



# 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

**Teachers demand shs4.4b for marking UCE:** Teachers who participated in marking last year's Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) Examination are demanding that Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB) pays them for their input. UNEB's deputy executive secretary Mr Daniel Odongo said "there was a delay in the release of the money –we are waiting for the ministry of education to release the money to us.

**Gulu University to adopt collegiate system.** Gulu University is planning to transform the institution from a faculty based system to a collegiate university for efficiency. This was said at a symposium organised by Makerere University College of Education and External Studies, by the associate Prof Charles Okumu, the Dean Faculty of education and humanities.

**Teachers warn Microfinance support centre over money.** The Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU) has warned Microfinance Support Centre (MSC) against misusing their money in the guise of building capacity for teachers SACCOS. Mr Peter John Mujuni, the MSC Executive Director, said they were not in a hurry to give out the money to the teachers SACCOS without first ensuring the SACCO Management know how to handle the funds.

**167 University Staff win Swedish Scholarships.** A total of 167 Academic Staff from the five Public Universities in Uganda were awarded scholarships for graduate training at Doctoral and Master levels under the Mak-Sida Bilateral Research Programme. Prof Mukadasi Buyinza, the director of research and graduate training at Makerere University,

said the deliberate strategy to invest in graduate training is based on the common knowledge that research in the world is carried out by graduate students.

**Schools asked to relax S5 Sciences Entry Points.** The Minister of State for Higher Education, Prof Sandy Stevens Tickodri- directed schools to relax entry cut-off points for students wishing to join their institutions for science course.

**Govt unveils curriculum for technical institutes.** The government has launched a new technical schools curriculum, aimed at raising the quality of teaching technical and vocational education in the country. The minister of higher education, science and technology, Steven Tickodri-Togboa, revealed this while addressing head teachers gathered in Kampala

**ISBAT is the latest University- NCHE.** The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) has accredited International school of Business and Technology (ISBAT) into a fully-fledged university.

**Lira School of Nursing acquires College status.** The Ministry of Education has elevated Lira School of Comprehensive Nursing to a health tutors' college. The Chairperson of UNEB, Prof. Wilton Kezala, said their target is to produce at least 400 tutors over the next five years.

**Nakaseke charges government on PLE failures.** Nakaseke District Education Officer Stephen Batanudde has charged the Education Service Commission to confirm or transfer head teachers, currently serving in acting capacity. Speaking to the observers in an exclusive interview, Batanudde said the head teachers were not helping the situation as they lacked full powers to take important decisions for their schools.

**Govt forms University Admissions Committee.** Government has created a Secretariat that will select students for Admissions to Public Universities, on government scholarship, as it handles the legal status of the Public Universities Joint Admissions Board (PUJAB).

## ENVIRONMENT

**Lake Victoria Islands get safe Piped-Water.** Dwellers on two islands on Lake Victoria have started paying shs100 per jerry can for clean safe water system. Mr Michael Bazira, the Country Director of Water Mission Uganda, said they installed five water points and the system would allow other people to get individual connections in a move to fight water-related diseases.

**Floods Control works start on R. Nyamwamba.** Construction of barriers on River Nyamwamba to mitigate flooding in Rwenzori sub-region has kicked off. According to Uganda-Egypt Irrigation Mission project engineer Ishail Abdelbaky, the project funded by Egyptian government is expected to be complete in the next five months.

**NEMA (National Environment Management Authority) sued Over Kaveera Ban.** Manufacturers of Polythene Bags, commonly known as Kaveera, have run to court seeking orders to block NEMA from closing down their industries. Meanwhile, the court register, Mr Alex Ajiji, issued a temporary order against the impounding and closure of the factories until February 9.

**Bank urged to manage Climate risk with farmers.** Commercial Banks and other Financial Institutions lack knowledge on Climate risk management to appreciate challenges and opportunities in the potentially lucrative agriculture Sector.

**EL-Nino to blame for increase in droughts.** The number of major droughts recorded globally in 2015 was more than double the 10-year average.

**UWA gets new Board.** A new board of trustees for the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has been appointed following approval by cabinet. According to the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Maria Mutagamba, the new board will serve for three years.

