



PRESS REVIEW

John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre
"Faith Doing Justice"

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THEMATIC AREAS

- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Economy
- Religion and Society
- Youth

EDUCATION

Introduce sign language teaching-PWDs. The Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) has asked Government to introduce the teaching of sign language in public schools. According to UNAD Executive Director Ambrose Murangira there are few schools that offer special needs education and introducing sign language will enable the deaf to enrol in any public school in their locality

College Principals ask Govt for more funds. The Principal National Teachers College-Unyama, in Gulu District, Mr Bernard Barigye Byarugaba, has asked Government to double the funding to the institution saying food prices keep increasing each day. Ms Grace Jennifer Aninge, the Principal Gulu School of Clinical Officers, also said they are facing challenges in feeding the students.

Don't disrupt Exams, police warns politicians. The police spokesperson, Fred Enanga, has warned politicians against disrupting Senior Six final examinations that commence today across the Country. UNEB Chairperson Mathew Bukonya said scouts with keys to the exams storage centres have been instructed to give out question papers to the Head Teachers at 8: 00am and 1:30pm for the afternoon Exams in order to minimise leakages.

UACE Exams kick off with few hurdles reported. Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) Exams kicked off countrywide with a few reported anomalies cited on the Uganda National Examinations Board register and cases of missing students, officials have said.

Court orders Kenya law body to register Uganda students. A Kenyan Court has directed the Kenya's Council of Legal Education (CLE) to register students. The latter had barred Ugandan students from sitting the Kenya school of law bar examinations. The high court of Kenya in Nairobi issued the order last Friday, November 6.

Besigye promises computers for students. The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) presidential candidate, Col. Kiiza Besigye, has promised the people of Ntungamo District that once they elect him into power, his government will give each student in secondary schools across the country a computer.

Primary Leaving Examinations were successful. The Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) was a great success as no malpractices were reported by yesterday afternoon when pupils sat their final paper. Mathew Bukenya, the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) Executive Secretary, said the hitches were minimal.

KCCA hands over renovated School. Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) Executive Director Jennifer Musisi has hailed the Swaminarian Sanstha the (BAPS) charitable group for their voluntary activities that have made the city a better cosmopolitan place. The Nakawa mayor, Kalumba Sebuliba, said the school premises had walls struggling to "stay on their feet" leaking roofs.

Gulu gets early learning centres. The government in conjunction with the civil society has established 339 Childhood home-based learning centres to improve performance in Universal Primary Schools (UPE) in Northern Uganda. The Assistant Commissioner for Primary Education, Dr. Tony Lusambu, said the Scheme has created an alternative for underage children who would have congested UPE Schools.

Museveni Promises pupils free Books, Pads. Pupils and Students could effective next financial year get free Sanitary towels, exercise books and computers should president Museveni live up to his promise to provide them. A 1999 study by the Forum for African Women's Educationists said one in every three school girls in Uganda misses a whole or part of their School day when their menses starts.

NTC Kaliro in free adult literacy drive. National Teachers College (NTC) Kaliro will start conducting free adult literacy classes for the community next month, Gordon Bakamya, the principal of the institution, has said. Bakamya said the classes will be facilitated by volunteer students training at the college.

Govt readies for computer distribution to pupils. Education Ministry announced they are in advanced stages of availing computers to all primary school going pupils. Mr. James Mugerwa, the Ministry of Education Assistant Commissioner in charge of Vocational Education disclosed this at a feedback workshop organised by Uganda Businesses and Technical Examinations board for principles of vocational, business and technical institutions, and the ministry officials.

President Promises to open primary school per Parish. President Museveni has promised a primary school in every parish and a secondary school in every sub-county to help Ugandans create wealth especially the rural farmers.

Schools to reopen after 2016 elections. The Ministry of Education and Sports has extended the opening date for the new term by three weeks in order to allow students participate in the 2016 general elections. According to the 2016 schools and other institutions calendar, primary, secondary, technical or farm schools and community polytechnics will open for the first term on Monday February 22, 2016, four days after the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections.

ENVIRONMENT

El-nino rain to increase in November-experts. Weather experts at Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA), an agency mandated to forecast weather, have said the heaviest rain received in Uganda in 50-years has started. Mr Paul Isabirye, the UNMA acting Executive Director, said during an exclusive interview that all regions across the country are now experiencing abnormal rains, a condition he said signals the much-talked about El-Nino occurrence.

Queen Elizabeth tops tourist attractions in E. Africa Region. Uganda and Queen Elizabeth have been listed by lonely planet as one of the regions valued destinations and attractions tourists should look out for in 2016. Uganda Tourism Board Chief Executive Officer Stephen Asimwe said:” this is a vote of confidence for Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania because we complement each other.)

Floods displace 1,500 people. Over 1,500 people have been displaced by floods across the Country, as El-nino rains begin throughout the country. According to Musa Ecweru, the State Minister for Disaster Preparedness a cabinet subcommittee headed by the Second Deputy Prime Minister, Moses Ali, is to implement the national El-Nino recovery plan with the help of a standby UPDF team, trained in disaster management.

