



PRESS REVIEW

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

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THEMATIC AREAS

- Education
- Health
- Religion and Society
- Environment
- Economy

INTRODUCTION

Dear Partners

Greetings from JPIIPC. We bring to you the Second Edition of our Press review for the month of July 2015. As we had mentioned in our First Edition in the month of June, we shall be producing a monthly Press Review to summarize key news headlines from Print media newspapers of the New Vision, the East African and the Daily monitor. Once again we would like to thank all those who gave us feedback, comment on the first edition. Your suggestions have been taken into consideration in this second edition as you may observe while reading the review. Additionally, many of our partners further suggested that the content of the Press Review is too bulky and has a lot of content, therefore, we have decided to narrow our content to five sections only.

EDUCATION

Primary schools get sh1b for sanitation facilities; thirty six primary schools in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts have received sanitation and hygiene facilities worth sh1.2b. The donation from the African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF) includes 34 flash toilets, 29 concrete rainwater harvesting tanks and 79 hand washing facilities. The acting head of water and sanitation programme at AMREF Mutwalib Wakude said they could construct a modern sludge drying bed for Kitgum town council. He said the funding for the facility was part of sh10b that had been secured from European Union under the basic sanitation for urban and peri-urban communities programme.

Drug abuse in schools blamed on weak laws; the increase in cases of drug abuse among students is as a result of government failure to put in place stringent laws to curb the vice, activists have said. Dr. Moses Wakabi, a clinical psychiatrist at Hope and Beyond (HaB), a local NGO said ``cases of drug abuse are rampant among the youth and our country has been listed among those with the highest rate of drinkers which is dangerous.

Makerere lacks Shs9b for staff pay as strike looms; Makerere University vice chancellor John Sentamu Ddumba's has said the institution doesn't have money to clear its staff's outstanding allowances amounting to Shs9 billion for the last three months. Prof Ddumba's remarks come on the backdrop of threats by non-teaching staff not to begin the new academic year next month unless they are considered for salary enhancement.

School closed over poor hygiene, congestion; Authorities in Masaka District have closed St Mary's Junior Nursery and Primary School in Nyendo-Senyange Division, Masaka Municipality, over alleged poor hygiene and congestion. The Masaka Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Mr Linos Ngompek, said the condition at the school was deplorable and a danger to pupils' lives. Boys and girls at the school share a pit-latrines and bathroom facilities in contravention of regulations. The dormitories were congested, some pupils were sharing beds, while others slept on the floor and buildings at the school did not have lightning arresters.

Teachers divided over curriculum: Teachers from different schools in the central region have split views over the new curriculum Assessment and Examination Reform programme, which will kick off in 2017.

Ministry of Education is reforming lower secondary school curriculum; under the Curriculum, Assessment and Examination Reform Programme being implemented by the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC).NCDC curriculum specialist Mathias Mulumba said the new curriculum will start from Senior One to Senior Four classes. "These students will be doing exams every year and also receiving certificates each year in what they perform best and classes will begin at 8am to 2pm

Nsambya hospital gets sh1.5b cancer centre. Cancer patients in the country now have a ray of hope after Nsambya hospital acquired a shs1.5b cancer treatment centre. According to the Uganda rotary cancer programme, past district governor, Stephen Mwanje, the idea to construct a cancer centre was conceived in 2011 as a response to the scourge of cancer in all its forms and effects on Uganda.

Official decries high maternal deaths. Kabale District Health Officer Patrick Tusiime has attributed the increasing maternal deaths in the district to failure by expectant mothers to visit health centers and opting to deliver from their homes with the help of traditional birth attendants. Dr Tusiime was speaking at the launch of the save motherhood campaign in Kabale district on Monday. The function was presided over by sports state minister Charles Bakkabulindi who represented first lady Janet Museveni.

