



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

University staff strikes over pay. The Public University Non-teaching Staff Executive Forum (PUNTSEF) said that its members in various Universities would go on strike in protest over their emolument. PUNTSEF Chairperson Jackson Betihamah said that the strike would start unless the government pays up.

Mulago Nursing School marks 60 years, graduates 200. Uganda does not need just more graduates but those with a different work ethic to understand the challenges in the Health Sector, the first lady has said. Hajjat Safina Kisu Museene, the MSNM principal, said the Institution had registered tremendous growth and development in terms of systems, infrastructure and Academic programmes.

Iran Donates Digital Qur'an copies to students. Several Muslim students are the beneficiaries of Digital Qur'an books from the Iranian Embassy in Uganda after participating in a religious recitation Competition. For their part, the student leaders, Abdu-Salaam Kalanzi Bwogi, commended the institutions for allowing the students to participate in the competition, as it instils discipline.

Muslim Teachers call for Education review. Muslim Teachers have asked government to review the entire Education system in view of bringing it in line with contemporary trends. Speaking during a meeting of the Uganda Muslim Teachers Association (UMTA) at Kibuli on April 21, the instructors led by their Executive Secretary, Issa Matovu, urged that the Curriculum review should be inclusive.

Poor Leadership killing UPE- report. Lack of leadership and governance structures in Public Schools is responsible for their declining performance, a study of governance and administrative structures in the institutions has revealed. Mr Francis Mwesigye, the lead

researcher on the impact of promoting equality in African Schools programme on the schools studied last year, said results show that the schools are capable of producing good results if government grants are properly supervised and managed.

Uganda Martyrs SS Namugongo Celebrates 49 years of progress. Students of Uganda Martyrs Secondary School Namugongo assembled at their main hall to celebrate 49 years of the school's existence. Fr. Henry Kasasa, the schools Head teacher, said it is their tradition to celebrate the founders, whose dreams of striving for discipline and excellence in academics came to light.

Government lacks qualified people to appoint as Head teachers. The Education Service Commission has failed to get the required number of teachers to head the 228 government-aided Secondary Schools that do not have substantive Head teachers. According to Alfred Kyaka, the Commissioner of Secondary Schools, a total of 228 schools do not have substantive head teachers, while 593 are run by care taker Deputy Head teachers.

Kasubi School demolished: Police, KCCA launched probe. Classroom blocks of Kasubi Family Primary School, in Rubaga division were demolished by unknown persons on Monday night using a bulldozer. William Ddungu, the Chairman, said he had never received notice on plans to demolish the school.

Govt has no money, urges parents to feed their Children at School. Government has directed parents to ensure they feed their children while at school as the former doesn't have money. According to Ms Santa Ojok, the Ministry of Education Focal person for School feeding, Cabinet approved two of their proposals in which children in urban schools under Universal Education will contribute a fee towards their feeding while at school.

Ministry of Education gives Private Schools new Guidelines. The Education Ministry has set up guidelines to direct managers and proprietors of Private Schools on how to recruit and retain staff. This was revealed by Ismail Mulindwa, an Assistant Commissioner at the Ministry of Education during the closing of a three-day annual teacher mentors refresher Training Ceremony at Esella Country Hotel in Najjera, in Kampala suburb, on Friday.

Increased Funds for Teaching Sciences, says MUST Boss. The Vice Chancellor, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Prof Celestino Obua, has asked government to increase funding for teaching of science and Technology.

UNATU opposes demand that Primary School Head be graduates. The Education Ministry has re-affirmed its demand for all Primary School Head teachers to upgrade to the degree level or give way for their colleagues who are better qualified: a move which is strongly opposed by the Teachers Association. Dr. John Geoffrey Mbabazi, the secretary to the Education Service Commission, confirmed that primary school Head teachers who do not have degrees will, in a year's time, be asked to give way for those who are qualified.

ENVIRONMENT

Water Ministry gets Sh2b offices. The Ministry of Water and Environment has unveiled a permanent home to ease Water supply and services delivery to the 25 districts in the Central region. During the commissioning of the building in Wakiso district, State Minister for Environment, Flavia Munaaba, observed the need to integrate environmental concerns within any design of the water infrastructure that is to be made, by taking into account the sustainability of the resources through catchment protection.

Lubigi wetland encroachers ordered to leave. Wakiso district Chairman Matia Lwanga Bwanika has warned owners of more than 20 factories, a School and other Businesses that encroached on Lubigi and Busega Wetland to leave with immediate effect. The district Chairman's warning comes after NEMA started a campaign to restore Lubigi Wetland and gave the encroachers a grace period of 21 days to vacate the Wetland.

