

Kenya Domestic Media, April 25th 2011 (Covering Apr 19th – Apr 25th)

By Fatima Arkin, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State Owned Media

KBC Radio, Nairobi, in English 1600 gmt 23 Apr 2011

“Security ‘tight’ in Kenyan towns over terror alert”

Police headquarters issued an alert Thursday evening after intelligence reports indicated that Al-Shabab threatened to bomb recreational places, particularly during the Easter Holiday. In Mombasa, visitors at the beach were ordered to leave the shoreline by 6 pm due to a terrorist threat. Police spokesman Eric Kiraithe assured Kenyans that security personnel are on high alert.

KBC Online text website, Nairobi, in English 22 Apr 2011

“Kibaki: Government to contain inflation” by Kenyan Presidential Press Service

In a goodwill message to Kenyans, President Kibaki said that food stocks in government stores will be released to the market to stabilize the price of various commodities to ensure that they remain within reach of ordinary Kenyans. Kibaki urged able Kenyans to embrace the true Christian spirit by assisting the less fortunate members of society.

Private Media

The Star, Nairobi, in English 25 Apr 2011

“Kenyan parliament probes "controversial" Department of Defence tender”

Clive Lewis, owner of OTT Technologies, claims a businessman (name hasn't been released) demanded 48 million shillings as commission for a contract with the Department of Defence. If the money isn't paid, OTT is told it has no chance of winning. The contract is under investigation. MPs launched investigations into the tender process. Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Defence Aden Keynan, said the committee is yet to conclude investigations into the matter and that the truth will be revealed after thorough analysis of material already gathered.

“Kenya: Luo elders warn against use of hate speech, vow to help reconcile nation”

The Luo Council of Elders cautioned politicians against hate speech that can lead to ethnic animosity. Led by Chairman Ker Riaga Ogallo, the elders blamed politicians for being behind ethnic tension in the country. Riaga said they will team up with other communities in a bid to reconcile Kenyans.

The Standard, Nairobi, in English 25 Apr 2011

“Al-Shabab suspects to be deported” by Cyrus Ombati and Patrick Beja

Sudanese and Ugandan nationals will be deported on suspicion of being Al-Shabab militants. Bomb making materials were seized from the Sudanese suspect as he tried to cross from Kenya to Somali at the Liboi border. Internal Security Minister George Saitoti said security agencies increased surveillance along the Kenya-Somalia border.

Sunday Nation, Nairobi, in English 24 Apr 2011

“US envoy: Act now to avert chaos” by Samwel Kumba

In his exit interview with the *Sunday Nation*, US Ambassador to Kenya Michael Ranneberger expressed concern about the very real possibility of violence during next year's elections. He said the government needs to deal with the root cause of violence by pushing for full implementation of the constitution. Key among the issues that need to be addressed are the culture of impunity, negative ethnicity, poverty as well as youth unemployment, all of which Ranneberger thinks can be dealt with.

NTV, Nairobi, in Swahili 1600 gmt 23 Apr 2011

“Sudanese among trio arrested in Kenya over terror alert”

Tonight, police officers will interrogate three people arrested with bomb-making material in the North Eastern Province. Police said the three will be transferred to Nairobi for further interrogation by officers from the anti-terrorism unit.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 23 Apr 2011

“South African firm denies assembling second-hand lorries for Kenyan military”

Owner of OTT Technologies, Clive Lewis, denied claims by some MPs that vehicles assembled by the supplier have been made out of second-hand parts. The South African company accused the Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations of travelling to South Africa with a fixed mind and asked questions while probing the alleged plan to supply second-hand Tata trucks to Kenya. The company complained to the Kenyan Ministry of Defence (MoD) PS that the committee members who travelled to South Africa were only interested in knowing when some senior MoD officials travelled to South Africa to meet OTT.

“Eight nabbed in terror operation” by Isaac Ongiri

Eight terror suspects were arrested in Kenya as police intelligence revealed a possible planned attack by Al-Shabab . At least three suspected masterminds were allegedly already in Nairobi when attacks happened over the weekend. Police are questioning Yusuf Salih Ali who was arrested in Liboi yesterday. Internal Security Minister Orwa Ojode confirmed that police mounted a search for the suspected three bomb plotters hiding in Nairobi and called on the public to report any suspicious characters. An official within the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit revealed that several suspects were released after intelligence reports linking them to terror activities were

found to be false. Police commissioner Matthew Iteere revealed that crowded places were targeted. Kenya sought support from security agencies of countries such as the US

The Standard, Nairobi, in English 22 Apr 2011

“Our life in crime, as told by pirates of the sea in jail” by Antony Gitonga

Most convicted pirates inside the Naivasha Maximum Prison insist they were fishermen caught in the high seas, while others say they were swimming when they got into trouble. However, one of the inmates, who calls himself Ahmad, admits that the inmates were arrested along the Somali coast while trying to hijack ships. He said the hijacking business is one of the most lucrative in Puntland, north eastern Somalia.

“COTU: Police should quit harassing scribes” by Stephen Makabila

The Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU-Kenya) protested Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere over the grilling of three Standard Group journalists by Criminal Investigations Department (CID) officers. COTU Secretary-General Francis Atwoli urged Iteere to intervene and allow the journalists to discharge their duties without undue harassment from any state organ. Senior Superintendent of Police Prosper Bosire said they were investigating allegations of publishing alarming statements under the Penal Code.

The People, Nairobi, in English 22 Apr 2011

“Kenya, France partner to combat terrorism, piracy”

Prime Minister Odinga and French Prime Minister Francois Fillon signed the strengthened France-Kenya partnership at a ceremony held in Paris. The agreement envisages closer cooperation in the fight against international crime, including piracy, terrorism, drug and human trafficking, corruption and money laundering.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 22 Apr 2011

“Woman in terror suspect's case dies”

Kenyan Luftiya Abubakar Bashirahil died. She was accused alongside her husband and son of hosting Al-Qa'idah mastermind Fazul Abdullah. The three allegedly hosted Fazul at some point between December 2007 and August 2008.

