



PRESS REVIEW

John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre
"Faith Doing Justice"

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Plot 2468 Nsereko Road-Nsambya
P.O. Box 31853, Kampala-Uganda
Tel: +256414267372
Mobile: 0783673588
Email: jp2justice.director@gmail.com
Joshua.mutebe@jp2jpc.org
Website: www.jp2jpc.org
Facebook page

THEMATIC AREAS

- Education
- Health
- Youth
- Economy
- Religion and Society
- Environment
- Social and Cultural Life

OVERVIEW

Dear Partners JPIIPC is glad to introduce to you a recent addition in its ongoing activities entitled: Press review. The review will take place on a monthly basis and will comprise print media i.e. the new vision, the East African and the daily monitor. The review will cover different thematic areas where our current interventions are concentrated. The overall objective for this Press review is to inform our partner's about the social, political and economic issues/events unfolding in the country. Secondly, we would like to use this opportunity, to provide an analytical perspective to our partners on key issues basing on our research findings. As a result, we believe our partners will be regularly updated on the various events highlighted in the print media for action at individual/community level.

INTRODUCTION

The content for the press review will provide a brief summary of newspaper headlines reviewed from daily monitor newspaper, the East African and the new vision by Staff and volunteers of John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre (JPIIPC) through a desk press review. Thematic areas will include: Education, Health, Youth, Economy, -Religion and Society, Environment and lastly Social and Cultural Life

The review will also provide readers a summary of five key stories in the month that attracted a lot of attention from the public and other interested parties. From our basis as a faith based research institution we shall also share our analytical reflections on one thematic area each month basing on our researches conducted on that particular issue that is chosen. Similarly, a section of "**who is saying what**" has equally been thought through as important in selecting a specific news story/event related to our work/"**faith doing justice**" made by key personnel holding positions of authority.

70 per cent of P7 pupils can't read their local language – report. The government's policy on local languages is yet to yield fruits as a new report has shown that only three out of 10 interviewed children in primary seven can't read and comprehend in their mother tongue. The findings are contained in a 2014 Uwezo report released. The report further paints a gloomy picture on Uganda's basic education with only two pupils out of 10 in primary seven, the last cycle of primary education, able to solve primary two numeracy questions.

Mr Tony Lusambu, the assistant commissioner for primary education, said the government had received a grant of \$100m (Shs300b) from World Bank which will be used to train teachers in literacy and improve the current ratio of three pupils sharing a textbook to one.

The Uwezo country director, Ms Goretti Nakabugo, noted that the curriculum being taught is far ahead of children and that only one in every five Primary Four English language and Mathematics teachers have mastered the curriculum they are teaching. She also added that children with the ability to read in their local languages have better command of the English language and can easily relate with their environment.

Teachers in Karamoja get accommodation facilities. Two in one staff houses have been constructed at Moroto prison P/S through NUSAF 2. Though this is a good step by government on accommodation there still remains a big gap as some schools completely lack teachers' quarters.

Should students carry phones to school. Earlier this month, Dr Yusuf Nsubuga, the director of basic and secondary education at the Ministry of Education, was quoted in the press as stating that schools should allow students to use information and communication technology (ICT) gadgets, including smart phones in schools, in order to improve learning and teaching. He also went ahead to urge respective schools' boards of governors to develop rules and regulations so that students do not misuse them.

Illiterate boards blamed for poor school results. Leaders in Elgon Sub-region have partly blamed the continued poor academic performance of pupils on "semi-illiterate" school management committees (SMCs).

