



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

Students failed to Graduate over wrong course unit. Among hundreds who missed this year's graduation at Makerere University are students from the department of Performing Arts and Film, who were affected because they were enrolled on a wrong course unit. The University Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu, said that, is to blame for the mistake and is planning a programme to ensure that the affected students study the right course.

Global Junior School, Nkokonjeru, tops PLE in 2015. In Kampala, with all its 143 pupils passing in first Division, Global Junior School in Mukono district, led a group of other 34 schools with 100 per cent first grade in the 2015 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) results released.

Bukenya bows out, Odongo takes over UNEB. The Uganda National Examinations Board announced the departure of long serving Executive Secretary Mathew Bukenya who will be replaced by his deputy, Mr Daniel Nokrach Odongo. UNEB chairman prof. Mary Okwakol said that Mr Odongo, who joined the Examinations body 11 years ago will assume his duties on April 1.

Examination results of 900 pupils withheld over malpractice. Results for at least 909 pupils who sat their Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) last year were withheld by Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB) over malpractices.

Teachers in massive Training for SACCO Funds. The Uganda Teachers Saving and Credit Cooperative Union Management limited have started meeting all managers of teachers SACCOS countrywide, on how to manage their funds.

Do not vote for Mbabazi- UNATU boss tells Teachers. The General Secretary of Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU), James Tweheyo, has urged teachers and parents not to support Amama Mbabazi. Tweheyo accused Mbabazi of ordering Resident District Commissioners (RDC) round the country to sack teachers who were striking for a salary increment.

Education Ministry to close ill- equipped Medical Schools. The Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and sports is set to close all Medical Schools that do not have Laboratory equipment. Mr James Mugerwa, the Assistant Commissioner in charge of Vocational Education, said they will carry out impromptu inspections at all schools of Medical Laboratory Technicians across the country to check their compliance with the set minimum standards.

Bushenyi icon opens Science and Technology University. A new university, Valley University of Science and Technology (VUST), has started in Bushenyi district. Addressing journalists at the university campus in Bushenyi Town on Monday, Mr Mukaira said starting the institution was based on conviction that science-based knowledge is a key factor for any community to develop.

Graduates asked to search for jobs online. Makerere University Vice Chancellor prof John Ddumba-Sentamu yesterday told graduates to exploit jobs online and use the knowledge they have acquired during their time of study to start their own businesses.

90 per cent pass Islamic PLE. The Islamic National Examinations Board (INEB) released the 2015 Quranic/ Islamic Primary Leaving Examinations, with results showing that 89.8 per cent students passed the exams. Sheikh Haruna Jjemba, the INEB Executive Secretary, attributed the improvement in performance to increased availability of Arabic reference books and retooling of teachers through national training sessions.

Govt Transfers 1,000 Teachers. The Ministry of Education has transferred 998 teachers and 17 head Teachers and their deputies as a move to improve their efficiency,

Schools maintain S1 cut off points. Government- aided schools yesterday maintained last year's Senior One cut off points with some dropping from the previous years, following a decline in 2015 Primary Leaving Examination performance. According to Ministry of Education Statistics, a total of 503,565 students out of 601,777 who sat last year's PLE will have been admitted to S1 by close of the selection exercise today.

Govt Clarifies S1 age Limits. The Ministry has banned Secondary and Technical Schools from denying old students placement into year one classes. According to the Chairperson of the Placement Committee of the Ministry, Martin Omagor, previously students aged 20 years and above were discouraged from joining Senior One or Year One in Technical Schools, and advised to enrol for adult education.

7 Clinics closed as Cholera Spreads in Mbale. A private clinic in Mbale Municipality has been closed indefinitely for allegedly admitting two patients suffering from cholera instead of referring them to isolated camps in the district. The District Health Officer, Dr John Baptist, said Vienna clinic was closed because they failed to follow the right procedures after a cholera patients died there.

National Drug Authority gets new boss. The National Drugs Authority board of Directors has appointed the former boss of the Joint Medical Stores (JMS), Donna Kusemererwa, as the new Executive Director for the Authority.

CNOOC donates items worth sh34m to Hoima to fight Cholera. China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) has handed over assorted items worth \$10,000 (sh34m) to Hoima district authorities to assist them in fighting the cholera epidemic.

Mengo to get sh7b teaching Hospital. The construction of a teaching hospital by Medicare Health professional College (MHPC) will commence this year, the academic registrar, David Kansime, has revealed. Patrick Isiko, the principal of MHPC, said the teaching hospital will improve health service delivery in the country.

