



PRESS REVIEW

John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre

"Faith Doing Justice"

EDITION 10 APRIL 2016

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THEMATIC AREAS

- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Economy
- Religion and Society
- Politics
- Christian Reflection

EDUCATION

New (UNEB) Uganda National Examination Board Secretary started work. The Uganda National Examination Board outgoing Executive secretary, Mr Mathew Bukenya has handed over office to his Successor, Mr Daniel Nokrach Odongo, for a five-year contractual term.

City Schools lack toilets. More than half of the schools in Kampala don't meet the recommended pupil-toilet stance ratio as recommended by the Ministry of Education, the Kampala Capital City Authority Executive Director has said.

Teachers voice concern over PLE registration. Primary School Head Teachers in Kamuli have voiced concerns regarding the electronic registration of candidates for the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) in the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE).

Makerere gives Students two weeks to pay tuition. Makerere University students have been given two weeks to clear all tuition or cease being students of the institution, announced by management

Government increases Special needs education budget. The budget for special needs Education (SNE) has been increased from shs1b in the 2015/16 financial year to sh1.4b, an increment of 34.4% in 2016/2017.

Kabaka urges parents to support UPE. Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II has urged parents in Buganda and other parts of the Country to support the governments Universal Education system so as to improve the quality of education in the Country.

Makerere, Kyambogo face eviction. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Dr. Rose Nasaali, has sounded the alarm that several government education institutions are under threat of evictions.

Police warns Public, Schools on Floods. The Director of Police Fire Prevention and Rescue Services has warned people living in low-lying areas to watch out for floods as heavy rain intensifies.

Govt suspends revised Secondary School Curriculum. The Government has suspended implementation of the revised lower secondary school curriculum, saying the majority of the stakeholders have not understood the changes.

Rwenzori Clashes: 6 schools still closed. Six schools in Bundibugyo district have remained closed after teachers and pupils failed to return to school and resume normal studies following the February post-election clashes in the area.

Govt threatens to fire Head teachers over absenteeism. The Ministry of Education Permanent Secretary, Ms Rose Nasaali, has warned head teachers that government will terminate their contracts if they fail to curb teacher absenteeism.

ENVIRONMENT

Heavy Rain Displaces 100. More than 100 people in Buhweju district have been displaced by heavy rains that destroyed their homes and property on Easter Sunday. The Resident District Commissioner, Mr Emmy Turyabagenyi Kateera, promised residents immediate help from the Operation Wealth Creation Programme as government seeks more long term measures.

Hailstorm razes houses, crops. Heavy Unseasonal rain accompanied by gusty winds and hailstorm tore off-roofs and brought down heavy trees, leaving dozens of residents of Ikiki Sub-County in Budaka district homeless.

Poor staffing weakening fight against Wetlands trespass-NEMA. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has blamed its inability to keep encroachers off the country's natural resources on an irresponsible public. The Agency's Executive Director, Dr Tom Okurut, said he has less than 50 technical officers and a majority of districts have one environment officer instead of the recommended nine

Rising Lake victoria water levels affect transport. The rising water levels on Lake victoria have submerged docks affecting the ferry that plies the Kampala-Masaka route. Mr Meddie Kayondo, the spokesperson of Kalangala infrastructure Services, a company that manages the two ferries (Pearl and Ssesse), said the increasing water levels are threat but travellers need to be careful as they board and disembark

France, European Union gives sh8.1b for Rwenzori Park Conservation. France and the European Union have given sh8.1b to help conserve the Rwenzori Mountains in Western Uganda.

Gulu water crisis blamed on poor conservation. The Minister of Water and Environment Ephraim Kamuntu has said the recent prolonged drought that resulted in a severe water shortage in Gulu district, was partly a result of poor environmental conservation.

National water blamed over water crisis. National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NW&SC) was last week put to task to explain why Gulu town recently experienced a water shortage without alternative means. Paul Isabirye, the UNMA Director of Network and Observation, said NW&SC ignored the weather forecast and this affected advance preparation

Floods hit Kasese District again. Following torrential rains pounding the Rwenzori Mountains, fresh floods have started hitting Kasese district, destroying roads, bridges, classrooms and farms in various parts of the district.

First Lady lobbies for extension of Climate Change programme. The first lady and Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Mrs Janet Museveni, has lauded the Germany International Co-operation (GIZ) for their programmes in Karamoja and requested them to consider the extension of the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Programme in the region.

Rain cuts off Mubende. Several roads in Mubende district have become impassable as rain pounds the area leaving farmers in the seven Sub-counties stranded. Mr Francis Kibuuka Amooti, the Mubende district Chairperson, said they are trying to fix the now impassable roads but constrained.

