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Kenyan Domestic Media Monitoring

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1. Food crisis: Prime Minister Odinga calls for international aid

**“Raila launches shs.10b appeal to aid Kenyans”
KBC, government-owned broadcasting company
July 21st 2011**

The number of Kenyans in need of food assistance has gone from 2.4 million to 4 million. During an international press conference, Prime Minister Raila Odinga said the situation had been aggravated by an influx of Somali refugees into Kenya and high global food prices. The government directed that half a million bags of maize be released from strategic reserves to help the famine relief. Raila said the government needs Shs 10.9 billion to help the affected populations in the country. He appealed to the international community to increase food aid to Kenya and to set up feeding camps inside Somalia to help reduce the burden on those countries receiving refugees fleeing from hunger and starvation.

2. Politics: blame game over implementation of constitution; ODM MPs switch party

**“CIOC threatens to bypass Cabinet in establishing Bills”
KBC, government-owned broadcasting company
July 20th 2011**

The Constitution Implementation Oversight Committee (CIOC) has threatened to by-pass key government institutions if they prove unable to set in place necessary laws for the implementation of the new constitution. The bills in question are required to be in place by August 27th of this year. At a meeting held on July 20th, both sides participated in a “blame game” with accusations of sabotage or laxity directed at the Executive and state law offices. Attorney General Amos Wako accused the CIOC chairman Abdikadir Mohammed of being ignorant of procedures. With the August 27 deadline fast approaching, Abdikadir hinted at bypassing the Cabinet, the state law office, and other institutions deemed as impediments to the constitution’s proper implementation.

“Ongoro distances ODM party from rebels’ suit”
KBC, government-owned broadcasting company
July 23rd 2011

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party’s national vice-chairperson Elizabeth Ongoro is now claiming that her party was not involved in the filing of a case to have five “rebel” Members of Parliament stripped of their membership. Among the five were William Ruto, Isaac Ruto, Charles Keter, Joshua Kutuny and Aden Duale. The MPs in question are claiming the ODM party is being run as a dictatorship and have left the ODM for the United Democratic Movement (UDM) party. Ongoro, the party’s national vice-chairperson, says each party member has the democratic right to express their discontent with the behavior of other members and to take action under the law.

3. Police news: reshuffling of top officials, five Al-Shabab militia members arrested

“Iteere reshuffles 37 senior officers”
Daily Nation, privately-owned newspaper
July 21st 2011

Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere reshuffled 37 senior officers within the force. The officers will report to their new stations by July 29th. Meanwhile, police shot dead five armed men a week prior to the announcement. Police described the five as notorious robbers and carjackers.

“Five Al-Shabab militia members taken prison”
The Standard, privately-owned newspaper
July 22nd 2011

Police in northern Kenya have arrested five suspected Al-Shabab militia members and a number of their Kenyan accomplices. Upper Eastern Regional Administration Police Commander, John Ole Matetek said the suspects were intercepted by security personnel while on their way to attend a burial ceremony in a neighboring Ethiopian town. The Somali nationals, including an Al-Shabab lieutenant colonel, are being held at a military camp for questioning.

4. Ocampo Six: Kenya continues its attempt to have the ICC suspects tried at home

“Police quiz Ocampo Six in violence probe”
Daily Nation, privately-owned newspaper
July 25th 2011

Police have begun questioning the Ocampo Six suspects over the 2008 post-election violence. Three suspects – former police boss Hussein Ali, Tinderet MP Henry Kosgey and radio presenter Joshua Sang – have already recorded statements.

The move to question the suspects is said to be yet another attempt to convince the International Criminal Court (ICC) that Kenya is capable of trying the suspects at home.

Some 1,113 people were killed and more than 600,000 displaced during the violence that followed the disputed 2007 presidential election results. President Kibaki, who ran on a Party of National Unity ticket was declared winner but Mr. Raila Odinga of ODM (Orange Democratic Movement) disputed the results. The violence ended when former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan mediated between the two sides leading to the formation of a coalition government.