The Sironko District education officer, Mr Patrick Mabuya, told a meeting at Manafwa District headquarters last week that head teachers take advantage of the members' illiteracy and poverty to embezzle school funds. The Education minister, Ms Jessica Alupo, however, said parents and local leaders should not leave the management of schools to head teachers and SMCs only but also inspect and monitor school progress

Renowned fertility specialist Dr. Ssali Tamale has been cleared to redevelop the Kitante primary school land into a modern hospital. Ssali told the select committee of Parliament investigating takeover of school land in Kampala that he plans to construct a sh75b modern hospital, which will offer treatment of sickle cell patients and help couples who cannot conceive naturally to have children through the test tube method (IVF). Ssali put up a spirited defense of the project amid allegations he grabbed the five acres from the

school. "I never grabbed the land. It was a presidential directive; President Museveni told the Uganda land Commission to find land in Kampala city to establish a modern fertility and sickle cell hospital," he explained

2.7 million Child labourers in Uganda. We see them every day; young girls as housemaids wake up at 5:00 am every day and work till 11:00pm only to earn peanuts at close of the month. There are no days off. Others labour in stone quarries under the scorching afternoon sun for Sh1000 a day. At building sites boys carry loads their weight as girls toil away in gardens during school days. Their counterparts hawk foodstuffs for miles in Kampala's spread-out suburbs

"Four years ago, child labour stood at 1.4 million children; but now, according to latest statistics, has increased to 2.7 million," says Arinaitwe Isaac, Programme Officer Advocacy & Community Development at Platform for Labour Action (PLA). In spite of UPE and USE, 2.75 million child labourers don't go to school. He argues that the same children could be in school curving out a decent future for them, and being more productive and benefitting the country more as tax-paying educated adults.

Respect children's right to education. Orphans studying at child Out Reach primary school, Walukuba-masese in Jinja thronged the streets in Jinja Town, protesting the closure of their school by the Walukuba Division chairperson, it was reported that the area chairperson Mr. Musisi Kibuguiju claimed the school was operating illegally. Much as this could be true alternatives could have been sought instead of closing the school, children's should be listened to when they express their views on matters that affect them, this is their right as contained in constitution.

Teacher-student sexual relations must be stopped. Hundreds of schools across the country are struggling with teacher-student sexual relations; the relation includes not only sexual intercourse, but also inappropriate romantic or sexual communication. This vice is a serious abuse of the sacred trust given to teachers. A nation-wide report shows assessing child protection and security shows that teachers are responsible for 24% of the teenage pregnancies, early marriages and defilement bringing disgrace to the revered teaching profession

Education sector budget to improve access and quality. It is all smiles in the education sector a total of sh2, 029b has been allocated to the sector up from sh1, 699.4b in last financial year. According to the finance minister Matia Kasaija the increase is aimed at improving access and quality of education as well as skills development, while presenting the 2015/2016 budget he said the top priority would be to increase in the capitation and schools facilities grants by an additional sh39.78b to ensure effectiveness of the UPE, USE/UPOLET programmes.

Discipline, commitment will help graduates acquire jobs. One of the most important qualities for a person looking for a job is discipline" says Frank Kintu Ssebisubi a teacher at Kaboja International School. **"I urge our graduates to remember that discipline in its highest notion is not punishment, it is the foundation of success it gives us structure**

and allows us to steer our energies and pull our wagon of success, with this in mind, the world and its challenges will be more malleable,”.

Ntoroko gets sh11b for maternal health services. Korea International Cooperative Agency under Save the Children has launched a \$3,801,947 (about sh11b) health project in Ntoroko district to improve health services, mainly maternal and children health. Speaking during the launch of the project at Karugutu secondary school last week, Dr Twinomugisha said they will improve health infrastructure, including up grading of Karugutu health centre 111, Rwangata health Centre 11 and 111, building of general and maternity ward. Dr Twinomugisha added that the support is aimed at curbing high infant mortality rate which stands at 116 deaths per 1000 live births in western region compared to the national average of 90 deaths per 1000 live births.

Mulago moves to curb baby thefts. In the recent past a number of newly born babies have been stolen from Mulago hospital with no serious action taken to stop the vice. However, Enock Kusasira, the hospital publicist, said the hospital has now deployed two security officers on each ward to manage those entering and exiting.

100 pregnant women, PWDs barred from immigration jobs. More than 100 pregnant women who turned up for fitness test for 300 jobs at immigration and citizen's directorate were disqualified over not being able to participate in the exercise. The exercise, which featured 10km marathon, also saw more than 50 people with disabilities being disqualified. **'I am being pushed for being pregnant women as if it is a crime. If pregnant women was an issue, women would not be allowed to have maternity leave'** Ms Patricia Acen, a candidate from Kitgum District, said.

