

Kenya Domestic Media, March 28th 2011 (Covering Mar 22nd – Mar 28th)

By Fatima Arkin, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State Owned Media

KBC Radio, Nairobi, in English 0400 gmt 26 Mar 2011

“US donates funds to boost food security in Kenya”

The US donated 800 million shillings to boost food security and to help generate income for the unemployed. Kenya is the focus of feed the future and global health, two global development initiatives headed by the Obama administration. Prime Minister Odinga said that food security is a core-component of the new constitution.

KBC Online text website, Nairobi, in English 23 Mar 2011

“PM dismisses calls for deferral of ICC cases” by Catherine Achienga

Prime Minister Odinga dismissed talk of pushing for a deferral and instead called for a referral of the cases to Kenya once a credible judicial system that meets international standards is set up. He plans on engaging the services of the UK's Scotland Yard and the US's FBI, among others. Odinga cautioned leaders against political bickering that could derail the implementation of the new constitution and have adverse effects on the economy.

Private Media

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 28 Mar 2011

“We're in 2012 race, say Hague duo” by John Njagi

Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta and MP William Ruto said that they will go to the Hague and come back in time for the 2012 general elections. They plan to consolidate their support in Central, Rift Valley [Provinces] and reach out to Western Kenya as well as other "like-minded" regions. At the same time, Kenyatta claimed that Western powers are ganging up against the Kibaki administration for refusing to do business with them.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 26 Mar 2011

“Death squad still at work inside police” by Tom Mboya

The extrajudicial execution of Keneth Irungu Waituika, a witness in a Makadara (Nairobi) court case, proved that death squads still operate within the police despite government claims that units have been disbanded. Sources claim that Kwekwe, a 5-man hit squad, continues operations, but changed its name to Eagle, Sierra and others. Squad officers are well known in Mazingira House and Vigilance House, both police headquarters. They are mainly responsible for the extrajudicial killings condemned by UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston who demanded that the squad be disbanded in 2009.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 25 Mar 2011

“Iteere wants special court to fight drugs” by Isaac Ongiri

Police Chief Mathew Iteere told the national security committee that long delays in court clogged with cases is a major challenge in the war against drug trafficking. He advocated harsher penalties and insisted that vetting will ensure that police officers deployed in the Anti-Narcotics Unit are of upstanding character.

“Kenyans linked to drug trade banned from UK” by Maureen Mudi

British High Commissioner Rob Macaire said that his government partnered up with American and Kenyan police to tackle drug trafficking in the UK. Macaire remains tight lipped on details, but revealed that a number of Kenyans are banned from entry. The official said that drug use poses a serious problem in Kenya and that the UK is keen to assist in the fight against piracy, cyber crime and terrorism.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 25 Mar 2011

“British envoy's push for anti-terror bill faulted”

The Kenya National Muslim Advisory Council (Kemnac) criticized the British government for pushing for the adoption of the Anti-Terrorism Bill. Kemnac National Chairman Shaykh Juma Ngao said the bill will target and discriminate against Muslims. Shaykh Ngao noted that the bill will empower police to arrest any suspect without a warrant.

“Police seize drug haul at Kenya coast” by Mark Agutu

Police seized narcotics worth 500 million shillings in a sting operation along the Kenyan coast. Three Kenyans, two Iranians and a Pakistani were arrested in the operation.

“Imams deny US claims on Isiolo mosques” by Nation Correspondent

Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims Isiolo branch Chairman Muhammad Abdikadir condemned allegations made by the US that mosques were being used to recruit youth for Al-Shabab. Abdikadir wants the US ambassador to Kenya to visit Isiolo to ascertain the truth about such allegations. Imams and preachers in Isiolo demanded an immediate apology and warned against such allegations in future.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 25 Mar 2011

“Eastern Africa fisheries projects get Sh359m from EU” by Kepher Otieno

Over 359 million dollars has been allocated by the EU for the ACP Fish II project, which will be conducted in Eastern Africa. The project intends to promote the sustainable and equitable

management of fisheries with the goal of alleviating poverty and improving food security in African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

“How Kibaki team plans to stall ICC” by Alex Ndegwa

President Kibaki’s team plans to file a special application at the Hauge asking that Kenya's challenge of admissibility of the ICC cases and jurisdiction of The Hague's court be delayed for six months. This will be done in the hopes that appointing of a new chief justice, director of public prosecutions, and completion of judicial and police reforms, will persuade the judges to let Kenya try post-election violence cases.

