



PRESS REVIEW

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

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THEMATIC AREAS

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

EDUCATION

Delays, heavy rain disrupt first day of Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) examinations. A heavy downpour coupled with bad roads led to late delivery of UCE examination materials to some schools across the country. But UNEB Executive Secretary attributed delays in Kampala to jam and poor roads in Buwama.

Government to build schools, health centres in Hoima. The government is set to construct schools and health centres affected by the oil refinery project in Buseruka sub-county, Hoima district. Paul Kaliba, a senior engineer from the Ministry of Health said the government has earmarked shs 3.3b for the two health centres.

Shoddy school works irk Namutumba locals. Residents of Namutumba have expressed concern over shoddy work on recently built classroom blocks in the district. The district planner, Henry Naabye, called for an investigation to establish whether this resulted from the nature of the soil in the area.

Isingiro teachers urged to use games in class. Over 1,000 teachers and volunteers in Isingiro district have trained in playful and friendly teaching methodologies. Dr. Katrin Imhof, the regional director for Rights to Play East and Southern Africa, a Non-Governmental Organisation said the new method, "reflects, connect –apply" approach to educating is widely spreading.

Pupils petition leaders over punishments. In Arua, pupils from eight schools in Arua district have petitioned district leaders to ensure that children live a violent-free life. The district

programmes coordinator for ANPPCAN, Mr. Godfrey Dramani said cases of early marriages are common in the district.

Teachers shun school houses. Several teachers have shunned living in houses constructed by government at schools, preferring to go to their homes where they can do agriculture to supplement their salary. Uwezo country director Goretti Nakabugo has asked government to work with the Teachers to find out what their pressing needs are to ensure the children who join school can read and count.

Museveni direct ministry on teachers Sacco cash. President Museveni has promised to compel education ministry officials to release the Shs 25b he donated to teachers, to be managed by their own saving scheme (Sacco). According to the Commissioner Tony Mukasa-Lusambu said the Ministry of Education, Sports and Technology have entered into an agreement with micro-finance support centre (MFSC) to manage the money on behalf of the ministry so as to streamline accountability.

Teachers desert Sango bay school. At least 10 teachers have deserted Sango bay resettlement camp learning centre in Kakuuto sub-country, Rakai district, leaving pupils stranded, Mr. Erias Byaruhanga, the chairperson Sango Bay resettlement Camp, said the Centre has 14 teaching staff, 10 of whom have never reported to the centre since the term began.

Police arrest teacher over pupil's death. Police in Luuka district are holding a primary school teacher of ST. Paul Nakabale over alleged torture of a primary seven candidate that resulted in his death. He said the head teacher will be charged with murder after a post-mortem report comes out. Mr. Agii warned teachers against being cruel to pupils.

Government wants Universal Secondary Education (USE) private partnership scrapped. Government has proposed a major policy shift affecting universal secondary education (USE), where all students under the programme will be required to enrol in government-owned schools. According to the education ministry data, 873,476 students had enrolled as of last year.

Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools performing poorly, says UNEB report. About 76.9 per cent of candidates from schools not implementing Universal Primary Education (UPE) score the best grades division one and two, compared to their counterparts in UPE schools. According to Mr. Saverio Pido, the UNEB head of research and data department, 52.6 per cent of the candidates from UPE schools obtained either division threes, four or were ungraded compared to 23.1 per cent from non-UPE schools.

Contribute to building of school structure, minister tells parents. The Minister for primary education, Dr. John Chrysostom Musingo has advised parents to contribute to the development of the school structure to create a better learning environment for their children. He was speaking in Mukono boarding primary school during the launch of a writing reading campaign in primary schools supported by Usaid, research triangle international and Uganda,

Mathematics fails students. The Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB) has blamed the poor performance in courses requiring mathematics knowledge on low grades of candidates admitted to these institutions. The State Minister of Sports, Mr. Charles Bakabulindi called upon the parents to ensure their children complete their studies when they enrol.