**Encroachers invade Lubigi Wetland.** A large section of Lubigi swamp in Kampala and Wakiso District has been invaded by cultivators after repeated bushfires, which local residents believe are being motivated by land grabbers. Bob Nuwagira, the Education and Communications Officer at NEMA, said Lubigi is a Waterway that drains water from most of the hills, including Lubaga in Kampala and different parts of Wakiso.

**Water crisis hits Lira Municipality.** A water crisis has hit Lira municipality and the surrounding areas forcing residents to spend days and nights lining up for water. Lira municipality and the surrounding areas have the best water system provided by National Water and Sewerage Corporation, but there was breakdown according to area Manager, Ibrahim Mpanga.

**Installation of twenty weather stations begins.** The Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA) has started the installation of automatic weather stations in Kampala. Festus Luboyera, the Executive Director of UNMA, said the installations are intended to increase the data flow, hence accuracy of forecast.

## HEALTH

**Child health body secures sh\$12.5b global fund for HIV prevention:** The African Network for the Care of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (ANCCA) has secured a \$3.6m (about sh\$12.5b) funding from the Global Fund. Denis Tindyebwa, the Executive Director and co-founder of ANCCA said "the money shall be spent at the regional level studying the policies implementation in those countries. The only expenditure that we shall incur will be through advocacy and stakeholder engagement

**Hospitals Cautioned against Selling Blood:** The Uganda Blood Transfusion service has asked the public to report hospitals which sell blood to patients because it is illegal to trade in human blood.

**Health Workers threaten to strike over pay again.** Medical workers in Lyantonde District have threatened to lay down tools again to protest the delayed payment of their salary arrears. Lyantonde District Health officer Okoth Obbo has asked the Medical Workers to stay calm because he has already forwarded their complaints to the relevant authorities.

**Sironko Cholera Death toll rises, 70 admitted.** Authorities in Sironko District have expressed concern over the alarming rate of cholera in the district. According to information from the district health Department, so far seven people have died to the disease in a period of two weeks while 70 people are admitted to health facilities.

**Tororo hospital gets x-ray Machine.** The Ministry of Health has delivered a new x-ray machine, worth sh300m, to Tororo District Hospital; four years after the old equipment broke down rendering the department non-functional.

**Kitagata hospital gets sh700m.** The government, through the Ministry of Health has allocated sh700m towards the renovation of Kitagata Hospital in Sheema District.

**Gulu Malaria cases rise to 10,000 per week.** Gulu District has been hit by yet another Malaria epidemic with cases rising from 2,169 in May last year to 38,096 today.

**Busoga gets sh\$790m for Health.** Jinja Area Community Federation (JACOFE), a non-governmental organisation, has earmarked sh\$790m to promote health services in Kamuli and Mayuge districts.

**Malnutrition cases in East worrying say UNICEF.** A report released by the United Nation Children Fund (UNICEF) has shown that 33 per cent of children in Eastern region are suffering from malnutrition.

**Shortage of HIV Drugs looms in Uganda again.** Uganda is facing yet another shortage of lifesaving HIV drugs. Uganda's Ministry of Health announced in December last year that the country had run out of imported HIV/Aids drugs. However, in an interview with Reuters, Finance Ministry Permanent Secretary Keith Muhakanizi blamed the shortage on the depreciation of Uganda's shillings, which has affected the government's ability to finance drugs imports.

**Ministry avails ambulances for emergencies on voting day.** The Ministry of health has deployed nine ambulances in the Kampala Metropolitan area to handle emergencies

during voting progress. According to Dr Asuman Lukwago, the ministry permanent secretary, the vehicles have been available since the pope's visit in November.

**300 medics for women's hospital.** The government has trained over 300 health experts to manage the specialised Maternal and New Born Health Care Unit (SMNHCU) under construction at Mulago Hospital. According to the hospital director, Dr Baterana Byarugaba, they will manage reproductive health complications, neonatal cases and fistula repair.

**Cancer rising among young-experts.** Health experts in Uganda have expressed concern over the increasing cancer cases among young people. According to Dr George Oloya, a cancer specialist at the Uganda cancer Institute Mulago, the new trend is worrying because it is targeting the most energetic group which constitutes the majority of the population.

