



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
- Politics
- Christian Reflection

EDUCATION

Makerere University bankrupt-Prof Ddumba. The Makerere University Vice Chancellor, Prof John Ddumba Sentamu, has said the University is bankrupt. Speaking on condition of anonymity due to regulations that bar them from talking to the media, he said the university is troubled by the salary delay.

Limit sports betting centres-teachers. Teachers in Gulu District have asked District leaders to limit the hours of operation for the sports betting centres, saying they have distracted students from attending class. Gulu District Chairperson Martin Ojara Mapenduzi urged Government to put in place a law that bars students from engaging in betting activities.

Museveni speaks out on Sex Education in Schools. President Yoweri Museveni has said introducing sex education in Schools needs more dialogue, attention and sensitisation.

NWSC, Schools to fight Environment degradation. National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) has partnered with Primary and Secondary Schools to promote Environmental Conservation especially of water sources. NWSC Board Chairman Eng. Dr Christopher Ebal stressed that the future lies in the young generation, who must be directed on what to do.

Buyende School with 840 pupils lacks latrine. The future of 840 Primary School Children in Buyende District is hanging in balance following a decision by the District Health Authorities to close down their School over lack of a functional latrine. The Buyende District Education Officer, Mr Dixon Bwiire, has since called on government to intervene saying neither the school nor the District can raise money to have a latrine constructed right away.

Thousands stranded as 87 Schools in Jinja are closed. Thousands of pupils in Jinja district are stranded following a decision by the District Education Authorities to close 87 Primary Schools for lack of minimum requirements prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Sports. Mr Baliraine said that the Schools had failed to recruit qualified teachers, secure licences and Institute Management Committees.

Minister tips on Sex Education. State Minister for Higher Education John Chrysostom Musingo has asked parents to talk candidly with their children about Sex so that they don't get waded into vices. The Minister asked parents and teachers to identify and nurture the Children's talents from which they can earn a living.

Govt to construct 2,000 houses for Teachers and Health workers. Cabinet has resolved to Construct 2,000 housing units every year over the next five years to deal with the widening housing deficit in the Country. The State Minister for housing, Dr Chris Baryomunsi, said that his ministry has started implementing the recommendations in the Policy.

Island Children denied access to Education-MP. Children living in the Island District of Buvuma have been denied access to free Universal Primary Education, the area MP Robert Migadde Ndugwa, has said. According Mr Mark Mugenyi, the Buvuma District Education Officer, they have only 12 Primary Schools which cannot serve all Islands, leaving many children uneducated.

Post-election violence scares Kasese students. Several schools in areas which experienced Post-election violence in Kasese district are grappling with low turn up of pupils. Education Officials said Schools in affected areas have persistently registered low enrolment since the beginning of second term.

Minister directs Schools on jobs, practical skills. The State Minister for Higher Education has asked schools to start programmes that equip students with business and practical skills to increase their marketability when they graduate.

Kyambogo University to start E-Learning. Like Kampala International University, Kyambogo University has resolved to start teaching online. Andrew Moore, an IT Specialist from South Africa also the Chief Facilitator, said E-learning is the way to go for Kyambogo, given its historical problems.

ENVIRONMENT

Hundreds quit Kibaale forest as NFA draws up final boundary. Hundreds of people who have been occupying various parts of the Kagombe central forest reserve in Kibaale and Kagadi Districts have started vacating as National Forest Authority (NFA) completes boundary opening exercise.

Minister warns Encroachers. The newly-appointed Environment and Water Minister has put on notice the people who encroach on Wetlands, warning that they risk being evicted and prosecuted if they don't stop the practice. Mr Sam Cheptoris issued the warning while speaking at the Second Annual School Water and Sanitation Clubs (SWAS) Convention organised by National Water and Sewerage Cooperation at its headquarters in Bugolobi, Kampala.

Landslides kill four in Bundibugyo. Four people have been confirmed dead and two others critically injured after being hit by a landslide in Bundibugyo District on the slopes of Rwenzori Mountain. The District Police Commander, Mr Martin Tukahebwa, urged residents to be vigilant.

Dry spell to persist till August, rain in North ends October. As predicted earlier, the rainy season in Northern Uganda started last month and is likely to end in October. According to Samuel Sekunda, a Climate Analyst at the Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA).

Land Boards, NEMA blamed over degradation. District Chairperson within the Katonga Catchment area have pinned the District and Buganda land boards, together with the National Environment Management Authorities (NEMA) and the National Forest Authority (NFA) over masterminding the degrading of the environment. The Acting Director of the Directorate of Water Resources, Dr. Calist Tindimugaya, advised the stakeholders to take action other than blaming each other.

