

Kenya Domestic Media, January 31st 2011 (Covering Jan 25th – Jan 31st)

By Fatima Arkin, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State Owned Media

KBC Online text website, Nairobi, in English 29 Jan 2011

"Raila still preferred Kenyan presidential candidate" by Emmanuel Ntoyai

- According to a joint poll released by Infotrak Harris Poll and Strategic Research, Prime Minister Raila Odinga would be the preferred presidential candidate if elections were to be held with Strategic Research citing Mr. Odinga as the preferred candidate to lead the nation in 2012. The polls also show that the majority of Kenyans don't support the alleged KKK alliance citing varying reasons including tribalism, violence and the fact that those on The Hague list formed the alliance.

Kenya State House governmental website, Nairobi, in English 29 Jan 2011

"Kenyan president in Ethiopia for AU summit"

- President Mwai Kibaki arrived in Ethiopia to attend the 16th session of the AU summit themed "Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values". Reports made by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), Chairperson of NEPAD as well as reports on climate change and the United Nations reforms will be discussed. The transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority will be debated.

Private Media

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 31 Jan 2011

"Probe fails to link Kenyan MPs to drugs"

- The police are asking for more time and resources as a preliminary report cites lack of sufficient evidence to prosecute four Kenyan MPs on drug trafficking. The detectives say informers were unwilling to record statements for fear of being killed. It was also established that privately owned Container Freights Stations were being used to smuggle narcotics. The team recommends private asset investigation in some cases.

"Key judiciary body rejects Kibaki nominees" by Jillo Kadida

- The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) asks President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga to put Kenya first and reconsider their respective positions. The JSC wants nominees to key jobs withdrawn. Their rejection was based on the process leading to the

nominations and not the suitability of the candidates themselves. Under the country's constitution the Commission holds an oversight role in the justice system.

“Kenyan commission declares nominations by president unconstitutional”

- Commission on the Implementation of Constitution said that the process of nominating the new chief justice should be initiated by the Judicial Service Commission and not the president. Furthermore, appointments for the position of attorney-general, director of public prosecution and controller of budget require the president to consult the prime minister as per the National Accord and Reconciliation Act.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 31 Jan 2011

“Kibaki answers Raila” by Martin Mutua

- Minister of Internal Security George Saitoti and Minister of Defence Yusuf Hajj released a statement through the Presidential Press Service claiming that there is no constitutional crisis and that there was adequate consultation between the president and the prime minister. Mr. Kibaki remains silent. Mr. Odinga on the other hand, announced that he will meet with President Kibaki privately and they will solve the matter diplomatically. MPs supporting the president are ready to face Prime Minister Odinga's allies in parliament when the time comes for the House to vet the controversial appointees.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 30 Jan 2011

"IGAD now supports Kenya's ICC deferral" by Presidential Press Service

- IGAD leaders agreed to a request by President Kibaki that Kenya be given a twelve-month window to establish a judicial mechanism to try the Ocampo six. President Kibaki said that Kenya is on the path of major reforms that needed to be institutionalized and pointed out that there were provisions that allowed for a deferment.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 29 Jan 2011

"Gaddafi supports bid to defer Kenyan cases at The Hague" by Mutinda Mwanzia and VPPS

- Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi said that Kenya is an important member of multilateral institutions like the African Union and United Nations hence its opinion on how to handle its internal affairs should be respected. Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka maintains that Kenya is committed to the Rome Statute and the ICC; they just want time to set up a local judicial mechanism to try post-election suspects. Justice Minister Mutula Kilonzo said the move to withdraw Kenya from the Rome Statute was futile citing the failures that happened in 2007.

"Kenya wins round one as AU buys motion" by Lucianne Limo

- The AU council of ministers unanimously support Kenya's motion for a deferral on the trial of the Ocampo six. As a formality, President Kibaki will request the support of fellow heads of government at the 16th AU summit this afternoon. Njonjo Mue of International Centre for Transitional Justice said it is unfortunate Kenya has opted to go down this route.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 29 Jan 2011

"Raila says judiciary appointments 'unconstitutional'"

- Prime Minister Ralia Odinga said that he was "shocked and dismayed" at the appointments made by President Kibaki, which will be blocked using the appropriate constitutional means. The prime minister claims that he was not consulted and that the appointments were made while he was at the African Union summit in Ethiopia.

"Nigeria 'to consider' Kenya's request on ICC" by the Vice-Presidential Press Service

- Nigerian deputy president Namadi Sambo promised Vice President Musyoka that Nigeria will "consider favourably" Kenya's request regarding the ICC, stating that "African problems require African solutions". Mr. Sambo confirmed that Kenya Airways is now free to fly directly to Abuja and that the Joint Commission for Cooperation between Kenya and Nigeria is being finalized. Nigeria's High Commissioner to Kenya Dr. Chijioke W. Wigwe announced that the Nigerian Export Promotion Council is planning a major road show in Nairobi to promote film industry between the two countries.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 29 Jan 2011

"Kibaki names new chief justice as ODM protests" by Eric Shimoli and Emeka Mayaka Gekara

- President Kibaki nominated Alnashir Ramazanadi Magan Visram as the new chief justice, Githu Muigai as attorney-general, Mr Kioko Kilukimi as the director of public prosecutions and Mr William Kirwa as controller of the budget. The president's actions threaten to divide the government after the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) rejected the nominations. A source disputed that Prime Minister Odinga had been consulted before the nominations, that the subject was discussed but not the names.