Pregnant girls should be allowed to continue studying. According to a study by Uganda bureaus of statics studies, about 25% of teenage girls between 15-19 get pregnant annually in Uganda, other studies shows that 24% of teenage girls in sub-Saharan Africa get pregnant before the age of 19. The population secretary says out of the 1.2 million pregnancies recorded in Uganda annually 25% are teenage pregnancies. This means that 300,000 teenagers get pregnant in the country annually and these are always school-going children. However, what happens after they have given birth, or even risked abortion.

Pregnant women share beds at Lira health centre. There is congestion in the maternity ward of Ongica health centre III in Ngeta sub-county, Lira district, forcing expectant mothers share beds. The fatality, which is meant to cater for 15 expectant mothers, currently serves at least 50. Due to shortage of beds, some women in labour are compelled to sit on benches and lie on the floor waiting for some of their colleagues to be discharged. The LC3 chairman, Mr George Okwee, said; "we are lobbying support from the district partners to help us put up additional infrastructure" the health centre, which was constructed around 2004, caters for patients from the parishes of Iwal, Ogica, Ongura and Anya Apuc.

In order to ensure proper healthcare in the country, health experts have advised the public to get health insurance because it helps both medium and low income earners. Prof. Bwogi Kanyerezi a healthcare practitioner explained that, health insurance is the best way to go. He gave an example, where one person can be insured for only sh500,000 and gets treatment with their entire family for a full year. The Health Insurance Bill that will

ensure that every Ugandan has equal access to quality health care is in its final stages for enactment. Under the proposed National Health Insurance Bill, 2007, the premium for formal sector employees is 8 percent of the employee's salary. Employers will be responsible for paying 4 percent, and the employee will be responsible for paying the remaining 4 percent. The National Social Health Insurance Scheme was expected to take off in July 2007, but was tabled before the Parliament of Uganda in March 2009.

Lack of privacy scaring away fistula patients from Mbale referral hospital. Many fistula patients now fear being admitted at Mbale hospital because there are mixed other patients, who stigmatize them, according to Antonina Webombesa, a midwife at the hospital. She mentioned that the number of fistula patients coming to get medical attention has dropped because the hospital has no room for them. This was during this month fistula camp that was organized by the hospital, only four patients turned up, out of the average 40 that were received during past camp.

Medics warned on disclosing causes of patient's 'death. The Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioner's Council (UMDPC) has issued a circular to all health workers, warning them of stern action for violating their professional code of conduct by disclosing the cause of death of their former patients. A health worker who violates the code of conduct can be suspended, warned or reprimanded among others. In the April 14th circular, the council reminded the health workers that the professional contract between them and their clients remains even after death.

Uganda National Aids Support Organisation (UNASO) dialogues help residents demand better health services in Kamwenge district. For many pregnant women, ensuring that you get to a health centre in time for delivery is key priority. However, in Kamwenge district, this time had better not come during the weekend because the Health centre III is always closed. Mr Everest Karozi, a clinical officer at the health centre said they have a total of five health workers who include two clinicians, one laboratory technician and two midwives. He added that on average, he attends to 80 patients with new cases every day yet he is supposed to attend only 30 patients. Mr Karozi adds that most patients are poor and cannot afford to hire a motorcycle to Rukunyu health center for referral.

Govt to establish community health scheme in Kabarole district. The Minister of health, Dr Elioda Tumwesigye, has said government is studying the possibility of establishing community health scheme to enable people save money to spend on quality health services. In a speech read for him by Dr Henry Mwebesa, a Commissioner in the ministry of health, Dr Tumwesigye said many people fail to access good health service because they lack money to pay in hospitals.

