

Kenya Domestic Media, May 2nd 2011 (Covering Apr 26th – May 2nd)

By Fatima Arkin, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State Owned Media

KBC Online text website, Nairobi, in English 27 Apr 2011

“Nationwide police recruitment kicks off” by Mary Daraja

The police recruitment exercise kicked off countrywide with the government intending to employ 7,000 youths into the force. The exercise is closely monitored by civil society and the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution following allegations of massive corruption and discrimination during in the past.

Private Media

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 2 May 2011

“Raila to secure release of Gbagbo” by Anderson Ojwang

PM Odinga is expected to make another peace negotiation trip to Ivory Coast in a bid to secure the release of former President Laurent Gbagbo. He said it would be important to allow Gbagbo to be exiled in a country of his choice instead of prosecuting him as this would accord unnecessary sympathy. Odinga’s critics dismissed his mediation efforts and accused him of failing to deliver a compromise.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 2 May 2011

“Kenyans ‘trapped’ in Ethiopia villages” by Issa Hussein

2684 Kenyans are living as refugees in Ethiopia after fleeing during the Turbi massacre six years ago. Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission Chairperson Tecla Namachanja thanked the UNHCR and the Ethiopian government for hosting the refugees and said the Kenyan government will now resettle them. Meanwhile, the Sakuye community in Ethiopia wants the government to bring back members of their community who fled to Somalia during the Shifta war. They said their origins were in Kenya and they deserved to be treated as other citizens.

“Kenyan premier says killing of Bin-Ladin major achievement”

PM Odinga said the death of Usamah Bin-Ladin is a major achievement. It all provides justice for Kenyans killed in the 1998 embassy bombings.

Sunday Nation, Nairobi, in English 1 May 2011

“Kenyans prefer Raila-Mudavadi partnership” by Steve Mkawale

Synovate opinion polls show that 20% of 2 000 Kenyans sampled would vote for PM Odinga and his deputy, Mudavadi, as president and deputy president. 8% would prefer a combination of Vice President Musyoka and Deputy PM Kenyatta. Mudavadi took issue with the results, wondering why the research team only paired him with Raila and not any other politician. He said that for a long time, opinion polling in Kenya has been manipulated to alter the perception of the public.

“Tension as Museveni, Besigye come to Kenya” by Aggrey Mutambo

Ugandan President Museveni arrived in Kenya for business while Opposition leader, Dr. Besigye is in critical condition and receiving treatment at the Nairobi Hospital. Odinga’s planned hospital visit was called off at the last minute following the advice of doctors. Museveni spoke at the Hotel Intercontinental function where a man identified as Benji Ndolo was arrested for shouting at the Ugandan president.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 1 May 2011

“Kenya raises minimum wage by 12pc” by Lucas Barasa

Labour and Human Resources Development Minister John Munyes announced a 12.5% increase in minimum wage. Prior to the announcement, Central Organisation of Trade Union (COTU) Secretary General Francis Atwoli warned that he will call for a strike and protests similar those in Uganda if the minimum wage is not raised by 60%.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 30 Apr 2011

“Ranneberger saw, loved and conquered” by George Orido

US ambassador Michael Ranneberger fell in love with Kenya and its people. He found love with one particular woman, Ruth Konchella from Kilgoris. Ranneberger said that he was impressed with the way she spoke on behalf of women at a women’s rights event.

“Young ‘guerrillas’ in cyber space” by Kenfrey Kiberenge

Youth have been posting ‘status’ and ‘tweets’ with tribal intonations in addition to spreading propaganda against politicians and tribes they dislike. Blogs with tribal domain names and content are also sprouting up daily. If an opposing view is posted, the comment is deleted promptly or the rest on the ‘thread’ rile at the one posting. National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) Chairman Mzalendo Kibunjia, warns the youth to exercise caution when posting online.

