



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
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EDUCATION

School dropout rate in Butaleja district on the rise. The school dropout rate in Butaleja District has risen from 45 per cent in the last four years, new statistics have revealed. According to the statistics from the District Education Department, School dropout rate in upper primary is between 60 and 70 per cent, while the dropout rate in lower primary is at 10 per cent.

Tororo Teachers abandon schools for sports betting. Angry parents stormed Mukuju Primary School in Tororo demanding the immediate transfer of the School Head Teacher and the withdrawal of appointment for the Chairperson of the schools Management Committee. The district education officer, Yona Gamusi Doya, said they have gathered substantial evidence to that effect, warning that the teachers involved will soon face disciplinary action.

15 Primary Schools closed in Lwengo district. More than 3,000 pupils across Lwengo District are stranded three weeks into the first school term following the closure of 15 privately owned Primary schools over poor standards.

Ministry to revoke Certificates of Teachers who beat children. Teachers who beat children at school risk having their certificate revoked, the State Minister for Primary Education has warned. Dr. John Chrysostom Musingo said the Ministry of Education was ready to ban any teacher found guilty of administering the outlawed corporal punishment.

Makerere University to review policies on PWDs. The British government has given Makerere University a grant of shs150, 000 Pound sterling (shs675m) to review the impact of all policies targeting Services provision for Persons with Disability.

Officials decry low education funding. Mitoma District Officials have decried low funding for the Education Sector saying it has affected Education Standards. The District Chairperson, Mr Benon Karyeija, said they receive shs10b for education sector, which is shared by primary, Secondary and Tertiary Institutions to cater for salaries, inspection, and other activities.

Iganga SS working to give a vision to the Blind. Children with visual impairment studying at Iganga (Girls) secondary school (Iganga SS) are among the best performing students in the final Examinations at both O' and A' level. The Director of Studies in Charge of O' level at Iganga Secondary School, David Balikweya, said the Special Needs Department at the school became stronger 15 years ago.

Uganda cited for poor schools regulation. A report by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) has expressed the unregulated growth and operation of private schools in Uganda. According to the guideline, for instance, a school must have a minimum of seven teachers working full time, three of who must be science and mathematics teachers in case of post-primary education.

Govt Primary Schools to champion reading. The Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports has started retraining its Teachers on literacy both in English and local language as a medium of instruction. Dr Daniel Nkaada, the Commissioner for Basic Education explained that there was insufficient time devoted to oral reading previously, which affected the performance of learners.

Exam body decries low female enrolment for technical courses. The Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB) said they continue to register few female candidates for technical courses. Mr Onesmus Oyesigye, the UBTEB Executive Secretary, made the remarks a head of the release of last year's technical and business examinations today at their offices in Ntinda, a Kampala suburb.

Shs 22b Gulu University Science project starts. The Minister of Education, Ms Jessica Alupo commissioned the expansion of blocks at Gulu University in Laroo Division, Gulu Municipality that will cost the government shs22.5b.

Technical Institutes get new Curriculum. The National Curriculum Development Centre has reviewed and rolled out a new curriculum for eight Technical Craft Programmes for Business, Technical and Vocational Education Training (BTVET) institution across the country.

7 million Ugandans haven't been to school- census. Even with a remarkable steady increase in literacy rates, nearly seven million Ugandans, representing 19.3 per cent of the total population, have never been to school. Dr Ben Mungyereza, the Executive Director, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, has proposed that parents whose children are not going to school yet there is UPE and USE should be arrested

15% pay raise for teachers, University staff confirmed. After several months of negotiations and promises, the Finance Ministry has confirmed an allocation of about shs195b in the 2016/17 financial year budget to cater for primary school teachers and university staff salary enhancement.

ENVIRONMENT

Illegal logging threatens Ibambaro forest. Ibambaro Central Forest Reserve in Kyenjojo district is under threat of extinction given the high number of encroachers, a team led by National Forest Authority (NFA), security and civil society leaders has observed.

NEMA closes down Tibet Hima. Hima Mining Company in Kilembe has temporally been closed after an assessment report by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) indicated that the company sewerage disposal unit has a negative environmental impact to residents and river Nyamwamba.

Drought, Water Crisis hits Mbale. Following the prolonged drought that has hit Mbale and several parts of the Country, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) is facing challenges in supplying water to its customers.