First lady demands power for health centers. First lady Janet Museveni has called for a 24-hour power supply to health facilities in rural communities to reduce deaths that occur as a result of failed operations. Ms Museveni reasoned that many lives would be saved if there was power to enable emergency lifesaving operations instead of using candles or sometimes working in darkness. Ms Alemu Wondinageu, the world health organization country representative, said energy is critical in reducing human suffering and urged government to ensure countrywide coverage of power.

Kitgum health teams decry lack of funding. The gains by Kitgum district in the fight against nodding disease could be lost due to lack of funds, leaders have said. The district focal person for nodding syndrome, Dr Geoffrey Akena, said since the year began, health workers who visit homes and villages to treat and monitor nodding victims have not received facilitation for their work.

Health centre suspends surgeries over power cut. Busia health centre IV has suspended surgeries after utility power company Umeme disconnected electricity supply to the facility over failure to clear a shs10 million bill. The hospital administrator Dr Joseph Ouma said that the power supply was cut off last month and that the facility lacks funds to pay the bill.

Malaria vaccine trial registers 55% success. Malaria vaccine trials done in seven African countries have registered a more than 50 per cent success in building immunity against malaria-causing parasites known as plasmodia. A research study indicates the vaccine, currently in its third phase, is the first generational malaria vaccine to indicate a high efficacy rate against severe and clinical malaria, according to scientists. Presenting the findings of the study in Kampala last week, the principal investigator, Dr Walter Otieno from the Kenya medical research institute / Walter reed project, said the vaccine is safe and waiting for approval from global regulators, the Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Ssembabule demands a hospital. The Ssembabule district chairman has appealed to the government for a hospital to cater for its close to 300,000 people. Dr Elly Muhimiza made the appeal last week while receiving a donation of medical equipment for Ssembabule health centre IV. He said the absence of a district hospital forces local people to travel 50 miles to Masaka regional referral. Dr Elly said the delivery of health services will improve if the government upgrades the facility into a hospital.

Karamoja, Acholi get new health awareness project. The first lady, Janet Museveni, has appealed to local government leaders in the country to encourage mothers to have their deliveries in health centers if the country is to reduce the high maternal and newborn deaths. Ms Museveni, who is also the Minister of Karamoja affairs, noted that the maternal and newborn

mortality rate for Karamoja is currently at 750 per 100,000 live births is higher than the national rate which stands at 480 per 100,000 live births. Ms Museveni was speaking as chief guest at an event held in Kampala to launch a new partnership to strengthen maternal, newborn and child health services in Karamoja and Acholi regions.

Malaria outbreak hits 10 districts. The ministry of health confirmed that malaria outbreak in northern Uganda has hit 10 districts, putting a total number of registered cases at 22,873 cases and about 162 deaths in less than two months. "The ministry of health has confirmed that the cause of the outbreak was the cessation of the Indoor Residue Spraying (IRS), which resulted in the proliferation of the vectors and increased infectious bites in a population with reduced immunity," Dr Aceng said. However, she added that ever since the outbreak was first reported last month in Lamwo, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts, the ministry dispatched rapid investigation teams including, epidemiologists, clinicians, data managers and laboratory technicians to probe the outbreak with the district task forces.

Bumanya health centre needs a breath of life. He grimaces in pain as he tosses from side to side; with sweat trickling down onto his bed at Bumanya health centre IV in Kaliro district. Florence Babita, a Nursing Assistant, explains that Waako could be suffering an intestinal obstruction, thereby requiring a scan to clearly discomfort. Dr Allan Semakula, a medical officer at the health centre observes that congestion could trigger off emotional stress that could interfere with the healing process.

Nebbi hospital erects makeshift wards. Nebbi hospital has erected makeshift wards to accommodate the rising number of patients as the facility waits on the contractor to complete the renovation of wards. The hospital administrator, Mr Gilbert Onencan, said the temporary structure is accommodating the ever increasing number of patients. "before the makeshift was erected at the hospital, patients were squeezing themselves into available ward due to limited space, but now more than 50 patients are being admitted to the makeshift" Mr Onencan said.