Ministry Cautions Medics on poor Diagnosis. The Commissioner for Clinical Services at the Ministry of Health Dr Jacinto Amandua has criticised Medical personnel in West Nile for not carrying out thorough medical tests on patients to diagnose what they could be suffering from.

Masaka residents shun Cervical Cancer Immunisation. Masaka District Health Authorities have raised concerns over the low turnout during the on-going cervical cancer Immunisation exercise. According to Ms Sarah Nalwadda, the officer in charge of Masaka Municipality Clinic, though the campaign is in its fifth week, only 12 girls have been vaccinated at the clinic.

Hospital renovated after Mbabazi, Besigye visit. Masindi Hospital is being given a face lift a week after police blocked two opposition Presidential Candidates from accessing the facility. The Masindi district vice chairperson, Mr Kanaginagi Ateenyi, said the hospital was planned to have only 100 beds but because of the increasing Population, there is need to expand it to accommodate 350 beds.

New lab to Improve HIV Treatment. Ugandans living with HIV/AIDS will get better treatment following the opening of a new National Laboratory constructed with support from the US government through the Centre for Disease control and prevention. According to officials, the newly opened National Health Laboratory in Butabika is expected to increase the number and quality of viral load tests carried out.

State of Children's Health Worries USAID Boss. The Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission, Leslie Reed, has said the plight of children in Eastern Uganda is in dire need of attention. Reed made the remarks while addressing a regional forum on the state of Ugandan children at Pretoria hotel in Mbale recently.

New Aga Khan Hospital to offer Specialised Treatment. His highness the Aga Khan officiated at the initiation of construction of an ultra- modern Aga Khan University Hospital in Kampala, which he said will be dedicated to offering specialised treatment to Ugandans and patients from neighbouring countries.

Makerere don develops kit to test Swine Fever. A lecturer at Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Resources has developed a kit for diagnosing African swine fever in pigs. According to the university, the African swine fever diagnostic Kit is affordable and easy to use.

Nakasongola Health Facility closed over demonic attacks. Authorities in Nakasongola District have tasked communities in Kalungi sub-county to devise means of safeguarding public facilities from acts of witchcraft which has led to the suspension of services at Kalungi Health Centre. The Nakasongola District Acting Health Officers, Dr Moses Zziwa, confirmed the closure of the Health centre III after Health staff and Patients deserted the premises over suspected demonic attacks.

Teenage Mothers overwhelm Kapchorwa-Health report. The number of teenage mothers at Kapchorwa Hospital has gone up statistics show. The 2015 Kapchorwa Hospital Health Management information systems report indicates that 1,100 teenage girls of between 13 and 16 years gave birth at the hospital between 2014 and 2015.

Kawolo Hospital receives drugs worth shs50m. Kawolo Hospital has received drugs worth sh50m from the National Medical Stores (NMS) after a two- week shortage. Richard Bbosa, the Buikwe District health officer (DHO), who was accompanied by Haruna Wamala, the Administrator of Kawolo hospital, received the drugs.

Limited budget for ARVs hinders HIV fight. The limited budget for Procurement of Anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) which saw a short-fall of shs34.7 b in the financial year ending has hit a blow to the on-going fight of reducing the effects of the HIV/AIDs scourge. Dr Joshua Musinguzi, the Programmes Manager Aids Control Programme in the Health Ministry, in a separate interview, agreed with the downsizing of the budget.

Pader Medical Staff protest delayed pay. A total of 83 Health workers recruited recently in Pader District have abandoned their work stations, claiming they have not been paid salary for the last three months.

Peanut Food Supplement helps AIDS Patients- study. Researchers at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) in Kampala have found that a peanut-based food supplement from roasted groundnut powder and oil can improve quality of HIV Patients, eliciting better CD4 cell count responses and body weight.

Uganda to start Kidney Transplant. Uganda will start kidney transplant and other complicated operations once the on-going rehabilitation and upgrade of Mulago National Referral Hospital is completed. Asuman Lukwago, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, said this will reduce the high costs of treatment abroad.

ECONOMY

MPs approve sh314.5b for Muzizi Dam. Parliament has Okayed the borrowing of sh314.5b to fund construction of Muzizi Hydro power Dam in Kibale District. The Parliamentary committee of National Economy recommended that in the course of recruiting workers for the project, the implementers should give priority to the area communities.

Ugandans in Diaspora set to send cash Via Mobile Money. Ugandans living abroad could by March this year, be able to send money directly to MTN Mobile Money account of people in Uganda. According to one account, the partnership will be launched at the end of this month in Kampala.

