusion, taking into account the suffering related to mental diseases.

### **Kenya counties to become centres of development, says Kibaki**

President Mwai Kibaki Friday advised residents of counties across the country to device good plans for development as they will act as centres of focus in the country's development. Speaking when he made three stopovers at the Kiambu County on his way to the AIC Kijabe Hospital, the President urged leaders in the country to avoid petty issues and to instead focus on developing the country. At the same time, the Head of State called on wananchi to take advantage of the ongoing construction of the country's road network to initiate businesses which will uplift their livelihoods.

He noted that the infrastructural development in the country was intended to benefit all wananchi through fast movement of their goods and services to local and regional markets so as to spur the economic growth of the country. The President who addressed hundreds of jubilant wananchi at Limuru, Nyambare and Kimende shopping centres urged Kenyans to redouble their efforts in building the nation for the sake of current and future generations.

### **Local Business**

#### **East Africa: Firms Should Take Advantage of EA Protocol**

The East African Common Market protocol has opened a number of opportunities that corporates, both listed and unlisted, can take advantage off on the regional stage. The East African market provides an opportunity to not only grow market segments, but also position

oneself better on the continent as a whole. As such, the capital markets continue to form a cost effective avenue for listed and non listed entities. This is evident with the ongoing Standard Chartered Bank rights issue for Sh2.5 billion and Housing Finance Corporate Bond for Sh10 billion. TPS Eastern Africa managed to achieve 35 per cent oversubscription of their rights issue; and the ability to raise Sh1.6 billion out of the Sh1.18 billion required from the market is commendable.

### **Africa: Slow Implementation of Farming Policies Fuels Hunger**

Standard bank has initiated a program aimed at financing the small-scale farmers in the African continent. With a presence in 19 countries in the continent including Kenya (through CFC Stanbic), the bank is seeking to balance the equation of helping Africa to exploit its virgin expansive land seen as one of its most valued assets. Clive Tasker, the CEO of Standard Bank states that their interest in agriculture is because they believe sub-Saharan Africa can provide a solution to food security in the world by being the global food supplier.

According to figures by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (Ifad), Africa has about 12 per cent of the world's arable land but 80 per cent of that is uncultivated. Only seven per cent, is irrigated compared to 40 per cent in Asia, indicating the huge opportunity for investments in agriculture in the continent. Africa's Standard Bank announced in September that it will commit Sh800 million for lending to groups of small-scale farmers in four African countries, building on its previous commitments. The bank is banking on the fact that the private sector in Africa is increasingly playing a larger role in agriculture unlike before when governments were key players in financing.

### **Regional News**

#### **Senegal to fly in 160 Haiti quake students for studies**

Senegal is to take 160 Haitian students, victims of January's deadly quake, to allow them to continue their studies in Senegal's universities. Officials in Dakar say a chartered flight will leave Senegal on Sunday and return with the students next week. The move is part of a promise made by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade earlier this year. More than 222,570 people died and some 2.3m were displaced after the earthquake hit Haiti on 12 January.

Mamadou Seye, a spokesman for Senegal's Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, said on Friday that the chartered flight would bring the Haitian students to Dakar next Wednesday. Haitian President Rene Preval and his wife would be accompanying the students.

#### **Rescuers 'hours away' from reaching Chilean miners**

Rescuers say they could be just hours away from completing an escape tunnel for 33 miners trapped in a mine in Chile. Engineers said earlier they had just 34m (112ft) to drill to reach the miners 700m underground. But Mining Minister Laurence Golborne warned that the rescuers had to work carefully not to jam the drill. He also said that it would be three to eight days before the rescue mission at the San Jose mine would begin. The miners were trapped in a chamber when part of the mine collapsed on 5 August.

## **Sports News**

### **Wanjiru wins bronze**

Grace Wanjiru clinched her first Commonwealth medal today after clinching the bronze medal in the 20km women's walk. The three time African champion crossed the line in 1:37.49 behind winner Jo Jackson of England (1:34.22) and Australia's Claire Tallent (1:36.55) who took silver. Wanjiru's medal takes Kenya's medal tally to seven with three gold, two silver and two bronze. Meanwhile, three Kenyans are through to Sunday's men's 200m semi final. Anderson Mureta won his heat in a time of 21:40 seconds while Kipkemoi Soy and Stephen Barasa also finished second in their respective heats to give Kenya a sizeable presence in the event.