Makerere to incorporate climate change programmes. Makerere University is moving to incorporate climate change in its academic programmes, as a way of staying in touch with the global concern on the subject.

HEALTH

Govt Commits shs 245b to improve maternal health. The Ministry of health has earmarked sh245b to improve maternal health services in health facilities in Uganda. Dr. Moses Arinaitwe, the Maternal Health expert in the Ministry of Health, revealed during an orientation workshop for District leaders in the Rwenzori region.

Health Centres get Mama Kits. Busia Area Communities Federation (BUACOFE) has handed over Mama Kits worth sh84m to health facilities in Busia District. The district vice chairperson, Harriet Namakwa, told men to stop boasting about their wives pregnancies, but take them for antenatal care.

New HIV Vaccine trials begin in Uganda. New HIV Vaccines trials are being conducted in the Country as scientists continue seeking solutions to neutralise the virus which causes the deadly Aids disease. Speaking at a stakeholder meeting, Dr. Hannah Kibuuka, the Executive Director of Makerere University Walter Reed Project (MUWRP), said the Vaccine trials, started this year

Bwanika promises a Hospital in every District. Presidential aspirant Dr. Abed Bwanika has pledged free medical care to all expectant mothers and children once he is voted into power next year.

More children with diabetes worry Doctors. Between 250,000 and 500,000 people less than 20 years across the country are diabetic which undermines the Country's future progress. According to the Uganda Diabetes Association (UDA) Dr. William Lumu, who is also the UDA Chairman, many of the children with Diabetes report to Hospital when their pancreases have been destroyed.

Mentally ill people not Idiots-Court. The constitutional court last Friday ordered the Attorney General, who is the Chief Legal Government Adviser, to amend some of the sections in the Criminal Justice system and remove sections that were being used to refer to mentally ill persons, saying the continued use of such names dehumanises them. The ruling of five justices led by Justice Remmy Kasule directed that the dehumanising names should be instead replaced by polite references like'' mentally ill persons.

Medical team for Pope's visit named. The Ministry of Health has constituted a team of consultants from 11 Health Institutions and the army to undertake case management and prevention during the Pope's visit. The Ministry is responsible for Co-ordinating the Health and Medical Programmes for the pope's visit, according to a press release issued by the public relations office.

ECONOMY

Work with academia to achieve Sustainable Development-UNDP. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has advised policy makers to work together with Academia through research in the formulation of the Country development policies if Uganda is to achieve sustainable development. Speaking at a high level policy dialogue on economy, UNDP Country Director Almaz Gedru said academia research plays a key role in development.

Bridge builders on the spot over shoddy work. The Commission of Inquiry into alleged mismanagement of Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) heard that the contractor for the two Bridges in Western Uganda deviated from the contractual specifications thereby risking lives of citizens.

Shilling makes major gain as demand for dollar drops. The Uganda shilling continued to strengthen against the dollar this week, defying a trend that most people had predicted. According to Mr Stephen Kaboyo, the Managing Director Alpha Capital Partners, the Market demand for dollars was triggered by the BoU move to continue tightening.

Banks urged to adopt Chip and PIN technology to fight fraud. The CEO Inter switch Uganda, Mr Olumuyiwa Asagba, has said Banks, especially those on their inter switch network, should adopt the new Chip and PIN technology to minimise cases of fraud. Speaking during the Launch of Inter switch's new logo that will be globally recognised, Mr Asagba said the kind of fraud being witnessed involves fraudsters copying card and pin details of customers and using the information to commit crime.

Ugandan heads Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone World Bank office. A Ugandan National, Henry Kerali has taken over as the head of the World Bank Country Office for Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Sheila Gashishiri, from the Uganda Bank Country Office, said Kerali is up to the task. Prior to taking up this new appointment, Kerali was the World Bank's regional director for the south Caucasus, based in Georgia

NSSF-Uganda Clays deal on Course. Uganda clays are on the verge of completing a deal to convert a sh22b National Social Security Fund (NSSF) Loan into Equity. This will free up the firm's finances and enable it to source additional capital worth sh22b to improve production. Jacqueline Kiwanuka, the Uganda Clays finance manager, noted that the company will require at least sh22b to complete the Kamukoli plants and to refurbish the one at Kajjansi.

EU offers sh348b to aid regional integration. The European Union has signed \$85m (sh348b) in grants to facilitate regional integration through removal of internal trade barriers. The new European Union head of Delegation and Special Representative to COMESA, Ambassador Alessandra Mariani said "the EU funds will increase private sector participation in regional and global value chain through improved investment/ business climate and enhance competitiveness

Govt starts registering unemployed citizens. Government has launched a survey to gather information for implementation of key labour market policies. Spearheaded by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), the Ministry of Labour, the National Planning Authority and the Ministry of East African Affairs, the manpower survey will help the government in planning for all Ugandans, especially the unemployed.

Uganda gets sh172b for Geothermal Energy. Uganda is to get \$50m (about sh172b) from Climate Investment Funds (CIF) for Financing Renewable Energy Projects. According to Uganda Renewable Energy Policy 2007, wind data collected by the country's Meteorology Department concluded that wind energy is available and sufficient for power generation.

