

Kenya Domestic Media, February 7th 2011 (Covering Feb 1st – Feb 7th)

By Fatima Arkin, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State Owned Media

KBC TV, Nairobi, in English 1300 gmt 3 Feb 2011

“Kenyan Speaker declines to rule on row over appointment of top judicial figures”

- Kenyan Parliament Speaker Kenneth Marende declined to make a ruling on the controversy surrounding the appointment of top judicial figures. Mr. Marende told respective parliamentary departmental committees to dispose of the issue as "provided for in the Standing Orders and the law".

KBC Online text website, Nairobi, in English 3 Feb 2011

“Murugi apologizes over HIV/Aids remarks” by: Stella Kalekye/Claire Wanja

- Minister for special programmes Esther Murugi apologized for suggesting that the government consider isolating those infected with HIV/AIDS as was done in Cuba. Ms. Murugi maintains that she was quoted out of context clarifying that she only gave examples of how other countries fought AIDS in order to spur debate on the best course of action. Her comments were intended to encourage voluntary testing and counselling. The National Empowerment Network of people living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya - NEPHAK chairman Davis Njuguna said that following Murugi's apology and clarification, the organization will not hold a protest march as earlier announced. Prime Minister Odinga said Murugi's statement does not reflect the government's position. First Lady Kibaki urged Kenyans to ignore retrogressive public utterances. She emphasized that one of her critical commitments through the Kenya Chapter of the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/Aids (OAFLA) is the elimination of stigma and associated discrimination of people living with the HIV virus.

KBC Online text website, Nairobi, in English 2 Feb 2011

"Kenya-Rwanda assure on successful integration" by Presidential Press Service

- President Kibaki and Rwandan President Kagame noted that there were clear procedures on the appointment of persons to the East African Community (EAC) secretariat and that reports of disagreements between the two countries on the issue were fabricated by the media. President Kibaki asked President Kagame to convey best wishes to diary farmers in Rwanda who benefited from a donation of several herd of cattle from Kenya. The two leaders also asked that the public services of both countries to enter into a partnership to

help in exchange of information and training. The presidents hailed the peaceful referendum in South Sudan and said that the new state is a welcome member of the EAC.

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Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 7 Feb 2011

"Russia likely to back deferral of ICC trials" by Peter Mwai

- Russian ambassador to Kenya, Valery Yegoshkin said that whereas his country has not yet taken a stand, it supports the sovereignty of states. Two months ago, parliament voted overwhelmingly for Kenya to pull out of the Rome Statute which established the ICC.

"Somali envoy barred from entering prison"

- Somali Ambassador Mohammed Nur was denied entry to the Shimo la Tewa Maximum Security Prison, which is holding over 100 Somali pirates. Junior prison officers asked the ambassador to first get clearance from their seniors or the Ministry of Home Affairs. Prison sources told the Nation that Mr. Nur was expected to visit the facility. Dejected, the ambassador left for Mombasa's Central Police Station where 14 Somalis are held for being in the country illegally. The 14, whose cases have been concluded, will be moved to Dadaab refugee camp. The ambassador urged Somali refugees to obey Kenyan laws.

The EastAfrican website, Nairobi, in English 7 Feb 2011

"Europe's growing interest in EAC to boost integration" by George Omondi

- Stephen O'Brien, UK's development minister, said regional integration in Africa will stir the international community's interest to raise the level of funding that the continent needs to meet its millennium development goals (MDGs). The Netherlands became the latest EU state to approve 1.1 billion shillings in support of Trade Mark East Africa's (TMEA) initiative. Other European governments such as the United Kingdom, Denmark, Belgium and Sweden have already put their money in the TMEA project. They join Germany who is currently involved in the construction of EAC's headquarters at a cost of 14 million Euros.

KTN TV, Nairobi, in English 1000 gmt 5 Feb 2011

"At least 50 in hospital after eating contaminated food in northern Kenya"

- The relief food, which was distributed by the World Food Programme, is believed to have been contaminated by the aflatoxin fungus. Samples have been sent to the government chemist in Nairobi for analysis.