“Raila to vie for presidency, Kibaki assures he will retire”

While on vacation in the US, Prime Minister Odinga announced that he will run for president. President Kibaki dismissed a report that he is considering running for president again. *The Star* claimed that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government Musalia Mudavadi could be the Orange Democratic Movement presidential candidate.

“Police to quiz Somali over terror link claim” by Galgalo Bocha

Police in Lamu are holding a man from Somalia over suspected links with terror groups in his country. Lamu deputy police boss Joseph Sigei is not satisfied with the young man's claim to have fled fighting between Transitional Federal Government forces and Al-Shabab militia. Police said that although they would prefer a charge of being illegally in the country, they will also question the man further to establish his connection with any extremist groups in Somalia.

“Kenyans pay 25 per cent more for food” by Luke Mulunda

Comparative calculation of the rise in prices of basic commodities shows an average 25% jump in their cost between January and April. This is the highest rise in the cost of basic commodities in the shortest time since the post-election violence in early 2008. Additionally, record-high fuel prices reach 111 shillings per litre of petrol in Nairobi. The latest figures from the Central Bank show rising inflation. Economists say the current crisis was caused by lack of government planning and an influx of politics in policy implementation. Treasury reduced excise duty levied on kerosene and diesel by 30% and 20% respectively to check increasing food and fuel prices. Experts say this won't bring the much-needed relief.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 22 Apr 2011

“Kenya, China in 8bn shillings university hospital deal”

Kenya and China strengthened relations by signing 10 bilateral agreements on key projects in Kenya. Included is a concessional loan of 8 billion shillings to finance the Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital. Also signed was an agreement on educational exchanges and cooperation between the Ministry of Education of China and Kenya's Ministry of Higher Education. Others are an MoU between the State Council Information Office of China and Kenya's Ministry of Information; MoU between China's State Administration of Radio, Film and Television and Kenya's Ministry of Information and Communications; and cooperation agreement between China Central Television (CCTV) and Kenya Broadcasting Corporation.

“Judge clears Pakistani suspects of all charges” by Maureen Mudi

Six Pakistani nationals arrested by anti-terrorism police on suspicion of links to Al-Shabab were released. Senior Resident Magistrate Timothy Gesora said there was evidence linking the Pakistani nationals to preaching, since the police had done a shoddy job. Gesora directed that their passports be returned.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 21 Apr 2011

“Kibaki team considers third term”

Confirmed informal meetings were held by four senior officials to explore the possibility of a third term for Kibaki should it become impossible for Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta to run. The new constitution expressly bars President Kibaki from running again. Constitutional

lawyer Paul Muite warned that ignoring this section could plunge Kenya into chaos. ODM [Orange Democratic Movement] chief whip Jakoyo Midiwo warned the president's confidants against pursuing the idea.

“Former officials of Kenyan broadcaster charged with graft”

Former KBC boss David Waweru and the corporation's secretary Hezekiel Oira were charged with failing to comply with laws relating to tendering of contracts. Oira denied the charges before Magistrate Lucy Nyambura and was released on bail. Waweru, who did not turn up in court, was summoned to appear and answer the charges on May 3rd.

Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 0000 gmt 20 Apr 2011

“Uhuru says sorry over foul language” by Bernard Momanyi

Deputy PM Kenyatta publicly apologised to Kenyans for unsavoury remarks he made at various political forums before he went to The Hague. Kenyatta said he was consistently provoked by PM Odinga, but will stop now and focus on the country's development. During a meeting with Luo Nyanza professionals, Kenyatta assured them that he's willing to work with all Kenyans irrespective of their background. The professionals said they're also willing to support him in the upcoming elections "because we are tired of divisive politics of one man".

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 20 Apr 2011

“EAC leaders issue appeal over Somalia” by Kenyan Presidential Press Service

President Kibaki and other East African Community (EAC) leaders appealed to the international community to provide more financial and logistical support to the African Mission to Somalia. Justice Isaac Lenaola of Kenya was appointed judge of the East African Court of Justice.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 20 Apr 2011

“Reject hate speech and divisive talk, Ranneberger tells youth” by John Nalinya

US Ambassador Michael Ranneberger called on Kenyans to reject leaders who propagate hate speech and activities that can divide the country on tribal lines. He said remarks by some politicians were likely to compromise the existing peace and urged Kenyans to elect responsible leaders who can steer the country forward. The ambassador was speaking during the launch of Mt. Elgon Peace Development Project.

“Kenya Gazette now on Google” by James Mbugua

Google announced that it digitized all Kenyan Gazette records dating back 105 years ago. A few years ago, the National Council for Law Reporting (NCLR) started scanning and uploading the gazette onto the Kenya Law Reform Commission's web site. However, this format has been unwieldy and not easily searchable online.

“Kenyan former minister wins libel case against media house”

The Standard newspaper will pay former Subukia MP Koigi Wamwere 3.5m shillings for portraying him as a sympathiser of the outlawed Mungiki sect. High Court Justice Waweru said the article, by its wording and tenor, was highly abusive.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 19 Apr 2011

“Price of maize flour rises to a new high” by Gatonye Gathura

The cost of maize meal experienced an average price increase of more than 30 shillings in the last three months. Diamond Lalji, the Cereal Millers Association's chairman, said farmers aren't releasing maize despite being offered higher prices. Maize millers want the government to release some of the stocks it is holding. The latest Ministry of Agriculture food update indicates that Kenya's maize stocks can feed the country until October, when the next harvests are expected.