



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
- Youth
- Christian Reflection

EDUCATION

Police bust Lango school strikes racket. Police in Lira District have unearthed a Network of Teachers and Students suspected to be behind the rampant Strikes in Secondary Schools in Lango Sub-Region. Lira District Senior Education Officer in-Charge of Administration, Mr Jasper Abura, thanked students of Dr Obote College for alerting the authorities after learning that their colleagues were planning to lead a strike.

Teachers pinned on absenteeism. Teachers in Iganga District are perpetually absent from their duty stations which has resulted in poor academic performance, a study conducted by Makerere University in Partnership with a Nairobi-Based International NGO, African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) the Iganga CAO, Mr Joseph Mayiira, said he had come up with a policy of deleting from the Payroll teachers who absent themselves, but other stakeholders called for intensification of supervision and holding of meeting with Parents and Teachers to eliminate the Gap.

EAC asked to Scrap Student Visa Permits. East African Community (EAC) Member's States have been asked to abolish student Visas and Special entry conditions for East Africans wishing to study at any University or College within the region.

Uneb rejects blame for MPs paper woes. Two Government bodies in charge of equating the Country's academic qualifications have said they carry no blame for clearing MPs whose academic credentials court has since found to be inadequate.

Kabaka urges Schools to teach Luganda. The Kabaka, Ronald Muwenda Mutabi II, has asked teachers and school proprietors to emphasise the teaching of Luganda in schools, saying it is one of the aspects that cement the Kingdoms Culture and Norms.

Ministry blames KCCA on poor planning in city schools. The Ministry of Education has asked Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to hold its supervisors accountable for the poor performance of the schools. The Principal Education Officer, Mr George Muteekanga, blamed KCCA for failing to collect enough data about the Schools

Students to sue Makerere over closure of campus. More than 250 students of Makerere University Fort Portal Campus have threatened to drag the oldest Institution to court seeking reopening of their Campus.

Shs18b Soroti University Project Stalls. Authorities and stakeholders in Teso Sub-region are concerned that the shs18.686 billion Soroti University of Science and Technology construction project funded by the Government could stall due to financial constraints. According to Mr James Okello, the Chairman of the University Task Force, the Institution needs 14 Laboratories for the Science Students, but they have five which is far below what the University is supposed to have.

60% Education Budget Spent on Salaries-Report. Over 60% of the public funds allocated to the Education Sector are spent on salaries, a new National Education Accounts (NEA) survey has revealed.

ENVIRONMENT

NEMA stops mining of sand on Lake Victoria. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has stopped Mango Tree Group Limited, a Chinese Ship Building Company, from mining and transporting sand on Lake Victoria. Dr Jerome Lugumira, the Natural Resources Manager at NEMA, told a media briefing on Tuesday that the Ministries of Works and Transport, as well as Water and Environment, issued Mango Tree Group with licences to provide cheap water transport for cargo from Entebbe to Kisumu and Mwanza ports

Ugandans concerned about Environmental degradation-survey. A survey conducted by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) on service delivery indicates that 67% of Ugandans are gravely concerned about Environmental degradation and its creeping danger.

City water pipe bursts, leaves traders in tears. An underground water pipe on Salaama Road in Makindye division, Kampala, ruptured letting off a burst of water that flooded the neighbouring shops and houses, destroying merchandise and household property. The newly installed pipes burst following their failure to contain the water pressure, causing mass flooding in the area.

Encroachers destroyed five hectares of forest in Kyenjojo, saying report. At least five hectares in Matiri Central Forest Reserve in Kyenjojo district have been destroyed as a result of illegal and indiscriminate clearing of the forest to pave way for cultivation, a preliminary report has revealed.

Encroachers make fresh demands. The row between Mt Elgon National Park encroachers and Uganda Wildlife Authority has taken a new twist with encroachers demanding for more land in the park.