The People, Nairobi, in English 5 Feb 2011

"Canadian firm now takes over oil exploration in the north" by Ekuwam Adou

- China National Offshore Oil Corporation and China Petroleum Corporation pulled out of oil exploration in Northern Kenya citing failure to discover sustainable gas deposits. The companies were bogged down by complaints from local community members who wanted job opportunities. Canadian based Lion Energy partnered up with Africa Oil to continue the project. Keith Hill, CEO of Africa Oil, remains optimistic saying the company is considering conducting studies on the commercialization of gas in the north.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 5 Feb 2011 p1

"3 Kibaki nominees may reject jobs offer" by Star Team

- Three of the nominees to key judicial positions announced by President Kibaki may decline their nominations after consulting family and friends. They have also come under increasing pressure from politicians and professional colleagues who bombarded them with contradictory advice. However, politicians, especially those allied to the PNU reportedly urged the three to stay put because they are confident parliament will give its approval.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 4 Feb 2011

"We ignore Egypt's chaos at our own peril"

- The House Speaker said that it was a sad day for the country referring to the controversial appointments by President Kibaki. There are many links between Kenya's 2007-2008 post election violence and the current situation in Egypt including corrupt government, mass poverty and huge numbers of unemployed youth. It was said in parliament that Kenya has been given a second chance through a new constitution to proceed to next year's elections with a clean slate. Parliament still has plenty of legislation to pass in order to anchor the new constitution.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 4 Feb 2011

"US refuses to support Kenya's bid to defer The Hague cases" by Walter Menya and Caroline Rwenji

- US deputy secretary of state James Steinberg said that his government was not informed of the AU's deferral request and that it will not receive support especially if the intention is to protect suspects. The use of a local judicial mechanism will not be endorsed either unless standards for trying international crimes are met. Demonstrations were held in

Nairobi to protest the decision by some MPs to pull out of the ICC, denouncing it as an attack on Kenya's sovereignty.

"Staff families airlifted from riot-torn Egypt" by John Ngirachu

- Foreign Affairs Assistant Minister Richard Onyonka said that Kenya's ambassador to Egypt, Mr Dave Arunga, established contact with most Kenyans in Cairo while Acting permanent secretary Patrick Wamoto organized their evacuation by Kenyan Airways and European airlines. Seven Kenyan workers for Afri Exim Bank and most of the students wanted to stay in Cairo, promising to keep in touch with the embassy. The ministry set up a "crisis room" at its headquarters to monitor events in Egypt. However, MPs Adan Keynan and George Nyamweya questioned the government's preparedness. Karachuonyo MP James Rege, who was among 12 MPs caught up in the chaos, said the ministry needed to put in place measures at all its missions in unstable countries.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 3 Feb 2011

"Court says Kibaki nominees illegal" by Jillo Kadida

- Justice Daniel Musinga of the Kenyan High Court declared that President Kibaki breached the constitution when he selected four nominees for justice and budget office jobs. Mr. Musinga also ruled that no state organ should proceed with the process. Eight NGOs went to court seeking to restrain any organ of state from carrying on with the process of approval and eventual appointment. According to the organizations, the president's conduct is likely to cause disunity in the country.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 3 Feb 2011

"AU asks UN to defer Kenya's ICC cases"

- The AU wrote to the UN Security Council asking to have the trials of the "Ocampo Six" deferred. In an analysis published by the Institute for Security Studies, Professor Plessis describes the move as a political gesture that serves only to further alienate Africa from the ICC. He said the most problematic issue is that Kenya's request will be associated with a pattern among African states citing a similar request to have ICC trials for Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir deferred. He questions Kenya's last-minute rush to establish a local tribunal yet it ignored such recommendations from the Waki Commission that investigated violence in 2008.

"Man killed in Kenyan ethnic clashes"

- Violence erupted after a 70-year-old farmer, Mr Kuria Wakaba, was hacked to death by herders from Likia location of Mau Narok Division. Another group was spotted attacking farmers Joseph and Samuel Macharia. The two were critically injured and were being treated at the Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital. The mainly farming community of

Likia shopping centre barricaded the Njoro-Mau Narok road, attacking a trader who managed to escape. In retaliation, a group of herders at Tipis trading centre, set Mr Francis Thuo on fire. He was rescued by transporters passing by. A group of herders attacked farmers at their shambas near Tipis trading centre, leaving them critically injured. A meeting called by Area District Officer Dolphine Okondo failed to ease tensions as youths threatened to attack each other. Area District Commissioner Jim Njoka said he hasn't established the cause of the fighting.