In a separate submission, Ruto, Sang, Kosgey, and Ali told the ICC Court of Appeal judges to admit the report of their statements as a demonstration of Kenya’s efforts to try the cases at home. In a joint submission, Ruto and Sang argued that the ICC’s Pre-Trial Chamber II should rescind its initial decision and allow the government of Kenya to try the six suspects within the country.

5. Human Rights: Veterans of Mau Mau uprisings file suit against British government for atrocities committed during the colonial era

“Kenyan Mau Mau veteran happy with UK court ruling over alleged torture”
NTV, privately-owned TV station
July 23rd 2011

One of the four Mau Mau veterans behind the case seeking compensation from the British government over atrocities committed during the colonial era says he is happy with the court ruling in the UK. Wambugu Wa Nyingi has struggled to seek justice for the atrocities committed by colonial officers during the Mau Mau uprising nearly six decades ago. Wambugu says he was beaten unconscious while the other two claimants were castrated and the one female claimant said she was subjected to appalling sexual abuse.

The Mau Mau case, which was filed in 2009, is fortified by the discovery of 300 boxes of colonial administration files that historians believe contain incriminating evidence relating to that period.

The British government attempted to stop the case from going to trial by arguing that it cannot be held legally liable because the atrocities happened outside the UK. Furthermore according to Britain, upon Kenyan independence, legal responsibility shifted to the

Republic of Kenya. If successful, this case could cost Britain millions of pounds and pave the way for thousands of other survivors of the Mau Mau uprising to file similar claims.

6. Free Primary Education scandal: Activists arrested for presenting petition

“Activists arrested at State House”

KBC, government-owned broadcasting company

July 19th 2011

Rights activists Okioti Omtatah and George Nyongesa were arrested Tuesday afternoon as they attempted to deliver a petition to President Mwai Kibaki at State House Nairobi. The petition was about the misappropriation of funds in the Education Ministry. Protestors have staged a 30 daylong sit-in at Jogoo House to demand Professor Sam Ongeri’s resignation over the billions of shillings missing from the Free Primary Education funds. It is unsure where the police intend to hold the two activists and what they will be charged with.

7. Photo Essay by Tobin Jones: Pictures of Somali Diaspora population in Nairobi

With the hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa, more and more Somalis are fleeing to neighboring countries. The Daadab refugee camp in northeast Kenya, set up for 90,000 people, has exceeded its capacity by five times.

Despite criticism from the Kenyan Internal Security Assistant Minister, Prime Minister Raila Odinga has ordered a section of the border with Somalia to be reopened, allowing those seeking humanitarian assistance to enter Kenya.

The following is extracts from photographer Tobin Jones’ photo essay on “Little Mogadishu” published in the African Lens: http://www.africanlens.com/stories/photo_story/little_mogadishu

Photographs copied into report with photographer’s permission

“Eastleigh, a small neighborhood in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, is a place both renowned for its shopping and feared for its connection to pirates and terrorism. The area gets its reputation, in a large part, from the huge Somali population that inhabits it. With a population of about 100,000, almost all are Somali; most having fled there after civil war ripped their country apart in the early 1990s. This makes Eastleigh one of the largest gatherings of Somalis, outside of Somalia itself, in the world.”

- Tobin Jones



Housing in Eastleigh is becoming increasingly scarce as more and more Somalis move there each year.



During the rainy season the streets of Eastleigh flood due to poor infrastructure. The merchants of Eastleigh recently won a court case allowing them to discontinue paying taxes until the government begins to provide the area with basic infrastructure.



Men stand outside of a bus terminal, linking refugee camps in the north-east of Kenya with Nairobi.



In the last few decades Eastleigh has gone from a predominantly Kenyan neighborhood to an almost entirely Somali one. Those Kenyans left often operate at the fringes of the economy.