ENVIRONMENT

Kabaka Cautions Public over Poor Waste Management. Kabaka Ronald Mutebi has cautioned the public against Poor Waste Management in the Country, saying it could have adverse effects in future. Mayiga said Community Service is aimed at promoting Good Health and Development.

Kalangala Leaders want Government to Hand over Water Project. The District leaders of Kalangala have asked the government to expedite the process of handing over their Water Project to the Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS) Ltd for Management. The Managing Director of KIS, John Opiro, attributed the delays in expansion and Rehabilitation of the old system to Bureaucracy.

Bushenyi, Conservationists signs Agreement for best Practices. Authorities of Ishaka Municipality in Bushenyi District have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Union of Conservationists (AUC) to implement best Environmental Conservation Approaches. The AUC general Secretary, Raymond Katebaka, said increasing Earth Warming has due to Degradation of the Natural Resources, which he attributed to some peoples selfish interest.

Bududa Residents to relocate to Safer Areas. Families in Bududa Landslide prone areas have been told to relocate and stay with their relatives in lower areas to avoid Landslides that may occur due to looming El-Nino rains.

Protesters Dump Garbage in Town Offices. Kamuli town residents have dumped garbage in the Town Council Offices and Barricaded the Road leading to the premises, protesting failure by the Officials to collect waste from the Streets for nearly two months. The protesters said they made several appeals to the Authorities to sort out Garbage which had spilled from the dump sites onto the roads but that their pleas were ignored.

Government and the UN Launch Charcoal Project. Government and the United Nation high commission for Refugees (UNHCR) have launched charcoal briquette making projects in refugee camps. The head of the UNHCR, Mbarara sub-office, Mr. Alfred Mbogori, said on Wednesday, the project came about as a result of the refugees, search for firewood causing a lot of destruction to the Environment.

HEALTH

23 Districts in Uganda to get Polio jab-WHO. An additional 23 Districts, many of them in the Northern Region, are going to receive a Supplementary Polio Vaccination after the occurrence of a Polio Vaccine Immune Virus reported in South Sudan. According to Andrew Bakainaga, the World Health Organisation Country adviser, South Sudan is circulating a Vaccine derived Virus for Polio and to counteract its effects in Uganda, especially those in the Northern Region where the Immunisation Programme will be carried out.

60% of Ugandans don't wash hands after visiting the toilet. Washing hands with Soap, in Uganda, has registered a slight improvement from 14% to 33% in rural areas, over the past eight years. According to the Commissioner of Rural Water in the Ministry of Water and Environment, Eng. Joseph Eyatu, the improvement is due to the various interventions by the Government and civil society Organisations.

Breast Cancer Cases on the rise as Uganda Marks World Cancer Month. The trend of Breast Cancer affecting females is on the rise as Uganda joins the rest of the World to Commemorate the Breast Cancer Month established in 1985 by the American Cancer Society. According to Prof. Henry Wabinga, the Kampala Cancer Registry Manager, an Institution that monitors and regulates Cancer Treatment Programmes in the country, said the annual rise in the Breast Cancer incidences currently stands at six per cent.

Kisoro gets Maternity Kits. Action for Development, a Non-Governmental Organisation, has donated Health equipment worth shs 40 million to five Health centres in Kisoro District to promote safe Motherhood. The NGO Executive Director, Ms. Regina Bafaki, handed over the equipment to the Kisoro leaders.

Government and three Doctors at Mulago National Referral Hospital have been fined with shs38.5m for neglecting a woman in labour for more than 24 hours resulting in her having a still Birth. Court ruled on Monday that Ms. Kate Namakula was deprived of the joy of having a baby when she was not attended to for nearly two days.

Uganda Drugs Stolen, Sold in DRC. The State House Health Monitoring Unit Team has said Government Medicines are being sold in DRC by Health workers in Kasese District. They gave the report to Kasese District stakeholders and Health officials at Kasese multipurpose hall.

