



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

Shortage of lecturers paralyzes Makerere programmes. Hundreds of students who had applied for master's degree at Makerere University are stranded after the university failed to raise the required number of lecturers. Dr. Suzie Nansozi Muwanga the head of political science and public administration department told New Vision most lecturers had retired, gone for fellowships abroad while some left for green pastures. She said "There was no point in admitting students to programmes that lacked lecturers."

'Don't send hungry children to school'. The Mpigi district education officer, has cautioned parents against sending their children to school on an empty stomach saying it affects their performance "Children cannot concentrate in class if they have nothing to eat for lunch".

Wakiso district to introduce fees for UPE. Wakiso district is drafting an education ordinance to enable parents to supplement on the sh1700 per pupil capitation grant provided by the government "You never know the parents'suppliment might become a national policy because these are our children yet we want teachers to do miracles out of the blue which practically is impossible" said Matia Lwanga Bwanika the Wakiso LC 5 Chairman.

Over 1,300 students get government loans. A total of 1,276 students have been awarded government loans to finance study at selected universities and other tertiary institutions under the second round of the students' loan scheme. Education minister Jessica Alupo unveiled the list of beneficiaries for the academic year 2015/2016 during the press briefing held at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala.

All schools must install lightening conductors/arrestors. The Ministry of Education, Technology, Science and Sports (MoETSS) together with district local government should jointly scale up a mandatory routine exercise in monitoring and carrying out strict surveillance on quality standards of all schools; teachers should ensure pupils are sensitized about protective measures and school administrators should ensure schools are built to required standards.

Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) to change primary leaving exams format. The government is working on a document that will see the current Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) assessment changed to profiling candidate's achievement throughout their seven year cycle. Mr Mathew Bukenya, the Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB) Executive Secretary told *Daily Monitor* that more than a half of what is taught at primary level is not examined, which discourages both teachers and learners.

80% of school children are sexually abused-report. According to a new report by the education ministry out of 8,772,655 pupils in primary schools; over 6.7 million have been sexually harassed. At secondary school level the percentage rises to almost 82% where eight out of every 10 children being abused. The study was conducted by Winsor Consult LTD and commissioned by the Uganda ministry of education and sport.

Makerere sticks to new policies on sex, alcohol. According to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Ddumba the aim of the new policies is to restore sanity at the institution so as to nurture good leaders, "How do you expect me to revise policies on alcohol? Are we teaching drunkards or future leaders? What we need is to have students who will turn out to be important people in the country" Prof Ddumba said.

Govt to increase pay of Karamoja teachers. Government is considering increasing salaries of all teachers in government aided schools in arid, hard-to-reach, Karamoja sub-region. This was announced by the state minister of Primary Education. Dr. John Chrysostom Musingo, while commissioning various school projects in Napak district.

Ugandan teacher named on UN education board. A Ugandan teacher has been appointed to a 20-member International Commission on Financing Global Education. Teopista Birungi Mayanja, also Founder of the Uganda National Teachers Union, will join a diverse group of individuals to pursue the commission's focus to mobilize \$40b (about shs1484 trillions) per year so that all children in low and middle-income countries have equal opportunity through secondary education.

ENVIRONMENT

El Nino rains expected this month-govt. Government announced that heavy rains accompanied by disasters such as floods and landslides are expected to hit the country soon. The minister of water and environment, Prof Ephraim Kamuntu, asked Ugandans to prepare for El Nino effects between mid-September and December. Mr Paul Isabirye, the acting managing director of the Uganda Meteorological Authority, said El Nino event comes when the waters of the pacific become extremely warm and influence weather patterns across the world.

3000 evicted from national Game Park. Uganda wildlife authority together with security personal have evicted more than 3,000 residents who had early this month settled on queen Elizabeth national park in Kasese district.

13 boreholes to close over contamination. Nebbi district authorities are set to close 13 boreholes in Nebbi town council that were founded with contaminated water. The district water engineer, Mr Andrew Okecha, said a quality analysis carried out by the district water department in the past three months indicates that the boreholes were contaminated by feaces from nearer pit-latrines.