Stop evictions without sensitisation, Minister tells NEMA. The newly appointed Minister for Water and Environment has directed the National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA), the Agency Mandated to Preserve the Environment not to carry out any eviction without sensitising the affected people. Dr Tom Okurut, the Nema Executive Director, had earlier informed the Minister that the body faces a challenge of making decisions to evict encroachers and they are challenged in the courts of law.

Minister Orders KCCA to Stop Polluting Kitezi. The Minister of Water and Environment has ordered Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to find an alternative garbage dumping ground apart from Kitezi because of pollution crisis in Wakiso District. Speaking at the Wampeewo play ground on Monday, Mr Sam Cheptoris said KCCA should stop downplaying the pollution crisis which it has created in Wakiso District and treat it with seriousness it deserves because it is a time bomb waiting to spark off a major public health crisis.

HEALTH

Expectant Mothers overwhelm Mbale Hospital. The number of expectant mothers turning up for Antenatal services has overwhelmed Mbale Regional Referral Hospital. Mr Simon Kisabagire, the Principal Hospital Administrator, says the facility delivers about 35 babies on a daily basis and more than 1, 000 per month.

1,625 in Ibanda suffer Epilepsy. The Ibanda District Health Officer, Dr Julius Bamwine, has said 1,625 people in Kicuzi Sub-county majority children, have been diagnosed with Epilepsy. Dr Bamwine said it is more prevalent in the Sub-counties of Irimya, Kanywanbogo and Ryabatenga.

Rotary builds shs 600m accident Trauma Hospital. The Rotary club of Kampala has constructed a shs600m hospital in Mukono district that will offer accident trauma treatment services to citizens on the accident-prone Kampala - Jinja highway.

Ugandans train for early Epidemic alert. Ugandan Epidemiologists have been trained to detect and control disease outbreaks like Ebola, Cholera and Typhoid in real time. According to Dr Zhu Bao Ping, a Technical Advisor at the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that; this will boost Uganda's Surveillance system which has been challenged with delays in detecting epidemics, thus government spending a lot of money in contain them.

26 Maternity wards and Theatres built. By the end of next month, 26 Health Centre IVs across the country will have fully furnished maternity wards and theatres, the Government has announced.

AIDS deaths reduce by half in one year. The number of Ugandans dying from HIV/AIDS-related illnesses has reduced by 50.7% in one year, according to a new report from the Ministry of Health. Florence Buluba, the Executive Director of the National Community of Women Living with HIV in Uganda (NACWOLA), said over half of the 100,000 members of her Organisation have lived with HIV more than 20 years.

Government starts Courses for Herbalists. In a bid to improve standards of their products and services, Herbalists will with effect from next month, start undergoing formal professional training. This was revealed by Dr Sydney Ssentenza, a Public Health Assessor working with East Africa Training and Wellness Institute under the Education Ministry's Directorate of Industrial Training.

Govt, Aga Khan seal deal for Cancer patients' treatment. A total of 400 Cancer patients in Uganda will now be able to receive treatment in Kenya, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Health and the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) in Nairobi.

WHO launches Malnutrition fights in Busoga region. In a bid to combat malnutrition that has escalated in Namutumba, Luuka and Iganga Districts, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has embarked on a campaign aimed at encouraging communities to use locally available food varieties. Iganga District Health Officer, Dr David Muwanguzi, noted with concern, however, that the biggest challenge in the fight against malnutrition evolves around lack of information among the communities.

Parliamentarians told to lobby funds for the Health sector. Members of Parliament have been asked to demand for bigger budgets for the Health sector in order for African countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Health. Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, the Regional Director Partner in Population and Development (PPD) Africa Regional Office, said: 'it is important for MPs to understand SDGs and their importance so that they can priorities health when considering budgets for different sectors.'

18,000 positions vacant in Health ministry. At least 18,784 positions in the Health sector are vacant, according to the new five-year strategic plan developed by Health Service Commission. Dr Aceng said, the Ministry of Finance will provide the required funds to enable the commission to fill the vacant positions on an annual basis.

ECONOMY

Uganda- Tanzania pipeline project starts January. Construction of the Uganda-Tanzania Crude Oil export pipeline is planned to start in January next year, Uganda's Energy Minister, Irene Muloni has said.

Ssendawula calls for revival of Co-operatives. Former Finance Minister Gerald Ssendawula has asked Ugandans to form strong Co-operative movements, to enhance Socio-economic development.