Resident District Commissioner (RDC) calls for interdiction of absentee health workers. The (RDC) of Masaka district Linos Ngompek has called for immediate interdiction of health workers at Kyanamukaaka health centre IV accusing them of laziness and absenteeism. Mr Ngompek checked the duty roster to find out how many staff were supposed to be on duty at that time. However, the duty roster was later plucked off the notice board by an unidentified person. Some patients also accused health workers at the facility of stealing drugs and demanding bribes in return for treatment. The RDC said all

services at government health facilities are free, adding that health workers who steal drugs and demand for pay from patients will be arrested and prosecuted.

Govt pledges to help sickle cell patients. Government is planning to bring into the country equipment that will enable bone marrow transplant for sickle cell patients. The Prime Minister Dr Ruhakana said: “ plans are under way to have transplantation facilities in Uganda and when they are complete, then treatment of this nature will be possible.”

Rising malaria cases in Acholi worry govt. The Ministry of health is investigating the increase of malaria in Lamwo, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts after new cases were reported in health facilities and communities. According to the Gulu bio-statistician, Mr Yoweri Idiba, registered malaria cases have increased from 7,966 in March to 15,589 in May this year. Recently the director general health service, Dr Jane Aceng, issued a press statement, saying the increase in malaria cases reported in the four districts was due to the rainy season in the sub-region. However, Dr Aceng said the ministry is processing additional second line anti-malaria drugs and other supplies to be delivered to the four affected districts.

Atuturi hospital gets shs600m facelift boost. In Kumi, the government has released shs 600m to Kumi districts for the renovation of Atuturi hospital. Kumi Chief Administrative Officer Joseph Balisanyuka said last week the ministry has already channeled the funds to the districts. He said a bigger chunk of the funds would go into re-habilitating old structures, including staff quarters and purchase of additional equipment for the theatre.

Couple sues govt over baby swap. A couple has sued the government over acts of gross negligence by Mulago national referral hospital after the health facility allegedly swapped their live baby boy with a dead baby girl who was not theirs, nine years ago. Court records, , indicated that Dr Kapuru confessed to having swapped the couple’s live baby with the dead baby girl after he was pressured by a one Sr. Goretta Tibifumura to alter medical records. The law suit further states that at the hearings, documents were examined and witnessed , testified where Dr Kapuru confessed to having delivered Ms Nabakibi of a male baby boy by C-section but was persuaded by a one Sr. Goretta Tibifumura to alter the medical records to indicate that the baby was a female. To further fault Mulago hospital, the couple states in their lawsuit that the DNA report that was tendered in by police from the Directorate of Government analytical laboratory after exhuming the remains of the baby girl, showed that indeed they were not the true biological parents of the dead baby.

The commissioner for youth and children in the ministry of gender, labour and community development, Mondo Kyateka has asked child related organizations and other stakeholders to always listen to adolescents and give them a chance to participate in deciding their destiny. He told the organizations to use child friendly services and only endeavor to build good interventions instead of thinking for them and denying them an opportunity to participate in shaping their destiny.

"We can only build good interventions if we can listen to the young people, don't ignore their contributions thinking they cannot reason. They should participate in shaping their destiny," he said

Investing in education as a means of youth empowerment is a key focus for JPIIIPC, we believe in partnership with young people as a change agents and working with them to become fully engaged and active citizens in their communities. By undertaking income generating activities, young people inspire their generations, contributing to their families' livelihoods and ultimately empower their communities to overcome marginalization.

Students still lack skills today – consultant. As thousands of graduates seek jobs due to the high unemployment levels in the country, employers on the other hand are complaining of lack of skilled people to fill the available job positions. According to Michael Niyetegeka, an IT consultant and students' facilitator, Ugandan students still lack thinking skills that can otherwise empower them to explore the many opportunities around them.

"As a means of adding value to oneself to become a competitive brand, graduates and even people at managerial levels need to embrace the habit of reading in order to broaden their knowledge base and open their imaginations to new ideas," Niyetegeka said during the fifth annual Madhvani Foundation Career Guidance and Entrepreneurship training workshop aimed at equipping students with practical skills that employers are looking for in the work places.