**Govt gets 200 hepatitis machines.** The Ministry of health has received a donation of 200 (selexon) machines from, a South Korean company, to test hepatitis B, hepatitis C, prostate cancer, liver cancer and diabetes. According to the health minister, Dr Elioda Tumwesigye, who received the machines last Thursday at the National Medical Stores (NMS) in Entebbe, about 16m Ugandans are at risk of acquiring the hepatitis B virus and need to be tested.

**Mbarara gets oxygen plant.** Mbarara hospital has received a sh342m oxygen plant to serve the people in western Uganda. Dr. Celestine Barigye, the hospital director, explained that the plant produces 25 cylinders per day, which translates into 750 cylinders a month.

## ECONOMY

**Namasuba-Ndejje road upgraded.** A sh2.7b upgrade of Namasuba-Ndejje road from Murum to tarmac finally kicked off, Wakiso district chairman Charles Lwanga Bwanika said due to limited funding, they have managed to work on 2km of the 9.4km stretch.

**Manufacturers urged on labelling their products.** Manufacturers of soft drinks, such as soda and juices, have been urged to improve on the labelling of their products so as to increase market share.

**Vehicles, synthetic hair top smuggled goods list- URA.** Motorcycle spare parts, DVD players and roofing nails are among the most smuggled goods into the country, according to Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) data.

**UIA officers trained on how to market Uganda.** Sixteen senior officers of the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) have undergone an intensive, five-day training on strategic investment and export promotion in wider efforts to create one million new jobs between 2016 and 2021.

**Declining stock market value costs NSSF sh48b.** The declining stock market value on the Uganda Securities Exchange (USE) and Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) has affected the performance of National Social Securities Fund (NSSF) in the first half of 2015. Mr Richard Byarugaba, the managing director NSSF said that the unrealized loss was a result of their stock holding in listed companies declining in value.

**Uganda, Kenya agree on Electronic Cargo tracking.** Kenya and Uganda have started the processes to integrate their Electronic Cargo tracking system (ECTS) and jointly monitor cargo from Mombasa port to among others, safeguard their Revenues.

**UMEME loses sh400m to Vandalism.** Umeme, the Power distributor has lost over sh400m to vandalism of its Network distribution Equipment in Mbale alone. The Mbale Umeme Branch Manager, Adson Arinaitwe, said the company is facing the highest rate of vandalism cases in its history.

**Boda Boda riders to get group Life Insurance cover.** National Insurance Corporation (NIC) has partnered with Nakasero Hospital and Uganda Police Force to provide insurance cover to Boda Boda riders under their umbrella body, the Uganda National Boda Boda Association (UNBA).

**Court dismisses petition to block Owino Market Project.** The high court has dismissed an application seeking to block St Balikuddembe (Owino) Market re-development Project, citing lack of merit in the suit. According to Mr Godfrey Kayongo, the SSLOA Chairperson, an Investor, Ketz International, will invest about sh1.5 trillion in the 10 year Market Project.

**Mobile Money restored.** Ugandans can now use Mobile Money Services, after the government directed different Telecommunication Companies to switch off the service, on the orders of the Uganda Communication Commission (UCC).

## RELIGION AND SOCIETY

**Papal unity tree planted.** One of the seven trees symbolising unity among different faiths in the country was yesterday planted at the Uganda Martyrs shrine, Namugongo, by Kampala Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga. The Rev Fr Sylvester Arinaitwe, the executive Secretary of the Uganda Joint Christian Council, added that the tree is a reminder of humility.

**Buhweju RDC stops church prayers.** Parishioners of St Kizito, Bihanga Catholic parish in Buhweju, Mbarara Archdiocese, have petitioned presidency minister Frank Tumwebaze to reprimand the resident district commissioner (RDC), Mr Moses Mwebesa, accusing him of invading their church during night prayers and disorganising the congregation.