HEALTH

Makerere starts research on HIV resistant genes. Makerere University Researchers have embarked on a research project to establish whether there are some Ugandans with genes that are resistant to HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB). According to Dr. Misaki Wayengera, the head of Genetics in the School of Medicine at Makerere University's College of Health Science. The research is, among others, informed by the fact that some children born with HIV can live up to 25 year before the Virus destroys their CD4 positive (CD4+) cells to develop into AIDS Symptoms.

Kalangala stuck with expired AIDS drugs for Six Months. Kalangala Health Centre IV has, for six months been stuck with expired AIDS drugs worth millions of shillings, the facility Senior Clinical Officer and Co-ordinator of antiretroviral therapy orders in Kalangala district, William Keronega, has disclosed.

Ugandan Scientists develop anti-malaria herbal drug. In an effort to curb malaria a team of Scientists have come up with herbal drugs to supplement other medicines on the market. The Managing Director of DEI Group of Companies International, the Organisation behind the Research and Production of the Medicine, Mathias Magoola, said the DEI Anti-Malaria Herbal Medicine is a product of three plants.

Medics warned against strikes. Medical workers should avoid strikes while executing their duties, James Mugura, the Assistant Commissioner in Charge of Vocational Education in the Ministry of Education and Sports, has warned.

Masaka Hospital x-ray services closed over shs1.8m licence fees. The International Atomic Energy Council (IAEC) has shut down Masaka Regional Referral Hospital x-ray machine services, causing a crisis among patients.

Uganda to introduce New Paediatric ARV formulation. Uganda is to introduce new Paediatric ARV Formulation in form of Pellets by next year. The National Co-ordinator Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Care Cordelia Katureebe said they are working with partners to have lopinavir/ritonavir liquid solution.

Rotarians start Cancer machine drive. After a successful fundraising for the construction of the Cancer ward at Nsambya Hospital, Rotarians have embarked on another drive to raise shs13.4 billion to buy a Cancer treatment machine. The Katikiro of Buganda, Mr Charles Peter Mayiga, popular for his (brick) fundraising drive in which billions of shillings were collected to rehabilitate key Kingdom properties, asked Ugandans to participate in Cancer Run, saying it is for a noble cause.

570 Girls in Uganda get HIV weekly. A report by the United Nations shows that 570 young girls in Uganda aged between 15-24 years, get infected with HIV. Dr Zepher Ranyabokabo, from Ministry of Health attributed this trend to cross-generational sex and the use of money to lure unsuspecting young naïve girls.

ECONOMY

Govt to cut domestic borrowing by shs 679b. Government will cut domestic borrowing by half in the 2016/17 financial year to control high commercial bank lending rates. According to the State Minister for General Duties Mr Gerald Ajedra, government will only borrow shs 621 billion compared to shs1.3 trillion it borrowed in the 2016/17 Financial year.

Uganda milk prospects brighter-stakeholders. Stakeholders in the Uganda Dairy Industry say the future looks bright following several interventions by the Government to grow the enterprise, seen as a key component in turning the wheels of the economy especially in the rural areas.

Drop in cement hurting growth in construction. The construction sector, which is usually as the pulse of economic activity, slowed down recently as cement prices shot up amidst low production, there was low production of cement between March and April 2016, which led to a slump in the Construction Sector, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (Ubos) said recently.

Uganda loses shs1 trillion in tax exemptions annually-report. Despite some regional Governments taking a few steps to curb loss of revenue, a new report indicates that four of the East African major economies could be losing up to \$2 billion (shs 6.7 trillion) every year to unwarranted tax incentives.

Agriculture will deliver Uganda to middle income status. Economists and Agricultural experts have said Agriculture will deliver the country to middle income status if its potential is well harnessed. Ms Sarah Sewanyana, the Executive Director of the Economic Policy and Research Centre (EPRC), said there is need to think how best to help Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) Programme Achieve the best in the Agricultural Sector.

EALA MPs want restriction on sugar imports removed. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) have asked partner states to lift restrictions on cross border sugar trade, highlighting the persistent regional squabbles over market control. According to the EALA Sensitisation Committee that is currently in Uganda, Countries like Tanzania and Kenya have continued to import Sugar from Countries outside the Region, which they said affects Inter-trade within the EAC.