Council loses bid to save Nyimbwa forest. Environmentalists and a Section of Luwero District Councilors have lost the battle to save a forest reserve located in Nyimbwa sub-county. Environmental Enthusiasts claim the District Land Board distributed the more than 160 acres of the forest reserve to five different private investors and members of the District Executive without following the right procedures.

Hailstorm ravages Ntungamo leaves 100 families stranded. More than 100 families in Kitwe Town Council in Ntungamo District have lost crops to hail storms following a down pour last Saturday.

Shoebill Birds feared extinct at Lake Opeta. The rare shoebill bird species said to be found only at the shores of Lake Opeta (Busina) in Katakwi district in Uganda are feared to have become extinct. Mr Charles Ichodor, the Executive Director of Conserve Uganda, a tourism firm that has been protecting the shoebill at Opeta, said on three Excursions they have ventured out with tourists to watch the birds ended in disappointment as none of them could be seen in their habitats.

Weather experts warn of landslides, hailstorms. The government warned of possible floods and landslides ahead of this year's first major rainfall seasons expected between March and May. Speaking to journalists at the Uganda Media Centre, Environment State Minister Flavia Munaaba said several parts of the country will experience increased near normal rainfall characterized by severe thunderstorms and hailstorms.

Lubigi Wetland Central Cattle Corridor under drought threat. The continued encroachment on Lubigi Wetland will not only lead to extreme flooding in Kampala and Wakiso districts but will also dry up the entire Central Cattle Corridor, experts have warned.

FAO advises farmers on drastic weather changes. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is implementing the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) project to increase knowledge on climate change among smaller holder farmers in Uganda's central cattle corridor district.

Gulu Water crisis worsens as Dam dries up. Water crisis in Gulu has worsened amidst the prolonged dry spell in the district that has seen a drastic reduction in the water levels at Oytino Dam, located in Patiko sub-county, which supplies Gulu Municipality. Mr Paul Rackara, the NW&SC Gulu branch Manager, said that the prolonged drought is the first of its kind in the region in their 23 years of operation in the district.

HEALTH

KCCA gets shs7b for sanitation. Kampala Capital City Authority has embarked on a \$2m (shs7b) project to promote Sanitation and Hygiene in the city. The Director of Public Health and Environment, Dr David Sserukka, told journalists that the objective of the project is to address the challenges of sanitation especially collection, transport, safe disposal of waste and treatment of faecal sludge from pit-latrines and septic tanks.

Govt to set up Regional Cancer treatment. The Ministry of Health will create Regional Cancer Treatment Centres in the Country to fight the deadly disease in local communities.

New Malaria Cases in North baffle experts. Although the number of deaths resulting from malaria outbreak which started in April last year in Northern Uganda has reduced, Dr Emmanuel Otto, the District Health Officer of Agago District said there were shortages of drugs and health supplies both from National Medical Stores and partners.

Kidney diseases among children on the rise. Just when everyone thought kidney diseases only afflicted adults, Health experts made a startling revelation children are falling victims too.

Kitagata hospital gets shs700 million facelift. Kitagata Hospital in Sheema District has launched a facelift and renovation of major infrastructure after getting shs700m from the Ministry of Health. Dr Felix Mubangizi, the Hospital Administrator said the renovation shall repair some structures, the water drainage and sewerage system.

47-year Bugiri hospital gets facelift. Bugiri District Referral Hospital is undergoing renovation for the first time in 47 years of its existence.

Pallisa Patients overwhelm medics. The number of patients at Pallisa Hospital has increased despite inadequate funding and medical personnel, the district health officer, Dr Godfrey Mulekwa, has revealed. Dr Mulekwa said the most common cases admitted to the Hospital are malaria, which is on the increase despite government intervention to provide residents with treated mosquito nets.

Nebbi Hospital nears completion. As Nebbi Hospital rehabilitation nears completion, authorities have appealed to government to increase the number of Health Workers to help improve service delivery at the facility.

Medics worry over high-cost TB drug. International Medical Humanitarian Organization-Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) has expressed concern at the high price announced for the new tuberculosis (TB) drug. According to MSF, a Japanese Pharmaceutical Company Otsuka said it would make Delamanid available to some developing countries at a price \$1,700 (shs5, 73, 4100) per treatment course.