Number of Cervical cancer victims overwhelms Masaka Hospital. The reality throughout Uganda is that Cancer cases have become a common Health challenge many people have to worry about. Dr. Herbert Kalema, a senior Gynaecologist at the Masaka Regional Hospital, who has attended to cervical Cancer Patients for more than a decade, says all sexually active Women in their Reproductive Age are potential Victims of the Disease.

Mental Illness on the rise among UPF Soldiers. Mental Illness has been singled out as a major Health Threat in the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF), Dr. James Makumbi the Chief of Medical Services in the Army has said. According to the world Health Organisation 2008, one in four people will be affected by Mental illness and it is the largest cause of Disability.

Government should Increase Funding for Healthcare, says Minister. Health Minister Elioda Tumwesigye has said government expenditure on basic healthcare for each Ugandan should be increased to shs 47, 000. Dr Henry Mwebasa, the Acting Director of Health Services, planning and development at the Health Ministry, said there is need to bridge the huge financing gap in the Health Sector to improve service delivery.

Mothers insist on taking their Placentas home. Placentas are a residue after Childbirth and therefore should be discarded off but, due to Cultural beliefs, some mothers are choosing to take their Placentas home after giving birth. At Kawolo Hospital, the Midwifery, Sr. Betty Nalumansi, says some mothers insist on fulfilling the Tradition.

Girls get shs1 10b for ARVs. The US Government has given \$31m to improve access to life-saving ARVs and HIV Counselling and Testing Services among Young Women Aged 15 to 24 in selected 10 Uganda Districts. Jackie Calnan, the HIV/AIDs Programme Management Specialist at the US mission in Kampala, said that the grant will enable more Adolescents and Young Women Living with HIV in 10 Districts to access ARVs and live longer and Healthier Lives.

89 Hospitalised as Cholera Spreads. The outbreak of Cholera in Hoima District has spread to Buseruka sub-county. The Epidemic, which was first confirmed in Kabwooya Sub-county, has hit Communities on the shores of Lake Albert. The District Disease surveillance Officer, Mr Fred Kugonza, said that the Epidemic has so far claimed six lives and 89 are hospitalised.

Midwives Urged to be Professional. The State Minister for Health Dr. Chris Baryomunsi has asked Midwives to execute their Duties Professionally to more Women who deliver in Health facilities. According to Baryomunsi, rudeness by Midwives, especially in rural areas, Forces Women to shun Health Facilities, results into the high Maternal Death.

Gulu District best in Health Delivery. The Ministry of Health has Ranked Gulu District local Government as the best in Health Care Service Delivery in the financial year. The Gulu Chairman, Martin Ojara Mapenduzi, while handing over the award to Chief Administrative Officer, Dorothy Ajwang, said every year the government conduct an annual performance assessment how service is delivered in each District.

Private Clinics to Treat Malaria after Test-Ministry. Patients seeking Malaria Treatment from Private facilities will now be tested using the rapid Diagnostic tests (MRDTs) before being treated. According to the country Manager, Malaria Consortium, Dr. Godfrey Magumba, people have been accessing and taking Anti-malaria drugs even when they are negative due to lack of a confirmatory test.

New Malaria policy offing. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, the Health Minister has said Uganda needs to adopt mass drugs Administration Strategy of Antimalarial Medication to reduce Malaria in the country. Tumwesigye was speaking at the UNITAID private Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RTD) project Dissemination meeting held at Hotel African in Kampala.

Cholera, Typhoid to Hit 32 Districts. A series of Diseases such as Cholera, Bilharzia and Typhoid are expected to break out in at least 32 districts during the EL NINO seasons between now and February 2016, the Ministry of Health has warned. The incidence of infectious and Non-communicable Diseases such as malaria, cholera, asthma, typhoid, bilharzia, dysentery and acute respiratory infections will be high. Said Dr. Asuman Lukwago, the Permanent Secretary for the Health Ministry, in a statement.