Activists want tougher laws against cutting trees. Environmental Activists have asked government to revise forest laws with a view of establishing tougher punishment that would deter the high rates of forest depletion. Ms Delphine Pinault, the Country Director of Care International, said there is need for political will to cause the required changes.

Mbarara water sources inadequate. Inadequate water sources in Mbarara are puzzling the district leaders, as they threaten the supply of water in the area. The district Chairman, Deus Tumusiime, said this is putting the district at the risk of suffering water shortages and scarcity.

NEMA evicts Shumuk from Wetland. The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) has stopped Shumuk Group from encroaching on the remaining part of the Wetland that separates Banda and Kireka in Kampala and Wakiso district. Waiswa Ayazika, the Director of Environment Monitoring and Compliance at NEMA, said part of the swamp reclaimed by Shumuk was waterway that should be left unutilised to prevent floods.

Poor Countries to bear brunt of Climate Change. Poor Countries, including Uganda, should brace themselves for extreme daily heat catapulted by Climate Change, a new research by an International Team including the University of East Anglia (UEA) in the United Kingdom, shows.

Germany extends funding for Climate Change in Karamoja. The Germany government has agreed to continue funding the Climate Adaption project in Karamoja after integrating it in their IGAD project. Ambassador Dr. Peter Blomeyer said negotiations to integrate the Climate Change Adaptation Project (CCA) in the IGAD project are still going on, but advised the government of Uganda to prepare an exit strategy so that it is able to take over after three years.

Fear grips Bududa over mudslides. Multiple Mudslides triggered by heavy rainfall have again hit Bududa district in Eastern Uganda destroying Banana plantations, houses and crop plantations. However, Mr Nambeshe also blamed the office of Prime Minister, saying there have been delays in relocating people, even after environment alerts showing cracks in different parts of Bududa district.

Gardens flood as Dam project stalls. Residents of Kiyumbakimu village, Kagamba Sub-County in Rakai District, have asked government to swiftly complete a Valley dam constructed in the area, saying it is causing flooding in their gardens.

Human activity adding to rise in floods in E. Africa, experts says. The region is paying a heavy price for destroying natural systems that help to mitigate the effects of flooding. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation, East Africa has a total forest cover of 134 million hectares, but lost 1,357,000 hectares, between 1990 and 2000.

HEALTH

Kibaale mothers get new Maternity Ward. Mothers on the shores of Lake Albert have reason to smile after a model Maternity block with Solar Power and running water was constructed at Kyaterekera Health Centre III in Kibaale district. Dr. Dan Kyamanywa, the District Health Officer, said there has been tremendous improvement in health service delivery in the entire district since 2012, when IDI began implementing activities in the district.

Doctor blames Mulago Hospital bosses on Radiotherapy Machine. The former head of Mulago Hospitals Radiotherapy Department, Dr Joseph Kigula, says he took early retirement in 2014, after management frustrated efforts to get a new Radiotherapy Machine. Dr Kigula was posted at Mulago in 1992, and now says that as early as 2007, the Hospital Management failed to seize opportunities to secure radiotherapy machine.

Kayunga Hospital gets shs70b Boost. Government has finalised plans to renovate the dilapidated Kayunga Hospital. Health Minister Elioda Tumwesigye, while speaking during the Commissioning of Kayunga district office block, said government had secured shs70b from its friends in the Middle East to use in the renovation exercise, which he said will kick-off before the end of this year.

EAC experts approve KIU Medical School. Medical experts from the Joint East African Medical and Dental Practitioners Council have said they are satisfied with the standard at Kampala International University's School of Health Sciences in Bushenyi district. The team led by Prof David Ngasapa, the chairperson of the Joint East African Medical and Dental Practitioners Council, visited the institution for the second time to assess how it trains medical students.

Govt starts process to procure Cancer Machine. The government has written to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts to start the procurement process for a new Cancer Machine. However, Uganda Cancer Institute head, Dr. Jackson Orem, said although the council inspected the bunker and gave their opinion, it is safe to get another opinion.

US envoy Commissions Gulu TB ward. The US Ambassador to Uganda, Ms Deborah Malac, opened a shs250m Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) Ward at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital.

Ugandan sells ARVs to 7 countries. Seven countries, including Cameroon, Kenya and Angola, now purchase a sizeable number of AIDS drugs from Uganda, stressing how the trust in pharmaceutical products manufactured in the country has grown. George Baguma, the company executive director said they produce about 6,000 tablets per day

Govt rolls out Yellow Fever Vaccination. The Ministry of Health is planning to roll out a National Routine Immunisation against Yellow Fever starting next year. Health Minister Elioda Tumwesigye said the Government want to ensure that people are protected against yellow fever.