Patients demonstrate as woman dies after delivery. Patients and their care takers at Mbarara Regional Hospital demonstrated over what they called negligence by health workers which resulted in the death of a 20 year old mother.

Gulu starts free Mass Hepatitis B Vaccination. Gulu Health Department began a free mass Vaccination exercise against Hepatitis B virus that is fast spreading in the northern region. Gulu District Health Educator, Mr Celestine Ojok, urged people to go and test at no cost saying those caught selling the drugs will face the law.

Museveni opens shs4b Pharmaceutical JMS warehouse in Mbarara. President Yoweri Museveni has commissioned the first custom-made pharmaceutical warehouse for Joint Medical Stores (JMS) in Mbarara and hailed Christians for the spirit of unity and commitment to invest in a life-saving- multi-billion project.

Malaria cases rise among refugees. One of every four deaths among refugees is caused by Malaria, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has said.

Districts Demand more funding for health sector. A number of Districts have urged government to increase money it spends on the health of every citizen annually if it is to provide better services to the rural poor. Maracha District Acting Health Officer Sunday Cadribo said the money allocated to districts for healthcare is still inadequate, with 30 per cent of it catering for administrative costs.

Shs1b Anti- Malnutrition campaign launched. A campaign against malnutrition has been launched in Namutumba District. The project Coordinator of Micro Nutrient Powder project, Mr David Katuntu, said: “our target is to ensure that there are zero cases of malnutrition in the district by the end of September this year, but this can only be achieved if parents put what we teach them into practice”.

Kenya issues new rules to stop possible spread of yellow fever. The Kenyan government has issued new guidelines for visitors arriving from Angola and other countries where yellow fever outbreak has been reported. Acting Director of Medical Services Jackson Kioko said all travellers will also be subjected to thorough check-ups as part of measures to contain the spread of the viral disease.

ECONOMY

Agriculture financing policy in offing-govt. Government has committed itself to developing a policy that will help farmers transform from subsistence farming to Commercial Agriculture through coordinated financing strategies.

Sale of Barclays won't affect operations- BoU. Bank of Uganda (BoU) said Barclays Bank Group announcement to reduce its shareholding in the African Unit does not affect the operations of Barclays Bank Uganda.

No Money to expand Loan Scheme- Minister Alupo. The government has turned down a request from the Higher Education Students Financing Board (HESFB) to increase the number of loan beneficiaries from 1,276 to 3,000 students. According to the Education Minister, Ms Jessica Alupo, the budget could not accommodate the increase but added that a meeting with president Museveni would determine whether the request could be factored in next year.

Uganda, Tanzania agrees on shs 13 trillion Southern oil pipeline deal. Tanzania has allowed Uganda to construct a \$4b (shs13.3trillion) oil pipeline through the southern route. In a meeting with president Museveni at the close of last year, Mr Patrick Pouyanne, the Total Chief Executive Officer emphasized his desired for the pipeline to pass through Tanga.

UNBS rolls out E-verification service to combat counterfeits. Consumers will soon be able to electronically verify whether the products they are about to buy are genuine, of good standard, quality or not. Dr Ben Manyindo, the Executive Director UNBS, said the e-tag will create a robust channel for not only quality verification and auditing, but also verifying the source of commodities plus their conformance with the acceptable quality standards under the Ugandan law.

Uganda to Benefit from \$60b China Fund for Africa. Uganda is one of the 10 Countries that have fulfilled the preliminary conditions to benefit from a \$60b aid package from China announced last year.

President urges on Commercial Agriculture. President Yoweri Museveni has urged the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) task force led by Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho (Salim Saleh) to sensitize Subsistence farmers who have 1-4 acres of land, to engage in Commercial Agriculture for improved income

NSSF launches new portal to ease members, contributions. National Social Security Fund (NSSF) has launched an Electronic Collections portal to reduce time taken to receive employee contributions. Speaking at the launch of the service, Mr Richard Byarugaba, the Managing Director NSSF, said the new arrangement involves having a straightforward process of remitting members contributions from the employer through the bank to NSSF.

Mobile Money transactions hit record shs32.5 trillion. The amount of Money transacted through Mobile Money payment or Mobile Banking grew by shs8.5 trillion in the year 2015.