Bigirimana granted youth plan right. The government has granted Mr Pius Bigirimana, the permanent secretary in the ministry of Gender "exclusive rights" over the youth livelihood model. A development concept where the government derived its anti-poverty programme. a five year project that seek to combat youth unemployment. Mr Bigirimana said " the patents are now mine whosoever wants to duplicate the model must seek my permission."

Youth fund falls short of expectations. A sh290b fund to promote youth business and employment launched five years ago has fallen short of expectations and will need to be redesigned to be effective researchers and experts have said . The sh25b Youth Venture Capital Fund (YCVF), and the sh265b Youth Livelihood programme (YLP) were launched in 2011 and 2013 respectively, Makerere University's Economic Policy Research Centre found that 'Fund usage continues to be dominated by the central region, and Kampala in particular. Business that are urban based are likely to access the fund compared to those situated in rural areas, yet more than 75% of the youth resides in rural areas

General Salim Saleh wants land for youth. The head of Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme has said many youth have not benefited from the programme as they lack land for cultivation and other development activities. ‘Youth all over the country do not have land where to grow cash crops to improve their household income and welfare’ Saleh made the remark while addressing youth group at Rakai District Agricultural Training and Information Centre

European Union earmarks sh9b for youth training. The European Union has earmarked 3m Euros (about sh9.6b) to the international labour office (ILO) in Uganda to empower youth-led groups engaged in employment generating projects. This was revealed by Fred Baseke during the closure of four days proposal writing workshop on Youth Entrepreneurship Fund that attracted 28 youth groups from Mbale, Jinja, Kampala and Soroti at paradise hotel Jinja.

NRM youth league petition Central Executive Committee over Mbabazi. The national resistance movement (NRM) youth league yesterday weighed in on-going debate within the party ranks which was sparked off by former prime minister Amama Mbabazi declaration that he will contest for the 2016 presidential poll on the party ticket. The chairperson of the NRM youth league Dennis Namara said “there is no vacuum in NRM. Therefore there is no transition because Mbabazi and Museveni are the same” he also said “we are going to petition the disciplinary committee to take action.

Traders feeling pinch of paying bills in dollars. The Kampala City Traders Association (Kacita, has decried the trend of service providers charging them in US dollars, a scenario that is further depreciating the shilling. Kacita chairman Everest Kayondo, has said the continued tendency of service providers charging them in dollars has made the Shilling lose value.

Mr Kayondo says service providers, some of whom are landlords, now demand to be paid in dollars, putting unnecessary pressure on the dollar, which has further weakened the local currency.

Agriculture to get more funding. President Yoweri Museveni has said government in the next financial year (2016/2017) will allocate more funds towards the promotion of agriculture through the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) campaign meant to improve household's income. "He said" increased funding would guarantee the supply of enough planting materials like seedlings and breeding stocks as well as farm tools and other inputs to many households in the country.

Insurers moot plant to start micro insurance. The Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) will soon start licensing micro-insurance players to enable low income earners access cheaper insurance services. While speaking at a breakfast meeting organized by the insurance institute of Uganda in Kampala, the IRA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ibrahim Kaddunabbi Lubega emphasized the move seeks to increase uptake of insurance services in the country as well as boosting penetration.

Uganda's exports below potential. Uganda's share of world trade remains negligible despite the increasing global demand for goods and services while addressing farmers at the generation agripreneur expo in Kampala recently prime minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, said " **exportation of unprocessed agricultural commodities, which account for the largest portion of the country's exports, is partly responsible for the low exports revenue.**

Government upholds Kaveera ban. Government has announced in a fresh statement that the Kaveera ban will stand contrary to a previous statement that the ban had been suspended. The Minister of Information and National Guidance, Maj. Gen Jim Muhwezi had earlier released a statement that read in the last paragraph that the ban on the plastic carriers (Buveera) had been lifted.