Kiruddu Hospital in race against time to fill Mulago Hospital void. A tour around the eight-floor Kiruddu Hospital revealed that although inpatients are still transferred there, work is not yet complete, with several beds and medical equipment lacking.

[240 Specialist Medics Leave Uganda-official](#). The former Chairman of Health Committee in the 9th Parliament, has revealed that more than 240 specialist Doctors have left Uganda over the last five years due to poor pay and bad working Environment. Dr Medard Bitekyerezo, a Specialist Physician and former Member of Parliament, said Ugandan health workers are the worst paid in the region which has led to increased brain drain.

ECONOMY

Uganda's industrialisation on track, says Museveni. President Yoweri Museveni is optimistic that Uganda's industrialisation pace, which has seen 300 industries built in different parts of the country over a period of one year, will, in the long- run, reduce unemployment levels. The President was speaking during celebrations to mark the International Labour Day at Duhaga Senior Secondary School in Hoima Municipality.

Govt in shs1.5bn SME Certification Programme. Ugandan Commodities will not be competitive enough in Regional and International markets if industrialists don't improve on their Marketing and Branding Skills, a top government official has said. Amelia Kyambadde, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, observed that though Companies try to get Certification and are adhering to the agreed standards, branding and marketing is still a challenge.

Singapore tells Uganda to Forget Oil, Concentrate on Agriculture. The Singaporean Minister of State for Trade and Industry has advised Uganda not to be excited by the potential prospects the oil industry seems to present. According to Dr Koh Poh Koon, much as oil has the potential to turn around Uganda's Economy, Agriculture remains the country's strength because it is where Uganda has a Natural Comparatives advantage.

Trade Ministry takes over investment Authority. The activities of Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) are now going to be overseen by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. Speaking at the side lines of the launch of the Switch Africa Green (SAG) an initiative developed to support African countries in their transition to using and adapting environmentally-friendly energy, Ms Kyambadde said UIA will be one of the agencies under the watch of her Ministry.

Hoima gets Sugar Factory. President Yoweri Museveni has officially opened a Sugar Factory in Kiziranfumbi Sub-county, Hoima district in Western Uganda that will employ over 5,000 locals and buy canes from 800 out growers. Sarbjit Singh Rai, the Hoima Sugar Factory Managing Director, said the factory, whose construction started two years ago, has cost \$42m thanks to a loan financing from KCB Bank.

Farmers want Cassava Promotion. Cassava Farmers in Northern Uganda have asked the Government to promote Cassava growing in order to fight Poverty, Food Insecurity and enhance income generation. Mike Edule, the Chairperson of the Cassava Cluster for Lango sub-region, said the Government should promote the planting of cassava and give cassava cutting to every family in the north.

Govt Loses shs93b in Revenue as Kakira Sugar Production Falls. Government has lost about \$28m (shs92.8b) in taxes and export earnings following a production shortfall by Kakira Sugar Works. Joint Management Director of the Firm Mayur Madhavani told Prime Minister Ruhakana Rukunda, who was visiting the firm that the mill will be producing between 110,000 and 120,000 metric tonnes this year, signifying a drop of between about 60,000 and 70,000 tones.

Uganda to attract 500 Tourists, Investors from Nordic States. The Ugandan Embassy to the Nordic Countries has kick-started events to have 500 people come to Uganda by end of this year, the Head of Mission has said. The Uganda Tourism Board Chief Executive Officer

Stephen Asiimwe said the activities by the mission have led to an increase in the number of tourists, especially from Denmark.

Stanbic to spend shs200m on skilling Business Owners. Stanbic Bank Uganda will spend about shs200m this year on supporting the skilling of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) owners on how to Operate Sustainable and profitable enterprises, Courtesy of the Banks Business Mentorship Programme.

Sugar price drops as shilling Continues to appreciate. Ugandans are beginning to benefit from the value of the appreciating shillings after a drop in Sugar prices. Mr Henry Kimera, the Executive Secretary of Consumers Education Trust, a Consumer Protection Organisation, said, 'it's a positive initiative in general because consumers will access sugar.

Japan Pledges shs 66b for Gulu Roads. Japan has given Uganda more than shs66b to rehabilitate roads in Gulu Municipality following the signing of a deal between the two Countries. Finance Minister Matia Kasaija signed on behalf of Uganda whereas Ambassador Junzo Fujita signed on behalf of Japan.