Shs8b for Ugandan Legume Seed Producers. A group of Donor Agencies and Departments have announced an injection of sh7.89b (\$2.35m) into the Uganda Legume Seed Production to boost agri-business. Nelson Masereka, the Executive Secretary of the Uganda Seed Traders Association (USTA).

Street Vendors asked to operate in USAFI Market. The Management and vendors of USAFI Market have backed Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) proposal to allow street vendors to operate in the market, saying it will boost its commercial development.

Italian Investors to Increase Business Ventures in Uganda. Italian investors have embarked on an extensive investment study of Uganda's opportunities with particular interest in West Nile sub-region

10 MW Solar Power Project starts in Soroti. Access Uganda Solar Limited, East African largest solar independent power provider is to build the first grid- connected solar plant in Uganda. The European Union (EU) ambassador to Uganda, Kristina Schmidt, one of the sponsors, said EU has contributed 8.7m Euros towards the construction of the project.

Agricultural financing grows by shs150b. The Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF) meant to encourage banks lend to agriculture and increase productivity in the sector, has grown by shs149.6b. Speaking in Kampala the Executive Director of Finance, Bank of Uganda (BoU), Mr David Kalyango, said: 'the ACF has no doubt registered a significant growth from shs46.4b as of December 2010 to shs196.0b as of December 31, 2015)

Uganda budget proposals target higher taxes on cement, petrol. A Set of proposed tax increases targeting key items contained in the 2016/17 budget envelope has raised questions about Uganda's business competitiveness ratings amid desperate measures to boost tax revenue.

Railway project to provide employment. The Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project is in discussions with major manufacturers in Uganda about the unfolding opportunities for supplies for the project works. According to Stuart Mwesigwa, the Roofing's Business Development Manager, the firm has installed capacity of 7,200 tonnes annually, but producing at only about half due to lack of markets.

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Namugongo Shrine set for mass wedding. The Catholic Church has organized a mass wedding at Namugongo shrine scheduled on May 14, where couples are to wed at minimal cost. According to Namugongo Catholic Church, Spokesperson Francis Muwonge, a couple that has already had introduction with in-laws and is seconded by the catholic parish leaders are legible to wed.

Police arrest Bishop over Child Trafficking. Police in Isingiro district are holding Outreach Christian Centre Ministry Bishop David Mutebi on allegations of child trafficking. The Resident District Commissioner, Mr Herbert Muhangi, said Bishop Mutebi had conned the parents of their hard-earned money.

St. Francis Sisters praised for promoting Education. Fr. Ignatius Kivumbi of Namilyango parish has emphasized the need for the Education of girls, saying these are the future leaders of this Country.

Enroll Children in seminaries, parents urged. Bishop Christopher Kakooza of Lugazi diocese has urged parents to enroll their children in seminaries owing to the increasing demand for more church leaders in the diocese.

Bishop Semwogerere slams Besigye arrest. The Bishop of Kasana-Luwero Diocese, Joseph Semwogerere, has said the government's decision to subject former Forum for Democratic Change Presidential Candidate Kiiza Besigye to house arrest is comparable to a fighter who bites an opponent whom he has already wrestled to the ground.

Archbishop Lwanga urges women to be united. Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga has appealed to women countrywide to promote the culture of working together to develop themselves at a personal level, the church and the state at large.

Priest calls on students to desist from promiscuity. The Principal of Uganda Bible Institute, Mbarara branch, the Rev Can. Johnson Twinomujuni, has called on the youth in Uganda to resist any temptations that may lead them into promiscuity.

Museveni asks Church to promote stability. President Museveni has challenged the church to work for a productive and morally upright society which is important for stability. Mr Museveni urged Christians to further mobilize for their improved economic status so that they are able to support the church and address other needs in the community.

Luwero gets first Canon law Court. The Kasana-Luwero Diocese has constituted the first ever Canon law, procedures and norms. The Church has many pending cases which call for adjudication given that the 'church has its own and exclusive right to judge in reference to matters which are Spiritual, the violation of ecclesiastical laws with an element of sin to determine guilt and impose penalties.'

Stop useless Political Arguments, priest urges. The curate of our Lady of Africa Catholic church Mbuya, Father Paulino Mondo, has asked Ugandans to desist from engaging in useless political arguments and guard the current peace if they are to get out of poverty. However, according to

Fr. Mondo, there is need to be peaceful because it is only in such circumstances that people can conduct life-changing activities.