UNRA to erect weighbridges on Tororo road to prevent damage. Uganda National Roads Authority is set to erect a weighbridge near Tororo cement factory to minimize the damage trucks are causing to the roads, the agency executive director, has said. Ms Allen Kagina said government is losing a lot of money in repairing the Tororo-Mbale road that connects south Sudan to Mombasa port.

Government renews pledge to cancel land titles in wetlands. The commissioner in charge of wetlands in the ministry of water and environment has reiterated government plan to cancel all land titles in wetlands. Mr Collins Oloya also warned all those carrying out activities in wetlands without clearance to stop with immediate effect or else they face the law.

UWA accused of grabbing land. People claiming to have been forced off their land by Uganda Wild life Authority (UWA) around Mt Elgon national park area have asked government to trash the 2002 boundaries and make fresh ones after consulting them. The Mt Elgon conservation area manager said government does not consider giving out land belonging to the park.

Karamoja gets shs48b to combat drought. The Karamoja sub-region has been given euros 12m about 48b by Germany and the Inter-Governmental Authority on development (IGAD) to combat drought in the region. During the dinner at the Germany ambassador's residence in Kololo, the deputy head of mission at the German embassy, said the funds are aimed at ending drought emergencies in the horn of Africa.

China to boost bamboo growing in Uganda. The government and china signed an agreement to boost bamboo tree growing as a means of regenerating the reclaimed wetlands and conserving delicate ecosystems. State minster for environment Flavia Munaba said both parties have agreed to cooperate in the fields of forestry, ecological conservation, technology transfer, research and information sharing.

UWA gives crocodile survivors shs10m. The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has given survivors of crocodile attacks in Mayuge district shs10m to help them start income

generating activities. However, the chairperson of the Beach management unit Mr Johnson Kiiza expressed worry over the increasing number of crocodiles in the area and called on government to intervene by creating alternative water sources for the residents.

Environmentalists call for tough laws to protect Lake Victoria. In Jinja, environmentalists under the Environmental Conservation Effort, a non-governmental organization, have called on government to institute tough laws in order to protect Lake Victoria from pollution. The NGO director, Mr John Baptist Lusaka, told journalists at Masese fish landing Site in Jinja district, that the Lake Victoria water is turning green, signifying severe pollution.

Forest evictees storm court. Hundreds of people who were in 1992 evicted from a forest reserved in Kibale district camped at the civil division of the high court in Kampala, protecting delay payment of their shs12 billion compensation award. Ms Josephine Kiyingi, who represented the Attorney General, told court the office was aware of the obligation but was perusing through documents to clear the anomalies.

Elgon region gets sh6.5b for climate change programmes. Selected districts within the Elgon region have received funding of sh6.5b from the German government to help address the challenges of climate change affecting the farmers. The funding under the project Eco-system Based Adaptation (EBA), will also facilitate construction of climate change adaptation learning centers in Sironko, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa and Kween districts.

Heavy rains expected as planting season starts. After bracing a two month dry spell, meteorologists have predicted that farmers will have a lot of rain in the next planting season. Experts, however warn that El Nino conditions, which had already been announced in some parts of the country will persist during the September-December period and in the early months of 2016. Khalid the UNMA spokesperson advised that with expected heavy rains, farmers have to dig ditches or farrows to enable drainage of excess water from their gardens.

Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) launches tourism expo. A total of 200 tourism exhibitors are set to showcase Uganda's beauty at the annual Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo scheduled for November 17 to 20 at Kampala Serena Hotel "it's a unique opportunity for tourism business operators to meet new client, network, market and discuss business" James Tumusiime, the Uganda Tourism Board Chair, told a press conference in Kampala.

Don't trade forests for votes-civil society. Civil Society Organizations have demanded that political parties should include conservation of forests and the environment on their manifestos. Speaking at press conference, Gladys Nagawa, the Care International government specialist on forest programmes said, some politicians promise to give the land in the forest to local people in exchange for votes, laws and policies exists to conserve the forest, but promises by politicians or demands by some of the citizens weakens the protection of the forests.

HEALTH

More rural women deliver at health facilities-report. An assessment of maternal healthcare in north and north eastern Uganda has indicated a slight increase in the number of rural women giving birth at health facilities. Alfred Avuni, a senior researcher at JPIIJPC, while presenting the findings in Nsambya, said access to maternal healthcare for the poorest and vulnerable in the region is still a challenge.