Civil Society demands better Budget allocation for Agriculture. Development partners in Civil Society Organisations want increased budget allocations especially for the Agricultural Sector with specifics on Agricultural extension service financing. Mr Patrick Katabazi, a CS- BAG budget analyst, said improved farming technologies such as high yield crop varieties, chemical fertilizers, and irrigation techniques are critical to raising yields though farmers in Uganda have been much slower in adopting new methods due to lack of information regarding how to apply them.

KCCA to host Regional Development Forum. Over 400 city leaders are expected to attend the East and Central African Cities Development (ECAD) Forum to be hosted by Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA). Preparing Uganda for the meeting, KCCA's Executive Director Jennifer Musisi said, with urbanisation, we must be ready to tap its advantages, but also be ready to respond to the challenges that come with it.

Government allocates shs3b for Grain Stores. In a continued effort to stimulate Smallholder farmers' incomes, the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) has earmarked \$1m (over shs3b) for the construction of Community Grain Stores in 10 Districts. WFPs Country Director, Michael Dunford, said WFPs Primary role in Uganda is to support the vision of the government, working with capable entities, such as NAADS and Operation Wealth Creation in Building Agricultural Capacity.

Islamic Banking cleared for business, say regulator. Almost eight years since the discussion started, Commercial Banks in Uganda can now offer Islamic Banking products. According to the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank Senior Technocrats, regulations to allow the Smooth Operation of the Islamic Banking have also been finalised.

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Nebbi Ordains two priests. It was a moment of joy as Christians witnessed the ordination of two Deacons in Nebbi Diocese. Fr. Charles Oura, the Chairperson of Nebbi Diocesan Priests Association, said he was happy about the growing number of youth showing interest in joining the Priesthood.

Kibuli Muslim Head lauds Bishops. The Head of the Kibuli-based Muslim faction has commended Bishops in Luweero district for initiating a good working relationship with their Muslim counter parts.

Give Back to Community- Ntagali. Church of Uganda Archbishop Stanley Ntagali has challenged the rich to give back to the community and support the poor. Archbishop Ntagali said many Ugandans are rich but only a few think about helping the poor in their communities.

Hundreds embrace Martyrs walk. As part of the Spiritual preparation for the 2016 Uganda Martyrs day Celebrations on June 3, the Diocese of Kiyinda-Mityana, alongside the Catholic Church in Uganda and Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) have marched in the first ever symbolic pilgrimage known as 'the walk of faith.' Bishop Zziwa said Munyonyo is the place where Mwanga made the decision to begin killing Christians.

Bukalango Priest summoned over defamation. Buganda Road Chief Magistrates Court has summoned the main priest of Bukalango Mount Sion prayer Centre in Wakiso district to answer charges of conspiracy to defame another priest. Mgr Expedito Magembe was summoned with five others upon the state presenting an amended charge sheet regarding charges of defaming Fr Jacinto Kibuuka.

Martyrs day Catholic Celebration to Cost sh450m. The host of these years Uganda Martyrs Day Catholic celebrations has revealed that the function is estimated to cost sh450m. Bishop Joseph Anthony Zziwa of Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese said the cost slightly increased because the Catholic Martyrs Shrine at Namugongo has been re-modelled and expanded.

Ntagali Condemns Kadaga Shrine Visit. The visit by the Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga to a Shrine at Ndhendha hill in Iganga district faces more scrutiny with the Anglican Church saying ' it's confusing' and for a leader of her calibre' it might cause others to stumble.' Ms Kadaga said as a Speaker of Parliament, she is an Advocate of Cultural and Religious Tourism.

POLITICS

Museveni warns MPs that blocking Budget over tax would be treason. President Yoweri Museveni this week poured cold water on MPs push for tax exemption by trying to block the 2016/17 Budget, warning them that that would be considered 'treasonable.' Presidential Press Secretary, Linda Nabusayi also challenged MPs who were claiming that the president knew about the disputed tax exemption deal that resulted in the passing of the income Tax Bill, 2016, to produce the evidence.

Lukwago, 25 others charged over FDC defiance campaign. Twenty Six opposition supporters, including Kampala Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago and two City Pastors David Happy Ngabo and Edward Ssenyange, were charged at the Makindye Chief Magistrates Court for holding FDC weekly prayers that had been banned by Deputy Chief Justice Steven Kavuma. Justice Steven Kavuma issued an interim order banning all defiance-related activities, including the free-my-vote weekly prayers

Museveni sets conditions for new Cabinet, Parliament. President Museveni said those who claim his NRM Party didn't win the 2016 Elections, "have something wrong in their mind'. The president, who addressed the MPs at State House Entebbe, announced his next Cabinet, the 10th Parliament and Judiciary must take the challenge and ensure that Uganda attains the middle income status by 2019 or 2020.