Don't fear to retire, Katoneene tells losers. West Ankole Diocese Bishop Yona Mwesigwa Katoneene has asked leaders that were defeated in elections not to worry about their future, saying they will be redeployed if they were helpful to the people. Mr Bwemi is the Director of Kyamuhunga Child Development Centre while his wife is the diocesan accountant

YOUTH

Youth in well-off nations smoke, drink less. The number of teenagers trying Alcohol or Cigarettes before they turn 14 has dropped, especially among girls, According to a World Health Organization study of 42 well- off Nations. “ Health behaviors along with social habit and attitude acquired in the critical second decade of a young person’s life can carry on into adulthood and affect the entire life course, ‘ Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO regional director for Europe.

Money is in ‘dirty things’ Youth told at MPL fair. Prosperous Businessmen told the youth that money is in ‘dirty things ‘and rallied them to embrace a robust saving culture while avoiding living indulgent lifestyles if they are to improve their fortune. Speaking at a Career Guidance fair in Mbarara targeting the youth, speakers Charles Ocici (CEO enterprises Uganda) tackled topics as diverse as entrepreneurship, employment, and personal development.

Youth fund defaulters face arrest. Mpigi District Senior Community Development Officer, Ms Margret Elasu Namusoke, has directed youth groups in seven sub-counties of Mpigi Town Council, which reportedly misused the youth livelihood funds to pay back the money or else they face the law.

POLITICS

Mbabazi challenges polls in court. At the eleventh hour, when courts were about to close, Amama Mbabazi lawyers showed up at the supreme Court, armed with a petition challenging the re-election of President Yoweri Museveni in the February 18 polls.

Kiggundu defends votes tally, says he relied on electronic data. The Electoral Commission (EC) chairman, Eng. Badru Kiggundu, took to the stand at the Supreme Court and defended the conduct of the February 18 presidential elections and particularly the system used in tallying the results. Kiggundu, who appeared as a witness, told the nine justices that the elections were conducted in a free and fair manner.

Election malpractice caused Kasese violence-Rwenzori leaders. Leaders of the Rwenzori Fraternity have dismissed statements made by the Inspector General of police, Gen Kale Kayihura, in connection with the incident in Kasese district where six people have been killed following run-ins with the police and the army.

Muntu breaks down at FDC protest prayer. As Forum for Democratic Change Party launched national prayers which the party said was part of the efforts to liberate the country. The main celebrant, Pastor Daniel Ngabo of Rock Deliverance church, who delivered the day's sermon, invited the participants to their knees to tell God their grievances.

Museveni files defence, denies all malpractices. President-elect Yoweri Museveni has responded to the presidential elections petition challenging his re-election, saying he was validly elected in accordance with all electoral laws.

Amama Mbabazi lawyers' offices vandalized. Police are investigating reported vandalism of the offices of the two lead lawyers of former prime minister and presidential candidate Amama Mbabazi. Speaking to new vision Godfrey Wandera, a supervisor of Protectorate SPC, a private security firm charged with securing the office, said the intrusion triggered off the alarm system, which was immediately picked up by the rapid response team.

Youth MP Elections marred by protests over allowances. Regional Youth MP elections got underway in Masaka, Fort Portal, and Gulu, but were characterized by protests from the delegates over what they called meager transport refunds.

Women activists petition EC over election results. Women activists for peace drawn from different organizations have piled more pressure on the Electoral commission (EC) to release all declaration result forms from all polling stations countrywide to disprove allegations of massive rigging in the recently concluded presidential elections. Former Ethics minister and rights activists Dr Miria Matembe, while at the same event, called for dialogue between government and opposition

Seven scribes arrested over covering Besigye. Police have arrested seven reporters who were covering the arrest of Forum for Democratic Change presidential candidate Kiiza Besigye at his home in Kasangati, Wakiso district and the dumping of yellow pig at state house in Kampala district.

FDC rules out violence, sticks to prayer. The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party has ruled out the use of violence in their political fight and promised to spread out the weekly prayer sessions to various places, including taxi and boda-boda stages. Party spokesperson Ibrahim Semujju Nganda said they will continue with prayers to free Uganda from the injustices which he said the country is facing.