

Kenya Domestic Media, August 16th (Covering August 9th - 15th)

By Laura Kern, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State-owned Media

KBC Radio, Nairobi, in English 1600 GMT 11 Aug 10

- The Muslim community is calling on the government to intervene and assist three Kenyans handed over to the Ugandan authorities over suspected involvement in the Kampala bombings. The community leaders insisted that this action is an example of persistent harassment of Muslims by security agents over suspected terrorist activities. Jamia Mosque Committee Vice Chairman Al-Amin Kimathi claimed that the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit should not have handed over the Kenyans to the Ugandan officials until the proper investigations were carried out to prove their involvement in the bombings. There have been instances in the past where the government has claimed strong evidence against citizens of the Muslim faith who end up having no evidence against them.

Kenya State House governmental website, Nairobi, in English 9 Aug 10

- In compliance with the Constitution of Kenya Review Act, 2008 and the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) act, 2008, his Excellency President Mwai Kibaki will promulgate the new constitution on Friday 27th August 2010. The public ceremony will take place at Uhuru Park Nairobi

Privately-owned Media

KTN TV, Nairobi, in English 1800 GMT 14 Aug 10

- Another Kenyan has been arrested in connection with the bombings in Kampala Uganda. Muhammad Hamid Suleiman was arrested in Nairobi last night. His family maintains his innocence and questions why they have not been allowed to see him. The family fears he may have already been shipped to Uganda. He was beaten and arrested several minutes after the evening prayers for having allegedly been associated with people who committed the bombings. His wife fears he has been extradited.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 14 Aug 10

- The allies of Higher Education Minister William Ruto are planning to quit the ODM and register a new political outfit – the Red Party of Kenya (RPK). Sixteen MPs and 1000 councillors have endorsed the plan and are promising to quit their positions to seek a fresh mandate from the people if Ruto is fired from his position in the Cabinet. If Ruto and his allies survive in ORDM up to the expiry of the current parliament they plan to launch the party in 2012.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 13 Aug 10

- All ODM MPs who were in the red camp will face party sanctions as established in an ODM parliamentary group meeting on Thursday. They will be kept out of the Constitution Implementation Oversight Committee. The parliamentary group secretary Budalangi MP Ababu Namwamba stated that the party will take strong disciplinary action against any MP that campaigned against the constitution. It was also suggested that dissenting MPs should be kicked out of the party.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 13 Aug 10

- Former President Moi has voiced his concerns over certain clauses in the new constitution and claims they will continue to be a source of friction amongst the people. He stated that the new constitution contains clauses that militate against African Morality.

Kameme FM, Nairobi, in Kikuyu 0515 gmt 12 Aug 10

- Kenyan callers urge support for a new head of the anti-graft body on a call show regarding the appointment of Kenyan Lawyer, Patrick Lumumba, who was sworn in August 6th 2010. The anti-graft body is charged with fighting graft (political corruption) but is often criticized for doing a poor job. Many listeners claimed that they should wait and see what kind of a job Lumumba does. Several callers also stated that he can only do his job with the support of Kenyans. The callers praised several of his qualifications including his proficiency in English and his hardworking and brave qualities.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 12 Aug 10

- According to a Synovate post-referendum poll, only 19 percent of individuals interviewed claimed their still fully trusted church leaders. 38 percent stated they did not trust church leaders at all. The National Council of Churches of Kenya said Christians still have enough faith in the clergy. The church campaigned strongly against the new constitution and continues to object to the clauses on abortion and Kadhi courts. The managing director of Synovate claimed that the decline in trust can be attributed to the stand and actions of the church during the referendum rather than a change in spiritual matters.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 12 Aug 10

- Leaders in the North Rift Valley are urging residents of Burnt Forest to ignore hate leaflets asking members of a particular community to vacate. The politicians have asked the government to arrest the instigators. In spite of the peaceful vote some people are still attempting to incite communities to violence Eldoret MP Simam said. The leaders want to encourage speedy investigation and publicize findings to ease tension among the communities.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 10 Aug 10

- The ICC has begun to hurry out key witnesses who will testify against five leaders suspected of involvement in the violence that followed the December 2007 botched presidential election. Two key witnesses with their families left at midnight on August 6th to undisclosed locations in Europe. Final touches are being made on evidence against five individuals. The two had testified before the Waki commission and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 9 Aug 10

- Former president Moi has asked Christian religious leaders to stick to their principles on the new constitution. He claimed that he will not apologize for opposing the document. He also claimed that the proposed counties to be established under the new law would enforce tribal lines. The church's opposition to the document is based on Christian moral values according to Bishop George Odhiambo.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 9 Aug 10

- The US is planning to unveil a program to help Kenya implement the new constitution. Michael Ranneberger, US ambassador to Kenya, said that through parliamentary strengthening programs the US would help to ensure Kenyans realize the change in the shortest possible time.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 9 Aug 10

- Kenyan MPs are expected to begin setting up the Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee, a team to oversee the implementation of the constitution. They will take over from the Parliamentary Select committee on constitution that steered the review process from the referendum stage. The committee is expected to consist of 27 MPs part PNU part ODM. The implementation of the constitution will lead to a number of high-ranking government officials losing their jobs including the Attorney General and Chief Justice. The new law is expected to be signed by President Kibaki by August 20th.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 9 Aug 10

- Prime Minister, Raila Odinga, has urged Kenyans to embrace the constitution and unite in building the country. The constitution must be implemented through

legislation in parliament. The archbishop of Nairobi, John Cardinal Njue, maintained that the Catholic Church would push for an amendment on clauses it finds offensive. There is also resistance from MPs from the Rift Valley, which counted for the largest block of no votes in the referendum. There are fears that amendments may take place outside the law and through backdoor negotiations. The Catholic Church has affirmed that it will continue its crusade against the constitution.