NTV, Nairobi, in English 1800 gmt 29 Apr 2011

“Ugandan leader to visit Kenya 30 April to give lecture on democracy”

Ugandan President Museveni will visit Kenya to give a talk on democracy and other issues. Museveni, who is on a non-state visit, will answer questions from civil society and other groups in Nairobi.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 29 Apr 2011

“Three Mombasa mosques accused of recruiting militias” by Amina Kibirige

Top of the list is Masjid Musa where religious classes are held weekly with the aim of recruiting young soldiers for Al-Shabab. Council Treasurer for the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya, Hassan Omar said that although the government was aware of what’s been happening, it has yet to act. Chairman of the Masjid Musa promised to issue a statement after consulting the committee.

“Raila flies out into Mugabe firestorm” by Ketsepile Nyathi

Government owned press in Zimbabwe attacked PM Odinga after he accepted an invitation to a congress led by PM Tsvangirai, a rival of President Mugabe. State owned *Herald* newspaper described Odinga as a merchant of violence.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 29 Apr 2011

“Terror suspect ‘spotted’ in Eastleigh” by Maxwell Masava

Terrorist suspect, Abdullahi was spotted having lunch with an unidentified Somali man in Eastleigh, Nairobi. Police Commissioner Matthew Iteere released a photo of Abdullahi who is suspected of being part of a trio planning a terror attack in Nairobi.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 29 Apr 2011

“Heed police warnings of terror group’s presence”

For the second time in two weeks, Kenyan police is urging citizens to be vigilant following the return of suspected terrorist ‘Abdullahi’ from an Al-Shabab training camp in Somalia.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 28 Apr 2011

“PC warns Kaloleni youth against joining rebel sect” by Maureen Mudi

Coast PC Ernest Munyi asked political leaders and Kaloleni residents not to join the Mombasa Republican Council, which has been outlawed. An MRC official said the group will make a major announcement on its feud with the government, which may change the way they’ve been perceived. The group filed a case challenging port privatization on grounds that most of their members are casual and stand to lose immediately.

Kiss FM, Nairobi, in English 1000 gmt 27 Apr 2011

“Kenya: Media owners accuse government of trying to meddle with press freedom”

Media Owners Association Chairman S. K. Macharia condemned the harassment of Star political reporter Geoffrey Musoku who was attacked three weeks ago while attending a press conference organized by former Kamkunji MP Simon Mbugua. The matter was reported to the Central Police Station however, no action has been taken.

“Ex-Kenyan deputy police commissioner found dead at residence”

Retired Deputy Police Commissioner Bernard Kimeli was found dead with stab wounds in his chest. He was alone in his house when the incident happened. Director of CID Ndegwa Muhoro said the killers appeared to have been interested in some documents.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 27 Apr 2011

“Court blocks Kiplagat probe”

High Court Judge Aggrey Muchelule blocked a tribunal investigating former Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission Chairperson Bethuel Kiplagat until a case filed by the latter is heard and determined.

“Karua promises to change Kenya”

Gichugu MP Martha Karua launched her presidential bid with a firm promise to change Kenya. If elected, Karua will prioritize food security, resettlement of IDPs, corruption, impunity, education and insecurity. She's the third woman to vie for the presidency in Kenyan history.

“Kenya took DNA samples of Al-Qa'idah suspects' kin”

Government analyst Joseph Kimani said DNA samples from Halima, Luqman and Sumaya Fazul, who are the suspected children of Al-Qa'idah mastermind Fazul Abdullah, will be compared with DNA profiles from a black shaver and an electric shaver. Kimani said the owner of the DNA profile generated from the shaver might be the biological father of Luqman and Sumaya, but not Halima.

“Wako orders police to probe the Ocampo Six” by Bernard Namunane

Attorney General Wako ordered Police Commissioner Iteere to include the Ocampo Six in investigations regarding the post election violence. The order was among 22 documents attached to an application sent to the ICC Registrar, which sought access to evidence Ocampo has against the suspects. The request was sent along with 22 documents that comprise of a report on the status of the investigations. Wako's letter was copied to Criminal Investigations Department (CID) boss Ndegwa Muhoro, who said a team was formed to conduct the investigations. This is the second bid by Kenya to try the suspects locally.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 27 Apr 2011

“Media owners: These journalists have rights” by Moses Njagih

The Media Owners Association (MOA) protested Police Commissioner Iteere over police harassment suffered by three journalists at *The Standard* as well as the harassment of a journalist with *The Star* by a city politician. MOA said there's a need to protect media freedom as

stipulated in the constitution. The association wondered why the country's investigative resource was being abused on a matter that had been addressed.