Govt wasted shs68b on unwanted Power-report. As Uganda continues to pay higher electricity tariffs each year, it has been revealed that government, through Uganda Electricity Transmission Company limited (UETCL), paid for electricity purchases it does not need. According to the report, Electricity Generation in the country as at June 30, 2015 was 685MW yet the demand was 550MW.

Shilling depreciated by 17.5% in 2015-BOU. The global strengthening of US Dollar and a wide current account deficit saw the Uganda shillings depreciating by 17.5% from January to December 30, 2015. Mr Uthman Mayan, a Partner with Price Water House Coopers, told daily monitor in an interview that much as the shilling had depreciated against US dollar in last year, lately the shilling has showed a sign of stability which is good for the economy.

Private Sector plans Social Responsibility Fund. Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) is in advanced stages of setting up a corporate social responsibility fund, the Chairman has said. Mr David Sempala, the Chief Executive Officer Royal Way Media and Director of CSR Africa said ;' there is growing shift in focus from shareholder value (maximising profit) to stakeholder value, where Companies are striving at balancing people, planet and profit.

Ugandan Tea needs regulator, say stakeholders. Players in the Industry have asked the government to create a body that will Monitor the Sectors Performance and develop it. The National Tea Authority would monitor the performance and ensure quality in the sector.

Buganda Kingdom, UBL partner to bottle new beer. Uganda Breweries Limited (UBL) and Buganda Kingdom, through Majestic Brands, the Investment arm of the kingdom, have partnered to brew beer brand called Ngule. Mr Mark Mugisha, the marketing Manager-Beer at UBL said at shs1,500, Ngule is the most affordable quality beer in its category, a deliberate decision by UBL to get more Ugandans consuming local beer and moving away from local brews that are of poor quality and potentially hazardous.

More road projects lose World Bank funding. The World Bank has suspended funding for two more road projects in Uganda to force government to act on the issues with the 66km Kamwenge-Fort Portal road, an action that would easily hurt plans to connect farmers in rural areas to consumers in urban settings. The development lender announced it was withdrawing funds from the Albertine region sustainable development project.

Burundi Crisis hits Uganda Exports. Uganda's Manufactured Products exported to Burundi have declined by nearly 10 per cent over the last nine months, the Executive Director of Uganda Manufacturers Association, Mr Ssebagala Kigozi, has disclosed.

Kenya lifts ban on Uganda Sugar exports. Protracted consultations between President Yoweri Museveni and his Kenyan counterpart, Uhuru Kenyatta, over the Ugandan Sugar Impasse, have finally paid off. The Chairman of the Uganda sugar Manufacturers Association, Jim Kabeho, and the trade ministry permanent secretary, Julius Onen, confirmed that there are no more barriers on sugar exports to Kenya.

Uganda earns sh890b from Charcoal Production. Uganda earns sh890b as gross turnover from Charcoal Production annually. An official from Ministry of Energy has revealed. John Tumuhimbise, Assistant Commissioner, renewable energy said though the sub-sector contributes towards the Country's economy, little has been done to develop it.

Staff Shortage affecting UNBS Performance- Auditor General's Report. Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) cannot test up to 500,000 out of an estimated one million weighing scales as well as measuring instruments such fuel pumps due to shortage of staff, a 2015 report by the Auditor General reveals.

Equipment to boost new Nile Bridge works arrives. A consignment of key Construction materials for the new river Nile Bridge has landed into the country. According to Eng. Lawrence Pario, the arrival of the materials raises hopes that the bridge could still be completed and handed to the government on schedule in April 2018.

Govt seeks approval to borrow shs2.3 trillion. Parliament has withheld permission for the government to borrow three of a cluster of 10 loans from international lenders for different Projects. Privatisation Minister, Aston Kajara said the loans are meant to help improve Agricultural Production.

Kiira Motors Unveils solar powered bus in February. Kiira Motors Corporation, the Company that government created to start motor vehicles manufacturing in Uganda, has announced plans to begin Automobile Production in 2018. Speaking at the Corporation Offices in Ntinda, a city Suburb, Mr Paul Musasizi, the Chief Executive Officer, said so far the two concept vehicles that have been produced the Kiira EV and Kiira Smack should serve as a Demonstration to Ugandans.

Govt to inject sh96b into Co-operatives. About sh96b has been earmarked in the next financial year's budget for promoting value- addition by co-operative societies across the country, trade Minister Amelia Kyambadde has revealed. According to the Executive Director of the National Planning Authority, Joseph Muvawala, developing a dynamic and productive farm economy in the rural countryside will, in the long run, result in enterprise creation, generate more jobs and increase productivity.