HEALTH

First lady hails UN support in fight against HIV/AIDS. The first lady and Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Janet Museveni, has commended the UN agencies and all other partners in the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (EMTCT) campaign. According to UNAIDS Country Director, following these campaigns in the Country, there has been a 69% reduction of HIV Transmission from Mothers to babies during Pregnancy or Childbirth and an over 92% coverage of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) among HIV-positive pregnant and lactating women.

Ebola, Marburg ruled out in Masaka deaths. The Government is carrying out tests to establish the cause of a Haemorrhagic Fever that has so far killed six people in Masaka. According to Dr. Musisi, Officials from the Ministry of Health (MOH), World Health Organisation (WHO) and local medical teams have been deployed in Masaka to investigate and bring the situation under control.

RDC warns on polio sabotage. Kasese Deputy Resident District Commissioner Justine Muhindo has Cautioned parents in the district against sabotaging the door-to-door polio Immunisation exercise across the country.

Teenage mental illness worries health officials. Health officials in Mbale district have decried the increasing cases of mental illnesses among teenagers in the region. The Deputy in-Charge of the Psychiatric Unit at Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, Dr David Masaba, said during the Commissioning of Family Clinic for Children in Mbale Town, that they admit at least 20 children with mental-related cases a month.

Health Ministry wants more shs11b for Hepatitis B. Health Ministry Officials shocked MPs when they failed to produce information on the number of people so far tested and treated for Hepatitis B, despite spending sh7.5b on the disease.

Govt lab ill-equipped, says minister. The Minister of Internal Affairs, Rose Akol, has revealed that logistical challenges blighting the Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory (DGAL) are partly to blame for the case backlog hamstringing the Judiciary in Uganda. However,

Drugs shortage hits Masindi hospital. Masindi hospital has been hit by shortage of drugs for the last one week with sources saying the hospitals outpatient department had by Tuesday stopped admitting patients.

42 hospitalised as Cholera Hits Namayingo. 42 people in Namayingo district have been hospitalised following a Cholera Outbreak. The Assistant District Health Officer, Ms Veronica Mukyala, said that the World Health Organisation (WHO) attributed the outbreak to poor hygiene and the consumption of contaminated water.

Mulago cancer machine breaks down. Cancer Patients receiving Radiotherapy treatment at Mulago hospital may have to wait until next year when the new Cobalt 60 Radiation Machine will be installed, after the old one broke down three weeks ago.

Govt to recruit 300 doctors, 50 pharmacists. The Ministry of Health is seeking shs13.5b to recruit 300 doctors and 50 pharmacists to fill vacant posts for different referral Hospitals and Health Centre IVs countrywide. According to the Ministry of Health, Dr Elioda Tumwesigye, the Doctors and Pharmacists, will be recruited and during the 2016/17 financial year.

We have no funds to buy drugs, says NMS boss. The National Medical Stores (NMS), which is mandated with the responsibility of supplying drugs to all public hospitals, has said it has run out of money for drugs.

Government to use new Chemical to fight mosquitoes. The Government has introduced a new chemical Actellic CS to replace Bendiocarb in the indoor residual spraying (IRS) Programme.

CSOs ask Govt to urgently replace Cancer Machine. Civil Society Organisations Spearheading Cancer Treatment has urged government to treat the replacement of the radiotherapy machine as 'matter of urgency.' We are appealing to the government to put in place all the resources necessary to ensure that radiotherapy of a high standard can resume as soon as possible

State house gives MPs hospitals rot evidence. Parliamentarians were stunned to learn that in one of the hospitals in Eastern Uganda, a brand new X-ray Machine has remained in the box for 12 years, and that many doctors in government hospitals use exercise books for clinical notes. Dr. Diana Atwine, the Director of Medicines and Health Service Delivery Monitoring Unit at State House, promised to table evidence on the rot in the health sector.

ECONOMY

Owino traders in legal battle. Two Owino market groups of traders: Bamufunampola St. Balikuddembe Market Association Ltd (BSBMAL) and St. Balikuddembe Market Stalls, Shop and Lock-up shops Owners Association (SSLOA) are entangled in a court battle over the redevelopment of the city's biggest market.

Govt moves to implement one-stop licensing of businesses. In a move to make it easy for entrepreneurs to start businesses and acquire trading licences from a single point, government has tasked Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) to coordinate all licensing regulatory agencies in the country in the implementation of businesses licensing reforms through the-licensing portal.