NRM chooses Kadaga for Speaker, Oulanyah as Deputy. The Drama in NRM Parliament Caucus over the position of Speaker manifested itself in the demeanour of speaker Rebecca Kadaga, who joyfully accepted to talk to journalist after a stormy meeting at State House yet her Deputy, Jacob Oulanyah, who without a smile simply said, I don't want to talk. The seven NRM MPs who had expressed interest in the position of Deputy Speaker were told to withdraw for Mr Oulanyah.

Govt bans live broadcast of opposition activities. In a parting shot, the outgoing Cabinet that President Museveni saw off on Wednesday has banned live broadcasts of the oppositions defiance campaign and activities. Outgoing Information Minister Maj Gen Jim Muhwezi said the ban is to effect an interim order by Justice Steven Kavuma against the campaign.

Otunnu hands over party leadership. Barely a month after intimating that he will be retiring from active politics on Television, the leader of one faction of the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) Olara Otunnu, has declared that he will be relinquishing his party responsibilities to his Vice President, Joseph Bossa, effective July 1. Speaking to New vision, Otunnu's rival, Jimmy Akena, said: 'it seems Otunnu is acting in utter bad faith in order to undermine UPC.

Political candidates spent shs 2.4 trillion on elections. Political Parties and Candidates that contested in the February 18 presidential and parliamentary elections spent sh2.4 trillion on elections campaigns between May last year and February this year. Henry Muguzi, the ACFIM co-ordinator said the money was spent by two parties and candidates at a national level, across the 112 districts of Uganda.

Expedite Kizza Besigyes trial, says Human rights body. The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) has called for a fair and speedy trial of former Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) Presidential Candidate, Dr. Kizza Besigye, expressing concern that a protracted process might lead to the violation of his rights. The level of violence should

be stopped and Besigye's trials should be fair and speedy to avoid innocent persecution,' said the UHRC chairperson, Med Kaggwa, at a news conference

DP to support FDC on decision for next Leader of Opposition. The Democratic Party (DP) has said whether the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) decides to choose a leader of Opposition in Parliament or not, it will support their cause for the benefit of having change in the country. Kenneth Paul Kakande, the DP Spokesperson, told journalists that, we shall stand in solidarity with our brothers.

President Museveni seeks to tame a growing and unrelenting opposition. President Yoweri Museveni's approach to containing a growing and unrelenting opposition to his rule appears to be a double-edged sword. The NRM said FDC must first acknowledge President Museveni as the duly elected president and renounce their so-called defiance campaign a position that runs counter to their core demand for an independent, internationally supervised audit of the 2016 presidential elections.

Why Kizza Besigye turned down legal representation. Uganda opposition leader, Dr Kizza Besigye's rejection of legal representation for a lawyer he did not instruct was not only puzzling, but it also unearthed defects in the charge sheet. The East Africa has learnt that when Dr Kizza Besigye was charged for a second time in as many days before official court hours, the charge sheet on which Nakawa Chief Magistrate James Ereemye remanded him had not been sanctioned by the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

CHRISTIAN REFLECTION

Which Banking System?

Our country Uganda is soon joining other countries (51) all over the world in which the Islamic banking is practiced along other conventional banking systems. The arrival of this 'different way' of doing things has provoked different reactions from different peoples of different religions. This is positive and hopefully it will bare good fruits for our society, but on condition that it is enlightened with true information about the issues at stake.

One of the key issues behind the origin of the Islamic Bank is the '*cry of the poor*' caused by '*usury*'. On this particular point, Islam was following in the footsteps of the Bible where '*usury*' is squarely condemned. (See Ex. 22: 25, Lev 25: 36-37; Dt. 23:19; Ezek. 18: 17; Ps. 15: 5)

In the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, article no. 341 we read the following:

“Although the quest for equitable profit is acceptable in economic and financial activity, recourse to usury is to be morally condemned: “Those whose usurious and avaricious dealings lead to the hunger and death of their brethren in the human family indirectly commit homicide, which is imputable to them”. This condemnation extends also to international economic relations, especially with regard to the situation in less advanced countries, which must never be made to suffer “abusive if not usurious financial systems”. More recently, the Magisterium used strong and clear words against this practice, which is still tragically widespread, describing usury as “a scourge that is also a reality in our time and that has a stranglehold on many peoples' lives”.”

When the Church condemns *usury* and all the economic/financial systems that have the same effect to the poor, she is carrying out her 'prophetic mission'. However, a prophet does not only condemn but also proposes an alternative to what he / she condemns. What then would be the proposal of people of other religions? A Christian Bank? A Hindu Bank? A Buddhist Bank? Or, are we satisfied with the present 'conventional banking systems'?