Contractors who fail to deliver on time to be fined. Contractors who fail to complete projects on time could be forced to pay damages to the Government if the proposal by the Ministry of Finance is adopted.

Pope Francis, 18th foreign country tour. On November 27, Pope Francis will land at Entebbe International Airport at the start of his three-day visit to Uganda. At Namugongo, the Pope will be making a pilgrimage to the place where a number of Ugandans were martyred for their faith 129 years ago. Since their Canonisation mission Sunday, October 18, 1964, the Uganda Martyrs have brought fame and millions of visitors from all over the World, not forgetting the two past Popes of the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope's Visit; plant grass to stop dust, UNRA advises. Residents and owners of buildings on Namugongo road have been told to plant grass in front of their premises to reduce dust as the country prepares to receive Pope Francis.

Namugongo Shrines to reopen on November 27th. The Namugongo Martyrs Catholic Shrine will be open to pilgrims the day Pope Francis jets into the Country, the Government and the Church have said.

Christians demonstrate over police brutality. Christians at Kitanga Catholic Parish in Kabale Diocese on Sunday held a peaceful demonstration against police brutality and failure by government to offer quality services to citizens. Kitanga Parish Priest, Fr. Gaetano Batanyenda, who led the service and participated in the demonstration, said religious leaders and Christians were not happy with the trend of events in the country.

MTN donates sh50m for rehabilitation of Martyrs Shrines. MTN Uganda has given the Catholic Church sh50m for the re-development of Martyrs shrines in Namugongo and Munyonyo.

UPDF joins work at Namugongo. The Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) has joined Roko Construction Company at Namugongo to ensure that the construction of the new grounds at the Shrines is completed on time. The Deputy Army Spokesperson, Maj. Henry Obbo, confirmed the deployment. " we have deployed a total of 140 Soldiers from the Engineering Brigade to help expedite the reconstruction of the Shrine.

Pope Meetings. All those planning to listen to the Homilies of Pope Francis in person will have to be at the designated venues at least three hours before the Pontiffs arrival. According to a statement by the Uganda Episcopal Conference Officials, those from distant places and Dioceses are advised to start arriving at the Uganda Martyrs Shrine, Namugongo this Friday, a day before the Mass starts this Saturday.

We are ready for the Pope, says Archbishop Odama. The Chairman of the Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC) Archbishop John Baptist Odama has said the church is ready to host Pope Francis who is expected to arrive in the Country this week. The Catholic Church is playing a lead role in hosting Pope Francis, with government giving support through a Committee headed by Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda.

Pope Francis Advance Team arrives in Uganda. The Vatican Advance Security Team yesterday arrived in the Country and made various spot checks at places Pope Francis is expected to visit during his three-day visit that starts this Friday.

Summary of Pope Francis messages while in Uganda

- While in Kenya, the Pope called for harmony among inter-faith bodies: Pope Francis stressed the need for interreligious harmony, saying it is for the common good of all. He called for unity between Muslims and Christians "In democratic and pluralistic societies like Kenya, cooperation between religious leaders and communities becomes an important service to the common good.

- While in Uganda, the Pope paid homage to the 45 Martyrs at Catholic shrines in Namugongo. He emphasized extending help to the needy, co-operating with others for the common good and defending God's gift of life to build a more just society.
- In addition to that, he also stressed the importance of the Holy Spirit and the Uganda Martyrs in the history of Christ's Church because they act as an example to inspire people throughout the World.
- In his homily while celebrating mass at Namugongo to commemorate the Uganda Martyrs he mentioned a number of things and these include:
- "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth. " (Acts 1:8)
- "If, like the martyrs, we daily fan into the flame the gift of the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts, then we will surely become missionary disciples which (Jesus) Christ calls us to be." The evangelisation should target one's own family and friends, but also "those whom we do not know, especially those who might be unfriendly, even hostile, to us."
- While meeting teachers, catechists in Munyonyo, his Holiness mentioned "I know that your work, although rewarding, is not easy, and I ask your bishops and priests to support you with a doctrinal, spiritual and pastoral formation capable of making you ever more effective in your outreach. The Holy Father opened his speech with affection in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Teacher."
- In his address to the diplomats and leading figures from Uganda, the Pope encouraged them to "ensure good and transparent governance, integral human development and a wide and just distribution" of Africa's goods. He further more praised Uganda's outstanding concern for welcoming refugees and said how we deal with them "is a test of our humanity.

YOUTH

Govt appeals court ruling on Army, Youth MPs. Government has asked the Supreme Court to halt an order that declared unconstitutional the procedure under which Army, Youth and workers Representatives in Parliament are elected.

Kabaka advises young people to be creative. The Kabaka of Buganda, Ronald Muwenda Mutebi, has urged the youth in Buganda to use the available local resources to fight unemployment. The Kabaka said the event brought together successful youth to showcase their projects to inspire others and act as role models to those who are still unemployed and also expand their networks.

President tips youth on NRM Party Ideology. President Yoweri Museveni has tipped National Resistance Movement (NRM) youth to embrace the party ideology, which is about Liberation, Minimum recovery, