

## **Kenya Domestic Media, April 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 (Covering Apr 12<sup>th</sup> – Apr 18<sup>th</sup>)**

**By Fatima Arkin, MIGS Reporter for Kenya**

### **State Owned Media**

*KBC Online text website, Nairobi, in English 18 Apr 2011*

#### **“Civic body calls for nationwide protests in Kenya over high prices”**

Consumer Federation of Kenya (Cofek) programme officer Stephen Mutoro said a protest will be held with the aim of pressuring the government to cut taxes on fuel as a check on the rising cost of living. The demonstration is scheduled to continue until the issue is resolved. Mutoro called on Minister of Energy Kiratu Murungi to step aside after failing to handle the matter. Narc-Kenya Party Leader Martha Karua attributes the skyrocketing fuel prices to corruption and inefficiency in government. Karua alleges that corruption at the Kenya Pipeline Company is squarely responsible for the runaway fuel prices.

*KBC Radio, Nairobi, in English 0400 gmt 16 Apr 2011*

#### **“Heroic welcome to Nairobi might come back to haunt Ocampo Six”**

Ocampo argued that those on the ICC list defied warnings not to make public comments that might inflame tensions. Associates of the Ocampo Six vowed at a homecoming rally in Uhuru Park to continue criticising the ICC. Ocampo quoted reports in local dailies indicating that one of the Ocampo Six spoke in parables that could be interpreted as threats against actual or perceived witnesses. He concluded that information cannot be disclosed until further steps to protect witnesses and their families are undertaken.

### **Private Media**

*Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 18 Apr 2011*

#### **“US to secure labs in Kenya and Uganda” by Gatonye Gathura**

To address the potential threat of dangerous micro-organisms getting into the wrong hands, the US is forging security and research agreements with the governments of Kenya and Uganda. Dr. Mpoke, Director of the Kenya Medical Research Institute, said a security breach has never happened, but plans on strengthening fencing are underway.

#### **“Evidence sharing set to begin at The Hague” by Emeka-Mayaka Gekara**

The pre-trial chamber is expected to respond to Ocampo’s intention to challenge the evidence disclosure mode suggested by ICC Judge Trendafilova. Ocampo said that the process will take over a year, postponing the confirmation hearing scheduled for September. Evidence sharing is scheduled to start on Monday.

### **“Treasury tracing Libyan assets” by Walter Menya**

The Kenyan treasury is tracing investments linked to Al-Qadhafi and his cronies, but there is no word on how to deal with the assets once they are identified. The Foreign Affairs Ministry said it was consulting the Central Bank and the treasury on the way forward.

*Sunday Nation, Nairobi, in English 17 Apr 2011*

### **“Life has become too expensive, and no one is spared” by Daniel Wesangula**

Many industry players said that fuel increases are unwarranted and that Kenyans need to be cushioned against drastic increases through stringent government controls. Among those affected include farmers at various stages of the planting season. Matatu operators are passing on price increases to consumers. The Matatu Owners Association said fares will increase by 30%. Consumer Federation of Kenya Secretary General Stephen Mutoro said that a peaceful rally will be held next week and a petition made to the President, Prime Minister and Parliament over fuel increases.

*The Star, Nairobi, in English 16 Apr 2011*

### **“Kenyan youth hold anti-Al-Shabab demo”**

Mombasa youth carried placards with the names of Islamic preachers Aboud Rogo, Zaki Mohamed and Samir Khanthey who they claim should be arrested for recruiting youths to join Al-Shabab. The youth urged the government to train thousands of youngsters who can then participate in national development.

### **“Jurists say Kenya privy to detention of Muslim human rights activists in Uganda”**

International Commission on Jurists (ICJ) official George Kegoro said Kenya's silence confirms suspicions that the continued detention of Al-Amin Kimathi and 12 other Kenyans by Ugandan authorities is a “Kenyan plan”. Kegoro, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and human rights lawyers called on the UN High Commission for Human Rights to investigate violations made by the Ugandan government. They also called on the Ugandan government to release Kimathi immediately and compensate him as a way of reparation for illegal detention.

*The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 16 Apr 2011*

### **“Majority of Kenyans on the edge over high cost of living” by Mutinda Mwanzia and Moris Aron**

An opinion poll released by Synovate showed that 33% cite the price of food, cost of fuel and poverty as their main concerns. 24% said food, hunger, and famine remained the most critical, with 19% citing unemployment as their main problem. Increases in diesel and petrol prices will have serious effects on farming, manufacturing and transport.

*The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 15 Apr 2011*

### **“Media owners call for transparency in licensing” by Antony Gitonga**

The Media Owners Association (MOA) said freedom of the media is meaningless if there is a lack of transparency in licensing, allocation of signals, frequencies, and their revocation. MOA chairman S K Macharia lauded the new constitution's provisions on media and welcomed inputs from different stakeholders for the final drafts of the Media Bill and Independent Communications of Kenya Bill. The Ministry of Information and Communications PS Bitange Ndemo said review of the two laws was necessitated by the need to align operations of the Media Council and Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) with the new constitution.

### **“ICC suspect loses Sh840m at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport” by Standard Reporters**

One of the Hague suspects, the identity of whom is being kept secret, lost approximately 840 million shillings in cash. Police sources at Criminal Investigations Department headquarters and JKIA revealed the bodyguards cited their boss, saying he forgot the baggage at VIP Lounge II. Surveillance cameras only recorded the politician with the bag inside VIP Lounge II and when he changed his seat. The matter is being handled in strict confidence by a team of detectives. Meanwhile, police are looking for former Kamkunji MP Simon Mbugua after he confronted Kangundo MP Johnstone Muthama at the airport. Mbugua's bodyguards have been arrested and charged with public disturbance.

*The Star, Nairobi, in English 14 Apr 2011*

### **“Kibunja warns Facebook users against hate speech” by Justus Ochieng**

Cohesion Commission Chairman Mzalendo Kibunja hinted on plans to crack down on hate speech on social sites including Facebook. Kibunja said NCIC will work closely with CCK (Communication Commission of Kenya) and internet service providers.

### **“Islam preacher recruiting young men to Al-Shabab”**

According to multiple police and intelligence sources, the preacher (name withheld) established contact with Al-Shabab in 2009 and has since been instrumental in recruitment. According to people close to the preacher, youth are recruited at a mosque in Majengo, Mombasa where the preacher holds weekly lectures. Mombasa Republican Council (MRC) denied claims that the organization is recruiting youth in the area to join Al-Shabab.

*The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 14 Apr 2011*

### **“Lawyers for Ocampo Six to face-off with ICC Prosecutor” by Evelyn Kwamboka**

According to a ruling by Justice Trendafilova, lawyers for the Ocampo Six have until tomorrow to file challenges against the prosecutor's evidence. Justice Trendafilova said she reduced the number of days required by the Rome Statute so the defence can respond to the application filed by the prosecutor. The judges also have to address the petition filed by the Kenya government, which challenges admissibility of the cases. Justice Trendafilova rejected Ocampo's argument that the government case will affect the process.

### **“Bombing suspects to be tried in Uganda” by Steve Mkawale**

The Kenyan government ruled out extradition of seven suspects facing terrorism and murder charges in Uganda. Internal Security Minister George Saitoti told parliament that the Ugandan government assured them the suspects are treated humanely while the Kenyan state will make sure that fair trials are conducted. Saitoti told the House that the wife of one of the suspects, Mrs. Nasifa Ali, was detained in Uganda due to insufficient travel documents. The minister admitted that one of the suspects, Al Amin Kimanathi, was detained on account of ties to the Kampala bombing. Saitoti also said the government's willing to offer legal assistance to suspects who request it.

*Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 13 Apr 2011*

### **“Kenya demands right of reply on ICC statements” by Bernard Namunane**

Attorney General Wako said the government filed an application at the Hauge seeking to assert its right to reply to submissions by Ocampo, defence lawyers and the victims. The government was responding to the ICC's rejection of Kenya's request that the Chamber convene a status conference involving all parties to discuss the application. The judges requested the prosecutor, the defence and victims to provide written submissions on the application before April 28<sup>th</sup>. They said they could only rule on the inadmissibility of the case after addressing matters on the organization of the proceedings. The Pre-Trial Chamber also ruled that the Office of Public Counsel for Victims shall represent those who make submissions when proceedings on the Kenyan government application are conducted. The Kenyan government filed an application seeking the opportunity to show the ICC that it can prosecute the cases.

*Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 13 Apr 2011*

### **“Kenya activists denied Uganda entry”**

A group of human rights activists led by Kenya National Commission on Human Rights Commissioner Hassan Omar were denied entry into Uganda. The four were detained despite having an appointment with the Ugandan chief justice (CJ) to discuss the continued detention of activist Al-Amin Kimathi. Omar said they were forced to sign deportation documents and were waiting to catch a flight to Nairobi. The group met the CJ the next day. Six other human rights campaigners and lawyers were granted entry.

### **“Three piracy cases fail to proceed” by Philip Muyanga**

Two of the cases were coming up for judgment while the other was scheduled for defence hearing. The EU said the fight against pirates in the Indian Ocean is facing a serious challenge over gathering sufficient evidence to sustain charges against suspects. French Ambassador to Kenya Etienne de Poncins and EU Ambassador to Kenya, Ludowick Briet said that another clarification meeting with government authorities will be held next week.

*The Star, Nairobi, in English 13 Apr 2011*

### **“EU supports plan on pirates” by Maureen Mudi**

The EU said it has no objection to the transfer of pirates convicted in Kenya to Somali jails. However, head of the EU delegation in Kenya, Ambassador Lodewijk Briet, said the quality of the judicial system and detention centres in Somalia have to be improved if the transfer mechanism is to be effective. Briet introduced a delegation of envoys to meet the crew of a French anti-piracy ship, the Guepratte. In other pending cases, suspects requested courts to have Somali officials, including Ambassador Ali Noor, brought to court to confirm they are law abiding citizens.

*Kiss FM, Nairobi, in English 0500 gmt 12 Apr 2011*

**“International petition hosting site urges Kenyan media to ‘blackout’ Ocampo Six”**

An online petition dubbed “I support Ocampo Six media blackout” wants media houses to stop airing anything about the Ocampo Six and focus on what the organizers term as more pressing national issues.

*The Star, Nairobi, in English 12 Apr 2011*

**“Suspected pirates remain in custody” by Maureen Mudi**

The Kenyan attorney general was given 21 days to petition a court ban on piracy trials. In the appeal, the attorney general argued that Justice Ibrahim's ruling conflicted with an issue raised by Judge Festus Azangalala. Justice Azangalala ruled that Kenyan courts have jurisdiction to try post-election cases. Court of appeal judges deemed the case a priority and listed it for a hearing.