UCC closes radio stations over debts. The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has vowed to carry on with its enforcement exercise of shutting down non-compliant broadcasting stations in the country. The body said it was implementing section 27 of the Uganda Communications Act 2013, which notes that any station which refuses to settle its indebtedness to the Commission is operating illegally and violating the terms and conditions of its licence.

ENVIRONMENT

El-Nino rains still on, wet conditions to continue-experts. As predicted earlier, El- Nino is still influencing the rain in the region and will persist until February, according to Deus Bamanya, Data and Climate Services at the Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA). El- Nino according to Bamaya is going to be followed by La-Nina later in the year meaning that the rain seasons are likely to be suppressed this year.

UWA blames decline in Tourist numbers on negative publicity. The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has blamed negative publicity of the country for the decline in the number of tourists visiting the country. Often, UWA and Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) officials have complained that this negative publicity turns away tourists. The revenue shortfall leaves UWA in funding gap that could threaten its autonomous state.

Red Cross seeks shs8b for El-Nino. The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) is still appealing for shs8.8b to provide assistance to the El Nino victims in Teso, Bugisu and Rwenzori sub-regions. The relief organisation also said 26,252 people are living in make shift shelters, 2,440 houses have been damaged and 9,334 acres of gardens, which necessitates financial assistance.

Govt to build tourism stopovers on highways. In a move to boost domestic tourism, the Government has finalised plans to develop Tourism stopovers along major highways. The UWA Executive Director Dr. Andrew Sseguya also handed over shs2.38b worth of revenue-sharing funds to five local governments neighbouring Murchison falls National Park.

Experts worried over rising water levels on Lake Victoria. Recent rains in many parts of East Africa have significantly raised the water levels of Lake Victoria. According to experts, water inflow and outflow to and from Lake Victoria is usually dominated by rainfall and evaporation rather than rivers.

President orders NFA to return Forest land to Mayuge Residents. President Yoweri Museveni has ordered the National Forestry Authority to hand over 48 villages in Malongo and Kityerera sub-counties in Mayuge District to the residents for agriculture and other commercial activities. Prime Minister Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda delivered the president's message during a meeting at Mayuge District council hall on Friday.

Kanungu gets gravity flow Water Scheme. The long-awaited Kanyampanga gravity flow water Scheme in Kanungu District has finally been commissioned in Kihiihi town. Speaking during the commissioning of the project in Kayonza sub-county on Friday, the director of the Directorate of Water Development, Eng. Aaron Kabirizi, said the project is one of the biggest in which the government has injected a lot of money to improve livelihoods of the people in Kanungu district.

Water Scarcity hits Ssembabule Town. A severe water crisis has hit Ssembabule town council compelling residents to share water sources with animals. Minister Kutesa said it was a pity that the town authorities had not informed him in time and assured residents that the problem of lack of water will be addressed soon.

Masaka gets shs2.5b water project. Following numerous requests for clean water by the residents of Bukakkata and Mukungwe sub-counties in Masaka District, the Ministry of Water and Environment through Water and Sanitation facility, has earmarked shs2.5b to extend piped water to the areas.

Gulu leaders slap ban on Commercial tree cutting. Gulu Authorities have imposed a temporary ban on commercial tree cutting following a worrying trend in depleting natural forests. Ms Dorothy Ajwang, the Chief Administrative officer Gulu, said on Tuesday, that the ban will take immediate effect and will last for a month before they can consider suspending it.

Water Supply in city to be rationed- NWSC boss. National Water and Sewerage Corporation has announced a plan to ration water supply to different parts of the city because of the dry spell. Speaking at a press briefing last Friday, Dr Silver Mugisha, the Managing Director, said the Corporation usually experiences severe dry spell that affects their capacity to deliver water to customers.

Church to deploy 3,000 poll Observers. The Church of Uganda together with the Catholic and the Orthodox Church has set aside a total of 3,000 Christian volunteers to oversee poll. Rev Arinaitwe said they will deploy at least two Observers in every constituency to watch, note and report every proceeding during elections.

Ntagali calls for peace prayers for Burundi. The atmosphere at St. Pauls Cathedral changed as the Archbishop of Uganda, Stanley Ntagali, introduced a family that had run away from the Burundi unrest, which has claimed innocent Lives. Ntagali introduced Canon Simon Sibomana, the Archdeacon of the Church of Bujumbura, who escaped death, with his Wife and Child.