Every Uganda to earn shs3.5m annually by 2020-Museveni. President Museveni said every Ugandan will earn shs3.5m annually or shs290, 000 monthly when the Country attains a middle income status, the government's 2020 vision. He said shs1 trillion will be injected in the Operation Wealth programme up from shs361b allocated this financial year.

Dry spell irks Masaka farmers. Farmers in greater Masaka Sub-region are counting losses due to the prolonged dry spell that has scorched crops in the area. Mr Lutankome Sentamu, the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) Regional Manager in Charge of Central Region, attributed the situation to low rainfall in most parts of Masaka.

Govt to fix prices at public taps. The State Minister for Planning, Mr David Bahati, has said Government plans to fix prices of water at public water taps to protect local users from being exploited by businessmen.

Tororo farmers get shs500m Irrigation Scheme. Farmers from Tororo District will forget the usual cry over dry spells after the Government of Belgium through its Farmers Organisation; VECO East Africa, endorsed partnership with farmers from Kwapa sub-county to construct a multi-million Irrigation Scheme.

Tenants ask landlords to stop charging rent in US dollars. Rent for a cross section of tenants in Kampala shopping malls for three months has jumped from shs63m to about shs75m in just one year. In January 2016, the Ministry of Finance issued a directive warning Accounting Officers against awarding Government contracts in foreign currency, a move aimed at stabilising the shilling.

Uganda loses shs3b daily in South Sudan Conflict. Uganda is losing about \$1million (shs3.3b) every day since war resumed in Juba, the South Sudan Capital. Speaking on Tuesday, the Chairman Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA), Mr Everest Kayondo, said South Sudan, a key export market for Uganda, has for the last month alone been depriving its members and affiliates Organisations an opportunity to transact business.

Planning Authority wants Reforms to Achieve Middle Income Status. The National Planning Authority (NPA) has called for radical reforms in the various Ministries and Government Agencies in the course of driving the Country to a lower middle income status by 2020. Speaking during a media discourse, the NPA Chairman, Dr Kisamba Mugerwa, said whereas to some extent, the National Budget is aligned to the Second National Development Plan, the budgets for Ministries and Agencies are not aligned to the plan.

Bank of Uganda concerned about high interest on loans. The high interest rate on loans Charged by Commercial Banks and the High Cost of doing Businesses in Uganda has got the Bank of Uganda (BOU) concerned. Emmanuel Ajedra, the Chairman of the Uganda Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) Arua branch, urged the Government to deliberately create a Special Development Fund to lend at as low 3% interest.

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Pilgrims Pray for Besigye. Catholic pilgrims, who annually converge at Birinzi village in Mukungwe sub-county, Masaka district, have prayed for Opposition leader Dr Kizza Besigye to receive a fair trial. Msgr Silver Jjumba, the Vicar General Masaka Diocese, who led the mass on Sunday, said the incarcerated leader was a regular congregant at the shrines though this time the event found him behind bars.

Martyrs home to become tourist site. The Catholic Church is set to transform the birthplace of St Kizito, the youngest of the Uganda Martyrs, into an international religious tourist site. According to Fr Lawrence Kizito Kimbowa, the Chairperson Waluleta Pilgrimage organising committee, the tourist site will be marked with an annual Waluleta-St Kizito 18km race aimed at raising awareness about the religious shrine.

Religious leaders urged to preach prosperity. The State Minister for Planning, Mr David Bahati, has challenged religious leaders to use the pulpits to preach economic transformation. Mr Bahati, who is also the Head of Fellowship at the Parliament of Uganda, was on Sunday giving a sermon at Holy Spirit Fire Church in Mbarara run by Apostle Willy Tumwiine and his Wife Annah Tumwiine, the Ntoroko Woman MP.

Kasese Muslim women decry domestic violence. Muslim women in Kasese District have decried the increasing number of domestic cases in their homes, which have led to family break up. Faridah Nambi, the Executive Director of the Union of Muslim Women in Uganda points out that while Uganda has made progress in providing legislation towards preventing domestic violence, some customary practices contradict the country's laws.

Ntagali wants Chaplains back in Barracks. Church of Uganda Archbishop Stanley Ntagali has asked the UPDF leadership to reinstate Chaplains within army barracks to boost their pastoral work. UPDF Spokesperson Lt Col Paddy Ankunda said the UPDF cannot hurriedly reinstate Chaplaincy but soldiers are free to belong to any religious group and convene at the different worship centres outside the barracks.

Lwanga Condemns Police Brutality. Kampala Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga has joined other leaders and human rights defenders to condemn what he called police brutality meted out against supporters of Opposition leader, Kiiza Besigye. The State Minister for Internal Affairs, Mr Mario Obiga Kania, whose docket oversees the Police, asked the force to accept public criticism over the latest charges of brutality against citizens and assess them.