Diversify economy before producing Oil-world bank. The World Bank has advised Uganda to diversify its economy before it gets Oil revenues. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Uganda has sustained buoyant growth rates for nearly 10 years, but the economy has achieved only a limited degree of structural change.

Bank of Uganda reduces interest rates to 15%. Bank of Uganda (BoU) reduced its key Central bank rate to 15% from 16%, a move it said is aimed at lifting the economy from slow to higher growth rate in the future.

Renewable energy centre opens at Makerere. The East African Community Secretariat has opened a Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy efficiency at Makerere University to Coordinate Studies and Innovations in the Sector.

UNRA moves to stop illegal foreign workers. The construction of roads in Uganda has been mostly dominated by foreign firms that often come with a host of expatriates. According to Mr Samuel Muhoozi, the Director Roads and Bridges Development, UNRA, the authority has recorded several instances of illegal foreign workers on its projects.

KCCA to triple tax revenue. In an effort to increase revenue base, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), in Collaboration with pay way, has launched an Electronic way of collecting taxes.

UETCL to build shs300b power sub-station. A Chinese construction firm has embarked on the construction of the four Mega sub-stations at Luzira, Namanve, Mukono, and Iganga Industrial parks. Mr Mark Namungo, the Senior Power Analyst at the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL), said the project is expected to cost \$100m (shs337b) which was borrowed from the Chinese Exim Bank.

Farmers urged to grow chilli. People neighbouring Murchison falls national park have been urged to grow chilli instead of maize if they are to fight elephants and get high returns from agriculture. According to Peter Maganda, a trainer at Gulu Agricultural Development Company, chilli fetches between shs3, 000 and shs8, 000 per kilo, depending on the quality.

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Bishop tells workers to serve with love. The Bishop of Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese, Dr Joseph Anthony Zziwa, has called on civil servants to love their jobs so that they can effectively serve the nation. Bishop Zziwa said the workers are called by God to serve the people and so they are usually doing his will.

Ntagali tells Politicians to stop practicing witchcraft. Archbishop Stanley Ntagali has questioned the morality of some Politicians, saying they are seeking favours from witchdoctors instead of thanking God and giving back to the people who elected them.

Bishops warn Govt on arrests. Catholic Bishops have warned the Judiciary over a growing tendency to allow itself to be used by Government in its dispute with opponents. The Bishops also condemned security agencies clampdown on human Rights, freedoms and the Media.

Religious divisions worry leaders. Sheema District Leaders said divisions, especially between Catholics and Protestants that escalated during the last general elections might stifle development in the area. Mr David Kabigumira, the district chairperson, said the conflicts are being engineered by individuals in positions of influence and that if not resolved; it will greatly affect development in the district.

Cleric's body okays use of Sharia courts. The Inter Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) has sanctioned the use of sharia courts to help in resolving civil conflicts and fight gender-based violence in Muslim communities in Busoga Region.

Elders, Clergy Committee to preach Peace in Rwenzori. Locals in Bundibugyo have formed a committee of five elders to traverse the District promoting peace. Alfred Masaki, one of the contestants in the National Resistant Movement in Primaries in Bughendera County, which were won by Kibanzanga, challenged the elders to expose the rot in the district so that medicine is prescribed to treat it.

POLITICS

Kazibwe rallies Parliament in campaign for AU top Job. As voting day draws closer, the contender of the African Union Chair, Dr Specioza Wandera Kazibwa, has upped her campaign, this time asking Parliament for its support. The African Union Heads of State will meet in Kigali on July 17 to elect union chairperson who will take on from South African Zuma

Defiance is legal, Besigye tells court. Dr Kizza Besigye has defended his defiance campaign in the constitutional court, saying it is a lawful means by which Citizens can boldly resist the illegal and unconstitutional acts and conduct of any person or authority to keep themselves in power against the provisions of the Constitution.