Govt turns down calls for indoor spraying in Gulu. The director general health services, Ms Jane Ruth Aceng, has said the government will not use Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) to fight malaria in Gulu district, adding that the methods are costly. Gulu and other districts in Acholi and Lango sub-regions have been hit by a malaria epidemic since the beginning of the year. Area leaders say IRS is the most effective method to contain the spread of the disease caused by mosquito bites. However Dr Aceng said IRS is not a sustainable option.

Ntoroko gets sh11b for mother's health. A maternal health initiative project worth sh11b in Ntoroko district has been launched with a call on mothers to visit health centers regularly. Save the children partners with the government in a four year Korea Innovative Maternal Child Health Initiative (KIMCHI) in the Rwenzori region. The project is aimed at reducing death of children and mothers from pregnancy-related causes in Ntoroko. Dr Stephen Twinomugisha, the programme manager KIMCHI, said the project is in fulfilment of the national reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health programme.

Breast feed to curb child malnutrition, mothers told. State minister for primary health care Sarah Opendi has urged mothers to breast feed their children in order to fight malnutrition. Ms Opendi said despite favorable climate and weather conditions which can permit at least two farming seasons, East Africa continues to suffer high prevalence of nutrition deficiencies. She said malnutrition is affecting mostly children under five years and women of reproductive age.

Sh2b maternal health centre commissioned. A maternal health centre worth over sh2b under the Irene Gleeson Foundation (IGF) has been commissioned in Kitgum district. The Executive director of IGF, John Paul Kiffasi, said the facility is in line with Irene Gleeson dream of offering medical services to the needy. IGF is a charity, which was founded in 1992 by Irene Gleeson

after selling her beachside home in Australia. It offers education, water and sanitation services to the public.

Testing for malaria at drug shops reduces over prescription-study. In Kampala, using malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) in registered drug shops in Uganda has substantially reduced over diagnosis of malaria and improved the use of valuable malaria drugs, according to the results of a new study released by the researchers from the Artemisinin based combination therapy (consortium at the ministry of health in Uganda and the London school of hygiene and tropical medicine in the UK, carried out the study because up to 80 per cent of malaria cases in Uganda are treated in the private sector.

Seven districts receive shs100m to fight HIV. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has given shs100m to fight the spread of HIV/Aids in workplaces in seven districts in Uganda. The money will be used in Jinja, Iganga, Mbale, Fort portal, Kasese, Mityana and Mubende district over the next three months to, among others, carry out voluntary testing and counseling, cancer screening and purchase of condoms for distribution in workplaces. Speaking at the launch in Jinja last Thursday, ILO programme coordinator David Mawejeje, said the seven districts were selected following a survey which indicated that HIV/Aids prevalence there is higher there than in other districts of Uganda.

Uganda seeks continental market for antimalarial. Uganda manufacturer of antiretroviral (ARV) and antimalarial drugs, cipla quality chemicals industries, is seeking access to the continental market. Emmanuel Katongole, the executive chairman, made the request to Zambian president Edgar Lungu. Lungu who was on a fact-finding mission that will see Zambia eventually purchase ARVs and antimalarial form cipla. Zambia is experiencing a generalized HIV/AIDs epidemic, with a national HIV prevalence rate of 17% among adults between 15 and 49 years.

Phase out nursing certificate courses-experts. Experts have asked governments of East African region to phase out certificate programmes in nursing and midwifery certificate programmes, as a way of ensuring quality nursing profession. Dr Amarsi, who was giving a key note address on the recommendations to the East African Community (EAC) secretariat for the harmonization of the nursing education practices, said at a certificate level, the nurses are not competent enough to give quality healthcare. For this to be achieved, Dr Amarsi said, a central college of nursing and midwifery is needed to harmonize the curriculum for the profession.