Cleric applauds Adjumani for hosting refugees. The Papal Nuncio to Uganda, Msgr Michael Blume, has applauded the people of Adjumani District for allowing South Sudanese refugees settle on their land. According to the Office of the Prime Minister, Adjumani District is hosting a total of 130,000 South Sudanese refugees in 17 refugee camps.

Priests Cautioned on Behaviour. Mbarara Archdiocese Bishop Paul Bakyenga has asked catholic priests to respect the norms and values of the Catholic Church. Buhweju District Woman MP Oliver Koyekyenga, who was among several politicians at the function, urged the priests to promote Government programmes.

POLITICS

No turning back, Besigye declares. Hours into his temporary freedom Opposition leader, Dr Kizza Besigye remained defiant and turned up at his Kasangati home, not to give up the fight for a better Uganda. Dr Besigye who had been on remand since May on treason charges assured his supporters that they were not breaking any Law in defying a "dictatorship." He instead blamed a section of "criminals" within the police force for slapping trumped up charges against him.

Police Okayed beating of citizens, says Kayihura. The Police beating of Citizens cheering former Presidential Candidate Dr Kizza Besigye was sanctioned by the forces top Command, Police Chief Gen Kale Kayihura said. Gen Kayihura said the Constitution mandates citizen participation in fighting crime and defended the un-uniformed men who participated in the beatings.

Law Society, Activists hit out at Police over brutality. The Uganda Law Society (ULS) has condemned the recent Police Brutality meted out against supporters of Opposition leader Dr Kizza Besigye on the streets of Kampala. Deputy Police Spokesperson Polly Namaye said they have been trying to execute their work professionally and that the recent brutal acts will not go unpunished.

District NRM bosses call for removal of Presidential Age limit. Crafted in the confines of Kyankwanzi District during a meeting of National Resistance Movement (NRM) supporters, the proposal to amend Article 102 (b) of the Constitution to remove Age limits, has gained momentum, with over 120 party District Chairpersons supporting the move. Kyankwanzi Woman MP Rosemary Nankabirwa, who is also the NRM Chairperson for Kyankwanzi, recently chaired a District meeting, which resolved that Article 102 (b) of the Constitution be amended to lift the 75-year age limit for any Ugandan to contest for the Presidency.

FDC opts out of IPOD wants reforms first. Opposition Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) announced that it had opted out of the Inter Party Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD) activities pending reforms in the Organisation which brings Political Parties in Parliament together.

FDC wants MPs punished for Forging Papers. Opposition Forum for Democratic Change has called for punitive actions against Politicians, especially MPs who are convicted of forging academic papers. FDC Deputy Secretary General (Administration) Harold Kaija says it is unfair to burden taxpayers with costs of organising by-elections without punishing those who engage in forgery.

No torture under any circumstances

JPIIJPC has for the last 5 years been working closely with the Uganda Police Force (UPF) to contribute towards improving police professionalism and public image. Among other things, together with other partners, the Centre held a number of dialogue meetings on the manner in which the Force handles demonstrations, public rallies and the mode of arrest. Trainings were conducted on minimum use of force. All these were geared towards professional handling of the public by the police, reduction on public claims against the police, reducing government expenditure on law suits against it and compensation due to unprofessional ways of handling crowds by the police officers and to strengthen police-public relationship.

This collaboration, carried out especially in Kampala, has produced some positive results of which we are happy. However, the recent police brutality against the citizens of this country, well covered by social media, shocked and saddened us as much as it did to many other organisations and individuals.

As a strong partner in promoting a just and peaceful Uganda, and basing ourselves on the principles of the Catholic Social Teaching, which form the foundation and backbone of our Centre, we strongly denounce such violent acts which amount to 'torture'. This teaching clearly advocates against torture under any circumstances:

"The activity of offices charged with establishing criminal responsibility, which is always personal in character, must strive to be a meticulous search for truth and must be conducted in full respect for the dignity and rights of the human person; this means guaranteeing the rights of the guilty as well as those of the innocent. The juridical principle by which punishment cannot be inflicted if a crime has not first been proven must be borne in mind.

In carrying out investigations, the regulation against the use of torture, even in the case of serious crimes, must be strictly observed: "Christ's disciple refuses every recourse to such methods, which nothing could justify and in which the dignity of man is as much debased in his torturer as in the torturer's victim". International juridical instruments concerning human rights correctly indicate a prohibition against torture as a principle which cannot be contravened under any circumstances...." (#404)

In spite of this set-back, we feel more challenged to continue working with the UPF to contribute towards improving its professionalism and public image.