NTV, Nairobi, in Swahili 1600 gmt 24 Mar 2011

“Muslim youths in Kenyan capital reportedly join Somali Islamists”

Kenyan Ahmad Iman joined Al-Shabab. He allegedly encouraged youths in Nairobi to join the terrorist group amidst a growing rift between the elderly and the young over interests and religious ideologies. Video footage supposedly brought to the country this year shows him conducting training in Somalia.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 24 Mar 2011

“Kenyan traditional elders condemn Libya bombing” by Justus Ochieng

House of Traditional Elders of Kenya Vice Chairman Riaga Ogallo condemned the bombing of Libya. He said the attack came when the Libyan government hinted at initiating development projects in Kenya by the end of the year. Through oil-ibya, Libya showed its commitment to improving people's lives in Kenya.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 24 Mar 2011

“UK backs Terrorism Bill” by Nation Correspondent

British High Commissioner Rob Macaire encouraged MPs to pass the Terrorism Bill, which they rejected in the past. Macaire blamed the gap between security agents and the citizens as the major contributor to the increasing cases of terrorism in Kenya.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 24 Mar 2011

“GSU officers clash with al-Shabaab militia gang” by Cyrus Ombati and Boniface Ongeri

A contingent of General Service Unit (GSU) officers crossed into Somalia and killed a dozen Al-Shabab militants in a clash at the Liboi border. This was after the militants allegedly fired to the Kenyan side and damaged a water tank at a GSU camp on the main border. Meanwhile, the three Somali soldiers arrested in Wajir for deserting the force will be handed over to their authorities.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 23 Mar 2011

“ODM softens stance on Hague trials” by Walter Menya

The ODM said that it's prepared to push for cases to be handled locally after a member of the AU Commission revealed that many African countries were considering refusing to cooperate with the ICC if the Kenyan cases are not deferred. Kenya's permanent representative to the UN Macharia Kamau warned of “destabilization”, which is prompting the country to file a direct appeal under Article 19 of the Rome Statute.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 23 Mar 2011

“President Kibaki sets the stage for transition” by Martin Mutua

For the first time President Kibaki spoke directly about the election, calling on parliament to speedily pass legislation to ensure a free and fair event next year. The president noted that the government will prioritize bills to reform the Judiciary in order to restore public confidence. Speaker Kenneth Marende exhorted MPs to avoid "power games and retrogressive politics".

Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 1000 gmt 22 Mar 2011

“Regional body IGAD urges Kenya not to lose hope over deferral of ICC cases”

Inter-Governmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Executive Secretary Eng Mahboub Maalim said that Kenya still has a chance during a formal meeting to convince the UN Security Council to have the ICC cases deferred. He said the rejection of the Kenyan case by the UN Security Council will not be taken lightly by AU member states and it will have serious implications in the region.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 22 Mar 2011

“Kibaki assents to two judicial reforms bills” by PPS [Presidential Press Service]

President Kibaki assented to the Judicial Service Bill and the Vetting of Judges and Magistrates Bill. The president reiterated that the process should be treated as a renewal of national institutions to achieve efficient and optimal performance.

“Sh6 billion looted in bogus water contracts” by Alphonse Shiundu

According to audits prepared by the Treasury and the Kenya National Audit Office, the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Conservation [NWCPC] can't account for up to 5.96 billion shillings allocated to them for the construction of five dams. Despite a lack of comprehensive documentation, the auditors claim to still have uncovered an organized plan to scam the government. Several irregularities surround the creation of the Badasa Dam with no satisfactory explanations given by the NWCPC.