KCCA to lease Nakasero to traders. Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) is processing the lease of the Nakasero Market. The KCCA executive director, Jennifer Musisi, in a letter to Godfrey Kakooza, the chairperson of the Nakasero Market Sitting Vendors and Traders, dated march 31, revealed that processing the lease commenced after the high court dismissed a case that had been filed by a rival market group, Nakasero Market Sitting Tenants (NAMASITE) that was opposed to the transaction.

BoU cuts lending rates to 16 per cent. Bank of Uganda made a Cautious move, reducing its lending rate- from 17% to 16 per cent. Addressing journalist in Kampala Mr Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile, the Bank of Uganda governor, said improved inflationary pressures had warranted the reducing the rate to stimulate Economic growth

Gov't to get shs283b loan for new markets. The African Development bank (AFDB) is ready to extend a loan of \$84m (sh283b) towards the construction of 11 new markets in a joint effort with the Government of Uganda.

Budget Demands: CSOs tell govt to return graduated tax. Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) have intensified the call for reintroduction of graduated tax, urging government to reinstate the infamous tariff even if it means doing so under a different name.

ERA Reduces Power Tariffs. The retail price for power has reduced by between sh11 and shs7.8 per Unit depending on consumer category. The ERA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Benon Mutambi, attributed this to the appreciation of the shilling against the dollar and the reduction in the international fuel prices.

Parliament rejects govt plan to raise property tax. Lawmakers have rejected a government proposal to increase property tax from 1 per cent to 2 per cent; a measure Finance Minister Matia Kasaija said was projected to contribute shs9b to the 2016/17 budget.

Karuma Project Locks out Ugandan Suppliers-Officials. A government official has said Ugandan workers and suppliers have no control over contributing to the on-going construction works at Karuma Power Project because the contractor is fully in charge of the contract. Speaking on Monday Mr Henry Bidasala Igaga, the Commissioner Electrical Energy at the Energy Ministry, said Ugandans should subject themselves to market forces of meeting the quantities, quality and prices the contractors are offering for the materials and services they required because this is 'turn- key contract.'

MPs approve sh670b Loan. The MPs who blocked the \$200m loan meant to stabilise the shilling being battered by the dollar, have now approved a similar amount to finance the resultant shortfall in domestic revenue collections. David Bahati, State minister for planning in the finance Ministry, said the absence of borrowing would lead to under execution of the budget and perpetuate fiscal deficit.

Expansion of Entebbe Airport Terminal building launched. The sh46.2b Entebbe International Airport terminal building expansion has started.

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Bishop Hailed for Fighting Poverty. President Yoweri Museveni has hailed the Bishop of North Kigezi Diocese, Rt Rev. Patrick Tugume Tusingwire, for being able to change the appearance of the Diocese for the better, within a few years. The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, His grace Stanley Ntagali, said whenever, he would visit North Kigezi, he would sleep outside the church due to little space in the Bishops house.

Create jobs through vocational training-Bishop Mwesigwa. Ankole Diocese Dr. Fred Sheldon Mwesigwa has advised students to join vocational institutions as one way of ending unemployment.

Uganda Joint Christian Council Executive Secretary Rev Fr Dr Sylvester Arinaitwe Rwomukubwe has condemned Dr Stella Nyanzi a Research Fellow at Makerere University Institute of Social Research (MISR), for undressing before students and academic staff, saying the act was not befitting of a mother and teacher "According to the scripture, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and was given to us by God. We do not belong to ourselves. We were brought at a price and therefore we ought to honor God with our bodies,"

Christian's storm parish vandalise priest's house. Angry Christians in Aripea in Arua district attacked the parish, vandalising the Priests residence and injuring a seminarian. However, the Arua Diocese Bishop Sabino Ocan Odoki said the attack on church property was unchristian.

POLITICS

Makerere Students, lecturers march barefoot for Besigye. A lecturer and students at Makerere University protested governments continued house arrest of Former Presidential Candidate Kiiza Besigye by marching barefoot. An officer at Makerere University Police Post, Sergeant Solomon Byaruhanga, first tried to block the demonstrators, saying that they were violating the public order and management

Police hold opposition youth over Museveni win protests. Police in Masaka District last Friday arrested two opposition Youth leaders who were planning a demonstration against the Supreme Court ruling on the Presidential Electoral petition in favour of president Museveni, who was the NRM Candidate in the race.

Women MPs back Kadaga for speaker. The newly elected Women Members of Parliament have backed Rebecca Kadaga to retain the position of speaker of Parliament. The move to back Kadaga was spearheaded by Uganda People's Congress MP Betty Amongi (Oyam district), the Chairperson of the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA).

