

Kenya Domestic Media, May 17th (Covering May 10th -16th)
By Laura Kern, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State owned media

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) Online text website, Nairobi, in English 15 May 10

- Flooding in the Samburu [Rift Valley Province] has killed seven people and the pastoralists count their losses as they continue to loose livestock. Kenya Red Cross has intensified humanitarian assistance. Preventative measures have been taken in other parts of the country such as Mt Elgon, which is being evacuated.

Privately owned media

The Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 16 May 10

- The National Land Policy is out, under the law the president and commissioner of lands will no longer have the right to arbitrarily allocate land, this has been identified as a legal weakness of land management systems. The power will now rest in a broadly representative National Land Commission.
- The document requires recognition of the rights of communities to benefit from land-based natural resources and calls on the land commission to deal with historical injustices.

Kenyan privately-owned TV station KTN, in Swahili 15 May 10

- President Kibaki and Prime Minister Odinga led the first “yes” campaign rally in Nairobi for the constitution, claiming the constitution making process was unstoppable and urged those opposed to it to re-evaluate their stand

The Star, daily newspaper, Nairobi, in English 15 May 10

- Three senior cabinet ministers, two permanent secretaries, the top organ of the National Security intelligence service and several MP's were involved in consultations that led to the smuggling of a dangerous clause into the proposed constitution which placed national security as constitutionally paramount of the rights of Kenyans. The ministers were all from the PNU party

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 14 May 10

- Hate leaflets being circulated in western Kenya called for certain communities to leave to allow members of the same local communities to settle on the basis of the new constitutional amendments which have not yet been voted on. The District Commissioner is blaming politicians for the leaflets, claiming that they are scare tactics over the proposed constitution

The Daily Nation Website, Nairobi, in English 13 May 10

- Kenya's Security intelligence agency had sought amendments on the constitution approved by the parliament. This request had been turned down by the Attorney General Amos Wako; however copies surfaced at the Government Printer that reflected changes sought by the intelligence agency. Copies with the changes began to print only part-way through the printing process, therefore, it can be assumed that somewhere along the process the altered version was introduced

Kenya's Nation, editorial, BBC Quote 11 May 10

- A lobby concerned with preserving peace and cohesion that vernacular radio broadcasts could be used with bad intentions, which is why the Communications Commission of Kenya must be on their toes from now until the referendum and beyond.

The Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 11 May 10

- The ICC is to prosecute six of the architects of Kenya's post-election violence, although they have not been named. Moreno-Ocampo has also stated that other Key players should be handled at the International Criminal Tribunal in Arusha.

The Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 11 May 10

- A human rights lobby is offering protection for 50 victims of post-election violence and human rights defenders – only a fraction of the 177 applications the Kenya Human Rights Commission has received. Threats have increased since ICC prosecutor was given the green light to pursue the architects of post election violence. Threats have been directed at witnesses who testified before the Waki Commission and the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC). There is no guarantee of security from state agencies culpable for human rights abuses. There are fears that potential witnesses for the ICC investigation may receive severe threats.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 10 May 10

- Divisions within the Kenyan government arose over attempts by the ODM ministers to block the visit of International Criminal Court Chief Luis Moreno-Ocampo in his meetings with heads of security to investigate the 2007 election violence in which 1200 deaths were attributed to trigger-happy police.
- A meeting to discuss changes to the Rome Statute is scheduled to be held in Uganda May 31 to June 11, to evaluate the performance of the ICC in Africa and Moreno-Ocampo himself. The meeting is suspected to be a political ploy to pressure the prosecutor to be more accommodating.