KCCA stops boda boda from city centre. Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has finalized plans to abolish boda boda stages from the city Centre as part of its efforts to streamline public transport and reduce congestion. According to the plan, boda boda cyclists will be prohibited from having stages in the city centre areas bordered by Wandegeya, Mulago round-about via Yusuf Lule Road to Jinja Road and Warid Clock Tower junctions, and Entebbe Road to Clock TowerSign posts indicating "No Entry for Boda boda" have been already fixed at Mulago roundabout, Wandegeya Traffic lights, Entebbe road, at Pride roundabout, NSSF House and Nsambya roundabout. "This is a noble programme being

undertaken to safeguard lives in the city... It is a project we are undertaking with a lot of passion and are confident it will bring relief to the pressure caused by reckless and irresponsible traffic behaviour,” Mr Kauju said yesterday by telephone

Standard Gauge Railway project finally kicks off in Tororo. The preliminary geotechnical investigations and survey work on the \$3.3 billion (about sh10.6 trillion) new standard gauge railway (SGR) project has finally been flagged off. Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda, during the breaking ceremony held in Tororo on Friday, appealed to Ugandans along the route to accept compensation for the land that is required for the project.

Pope Francis releases ecology encyclical 'Laudato Si'. On June 18, 2015, Pope Francis released an encyclical on ecology entitled, **"Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home."** Prior to the public release, the Holy Father sent the encyclical to all Bishops around the world with a handwritten note. Below is a link to the official encyclical.

Laudato Si. [Download here.](#)

The Uganda Muslim supreme council (UMSC) on Monday launched a sh3b development plan for the Muslim martyrs' site at Namugongo in Wakiso district. The council is set to construct a Mosque (Masjid Noor Namugongo martyrs), a primary School, library, guest house and a museum where they will keep the first Quran in Uganda that was given to Kabaka Mutesa I and a kettle he used for the ablutions among others. The land was donated by the former president of Uganda, Idi Amin Dada, for Muslims to build a mosque in 1975 as a way of commemorating the shuhada (Muslim martyrs) killed.

Thousands of Christians converged at the two Uganda Martyrs Shrines at Namugongo and Nakiyanja to celebrate Martyrs Day in remembrance of the 45 converts executed between 1885 and 1887. **'Faithful to the end' (Revelations 2:10) and Called to be witnesses of Christ in the family and in the society (Acts 1:8)** were the themes for the Protestant church and Catholic church respectively. This year's celebrations for the Catholic Church were led by Bishop Franzeli of Lira diocese.

Museveni hails Bakyenga for exemplary leadership. President Museveni saluted the Archbishop of Mbarara Diocese Mgr. Paul Bakyenga, and other religious leaders in the country for the role they play in uniting Ugandans. The president noted that in the last years; some religious leaders were instead involved in dividing Ugandans. **"I congratulate Archbishop Bakyenga for celebrating 25years as Bishop for Mbarara archdiocese. I attended his ordination at Kakyeka in 1989 and I requested him to contribute to uniting Ugandans' 'Museveni said.**

Archbishop Ntagali Tours Teso. Anglican archbishop Stanley Ntagali started his two week tour of Teso sub-region. He started his tour in Kumi Diocese where he confirmed pupils in Nyero sub-county. Ntagali cautioned Christians against alcohol which he said has caused them live reckless lives **"In Teso I am told many people especially men drink a lot and abandon work".**

UWA maps out crocodile areas. Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), has mapped crocodile territory in order to capture them easily following cases of reptiles attacking residents in areas neighboring Lake George and Edward as well as Kazinga channel.

Rakai hosted national celebration environment day celebrations. As Uganda marked world environmental day, Rakai district was chosen to host this year's national celebration. According to Mr Bob Ambrose Nuwagira NEMA information education and communication officer, Rakai district is one of the areas with communities surrounding Lake Victoria basin that has unique environmental opportunities and challenges. Therefore, its NEMA's roles as a regulating agency to coordinate, monitor, regulate and supervise environmental management.

Restore Uganda's ecosystem. Every June 5, the world celebrates world environmental day. This year's theme is **"Seven billions dreams, One planet: Consume with care"**. This implies that our daily decision as consumers, multiplied by billions, have colossal impact on the environment-some of them contribute to the depletion of natural resources such as wetlands, forest and wildlife, others help to protect fragile ecosystem with all biological diversity.