“Five dead as hunger bites in Turkana” by Lucas Ng'asike

The Kenya Red Cross has described the hunger in Turkana County (north-western Kenya) as "severe" and called for urgent food aid. One of the area chiefs said the government tried to save the situation last month by distributing 90 bags of relief maize. Turkana Central District Commissioner Humphrey Nakitare admitted the drought is threatening humans and livestock.

NTV, Nairobi, in English 1300 gmt 26 Apr 2011

“Recovering drug addicts protest "insufficient food" at Kenyan treatment centre”

Recovering drug addicts at the Coast General Hospital are protesting against what they term as insufficient food at the facility. They want to be given a special diet to help them recover, but it appears that the hospital is giving up on them as most are left to wander in town looking for food.

Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 1000 gmt 26 Apr 2011

“Minister says Kenyan information department set to be restructured”

Five hundred new jobs will be created in the Department of Information and Communication. Among the changes expected include the creation of the Office of the Information Secretary who will be deputized by two directors in charge of information and communication. Information Minister Samuel Poghiso said the ministry will also be carrying out an internal tribal audit within its departments to ensure various tribes are represented within all departments.

Kiss FM, Nairobi, in English 0700 gmt 26 Apr 2011

“Kenya: Nationwide protests over high cost of living to continue 27 April”

Kenya Consumer Organization Executive Director Francis Orago said the body will be calling on authorities to find a lasting solution to high food and fuel prices. Meanwhile, Consumer Federation's Secretary-General Stephen Mutoro said countrywide consumer protests will continue tomorrow. Residents of Mombasa will hold a prayer meeting today on fuel and food prices while other major towns are prepared to go to the streets tomorrow. Mutoro recorded statements with police alleging threats to his life for leading protests against the government.

“Kenyan MP urges anti-graft body, intelligence service to probe House committees”

Budalangi MP Ababu Namwamba wants the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Security Intelligence Service to investigate corruption in parliamentary committees. He said the trend must be stopped for national interest to prevail.

“US envoy urges Kenyans to demand government ‘act’ on drug barons”

US ambassador to Kenya Michael Ranneberger accused the police of protecting drug barons. He challenged civil society groups and Kenyans at large to pressure the government to end the drug menace. Ranneberger said plans are under way to establish a permanent office for United States Drug Enforcement Administration in Nairobi to help seal hard drugs trafficking routes.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 26 Apr 2011

“Porn window opens but...” by Jevans Nyabiage

Kenya will filter and block the internet's newly-formed, highly controversial cyber "red-light district". Kenya becomes the first country in Africa to take a stand over the domains. Religious groups and even those who play in this underground business have taken issue. The proponents of the domain say it will clearly define web address for adult entertainment, out of the reach of minors and as free as possible from fraud or computer viruses.

“Sh1.6bn sugar import scam unearthed” by Patrick Mayoyo

Sugar importers flooded the local market with duty-free sugar from non-members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) countries in addition to undervaluing the imports. KSB chairman Saulo Busolo confirmed the developments and said the use of falsified documents to bring the sugar imports in Kenya was aimed at evading tax. Stakeholders warned that developments could be counter-productive to the sugar sector. KSB Mombasa Regional Manager James Siro said seven importers are under investigation

The People, Nairobi, in English 26 Apr 2011

“Kenyan police quizzing arrested Al-Shabab suspects”

Three suspected Al-Shabab operatives are still being grilled by anti-terrorism police and intelligence officers. The suspects, who were flown to Nairobi by elite security personnel, are undergoing intensive interrogation with a view to extract more information on their mission.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 26 Apr 2011

“Wananchi to launch satellite pay TV in May”

Wananchi Group operators of Zuku will launch satellite transmission next month to cover more customers. DSTV, The other dominant player in the market, also uses satellite while Zuku has been largely using Wananchi cable.