ECONOMY

Government Seeks Investors for Kampala-Jinja Expressway. The government is seeking investors to build the Kampala-Jinja Expressway. The Project forms part of the Northern Corridor Integration Projects executed by the East African Community (EAC) Partner's States to improve connectivity by Roads. Gregoire Nicolle, the Deputy Manager for International Development at Frances Eiffage, said the project might be a benchmark for other big Road Projects in Uganda and East Africa.

Inflation now at 7.2%, tough times ahead. Ugandans should brace for higher Inflationary pressures and commodity prices as the country near the 2016 General Elections, experts have warned. Alpha Capital Managing Director Stephen Kaboyo also alluded to the volatility in the forex market.

Free Rural Power Connections on. Sixty Thousand Rural households are to be connected onto the Electricity National Grid in the countryside by December, according to the energy State Minister, Simon DU Janga. UMEME manager for projects, Adam Wamala, explained that customers will be required to pay sh41, 000 for inspection and sh98, 000 as capital construction for Extension of Power to their houses.

Government urged on EAC-US trade. Job creation and transfer of Technology must be part of the outcome of the negotiation between the East African Cooperation countries and the US, an analyst has cautioned. According to Mr. Francis Mangeni, a trade analyst and the Director of Trade Customers and monetary affairs at COMESA, the five EAC members states among them Uganda, must ensure that the agreement has a provision that regulates the entry of Investors into the country.

War victims get self- sustaining skills. Dow Chemicals Company, the official's Chemistry Company of the Olympic Games has launched a Collaborative Support Project with communities in northern Uganda that will include supporting the Youth Vocational Training Centres. Dow company representative for Sub-Saharan Africa, Ross Maclean said the Olympic stadium wrap that was used to put up a pavilion at the institute's sports grounds was an example of his company 'unique technology innovation to this dynamic part of the world.

World Food Program trains Teso to be self-reliant in food. The World Food Programme (WFP) has started an initiative of Empowering Communities in Teso region to start growing food in order to feed themselves, instead of depending on relief aid. Michael Dun ford, the acting country director of the United Nations world food programme, said the organisation will achieve this through agriculture.

Implementation is the litmus Test for new Global Anti-Poverty Agenda. Moving from talk to action is the biggest challenge facing countries following the recent adoption of the United Nations 2030 agenda of wiping out poverty, fighting inequality and tackling climate change. They include poor women in rural areas and other vulnerable and marginalised groups. But UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon is resolute about the agenda a head saying that the MDGs made poverty history for hundreds of millions of people and that the world was poised to continue the job while reaching higher, broader and deeper.

President Museveni outlines jobs, wealth creation plan for the youth. President Yoweri Museveni has proposed eight ways through which the Government will tackle Youth Unemployment in the country, which he says, is the most pressing problem facing the Youth. Career Guidance, Expansion of Science Education, giving soft Loans to boost small Youth initiated small enterprises, venturing into business process outsourcing projects and joining the army, prisons and police services are the other alternatives that the president believes will help create jobs for the youth.

Manufacturers want Power Tariffs reduced. Manufacturers want government to do something about the cost of power because it accounts for the highest cost of production. According to Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) Chairman Amos Nzeyi, government should consider subsidising the cost of electricity as it is the case in several countries, including India whose product are flooding the Ugandan market.

Construction of Oil Refinery land settlements starts. Construction of houses for families displaced by the proposed oil Refinery and opted for Resettlement in Hoima District has kicked off. Francis Elungat, a lands Officer in the Energy Ministry who led the delegation, said 46 modern houses will be constructed on the land which will be also have space for farming.

Government set to build Isimba Dam Museum. Government will construct a Museum to house the Biodiversity being displaced by the Isimba Hydro Power Project on River Nile, Ms. Caroline Aguti Mugisha, an official from the Ministry of Energy that is overseeing the Dams Construction; said construction of the Museum will start in the next financial year.