Mpigi residents given ultimatum on toilets. Leaders in Mpigi district have decried the increasing number of households that share shelter with animals; something they say may expose them to animal transmitted diseases. The health official was speaking at the closure of the district sanitation week recently at Nakirebe play ground in Kiringente sub-county.

Uganda to benefit from sh1 trillion HIV fund. Uganda is one of 10 Sub-Saharan African countries that will benefit from a \$300m (sh1.08 trillion) grant to fight HIV announced by the US government. Dr Asuman Lukwago, the health ministry's permanent secretary, said Uganda had submitted requests to the US government for the grant.

Masaka HIV patient numbers soar by 170 in less than 12 months. The number of HIV/Aids patients looking for treatment at Bukeeri health centre III in Buwunga sub-county in Masaka district has increased by 170 in less than a year. Ms Beatrice Nabitiri, the chairperson Masaka HIV/Aids consortium, said the facilities available at Bukeeri health centre were meant for fewer HIV/Aids patients, but the number has since doubled, compromising the quality of services provided

Aronda was stopped from visiting hospital. Senior government officials familiar with internal affairs minister Aronda Nyakairimas last days revealed that a protocol officer stopped the minister from checking into a hospital when he became unwell in South Korea, and instead gave him privately-procured drugs. According to a post-mortem that government pathologists conducted at Mulago national referral hospital, and a report Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda read out in parliament last Thursday.

Psychiatrists demand increased funding for mental health. Psychiatrists have asked government to increase the budget for persons suffering from mental illnesses. Dr Margret Mungherera, a mental health consultant in Uganda, noted that enough resources should be allocated to the ministry of gender and social development in order to hire counselors who should attend to mentally ill persons.

Govt releases sh7b for hepatitis B vaccines. The government has released sh7.5b for the importation of Hepatitis B vaccines for the scheduled immunization programme to be conducted in 30 districts this year. Dr. Jacinto Amandua, the commissioner for clinical services at the health ministry, said another sh2b has been allocated for reagents and testing kits.

Mulago hospital cancer machine lies idle. Mulago National Referral hospital is on the spot over the delayed installation of a radiotherapy machine that was purchased two years ago even as cancer patients continue to suffer due to the inefficiency of an aged machine. According to Dr Jackson Orem, the director of the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI), the machine was purchased by Mulago hospital administration at the cost of about euros 350,000 (about shs1.4b) before the radiotherapy department was transferred to the cancer institute.

Kalisizo hospital gets first ambulance in 13 years. Kalisizo hospital has received its first ambulance in 13 years; kyotera county MP Haruna Kyeyune said the need for an ambulance has been a public outcry in Kalisizo. The ministry health permanent secretary, Asuman Lukwago, said the ambulance will not only save lives, but also help to improve health service delivery in Rakai district.

35% of Namutumba children stunted-report. Thirty five per cent of the children under the age of five in Namutumba district are stunted as a result of severe malnutrition. The district health officer, Dr James Kirya, said the findings of an integrated research in Namutumba, Bulange, Namutumba sub-counties and Namutumba town council last year show that the cases of malnutrition are a result of refusal by mothers to breastfeed their children.

ECONOMY

Govt to invest more in hydro power to reduce green emissions. As part of the measures to reduce greenhouse emissions, the government intends to increase the accessibility of hydropower and other renewable energies. The principal climate officer at the ministry of water and environment said the government realized that increased access by communities to renewable energies like hydro power and others countrywide will reduce on the problem.

Focus on children to attain new SDGs, says Badagawa. Uganda has partly failed on millennium development goals (MDGs) because we do not give enough attention to children who are the future of our country, private sector foundation Uganda (PSFU) executive director Gideon Badagawa, has said while speaking at the launch of the public private partnership

New tobacco law comes into force. The new anti-tobacco law has come into force after President Museveni assented to it. The World Health Organization (WHO) says tobacco smoking causes cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, heart diseases, lung cancer which kills six million people globally a year.