Cabinet to discuss health bill. Cabinet is due to discuss the national health insurance bill after the ministry of finance committed to grant the health ministry a certificate of financial implications. The national health insurance bill 2007, was hatched about 13 years ago and has to date not been tabled in parliament. In an interview on the sidelines of a dialogue between MPs and the ministry of health officials, Mr Rogers Enyaku, an Assistant Commissioner Budget and finance, said that the issues that were raised by the ministry of finance contributing to the delay of the bills implementation have been harmonized.

Patients stranded as Masaka health centre run out of drugs. Bukeeri health centre III in Masaka district is now experiencing shortage of drugs. Those seeking treatment at the facility are now referred to Buwunga health centre III, most of the essential medicine to treat common disease such as malaria, cough, pneumonia, diarrhea and hypertension, are not readily available. According to Dr Muwanga, by the time of the drugs stock out, the number of the patients seeking treatment had increased from 70 to over 100 every day

Religious leaders warn against vote buying in 2016 elections. Religious leaders under the Inter-Religious Council (IRC) flagged a 16-point blueprint to help them set the stage for next year's elections and warned that commercialization of the electoral process will be disastrous for the country. The clerics, while addressing journalists at the IRC headquarters in Namirembe, Kampala, also said despite regular arguments by some political figures urging them to stay away from matters of politics, they are "citizens of Uganda" and have a role to play in shaping the country's agenda. Archbishop Ntagali said the 16-point programme had been agreed upon by heads of all religious institutions in the country

Preach gospel of household prosperity, Museveni tells clergy. President Museveni has asked church leaders to support the government in fighting youth unemployment and corruption in the country. In his speech read by vice president Edward Ssekandi at the consecration of Pastor Leonard Sserwadda as the southern Buganda religious bishop for the born-again fellowship churches on Sunday. President Museveni also asked the church to vigorously help in fighting corruption especially among the youth, by imparting values of honesty, responsibility, accountability, integrity and hard work

Bishop campaigns for Museveni at funeral. In Katakwi mourners at the funeral service for the former national social security fund chairman, Charles Okui, in Katakwi district were astounded when a bishop joined NRM politicians to campaign for President Museveni. Bishop George Erwau of soroti diocese, joined local politicians and dedicated a greater part of his sermon calling on the mourners to vote the president in the coming elections, drawing murmurs among the mourners.

Priest sues Arua bishop over dismissal. A catholic priest in Arua diocese has sued Bishop Sabino Ocan Odoki over what he termed as unlawful suspension. Fr Nakarai Adiga is demanding compensation for what he claims are damages caused to him as a result of the bishops' action. The priest was suspended on ground that he refused to take up his appointment at micu parish, disobedience to church authority and felony.

Christians divided over new diocese. Christians in Kitagata sub-county, Sheema district are divided over a decision taken by stakeholders to secede from western Ankole diocese and form central Ankole diocese .Mr David Kabigumira, one of the leaders for Sheema stakeholder's forum, said the June 26 meeting was attended by cronies of Ankole diocese bishop Yona Mwesigwa Katoneene. The Rev Richard Mubangizi, the archdeacon of Kitagata archdeaconry, said the June 26 meeting had all key church leaders in the area and they quashed the decision to form new diocese

Catholics to start nine-week prayer for Pope Francis visit. Catholic in Uganda will soon start a nine day special prayers in preparation for Pope Francis visit on November 27. Kampala Archbishop, Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga has said. The Archbishop was speaking as chief guest at St Peters Day Mass organized by St Peter's Senior Secondary School, Nsambya, where he also presided over confirmation of students. Dr. Lwanga told students to guard their faith and emulate the Uganda Martyrs. He also urged Ugandans to leave in peace and harmony, be god fearing and shun homosexuality.