**Kalangala promotes pioneer church to boost tourism.** Ssesse Islands Tourism Development Association (SITDA) has teamed up with Uganda Tourism Board to market Mapeera church located at Bugoma landing site in Kalangala district as one of the tourist sites in the country. According to SITDA chairperson Joyce Kikomoko, the church is crucial in the development of tourism in Kalangala district

**Use inter-religious dialogue to foster peace- Mwesigye.** The Rev Can. Aaron Mwesigye has urged Ugandans to use the interfaith Harmony week to eliminate religious barriers in the different societies of the country. Mwesigye, the director of religious affairs in the president's office, said harmonious existence of different people would avoid divisions.

**Church submits new evidence for Ngobya, Amedeo beatification.** The Catholic Church in Masaka diocese has submitted fresh evidence towards the beatification of Msgr Aloysius Ngobya and Sister Amedeo Byabali, whom the believers want declared saint. The Rev Fr Edward Ssekabanja, the diocesan chancellor, who was heading the commissions into these causes, revealed that with the gathered evidence from 75 witness, he had no doubt that what they document is the required evidence.

**Individualism retarding Uganda, says priest.** The Rev. Fr. Pascal Kabura, the director of Bishop Magambo Counsellor Training Institute, has challenged Ugandans to embrace joint ventures in order to overcome the spirit of individualism that is retarding the country's development. According to Kabura, such small businesses cannot drive development because they are built on the spirit of individualism.

**Christians start lent season, urged to repent.** Christians yesterday went to church to commemorate Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of the lent season. Msgr. Joseph Mugambe, the assisting priest at Christ the King Parish, Kampala, in his sermon, urged believers to pray in secret and shun hypocrisy in order to seek God's full attention.

**Former Mbarara Bishop Kakubi dead.** After a protracted battle with diabetes and high blood pressure, the Rt. Reverend John Baptist Kakubi, the retired bishop of Mbarara diocese, died.

**Lwanga commissions shrine.** The Archbishop of Kampala, Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, has commissioned St. Denis Ssebuggwawo's shrine in Munyonyo. Fr. Dr. Marion Golab, the shrine rector, said Munyonyo is also a place where Lwanga baptised St. Kizito, St Mbaga, St. Gyaviira and St. Muggaga Lubowa in 1886.

**Preparations for ordination of bishop begin.** Hoima diocese has started nine days of reciting Novena prayers in preparation for the consecration of Bishop Vincent Kirabo.

**Catholic Church marks 137 years.** The Bishop of Kiyinda-Mityana Catholic Diocese, Prof. Joseph Anthony Zziwa, has asked Catholics to live out their faith by extending love, mercy and justice to other. Fr. Simeon Lourdel Mapeera and Bro. Delmas Amans of the Missionary Society of White Fathers arrived by canoe at Kigungu landing site in Entebbe municipality on February 17, 1879



## YOUTH

**Farming pays, youth told.** In the minds of most youth, farming is the venture for failures. According to Iga, through activities like farm camps, the importance of agriculture is being realised and a new kind of student who can meet the technical demand are being trained.

**EAC parliament calls for youth representation.** Youth in the East African Community (EAC) have received a boost with regional legislators calling for their full involvement in integration matters. The Chair of the Council of Minister, Dr Susan A. Kolimba responding to this debate said regional youth councils were greatly dependent on the vibrance of the national youth councils.

**Youth arrested over livelihood funds.** The police in Kyankwanzi district have arrested a number of youth for failing to pay back the youth livelihood funds from government. The Kyankwanzi district youth livelihood Programme co-ordinator, Robert Kalanzi Mwebe, said some group members shared the money among themselves, instead of investing it in joint ventures as per the project proposed.

**Katikkiro urges youth to create jobs.** The Katikkiro of Buganda, Charles Peter Mayiga, has urged the youth to be innovative in order to create jobs for themselves.

**Bush war veterans told to quit for youth.** The coordinator for NRM party campaign task force in western Uganda, Ms Peace Mutuzo, has said its high time the bush war revolutionaries gave way for the young generation to run the country. She challenged the youth to critically think and understand that the country now needs them to consolidate the peace.

**Youth form teams to combat coffee pest.** Youth in Ibanda, Kamwenge and Mitooma districts have formed spraying teams to fight the spreading coffee twig borer, which authorities say has affected about 10% of the country's robusta coffee crop. The Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) says the pest has caused a 3.7% reduction in the country total coffee exports and that loss of \$18m was registered in 2010/11.