KTN TV, Nairobi, in English 28 Jan 2011

"Kenyan media owner declared bankrupt over 5m-dollar debts"

- Media mogul SK Macharia was declared bankrupt in court over debts amounting to 5 million dollars. Mr. Macharia owns Royal Media Services (RMS) which operates a

national TV and radio station as well as seven vernacular stations, the largest network in Kenya.

The People newspaper, Nairobi, in English 28 Jan 2011

"NCIC launches probe into use of 'KKK' tag"

- The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) launched investigations into the use of the tag "KKK" after they received complaints from Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka and Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta who both want the use of the acronym outlawed. NCIC chairman Mzalendo Kibunjia said that the commission did not take up the matter earlier as they wanted to give Kenyans a chance to debate freely. He regrets that the situation has taken a dangerous turn and promised to take appropriate measures.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 28 Jan 2011

"African leaders split on bid to defer Hague trials" by Elias Mbao, Argaw Ashine, Kitsepile Nyathi, Kevin J. Kelley, Zephania Ubwani and Kezio Musoke David

- Kenya's bid was warmly received by Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's government and Rwandan President Paul Kagame. Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is also inclined to support the Kenyan position despite likely opposition from his partners in the coalition government. President Ian Khama of Botswana was not likely to provide their support while the East African Law Society in Tanzania condemned "in the strongest terms possible" the move to pull Kenya out of the ICC. President Rupiah of Zambia said that they were still consulting over the matter.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 28 Jan 2011

"Fears as pirates cut talks over Kenyan hostages" by Philip Mwakio

- Somali pirates stopped negotiations and are reportedly threatening to kill Kenyan hostages caught aboard the FV Golden Wave. Mr. Andrew Mwangura, the Seafarers Assistance Programme coordinator said that the recent killing of pirates by Malaysian naval turned tables on the negotiations. Families of the Kenyan hostages have been meeting at Mama Ngina Drive for consolation and to share information. The government has remained silent over their plight.

Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 1300 gmt 27 Jan 2011

"International Criminal Court head opposes Kenya's bid to defer poll chaos case"

- President of the ICC member states, Christian Wenaweser says Kenya should engage the ICC directly through the laid-down procedures of having a deferral if the government is

serious with its efforts to establish a local judicial mechanism. This is something that can be discussed with the court itself not with the UN Security Council. Mr. Wenaweser said that he is frustrated, calling the process of setting up appointments with government officials a “work in progress”.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 27 Jan 2011

"ICC asks Kenya to help seize suspects' property" by Cyrus Ombati and Ben Agina

- The ICC wants Kenya's support in freezing or seizing property belonging to the Ocampo Six when the Pre-Trial Chamber judges issue summons on the suspects. The court wrote a letter last week providing instructions on how to go about this matter along with a request for a taxation waiver on ICC property, which will be imported starting in March. Five officials from the ICC arrived in Kenya last week announcing that they don't want help from the government. Although details of their mission remain secret, *The Standard* has been informed that they're part of a team mandated to trail property targeted for seizure.

"Terror suspect's wife wants case moved" by Judy Ogutu

- Mrs. Saida Rosemary is urging the high court to refer her husband's case to the East African Court of Justice (EACJ). She is challenging the extradition of her Kenyan husband to Uganda where he faces charges over the Kampala bombings. The case will be heard on February 2nd.

"Gbagbo envoys say Raila not rejected as AU mediator" by Beattah Omanga

- President Gbagbo's emissaries said that the besieged president of Cote d'Ivoire has not rejected Prime Minister Odinga as a mediator, but simply wants him to listen to both sides and maintain a neutral stance. Mr. Gbagbo requests a clarification on the AU's mission and is willing to enter into discussions with Mr. Ouattara in the presence of a team from the AU. The trio said they were part of many teams dispatched to rally the continent to support Mr. Gbagbo's re-election as president and ignore reports he lost the elections. They said any attempt to use force to throw Mr. Gbagbo out of power would be resisted by the Ivoirians.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 27 Jan 2011

"Raila disowns Kalonzo shuttle to block Hague"

- Prime Minister Odinga said that Mr. Musyoka's attempts to have the ICC trails deferred were not sanctioned by the cabinet, and therefore did not reflect the government's position. What was agreed on was referral and not deferral of the cases. This contradicts

Mr. Musyoka's earlier claim that he was following President Kibaki's directive, as his special envoy, in gathering support from the other African countries.

"China seen to back Kenya over ICC cases"

- A Chinese envoy met President Kibaki on Thursday and assured him of China's support in "the integrity and sovereignty" of the Kenyan government. A Presidential Press Service (PPS) report indicated that Liu Guangyuan, Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, criticized "interference by external forces". He also supported Kenya's desire for the peaceful co-existence of ethnic communities, stating that "justice must go hand in hand with reconciliation of the Kenyan people".