Environment agency happy with Kaveera ban implementation. Recently the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) implemented the ban of using polythene bags commonly known as *Buveera*. **"We are enforcing the law and proceeding with the ban on polythene bags that are below 100 microns"**.

Increasing population threatening environment conservation efforts. National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) education and communication officer, Bob Ambrose Nuwagira says population increase is one of the biggest cause of environmental degradation in the country, he says **"The poor people are the major culprits of environmental degradation, especially land fragmentation because of need for survival; land fragmentation has affected fragile eco-systems that are vital for conserving the environment"**. Experts however blame environmental degradation to limited sensitization.

Minister warns lazy environment officers. If you are an environment officer but have not lived up to your position, state minister for environment Flavia Munaba says government will take action against you. Ms Munaba says many environment officers have failed to effectively execute their duties something that has led to massive depletion of wetlands and forests across the country. While addressing the concerns raised by district officials in Rakai she said that government will ensure all existing environment laws are enforced.

Govt studies 40km-crack on Mt Elgon. Government has started conducting geo-technical study on Mt Elgon to determine the depth of 40km long- crack. The initiative is aimed at identifying ways of dealing with landslides disasters in the area. The senior disaster management officer in the office of the prime minister ,Ms Pamela Komujuni said, Makerere University Civil Engineering Department, Geographers, National Environment Management

Authority(NEMA) and the ministry of lands are studying the status of crack that spreads to Manafwa, Bududa and Sironko districts.

Isimba dam to swallow rafting sites. The Isimba hydro power project and its 132KV transmission line will destroy 18km of space used for white water rafting on River Nile Ms Caroline Aguti Mugisha an official from the ministry of Energy said “eighteen kilometres of the rafting stretch will be lost, but 18km will be left intact” Ms Aguti told MPs on the Parliamentary Natural Resources Committee and Officials from National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The dam will also cause flooding of up to five rapids (Weleba, Malalu, Nile Special, Rulu Shaker and Hair of the dog).

About 14m Euros (sh51bn) has been invested in the construction and equipping of the National Climate Change Resource Centre. The Centre will help government institutions and the public understand climate change issues. It will also provide up to date information on emerging adverse climate change impacts on the country's economy.

The head of the European Union delegation, Kristian Schmidt, has appealed to the Ugandan government to collaborate with civil society actors in preparation for peaceful general elections due next year. He said with the significant strides Uganda has made in respect to civil rights, it should not be pulled back by election tensions. The EU envoy was speaking on behalf of development partners who support Democratic Governance Facility (DGF).

Uganda goes to the polls on February 12 next year, according to a road map released by the Electoral Commission earlier in April. To avert any chaos, Schmidt stressed the need for government to work with civil society organizations ahead of the general elections.

As Parliament starts consultations into the proposed NGO Bill 2015, civil society organizations (CSOs) have opposed a proposal in the Bill that requires all NGOs to re-register upon the passing of the Bill into law. Clause 51 of the Bill provides that upon commencement of the Act, all NGOs that existed before the Act may continue to operate but shall be required to apply for fresh registration within a period of six months after the commencement of the Act.

However appearing before the Parliament's committee on defense and internal affairs which is currently scrutinizing the Bill, the over 500 NGOs opposed the proposal saying the requirement of existing NGOs to re-register is unjustifiable. According to the NGOs, fresh registration of NGOs is aimed at locking out organizations that are perceived critical of government.

UCC starts digital migration. The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and Uganda Broadcasting Corporation affiliate in charge of digital migration, Signet, tested switch over from analogue to digital broadcasting. The June 17 deadline was set by the 198 member nations of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) meeting on June 16, 2006 for the Regional Radio Communication Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. UCC executive director Godfrey Mutabazi, in a June 11 statement indicated that UCC would carry out a planned switch off leading to the period of total switch off in the entire country.