Female bishop consecrated. Seventy-year-old Aidah Namirengo has been consecrated bishop under the Charismatic Episcopal Church (CEC), becoming the first woman in the dominion to hold the position. The colorful consecration ceremony was held at the Holy Comfort Church in Bugembe, Jinja district last Saturday. It was presided over by the presiding bishop archbishop of the (CEC) John Obokech.

Namugongo Catholic Shrine closed for renovation. Namugongo Catholic Shrine has been sealed off for redevelopment ahead of Pope Francis visit in November. According to Mr Francis Muwonge, the shrine's administrative secretary, the shrine will be re-opened in early November. The redevelopment of the shrine will cost shs44b and will involve expanding the pavilion. Mr Muwonge said the Catholic Church Episcopal Conference had set up five committees to organize for the Pope's visit.

Clergy cautioned on politics. The bishop of Busoga Anglican diocese, the Rt. Rev. Michael Kyomya, has advised the clergy to steer clear of taking sides in politics as a move could divide the worshippers. According to Kyomya, if the church chooses to side with one political party, especially as the country heads into the general elections next year, the action could cause division in the Christian family. He revealed that his persistent neutral stand on politics one time prompted a senior politician to question the bishop's political inclination.

Church launched shs1.5b project. Kasana –Luwero Catholic Diocese has embarked on a shs1.5b agricultural project aimed at improving people's household income and ensuring food security. The three year project, to be implemented by the diocese's welfare department, is funded by the Germany government and targets farmers groups in Kakooge sub-county in Nakasongola district, and Kalangala and Ziobwe sub-counties in Luwero district.

ENVIRONMENT

Pupils trained on environment conservation. More than 200 pupils in Mbale and Jinja town have received training in environment conservation and road safety under the go green road safety campaign. Under the campaign, teams comprising vivo energy Uganda and little hands go green officials visited primary schools to teach pupils about road safety, such as how to cross roads safely, environment conservation. According to little hands go green Chief Executive Officer, Mr Joseph Masembe; the campaign was earlier conducted in 15 schools in Kampala city and the surrounding area. He said the ongoing campaign is intended to import road safety basics to atleast 15000 children in various schools across the country.

Uganda's mountain areas lack proper management of land and soil erosion. Uganda's hitherto most agriculturally –productive Rwenzori, Elgon and Kigezi highlands suffer high crop losses and food insecurity, and yet register high population growth rates. This projects a gloomy future, if timely corrective measures are not taken. The evidence is in Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko districts, where massive floods hit in 2013 and 2014, leaving a trail of death and destruction of infrastructure, homes, crops and livestock. Dr Festus Bagoora, a natural resource management specialist, warns that the situation is dire in highland areas, where population pressure, lack of conservation enforcement and adverse impacts of climate changes have acted in concert to render these fragile areas unproductive.

Encroachment killing Kabaka's lake - report. A new survey has revealed that Kabaka's Lake is facing extinction if measures are not put in place to stop encroachment. The survey committee chairperson, Mr Evaristo Sseguya, said the lake located in Lubaga division, Kampala city, has reduced by three acres. He added they will hand over the report to Buganda Kingdom Prime Minister Charles Peter Mayiga who will hand it over to the Lukiiko (kingdoms parliament).'' we have recommended that the Lukiiko ascertains people with lawful titles to be compensated and squatters should do the needful to allow the development of the lake, '' Mr Sseguya said. The report, according to Mr Sseguya, also indicates that the water has become filthy, which experts attribute to the lake lacking outlets.

ECONOMY

Commission queries Gulu road repairs. The Commission of Inquiry into corruption allegations in the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) has queried the decision by the agency to disregard the advice of the auditor general on the Kampala-Gulu highway. The section between Kawempe, a Kampala suburb and Luwero to Kafu Bridge have undergone repairs since 2007. Currently, Energo, a Serbian engineering company, is undertaking another phase of rehabilitation along the Kawempe-Luwero section. Inspecting some of the sections under repair on Friday, the commission chairperson Justice Catherine Bamugemereire wondered why the road was not redone. The tarmac on parts of the road, she noted, had fallen apart, with potholes in some sections, which would have been avoided if the entire highway had been rebuilt.