“Kenyan Speaker receives "veiled threats" as ruling on coalition row expected”

- Speaker of the National Assembly Kenneth Marende confirmed that he received veiled threats intended to pressure him to rule in a certain direction or face the risk of a vote of no confidence. Following the threats, lawyers asked the president and prime minister to exercise restraint amongst their respective followers for the sake of Kenya.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 2 Feb 2011

"SK Macharia gets 14 days reprieve" by Alphonse Mung'ahu

- The high court temporarily suspends receivership orders for businessman SK Macharia and his wife Purity. Justice Muga Apondi ordered that Macharia deposit 34.8 million shillings with the registrar of the high court and provide a receipt to show that he has complied with orders. Receiving orders were initially issued against the two after they failed to pay over 38 million shillings following the loss of their bankruptcy case.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 2 Feb 2011

“The Speaker takes charge on fate of Kibaki nominees”

- The highlight of the debate in parliament was the rare airing of what went on behind closed doors between the President and Prime Minister at a series of meetings going back to early December. Vice President Musyoka said that Mr. Odinga ignored telephone calls from the President intended to conclude the matter. Mr. Odinga said that he suggested someone from the Commonwealth be appointed for the position of chief justice, but disputed the VP's claim that it was Justice Omolo. It was revealed that contenders included Justice Kihara Kariuki and Mr. Pheroze Nowrojee for chief justice, Mr. Fred Ojiambo for attorney general and Justice Hannah Okwengu for the Deputy chief justice post. Mr. Odinga remarked that the VP should have given prior notice of his intention to read the statement. The Prime Minister would now have to respond to it and "be candid". A number of MPs who contributed to the debate urged the President and Prime Minister to resolve contentious issues in private and project a united front in public. Outside parliament, lawyers held a demonstration to oppose the nominations.

"AU endorses Kenya bid for ICC deferral" by Argaw Ashine

- Kenya's appeal for a suspension of ICC prosecution against the Ocampo six was unanimously endorsed by African leaders. The AU summit requested that the UN Security Council accede to the Kenyan request.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 2 Feb 2011

"Ruto appeals against ruling by ICC judges" by Judy Ogutu

- MP William Ruto appeals ICC judges' rejection of his attempts to bar the Chief Prosecutor from seeking arrest warrants. With the help of Mr. Kigen and Professor Kindiki, Mr. Ruto intends to apply for orders temporarily stopping further or other proceedings, pending the outcome of the appeal.

"CBK warns effects of Arab crisis could spill to Kenya" by Jackson Okoth and John Oyuke

- Kenya's central bank warns of "side shocks" over Egypt's protests. Crude oil prices already jumped amid fears the Egyptian crisis may spread to other regions. Kenya's economy experienced a rise in the cost of living as shown by inflation figures for last month. Professor Ndung'u said that Kenya's experiencing short term spikes that will soon die out. The IMF forecasts high growth rates for Kenya this year.

Kiss FM, Nairobi, in English 1000 gmt 1 Feb 2011

"Kenyan war veterans storm British High Commission demanding compensation"

- Mau Mau war veterans stormed the British High Commission demanding 105 trillion shillings as compensation for torture they underwent during the struggle for independence. They weren't granted an audience and instead gave their petition to a senior security officer. The petition asks for a meeting with the envoy and a written commitment that they'll be paid.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 1 Feb 2011

"Ruling casts doubt on piracy cases" by Philip Muyanga

- Last year, Mombasa High Court Judge Mohamed Ibrahim ruled that Kenya didn't have jurisdiction to hear and conduct cases on offences of piracy that occur outside its territorial waters. Now Senior Resident Magistrate Timothy ole Tanchu said that he's facing a dilemma and deferred passing judgement on nine alleged Somali pirates. The accused filed a judicial review application and sought orders prohibiting the hearing of the case against them. The attorney general filed a case against the ruling in the court of appeal, but it is yet to be heard.