

# POSTAL NEWS

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## 1. Kenyan to head African postal body

Nairobi, Kenya - The Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) has named Kenya's Rodah Masaviru the new secretary general.

Masaviru beat her only rival to clinch a four-year term at the helm of the continental body, Director of Information and Public Communications, Ezekiel Mutua, said.

The African postal body has 43 member countries and the other good news for Kenya is that it was also elected to the union's administrative council for the next four years.

PAPU is a specialised agency of the African Union which aims to improve postal services in Africa.

Kenyan Information and Communications Minister, Samuel Poghisio, who led a strong Kenyan delegation, commended the team for a task well executed.

"This just shows how much we can achieve with a focused group like this one. It has been a tiring job but one that was worth every bit of it," the minister said.

Before her election, Masaviru had served the union as the assistant secretary-general in Arusha, Tanzania.

A holder of a masters degree in population studies from the University of Nairobi, Masaviru had worked for the now-defunct Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation before joining the union.

The defunct state corporation was split into two a few years ago -- Telkom Kenya , which handles telecommunications and the Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK).

Nairobi - 30/06/2008

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## **2. New postal rates deliver blow to shipping budget**

Posted by Jackson Citizen Patriot July 01, 2008 08:03AM

Categories: Voice of the People

JACKSON — Just a heads-up: With very little fanfare, the U.S. Postal Service has raised its rates dramatically. If you do not ship a great deal, you may not have noticed, but please be aware of it come Christmastime.

I shipped an item recently that once would have cost about \$24. When I got the total bill, I found that it was almost \$40. This could be the year to buy jewelry for everyone on your list!

The rates were raised by making the "oversize box" category much smaller. Anything that holds one cubic foot or more is now called "oversized," and will ship at the much higher rate. You can see what "Brown" can do for you.

With gas prices being what they are (thanks to Congress and its ban on drilling to make the Sierra Club happy), I would not be surprised if rates go up again.

— Kay Renbacher

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## **3. Postal dept promotes family planning**

SANTOSH K. KIRO

Ranchi, June 30: The state health department is not concerned about family planning alone. The postal department, too, is now playing an active role.

The postal department of the Jharkhand circle has entered the domain with all its branches, including those based in the villages, stocking condoms for sale. Rakshak, a super deluxe condom brand, are available at post offices at one-third its price.

On Friday, the postal department at Doranda had sold condoms to 55 persons. Though the original price of the three-piece condom pack is Rs 15, the product is being sold at a subsidised rate of Rs 5 only.

In fact, there is no special counter to buy condoms. One could purchase it at the stamps counter itself.

Now all the 3,200 post offices across the cities and villages would sell condoms.

“We wanted Rakshak condoms to be available to couples living in villages. This would help the cause of family planning,” said Anil Kumar, the director of postal services, Jharkhand circle.

He felt the postal department would get a good response in the urban areas as well, though they are targeting rural Jharkhand.

“For villagers, post offices are familiar institutions and they would feel comfortable to purchase condoms from there,” Kumar added.

This is not the first time that post offices are selling condoms. In the 1980s, post offices had taken up a similar mission to spread awareness and propagate family planning, which lasted a few years.

In three months from July, all the branches of the postal department would be involved in collecting electricity bill for the JSEB at no extra cost.

The postal department also has plans to extend the service to the consumers’ doorstep. However, this facility would be offered at a fee, which will be charged from the consumer.

“We will charge a very nominal amount, though,” said Kumar.

The state postal department is also involved in several other non-postal works like distributing iron tablets to pregnant women and stocking sanitary napkins, among others, which are sold at a subsidised rate.

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#### **4. Postal Service Realigns**

In a move to take advantage of recent changes in the law, the United States Postal Service is realigning its services to take a more competitive position in the shipping market.

USPS will group all major shipping and mailing products in one division, put a stronger emphasis on customer relations and consolidate all Intelligent Mail Barcode activities under the chief operating officer.

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 streamlined the way the Postal Service sets prices and made package pricing more flexible. The realignment takes advantage of the new competitive edge.

"These changes recognize the dynamic economics of our business, [and] will increase our effectiveness and enhance the value and attractiveness of our shipping and mailing services for existing customers and for new ones," said Postmaster General John E. Potter.

Three senior executives will take major responsibility for implementation of the changes. USPS hired Robert F. Bernstock, a corporate leader with more than 30 years of private sector experience, as president of the newly created shipping and mailing services division. In the newly created position of senior vice president of mailing services, David Shoenfeld, who formerly served as senior vice president of worldwide marketing for Federal Express, will support Bernstock. The current vice presidents of expedited shipping, ground shipping and sales will also report to Bernstock. Stephen Kearney, a current officer and 28-year veteran of the Postal Service, will lead customer relations as a senior vice president.

The Intelligent Mail Barcode will move from the development stage to become the technical foundation of mail operations when it comes on line in May 2009. The technology will cover acceptance, payment, verification, processing, diagnostics, routing transportation and delivery.

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## **5. Post office announces reorganization**

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID – 1 day ago

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Postal Service on Monday announced a reorganization that officials expect to streamline agency operations.

The change will create two "focal points" for the agency, one to deal with shipping and mailing services and the other to work with customers and others outside the post office.

Robert F. Bernstock has been hired as president of the newly created Shipping and Mailing Services Division, Postmaster General John Potter said.

Bernstock has served as president and chief operating officer of Scotts Miracle-Gro Co., senior vice president and general manager of the Dial Corp., president and chief executive of Atlas Commerce and executive vice president of Campbell Soup Co.

His division is responsible for about \$70 billion in annual business for the post office and consolidates portions of the agency involved in air and ground shipping.

Bernstock "is not shackled with a mail background," allowing him to bring an outside business perspective to the agency, Potter said in a telephone interview.

David Shoenfeld, formerly senior vice president of worldwide marketing for Federal Express, will assist Bernstock as senior vice president for mailing services.

The second focal point, Customer Relations, will combine consumer and business customer relationships, external and internal communications and pricing under Stephen Kearney, a current postal officer.

Kearney is a 28-year veteran of the Postal Service, serving most recently as vice president for pricing and classification.

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## **6. Postmen to have beat codes for fast delivery of letters**Font Size

Express News Service

Posted online: Monday , June 30, 2008 at 02:35:11

Updated: Monday , June 30, 2008.

Ludhiana, June 29 The Postal department has introduced a postman beat code along with the pin code for fast delivery of letters and parcels. The new service was introduced all over the country a few months ago.

Haryana Postal Services Director Manisha Bansal Badal said, “The scheme was introduced in Haryana in March and has helped a lot in delivering letters and parcels in time.”

The scheme was introduced in the city last week. Badal, who has served as Senior Superintendent of Post Offices in Ludhiana, said, “Any one who is posting a letter is supposed to write the pincode and the postman beat code of the area where the letter is being sent. This will help in delivering the letter to its destination soon. While sorting out the letters, the postal employees will just read the postman beat code of the city and put that letter in his tray. This way the time, which the postal employees used to take earlier for reading the whole address, is saved.”

The city has 14 delivery offices of the Postal department from where about 300 postmen collect the postal articles for delivery every day. So there will be about 300 postman beat codes.

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