UEGCL raps Isimba contractor over jobs. Power sector players are pushing for more skilled Ugandan labour, especially engineers to be employed by the Isimba Hydropower project. Jiang Shouguo, the project manager, said most of the Ugandans in the local districts of Kayunga and Kamuli are unskilled to do the engineering work on the project

UNRA board sacks all staff. The Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) announced that it had sacked its entire staff, the climax of the massive restructuring that commenced when Ms Allen Kagina was appointed executive director of the agency.

EAC trade imbalance worries stakeholders. Despite opening up borders to free the flow of goods and services among east African partner's states, the growing trade imbalance among the countries continues to worry stakeholders. The Prime Minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, also recently expressed discomfort at the low value of Uganda's unprocessed exports. 'Over 80% of agricultural exports are in raw or semi-processed form

Govt earmarks shs130b to fight rural poverty. In Mbale, government has secured \$36 m (about shs132b) to fund saving and credit cooperative organizations (Sacco's) to fight poverty in rural areas. MS Caroline Akao, the minister of state for microfinance, said the money will fund a seven-year project code named 'project for finance in rural areas' (PROFIRA) under the theme 'promoting financial inclusion in rural areas.

NSSF goes mobile over savings. Savers can now access their NSSF accounts over their mobile phones after the fund launched the NSSF GO, a mobile platform app that makes it convenient for the public in case they need to know about their saving. NSSF managing director Richard Byarugaba said that the fund would continue to innovate and offer convenient, customized solutions to its members. Byarugaba added that the NSSF Go channels would also help improve compliance levels by enabling the funds members to easily validate whether their employers are remitting their social security contributions in time.

Museveni launches Bulima-Kabwoya road construction. President Museveni has launched the construction of the 66km Bulima-Kabwoya roads a section of Kigumba-Kyenjojo road,

which will connect western to northern Uganda. The minister of works and transport, Mr John Byabagambi, said once completed, the Kigumba-kyenjojo road will boost tourism in the country since it will connect several national parks, including Lake Mbuho and Queen Elizabeth national park.

MTN launches mobile money transfer with Rwanda. MTN mobile money customers in Uganda can now receive money from their counterparts in Rwanda, following the launch of the cross-border mobile money transfer service. MTN Uganda senior manager of corporate affairs, Justine Ntabgoba, said the telecom is still awaiting approval from Bank of Uganda (BoU) to allow Uganda users send money to MTN Rwanda using the MTN Uganda mobile money platform.

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Muslims urged to engage in politics. There was heavy deployment of security at different mosques as Muslims celebrated iddi Adhuha. At Gadhafi national mosque, old Kampala, the headquarters of the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, security was tight, with police officers patrolling the area. The titular head of Muslims in Uganda, Prince Kassim Nakibinge, said Muslims should vote wisely and take keen interest in politics

Good leaders don't bribe voters-Ntagali. Church of Uganda archbishop Stanley Ntagali has told citizens aspiring for political office in the fourth coming general election to desist from bribery; he said such politicians forget that leadership is not bought but a calling from God.

Key issues pope is expected to raise during his Uganda visit. Pope Francis is to visit Uganda in November and a priest from the diocese of Kasese expressed confidence that he would bring healing, comfort and joy to a country whose national anthem proclaims that 'Uganda is the land of freedom...' pope Francis is scheduled to meet president Museveni and celebrate an open-air mass at Namugongo martyrs shrine, which is expected to draw several thousands. Rather than politicians, the pope is expected to meet the sick, the suffering, the youth, priests and his brother bishops.

Church to punish partisan clergy. The Archbishop of the church of Uganda, Stanley Ntagali, has said the church leadership will take disciplinary measures against the clergy who have openly taken sides in politics ahead of the 2016 elections. Ntagali also warned political aspirant against smear campaigns, but urged them to present and focus on their manifestos.

Museveni launches elder's forum. President Yoweri Museveni has launched The Elders Forum Uganda (TEFU) as a platform to promote unity and consensus building through dialogue. The president noted that the country's problem have been fanned by bad methods of work. The president said he had observed that many people in Africa concentrate on identity with bias of tribe at the expense of national interest.