Foreign investors cash in on sh144b from listed companies. As the shilling continues a downward spiral against the dollar, the pressure is likely to be sustained as foreign investors take out dividends. Uganda's stock exchange in its 15 year history has eight locally listed companies. This however has not stopped investors making some considerable amount of money. Uganda clays posted losses and missing on the list to consider was the vision group. Profitable companies always once to make shareholders happy by giving them a return on their investment.

Uganda gets sh165b for devt projects. The African development bank (AFDB) has provided a grant of \$50,000 (shs 165 million) for development programmes in Uganda. In an interview in Kampala last week (AFDB) group resident representative, Jeremiah Mutonga said AFDB support is meant to help countries move fast with their development agenda by putting a benchmark period for attaining results on what government is doing.

More land needed to complete works on northern bypass. The ongoing expansion of the northern bypass will require more lands, Mr Francesco Franca, the managing director of Mota-Engil, Engenharia E constructor SA, a Portuguese construction company, that won the contract to expand the 21-kilometre stretch road, has said. Mr Franca said last week during a spot check on various parts of the road that stretches from Busega, through Gayaza to Bweyogerere, that they will need some more metres of land to do a fine job. Already, the Portuguese company is about to level all the swampy areas and when construction starts in different townships along the road, traffic diversions will be announced.

Ministry lists 17 firms eyeing Uganda oil. The petroleum directorate in the ministry of energy yesterday said they had received applications from 17 prospective international oil companies to participate in the next oil licensing round later this year. The energy ministry permanent secretary Kabagambe Kaliisa, in a statement, said "government will undertake the evaluation of the applications between July 1 and July 30. According to the directorate, the six blocks set to be licensed "offer opportunity to discover additional resources that will enhance the country's sustainability of oil and gas production and commercialization.

Law on minimum wage will chase away investors, says Muhakanizi. Government has said it is not interested in the proposed minimum wage bill, saying it will chase away investors and development. Workers MP Arinaitwe Rwakajara was granted permission by parliament to table a private members bill for legislation two years ago. However, Mr Rwakajara had to get a "certificate of financial implication " from the ministry of finance as commitment from government that implementation of the law would be funded.

IMF warns on elections cash. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned Uganda not to do off budget spending to finance political activities ahead of 2016 general elections. The

warning was sounded by Mr. Min Zhu, the IMF deputy managing director, after a review of Uganda's economic performance in Washington, US, recently. "the authorities are urged to maintain fiscal discipline in the pre-electoral period, by adhering to a budget that contains large infrastructure investment and higher tax collection, while keeping domestic financing at a moderate level

Bank of Uganda in emergency meeting to hike lending rates. Rising fuel prices, commodity prices, the steady increment of commercial lending rates and the shilling in free-fall are some of the factors the Bank of Uganda (BOU) will consider at a meeting brought forward from August in setting up a new benchmark lending rate. BOUs head of communications, Christine Alupo also revealed that the Monetary Policy Committee (MOC) which determines the central bank's key lending rates, would meet "to assess the current state of the economy, and respond appropriately."

Donors back Kagina on UNRA clean-up. A cross section of development partners involved in funding works and transport ministry projects have assured the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) executive director Allen Kagina of their full support to weed the body of massive corruption and incompetence. Speaking on behalf of about 11 development agencies, Mr Giorgio Ficcarelli told the gathering at Serena hotel that the new UNRA management should borrow a leaf from past management and experiences. He indicated that funding for projects that run between the next five to seven years is available but that UNRA has to also present its self has reformed institution.

