

Scandal in Kenya creating turmoil

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) - Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki announced the resignations of his energy and education ministers Monday amid corruption scandals.

In an address on state-owned television, Kibaki said that the two ministers had left government to allow for investigations into the scandals to be carried out.

The resignations came as pressure mounted on Kibaki to respond to allegations made last month by John Githongo, who served as Kibaki's anti-corruption ombudsman for two years until February 2005, of high-level government corruption.

Kibaki won elections in 2002 promising to root out the corruption that had become endemic under the 24-year rule of his predecessor, President Daniel arap Moi. Now, though, Kibaki is accused of allowing the old ways — and even some discredited figures from the previous government — to hold sway.

Kiraitu Murungi, who was energy minister until Monday, has been linked to several multimillion dollar scandals. George Saitoti, who was education minister, has been implicated in Kenya's biggest financial scandal, a scam dating to the early 1990s and to Moi.

Kibaki's finance minister resigned a week ago in the scandal linked to Murungi, which also had implicated Kibaki's personal assistant, Alfred Gitonga.

Earlier Monday, the presidential press service announced without giving any reason that Gitonga's contract would not be renewed.

The energy and finance ministers and Kibaki's assistant were among several high ranking officials named in a dossier Githongo made public last month.

The scams Githongo detailed in his dossier, involving government contracts awarded to companies that existed only on paper, had been widely reported in the Kenyan media. But Githongo's was the first credible account of ministers' involvement. Kenya's biggest scandal, though, predates Kibaki. It began as a ploy to get export credits for gold and diamond jewelry but evolved into a complex web of financial dealings.

Earlier this month, an inquiry report on the gold scandal recommended further investigation of the role of former President Moi and pressing criminal charges against Saitoti, who was vice president and finance minister during the early years of the scandal.

U.N. calls on world to offer Congo aid

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - The U.N. humanitarian chief appealed to world donors to help raise at least \$680 million in aid and provide more peacekeepers to stabilize Congo before a special conference Monday.

Jan Egeland, who will co-chair a U.N.-European Union conference on the central African nation said Sunday that the international community had to act now to help boost peace efforts following Congo's 1998-2002 war, which drew in the armies of half a dozen African nations.

"Too few leaders understand that 4 million people have died and many more can die unless we put it right," he told a small group of reporters.

He said a U.N. humanitarian aid appeal last year came up short for Congo, with only \$130 million pledged.

Egeland said the money was needed for immediate needs like shelter, food, security and health care to millions of refugees now returning to Congo from neighboring countries.

"We have too little money, too few people on the ground, and still too little security," he said.

Rumsfeld: N. Africa no terror haven

IFRANE, Morocco (AP) - Winding up three days of talks with North African leaders, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Monday he is confident that al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups will fail to find a haven in this Muslim region. At a news conference after meeting with King Mohammed VI at his royal retreat in the Atlas Mountains, Rumsfeld was asked what risk he saw of Islamic extremist groups putting down roots in Morocco, Algeria or Tunisia.

"Each of those three countries are managing their internal affairs in a way that makes that an extremely low possibility," he said. "There are so many places in the world where there are large ungoverned spaces, where the governments have not taken the kinds of steps that we've seen in these countries," he added. He said Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia had created "an environment that's inhospitable to terrorism."

After the meeting with the king, Rumsfeld was flying back to Washington. Morocco was the last stop for Rumsfeld on a five-day trip that began in Sicily for a NATO defense ministers meeting and included his first visit to North Africa as President Bush's defense secretary.

Rumsfeld came to North Africa to try to strengthen U.S. military ties to Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. All three are viewed by the Bush administration as important allies in the global fight against terrorism — not least because they have spoken out publicly against Islamic extremism and terrorism.

Morocco is the United States' oldest ally in North Af-

rica. The relationship began with a treaty of friendship in the late 18th century. After a successful North Africa campaign in World War II, U.S. forces continued to make use of Moroccan airfields and other military facilities.

The U.S. military even stored nuclear weapons on Moroccan soil. In 1952 President Harry Truman ordered the storage of non-nuclear components for nuclear bombs at three U.S. Strategic Air Command bases in Morocco — which was then a French colony — where B-36 and B-47 bombers were located.

Full nuclear bombs were stored in Morocco from 1954 and for much of that decade. With Moroccan independence in 1956, pressure mounted for U.S. forces to leave and by 1963 all U.S. forces had withdrawn.

This was Rumsfeld's first visit to Morocco as defense secretary. Upon his arrival Sunday afternoon, Rumsfeld visited the Moroccan royal stables near the village of Bouznika; he watched about a dozen of King Mohammed VI's prized Arabian horses strut their stuff.