Invest more in women for growth- UN official. Organisations should invest more in mentoring women for top leadership position, says a senior United Nations official in Uganda. Speaking at the fourth annual women leadership conference last week in Kampala, the United Nations development programme resident representative in Uganda, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, said women are good at reforming and transforming organisations.

Shs. 7 trillion to be injected into Biomass Energy Project. Government has applauded a move by Chinese Company willing to inject \$2 billion (shs7.2 trillion) in the Development of Biomass Energy across the country. According to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development Biomass Energy Strategy, 2013, the country main challenge is not insufficient supply of Biomass but rather the Technology to utilise the diverse forms of Biomass.

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Pope Defends Marriage. Pope Francis defended Marriages and Heterosexual couples as he opened a Synod on the family overshadowed by a challenge to Vatican Orthodoxy by a gay Priest. He referred to Genesis, the first book of the Bible, as bedrock for understanding human relationships.

Hoima backs Namugongo Project. Catholic from Hoima Diocese living in Kampala has rallied behind a charity walk aimed at raising funds for the redevelopment of Namugongo and Munyonyo Martyrs Shrines. The Co-ordinator of the event, Boniface Barongo, said he had so far sold 150 tickets.

Church, UN join hands to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The Church of Uganda has joined the people of Sebei and the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) to fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Archbishop Stanley Ntagali, together with the UNFPA country Representative, Esperance Fundira, and Reproductive Health Uganda's Director Jackson Chekweko, have denounced the practice.

Government offers shs18b to Rescue Namugongo Shrine Works. President Museveni has ordered for urgent release of shs18b to fast track reconstruction of Namugongo Martyrs shrine where Pope Francis is scheduled to celebrate mass when he visits next month. The Catholic Church in turn would sign a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Works and from whose budget the shs18b is being slashed.

Kinkizi Bishops Condemn Police Brutality. Kinkizi Diocese Bishop has condemned acts of brutality inflicted on opposition FDC presidential flag bearer Kizza Besigye and his supporters. The state minister for health, Dr. Chris Baryomunisi, and Knungu resident district commissioner Harriet Nakamya, said government institutions, including police, are striving to respect human rights.

Pope Francis to Teachers, the poor and Muslims. Pope Francis will meet Slum Dwellers and refugees and call for dialogue between Christian and Muslims when he visits Uganda, Kenya and central republic next month, the Vatican said on Saturday. According to the programme released on Saturday, for Popes Apostolic Voyage, the five-day visit will include going to a poor neighbourhood in Nairobi, Kenya, and to the Anglican and Catholic Martyr's Shrine in Namugongo, Uganda.

Christians Urged not to buy Votes. As we move closer to next year's Elections, Christians have been urged to contribute towards building the house, rather than buying votes. The parish priest of St. Thomas church of Uganda, Kiwanga in Mukono, Rev. Isaac Luzinda, said many Christians contribute massively towards Church Projects, they do not react vigorously

YOUTH

Hundreds of youth fail UPDF recruitment test. Hundreds of applicants were rejected in the on-going UPDF recruitment exercise mainly due to ill health and poor hygiene. Maj Kicono Tabaro, the UPDF air force spokesperson. Also a member of the recruitment committee said they were overwhelmed by the number of applicants.

300 Muslim youth get entrepreneurship skills. Three hundred Muslim youth have been trained in leadership, entrepreneurship and vocational skills. The country entrepreneurship development agency (CEDA) president, Rehemah Kasule, said the training will deter Muslim youth from joining terrorism groups like Al-Shabaab in search for money.

Government to appeal on workers, youth and army MPs. The government has filed a notice of intention to appeal against the constitutional court ruling on special interest groups in parliament. This is the first step towards its efforts to keep the representatives of the UPDF, the youth, workers and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the house.

Livelihood programme youth beneficiaries face arrest over funds. Tororo district Resident District Commissioner (RDC) has instructed police to arrest youth who have misappropriated youth livelihood funds. District chairman Emmanuel Osuna said the youth connived with youth leaders in the district to misappropriate the funds because they are supporters of president Museveni.