"Kenya calls in US team in Al-Shabab probe" by Dominic Wabala

- Kenya reportedly invited the US to investigate seven clerics and four organizations suspected of having links with Al-Shabab. Police Spokesman Mr Eric Kiraithe declined to comment on the investigations, saying they were sensitive.

KTN TV, Nairobi, in Swahili 1600 gmt 26 Jan 2011

"Kenya: Police seize 'communication' equipment used by 'direhard terrorists'"

- Police in the South Igembe Constituency found satellite communication equipment in three houses rented by Somalis suspected to have ties with terror groups. Police sources say the equipment could be used to jam or monitor police communication.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 26 Jan 2011

"Two arrested on terror claims" by Anthony Kitimo

- Sheikh Ali Bahero and Sheikh Binluli Abudlrazak were detained by the anti-terrorism police in Mombasa and interrogated in connection with the alleged recruitment of local youth for the Al-Shabab insurgents in Somalia. Sheikh Bahero, who was being held for the second time for the same charges, is alleged to have recorded a CD urging local youths to support their counterparts in Somalia. Mr. Bahero denied these charges. Sheikh Bahero complained of harassment by the police during interrogation. Coast provincial police boss Aggrey Adoli declined to give details until the investigations are over.

"ICC concerned over Kenya's campaign against court" by Argaw Ashine

- Christian Wenawesear, President of the Assembly of Rome Statute states, gave a letter to Jean Ping, AU Commission chief, formally asking the AU to cooperate with the ICC. The ICC expressed its deep concern about a growing trend of anti-ICC sentiments and continental pullout campaign spearheaded by Kenyan politicians. The letter asked the AU

to consider its position wisely and appealed not to back the request for a deferral on two of the six Ocampo cases.

"Denmark to help in war on Somali pirates"

- The Danish government has pledged 10m dollars to help Kenya in the fight against piracy. Denmark also plans to start sharing intelligence information on piracy with Kenya by March this year.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 26 Jan 2011

"Kenya not quitting Rome Statute" by Lucianne Limo

- Internal Security Minister George Saitoti said that parliament and not the executive resolved that Kenya should move away from the Rome Statute. He denied reports that emissaries were sent to other African countries to inform them that Kenya wants to pull out of the ICC and that they should follow suit. Mr. Saitoti said that Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka has been visiting other African states to notify them that with the new constitution, Kenya's able to put up a local mechanism to deal with the post-election chaos.

"US rules out lifting travel advisories to Kenya in the near future" by Macharia Kamau

- The US is unlikely to lift its travel advisories to Kenya any time soon. US Ambassador to Kenya Michael Ranneberger said that while Kenya may have tried to beef up its security in attempts to fight terror and general insecurity, the country shares borders with volatile countries particularly Somalia.

The Star newspaper, Nairobi, in English 26 Jan 2011

"Africa rejects Kenya ICC pull-out" by Nzau Musau

- The AU rejected Kenya's request for assistance in blocking the prosecution of the Ocampo six by the ICC. Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka relayed a message to AU chairman Jean Ping from President Kibaki that the ICC only conducted preliminary investigations out of concern that local authorities were unable to do so, but now Kenya has the capacity to address the situation locally. This was firmly rebutted by Mr. Ping who restated the AU's shared commitment with the ICC to combat impunity and promote democracy amongst other objectives.

NTV TV, Nairobi, in English 1800 gmt 25 Jan 2011

“Kenyan media group sacks entire marketing staff”

- The K24 Media Group sales and marketing team held a demonstration outside the company's offices after the entire division was fired. The marketers claim they were sacked after demanding dues of over eight million shillings. The marketers were reportedly fired after they consistently failed to hit their targets, which Group (Marketing) Coordinator Patrick Muiya said had been a long standing issue.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 25 Jan 2011

"Are you armed? We'll get you, warns Iteere" by Fred Mukinda

- Commissioner Mathew Iteere orders an operation to seize illegal weapons. Mr. Iteere was speaking at the Aga Khan and Forces Memorial hospitals after visiting officers who were admitted with bullet wounds from recent attacks. A new police reform bill, which is at the draft stage, seeks to raise the bar on restrictions of gun use by police officers. Swedish ambassador Ann Dismorr stressed the need for change due to recurring reports of extra-judicial killings.

"ICC president to visit Kenya"

- President of the Assembly of Rome Statute states, Christian Wenaweser, will be arriving in Kenya on Thursday. During the two-day visit, the ICC president is expected to hold discussions with government officials and members of parliament. He is also expected to talk to members of civil society and the media about issues pertaining to the international court.

The Star newspaper, Nairobi, in English 25 Jan 2011

“Somali soldiers paid ‘in frontlines’” by Guled Mohamed

- Kenyan Colonel Rasso and his team oversaw the payment of Somali soldiers "in the frontlines" for their efforts to protect the government and civilians from Al-Shabab insurgents. One of the main reasons why the team oversaw the exercise was to gain insight into the Transnational Federal Government (TFG) military in order to create a more efficient military force and pay system. Mr. Rasso commented that the exercise was a success.