Fake pastors robbing flock-Bishop Kyomya. The Bishop of Busoga Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Kyomya, has decried fake Pastors, who create Churches and use Biblical teachings to rip people off their monies. Kyomya made the remarks during a confirmation service after commissioning St. Andrews Church Hall in Jinja District

Christians reject Bukedi Diocese split proposal. More than 17 heads of Laity from Budaka Archdeaconry have disowned a move being fronted by a section of Christians to have Bugwere Diocese split from the mother Diocese of Bukedi. The head of Laity, Budaka Archdeaconry, Canon Jonathan Grant Mwede, said that the resolutions of the purported Archdeaconry meeting held on December 7 were irregular and were emotionally taken and in disregard of the provisions and Canons of the Church of Uganda.

Archbishop Lwanga calls for Peace during elections. The Archbishop of Kampala Diocese Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga has urged Ugandans to promote peace and avoid revenge during and after elections next month. The Bishop also **asked govt to waive taxes on Private Schools.** His Eminence Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala has asked the government to consider waiving taxes imposed on Private Education Institutions in the Country.

Christians refurbish dilapidated Mosque. Over 100 Ugandan Christians living in Boston, US have raised shs12.6m to revamp Namayiba Kisilaamu Mosque in Nakisunga Sub-county, Mukono District.

Don't dip hands in Public purse, says Archbishop Bakyenga. Mbarara Diocese Archbishop Paul Bakyenga has asked the elite to be good role models and stop being perpetrators of ill-practices and immorality in the country.

Bishop held over Anti-NRM meet. The head of the Pentecostal Churches in Rukungiri and Kanungu Districts, Bishop Merekizdiki Rugogamu, was among the people arrested by police in Rukungiri in a crackdown against purported NRM supporters who wanted to cross to the Go forward camp on Tuesday morning.

I leave behind a United Flock, say Busoga Bishop. Former Busoga Diocese Bishop Michael Kyomya has lauded Christians in the Diocese for the unity exhibited during his 15-year tenure, saying it will form the basis for further development. The 65-year old urged Christians to love his successor as they loved him and support his brainchild, the team system, which requires Christians in the diocese to willingly and voluntarily contribute at least twice a year to the day-to-day running of the diocese.

YOUTH

400 youth leave for Dubai. At least 400 youth have been offered jobs in an International Construction Company in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The semi-skilled youth are recruited from mainly Vocational Training Institutions, Artisan, Carpentry and building industries across the country with minimum education requirement of A level, according to Lillian Keene Mugerwa, the managing director of International Employment Linkages Limited (IEL).

Saleh pledges to support more Youth. General Salim Saleh, the Chairman of Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), has pledged to support more youth under the schemes programmes. He was speaking during his recent visit at Lugo, Wakiso, where he had gone to assess the progress of OWC programmes in the area.

Take Wealth Creation message seriously, Museveni tells Youth. President Yoweri Museveni has called on the youth to take the Wealth Creation issue seriously. He said by acquiring skills that are marketable, the youth can create employment for themselves and others. President was speaking during the passing out of Youth Entrepreneurs from Ntungamo District.

Over 70% Youth Fund recovered. Over 70% of the youth groups that received money from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development under the Youth Livelihood Programmes have paid up their loans. According to Bigirimana, Bushenyi, Kabarole and Kayunga District have paid all the money the youth groups got, while Kiruhura, Kisoro, Zombo and Sheema districts are progressing well in repayment of the money.

Over 8,000 Youth get Business Skills. Over 8,000 youth in Ankole Diocese have been empowered with skills to create jobs for themselves. The Bishop of Ankole Diocese, Sheldon Mwesigwa, said this year's conference was aimed at empowering the youth with entrepreneurship skills to enable them start Income-generating activities and create jobs for themselves.

Bigirimana warns Youth Fund Thieves. Pius Bigirimana, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, is on a mission to ensure no one messes with the youth livelihood Programme (YLP) Funds. He has warned to cause the arrest of local government officials, especially sub-county Chiefs and Accountants who mishandle the funds.

Museveni advises youth to shun foreign cultures. A four-day youth convention has ended on Bweranyangi Hill in West Ankole Diocese, Bushenyi District with President Yoweri Museveni urging the youth to resist cultures that undermine ours. Museveni stressed that the love for one's country involves sacrifices, nationalism and love for every association you belong to.

Youth wrangle over transport refund. Mbarara District youth leaders clashed with the District Community Development Officer (CDO), Mr William Kayumbu, over transport refund after attending a meeting at the District hall. After the meeting, the youth asked Mr Kayumbu for their transport refund of shs50, 000 each but he only offered them shs27, 000.

Vendors Shun Lira main market. Almost a year after President Yoweri Museveni commissioned the shs25b market in the heart of Lira Town; business is yet to pick up. The chairperson of Lira Municipal Market Traders Association, Peter Olwoch, said the architectural design of the market was poor, making the market difficult to access for customers.