SUMMARY OF THE TOP FIVE STORIES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

- The month of June has highlighted a number of interesting stories ranging from the area of service delivery- Education and Health, Politics and the Economy to mention but a few. However, it should be emphasized that it's in this same month that we saw the announcement of former prime minister Amama Mbabazi on you tube declaring his desire to compete for the highest position in the country in the 2016 general presidential elections. This was followed by a response from president Museveni branding his actions as "bad conduct and premature".
- Thousands of Christians converged at the two Uganda Martyrs Shrines at Namugongo and Nakiyanja to celebrate Martyrs Day in remembrance of the 45 converts executed between 1885 and 1887. **'Faithful to the end' (Revelations 2:10) and Called to be witnesses of Christ in the family and in the society (Acts 1:8)** were the themes for the Protestant church and Catholic church respectively. This year's celebrations for the Catholic Church were led by Bishop Franzeli of Lira diocese.
- The Catholic Church received the good news about the visit of Pope Francis to Uganda in November 2015. His visit will be very significant in the history of the Catholic Church Uganda in general after having witnessed previous visits from two popes: Paul VI in 1969 and John Paul II in 1993
- The newly appointed Executive director of the Uganda National Roads Authority Allen Kagina sacked close to 80 senior members of staff. Among them included: Director of projects, Director for finance, Director for planning and the Manager in charge of Administration.
- Opposition Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) elected new office bearers. Among them include the former leader of opposition and Budadiri West MP Nathan Nandala Mafabi as secretary General replacing Alice Alaso. The elections also provided an opportunity to little known former Uganda's Ambassador to Japan Wasswa Birigwa in the activities of FDC as National Chairman after defeating long serving FDC delegates Wandera Ogalo, Bwanika Bbale and Moses Kasule.

OUR REFLECTIONS ON THE STATUS OF EDUCATION –UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION (UPE)

Despite efforts by the government of Uganda to improve the status of education in the area of Universal Primary Education in Uganda, many challenges still face the sector. The operational framework for the implementation of the UPE program mandates different stakeholders including parents, government and the community to fulfill their obligations in order to attain quality education for pupils in primary schools. In a monitoring UPE study conducted by JPIIIPC for the last three years in the north and north eastern Uganda dioceses of Soroti, Lira, Gulu and Moroto, it has been observed that lack of parental interest in school affairs is positively related to failure rate. While UPE means that families do not have to pay school fees, uniforms and school materials, with the poverty in the rural areas, many parents would prefer that the children first do some household chores. This perception by parents has greatly affected performance of these pupils since they will have to miss some classes and others drop out because of the inconsistencies in school.

Secondly, delayed remittance and insufficiency of funds/Capitation Grant has partly lead to increased failure rate as this hampers the scheduled teaching and use of instructional materials by teachers which doesn't accommodate pupils studying as to required standards among other issues.

However, of recent it has been observed that Teacher strikes have been found to be significant in increased failure rate, despite the good cause to have their welfare demands put into consideration by the Government of Uganda, like an increment in salaries, and establishing decent accommodation for the teachers to avoid absenteeism. This therefore implies that addressing the challenges affecting improved performance of UPE pupils requires holistic interplay and commitment of all stakeholders at the local, community and national levels



Archbishop of Kampala, His Grace Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga preaches peace, talks on pope's visit

The clock had just chimed 9:30 when the choir started with that song, Twebaaaze Mapera ne Mune Amansi (if you are Christian you've heard about it, it's such a beauty to listen to), signaling the commencement of the celebrations to mark 136 years of Holy Eucharist in Uganda. At the function which took place at Mapeera Catholic church in Nabulagala, the clergy called for peace in Uganda, especially as the country prepares for the 2016 general elections. Lwanga called on the laity to prepare for Pope Francis' anticipated November 27 - 29 visit to Uganda. He said the Catholic Church has started a fundraising drive for the renovation of the Uganda Martyrs' Shrine at Namugongo that the Pontiff is expected to pay homage to when he visits. 2015 promises to be a special year in the history of the Catholic Church in Uganda, similar to 1969 and 1993 when Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II visited the country respectively. The June 3 Uganda Martyrs Day celebrations were a success, with about 3 million pilgrims approximated to have come to Uganda to pay homage to the 45 martyrs killed by Kabaka Mwanga in 1886.