Rumsfeld, who keeps horses on his property in Taos, N.M., also toured a trophy room where the king displays several extraordinary saddles given to him by people around the world. One saddle, Rumsfeld was told, once belonged to a sultan who ruled Libya before Col. Moammar Gaddafi.

After the display, Rumsfeld was presented with a saddle and other gifts. He then returned to Rabat and had dinner at a government villa with Moroccan Prime Minister Driss Jettou.

Your Horoscope Says... Feb. 16-Feb. 22

ARIES

It's double trouble this week if you lie to a friend. Don't take any big gambles. The time is not right for a flight into the unknown. A newfound harmony is in store for you and your mate. Your mate will understand your fears.

Soul Affirmation: New insights create new directions and a new cast of characters.

Lucky Numbers: 43, 45, 50

TAURUS

The devil is in the details. A few minor changes can make a major difference. The air can be cleared easily. Admit your need for help. Seek understanding. You'll help another by seeking help from them.

Soul Affirmation: Moving slowly might be the fastest way.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 16, 28

GEMINI

She says; he says, forget about it. Kiss and make up. This week should bring an opportunity to further your education. Take advantage of it. Pay special attention to details at work. A friend needs your support. Find joy in giving it.

Soul Affirmation: All things work together for good.

Lucky Numbers: 21, 29, 40

CANCER

Bank on what is certain this week. It's best to leave iffy situations alone. You and your mate should increase your saving for the future. Future plans should be spotlighted. A relationship is likely to take a serious turn. Be open to making an unusual purchase.

Soul Affirmation: I can see clearly now the rain is gone. There are no obstacles in my way.

Lucky Numbers: 32, 45, 46

LEO

This week, take extra steps to see the bigger picture. You and your partner are on the same wavelength. If you are presented with a contract, it's an ideal week to reach an agreement. Make the important phone calls to set things up.

Soul Affirmation: What I've been waiting for has been here all along.

Lucky Numbers: 30, 40, 51

VIRGO

This week brings an extra glow that will help you light up any room you enter. You've got it going on. Use it to full advantage. Beware of financial pitfalls that you've set for yourself. Strengthen all your relationships by understanding motivations of others. Spend time taking care of the home front.

Soul Affirmation: Often it's not what I say but the way I say it that gets the message across.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 18, 19

LIBRA

Being frank is not always a matter of saying what's wrong. Be just as frank when telling those around you that they're right. Don't expect to win every battle, especially with your lover. This week winning is losing. Backing down is winning. Shyness produces a bold result.

Soul Affirmation: I keep money on my mind this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 41, 48

SCORPIO

Possibilities of hearing good news about home matters are greatly expanded. Savor the news rather than thinking about other annoyances. Someone needs some tender love. Shading the truth a little to make a friend feel great is not a bad thing. Make the sugar coating very thick.

Soul Affirmation: Jewelry reflects the beauty of my feelings about myself.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 21, 38

SAGITTARIUS

Sometime the best way to get away from it all is to daydream like crazy. Keep your head in the clouds. That's the best place for it to be this week. Do something enjoyable with the time that you'd normally spend worrying. Feather the nest. Stock up on stuff for the long haul.

Soul Affirmation: Cheerfully handling what comes at me is the test of who I am.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 25, 36

CAPRICORN

Your mate has a sweet surprise. Open up to receive it. Choose your words carefully around a sensitive pal. Listen for good news about a loan or financial matter. Reach for the stars! Luck is on your side.

Soul Affirmation: I let others toot my horn this week.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 36, 37

AQUARIUS

Enjoy the great insights you have in the area of career objectives. Take a look at what's out there! An unanticipated financial matter may arise. Find the good in it. Give a lot of support to loved ones who will need a lot of it this week.

Soul Affirmation: A cheerful soul should be wrapped in a cheerful package.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 29, 38.

PISCES

Slow down. Moving at break neck speed causes mistakes. Be cautious and conservative with money. You are extremely witty this week. Allow others to enjoy your good humor. Your leadership skills are very high. Others will follow.

Soul Affirmation: Luck is my best friend this week.

Lucky Numbers: 32, 36, 39



CAPITOL
LOAN SPECIALISTS, INC.

Michelle Jacobs
Loan Officer

FHA • VA • Conventional • Commercial
6094 S. Sandhill Rd., Ste. 100 • Las Vegas, NV 89120
702-227-5634 Office • 702-798-5634 Fax • 702-884-7012 Cell
MJACOB64@gmail.com