Increase exports to save the shilling-Kasaija. Finance minister Matia Kasaija has called upon the business community to increase the volume of exports so as to save the shilling from depreciating further. Speaking to journalists at the ministry offices in Kampala yesterday, Kasaija attributed the fall of shilling to the general strengthening of the dollar against world currencies and a surge in private sector imports. The depreciation of the shilling is expected to affect consumer prices, especially for imported products and locally manufactured goods, whose raw materials are imported.

Museveni blames MPs for delayed road works. President Museveni has blamed the delayed construction of Kigumba-hoima Kyenjojo road on parliament, which he said has not approved money for the work. Speaking in Kyenjojo district, the president said the funds for the project were advanced by the World Bank more than a year ago but parliament has delayed the approval. However, the president said funds for the construction of the Mubende-kagadi and ndaiga roads are available. He pledged sh300m towards the roofing of Katoosa catholic parish church, of which shs40m was paid cash.

China to train Ugandans in hydropower plants repair. China and Uganda have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (M o U) that will see the former train Ugandans to repair hydropower plants. The agreement comes at a time when government is constructing several hydro-electricity plants across the country that will require more local skilled personnel to service and maintain them. The Chinese ambassador, Mr Zhao Yali, said on account of the increasing electricity supply, Uganda should plan for the long -term operation and the maintenance of large power plants such as Karuma and Isimba dams. He said the MoU is a continuation of the annual training his country extends to Ugandan employees.

Vocational skills key in fighting unemployment. Uganda should focus on vocational skills because they are critical in the fight against unemployment, trade minister Amelia Kyambadde has said, she made the remarks while presiding over a workshop on creating inclusive economic growth in Uganda at Protea hotel recently. The minister also used this occasion to remind players in the private sector that they are key job-creators since governments can only provide few jobs. She said the role of government is to create an enabling environment for business.

Police probes firm hired by roads authority. The police have opened forensic investigations into the operations of mapcon consults, a firm which handled property valuation and compensation to people affected by the building of the 92km Hoima-kaiso-tonya road. The firm was hired by the Uganda National Road Authority (UNRA) the police yesterday arrested and handcuffed the firm's director, Ronald Luberenga, on the orders of Justice Catherine Bamugemereire, the chairperson of the commission of inquiry into corruption allegations in UNRA. Bamugemereire issued the directive after Luberenga started slurring his responses to questions from the commission's assistant lead counsel, Mary Kutesa. This happened during a public hearing at the imperial royale hotel in Kampala.

African countries urged to regulate cross-border banking. African countries have been urged to enhance their capacity to regulate and effectively supervise cross-border banking to ensure a more cohesive approach to risk management and enhance financial stability. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report released recently, notes that insufficient cross-border supervision and lower regulatory standards in some frontier markets poses a big threat to cross-border banking.

Consumer protection bill to create new commission. The trade ministry has submitted the competition and consumer protection bill to cabinet for approval to kick-start the creation of Uganda's first competition commission. Uganda is one of five countries in the 19-members Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) trading bloc that are yet to set up a body to cater for consumer interest. A competition commission will level the playing field for different actors in the private sector by regulating mergers and acquisitions, prices and halting actions that harm consumer sovereignty.

Adopt urban farming to create jobs says Nambooze. Unemployment and malnutrition are two of the challenges urban dwellers in Uganda are facing. But, urban farming easily reduces such challenges. The Mukono municipality member of parliament, Betty Nambooze, believes that adopting urban farming could be a solution to unemployment. With urban farming one is assured of food production throughout the year, hence creating the assurance of food security. It supplements food requirement of urban dwellers in terms of the provision of nutritional benefits, such as minerals and vitamins.

Museveni tips women on wealth creation. Ensuring food security and enough income through cost- effective wealth creation projects will help to fight household poverty in rural areas, President Museveni has said. Museveni advised the women from Amolatar district to look at wealth creation as a sustainable campaign and to choose cost- effective enterprises such as livestock and poultry rearing , coffee and fruit production that can give them food security and income