Besigye arrested on first day of 'Freedom'. Barely an hour after Dr. Kiiza Besigye emerged from an almost two-month long enforced confinement at his home to frenzied crowds en-route to the City Centre, the opposition leader was stopped by security forces, hauled out of public view and again thrown into a police cell.

MPs quiz Ministers on Karuma, Isimba. Questions on a bungled procurement process and shoddy works in regard to the Multi-billion Karuma and Isimba hydro-power projects took centre stage as legislators grilled the three sector Ministers and Energy Officials over the deals. Committee Chairperson Eddie Kwisera (Bufumbira east) and other members demanded to know who bungled the projects, procurement process and was responsible for the shoddy works.

Museveni supports my bid for Speaker- Kadaga. The speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, has revealed that president Yoweri Museveni supports her bid to retain the seat of speaker in the 10th Parliament.

Govt, US disagrees on 2016 poll verdict. The United State ambassador kept the pressure on government, observing that the poorly organised elections have weakened Uganda's standing on democracy and tarnished the country's image. Ms Deborah R. Malac said the US, which is one the Uganda's largest development partners with key cooperation ties on military affairs, cannot ignore actions that shrink the country political space and restrict freedoms of expression and assembly

FDCs Musumba asks Court to nullify opponent's victory. Kamuli District Chairperson Salaamu Musumba has petitioned the high court seeking to annul the election of Hajati Rehema Watongola as MP of the newly created Kamuli Municipality. However, Ms Musumba, who is also the FDC vice president for eastern Uganda, is challenging Ms Watongola's election on grounds that she lacks the requisite academic qualification.

Pray for peace, Besigye tells Ugandans. The Forum for Democratic Change former Presidential Candidate, Col. Dr. Kiiza Besigye, asked Ugandan's to pray for him so that he regains his freedom of movement. Meanwhile, Besigye also made an appearance at Rubaga Cathedral and although he did not get an audience, Fr. John Mary Bbuuye the

main Celebrant, said if becoming president of Uganda is what he (Besigye) so desires, let it be his wish

FDC Abandons 'Stay Home' Campaign. Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) leaders have called off their 'stay home' campaigns after police terminated Dr Kiiza Besigye preventive house arrest at his home in Kasangati, Wakiso district.

Police disown masked Goons. Police have said they don't know the plain-clothed masked men who stood with them shoulder to-shoulder and beat up Dr Kiiza Besigye supporters as he returned from

Winnie Kiiza eyes Leader of Opposition job. Winfred Kiiza, the Kasese district Woman Member of Parliament, has declared her intentions to lobby the Forum for Democratic Change National Executive Committee (NEC), the party's highest decision making body, to approve her quest for the leader of Opposition in the 10th Parliament.

MPs threaten not to pass budget over Tax Exemption. Members of Parliament threatened not to approve the National budget if President Yoweri Museveni does not assent to the income Tax Amendment Bill. Parliaments Director for Communication and Public Affairs, Chris Obore and the Chairperson of the budget Committee, Amos Lugolobi, said what the two MPs told the media was not the official position of Parliament or the budget committee.

CHRISTIAN REFLECTION

One of the emerging issues of concern that have of recent dominated the national news has been the breakdown of the “cancer machine” at Mulago Hospital. But in fact this has been an additional ‘rot’ to the list of ‘rots’ in the health sector which have been exposed to the public in the past few months. We give credit to the journalists and the mass media for this awareness campaign.

The Catholic (Christian) Social Teaching (CST) strongly inspired by the biblical teaching is ‘human-person centred’. Its vision, well expressed by St. Irene, is that “the glory of God is revealed in a human person fully alive”, both physically and spiritually, and this takes us back to Jesus who said that: “I have come that they may have life and life to the full”. (Jn. 10: 10). Thus, CST makes ‘basic health care’ one of the demands of the common good (#166); and in its option for the poor includes among the poor “those without health care”, (#182; see also # 5).

The present situation of the health sector in our country cannot leave Christians and people of good will indifferent! In the history of the ‘health service care’ of this country since the arrival of Christianity in 1877/79, the Churches have been at the frontline. Past and present politicians have more than often praised the churches for this service. However, the social-economic and political development of the country is such that churches and other religious health institutions cannot provide the health services as they did in the past. What they can do in the present situation is to supplement the government’s efforts in this sector. But better still, they can ‘awaken’ and ‘empower’ the Christians in particular and Ugandans in general, to demand from the government their rights to ‘health care’.

(NB: Reference is to the “Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church”)