Besigye applies to court for bail. The former FDC Presidential Candidate, Dr Kizza Besigye, has applied to the high court in Kampala seeking bail. Prosecution alleges that Dr Besigye and others at large between February 20 and May 11 this year formed an intention to compel by force government to change its measures as to the lawfully established methods

UPC officials charged with treason. Mr Dan Oola Odiya, the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) Party National Deputy Mobiliser and two other suspects appeared before Gulu Grade one magistrate Paul Owino and charged with treason. Outgoing UPC President Mr Olara Otunu, while addressing the press in Gulu Town expressed disappointment with the state over what he termed as fallacious charges.

Legislator wants more funding for Opposition. Opposition MPs want the Government to allocate more resources for the Office of the Leader of Opposition (LOP) to enhance its role of checks and balances for the Government. FDC President Mugisha Muntu advised MPs not to get pre-occupied with the struggle to cause change of government, but build institutions and cohesion among the opposition.

Explain Besigye house burglary-FDC. Rukungiri Municipality MP Roland Mugume Kaginda has said Government owes FDC and Rukungiri District residents an explanation for the vandalism of incarcerated former Presidential Candidate Kiiza Besigye's house.

YOUTH

Lango Elders warn youth against lawlessness. Clan leaders in Lango have been warned against allowing their children to participate in acts of lawlessness. The leader of Lango in the Diaspora who is also the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Lango Cultural Foundation, Eng. Dr. Michael Odongo Okune, said it is clear some people want to destabilise the Country through unnecessary attacks on Security bases.

Karamoja youth protest Janet transfer. Youth in Karamoja Sub-region have protested the transfer of Ms Janet Museveni from being Minister for the sub-region to Education and Sports. MPs from Karamoja Sub-region have also expressed disappointment with the President for not appointing one of them as Minister for the region.

Govt to ring fence some jobs for youth. Government plans to ring- fence at least 20 per cent of the public jobs for the youth as one of the measures to ease the burden of youth unemployment. The Proposal is being mooted by Officials in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with the backing of youth leaders.

Govt secures shs36b for youth jobs. In a move to further support the youth to start income generating enterprises and improve their livelihood, the Government has secured another fund to eradicate unemployment. The Permanent Secretary in the Gender Ministry, Pius Bigirimana, said the \$11m (about shs36b) promise from the United Nations will facilitate 'thousands' of youth to acquire 'go-green' skills and erect environment-friendly enterprises

Pader, Agago youth fail to refund shs 647m. The beneficiaries of the Youth Livelihood Programme in Pader and Agago districts have failed to refund money they received and are now in hiding fearing arrest. Pader District Probation and Social Welfare Officer, Mr David Oketch Odwong, said only three groups out of 47 have started refunding the money they received in the financial year 2014/15.

CHRISTIAN REFLECTION

Youth, messengers of hope!

During his visit to Uganda, Pope Francis, in his speech to the youth at Kololo, challenged and invited them to be 'messengers of hope'. He told them:

"Dear young friends, when I look at your faces I am filled with hope: hope for you, hope for your country, and hope for the Church. I ask you to pray that the hope which you have received from the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire your efforts to grow in wisdom, generosity and goodness. Don't forget to be messengers of that hope!"

The news we hear and read about our youth in this country seem not to inspire that 'hope' talked of by Pope Francis. And yet, that is what they are supposed to stir in each one of us if we are to expect any meaningful future for this country.

Pope Francis' words echo those of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, when he was launching the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation: "Africae Munus: the Church in Africa in service to Reconciliation, Justice and Peace." He said:

"I have often joined the word hope to the word Africa.... The word hope is also found several times in the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Africae Munus which I am shortly going to sign. When I say that Africa is a continent of hope, I am not indulging in mere rhetoric, but simply expressing a personal conviction which is also that of the Church." (19th November 2011, Cotonou, Benin)

Both Francis and Benedict, point out in their speeches the many challenges and obstacles that hide this hope, but at the same time they clearly express their personal conviction that these can be overcome.

If, as Pope Benedict said, we are not "indulging in mere rhetoric" when we talk about the youth as the hope for our families, religious communities and country, then we have to be courageous enough to keep reaching out, working and fighting against all that threaten this hope.