Cardinal Wamala prays for VP Ssekandi. His eminence Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala has conducted special prayers for the vice-president (VP), Edward Ssekandi, to retain the Bukoto Central parliamentary seat in the 2016 elections. Ssekandi commended Musubires family for establishing the Ebenezer devotional centre, saying it is an international spiritual facility which should be embraced by the Christian community in Masaka and elsewhere.

Church seeks sh1.4b to complete museum. The church of Uganda is seeking sh1.4b to complete construction of the martyr's museum in Namugongo. The retired archbishop of the church of Uganda, Livingstone Mpalanyi Nkoyoyo, said the money is for purchasing construction materials. Once complete, the museum will be the seventh in the country. The biggest museum is the Uganda museum in Kampala built in 1908.

Church owns martyrs shrine land, court rules. The Kampala archdiocese won a case in which a member of Buganda royal family had sued it seeking declaratory orders that the land where the Uganda martyrs shrines is being built in munyonyo belongs to him. Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo of the high court said the church acquired the land in question through honest means as bona fide purchaser.

Saudi Arabia cuts number of Uganda pilgrims to mecca. The Saudi Arabia government cut the number of Ugandans going for the holy pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina to 750 slots. Sheikh Ahmed Lubega, a member on the Uganda Bureau of Hajj Association (UBHA), said as a result, at least more than 250 Ugandans will miss this year's pilgrimage.

Museveni goes to Bukalango for blessings. President Museveni attended prayers at mount Sion Bukalango-Kakiri, a popular catholic prayer centre where he was anointed head of the 2016 general elections. The president handed over an envelope to the centre director, Msgr Expedito who said an earlier donation of shs100m was used to buy more land for expansion.

Pope invites Odama, Zziwa for Vatican meet. The pope has invited two senior Catholic Church clerics in Uganda, alongside 277 colleagues from around the world, to discuss the role of the family in advancing the church's mission. Gulu diocese archbishop John Baptist Odama, the head of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, and his deputy, Kiyinda-Mityana diocese bishop Joseph Anthony Zziwa, will represent the country at a three week synod, which will run from October 4 to 25 in the Vatican.

Catholic Church unveils theme for pope's visit. The catholic church leadership in Uganda said they had chosen, ' ' you will be my witness,' picked from Acts of the Apostles 1:8 as the theme for Pope Francis November visit. The Uganda Episcopal conference said catholic bishops in the country agreed on the theme and official purpose of the pontiff's trip during a September 17, 2015 synod at St. Augustine institute in Nsambya, a Kampala suburb.

YOUTH

Youth advised to form bee groups. Youth should form groups to market hive products because the long term observation is that the industry is getting organized," said Taina Haidara, the country director, Swiss contact Uganda during the youth forum which was held in Kampala, organized by Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (TUNADO)

Vision Group launches Pakasa Youth Awards competition. Vision Group has launched Pakasa Youth Awards, where 10 young entrepreneurs will win an all-expenses paid tour of South Korea's leading technology companies. They will also share over sh60m in prize money to boost their businesses. The project is being undertaken in partnership with the Republic of Korea, The Korea International Co-operation Agency (KOICA) and Ruparelia Foundation.

Church organizes youth conference for pope's visit The Kampala Archdiocese with the Catholic Church in Uganda organized a symposium for the youth ahead of Pope Francis 'visit. According to the Archbishop of Kampala, Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, the youth conference will be held at Yes Centre Nsambya on September 26, under the theme "Let us fight against modern slavery and climate change".

Youth make automatic hand-wash machine. A group of Uganda youth has developed a hand wash system that automatically releases not only water but also soap when you position your hand below the tap. The idea was conceived earlier this year by a small group of University students led by an information technology student, Maurice Mugisha

Court scraps workers; army and youth parliament seats. The constitutional court yesterday nullified the seats of MPs representing workers, army and youth in parliament. This ruling follows a series of petitions filed in 2010 in which different citizens petitioned the court challenging the process under which MPs for special interest groups in parliament are elected under the Parliamentary Election Act.

NRM youth, old guard discuss party succession. The ruling party, National Resistance Movement (NRM), organized an inter-generational dialogue where the young turks asked the party to reach out to the youth other than projecting an image of party for the old guard. "Leadership (even in the NRM) must have a careful programme of succession. Human problems cannot be solved by one generation, but successive generations that follow."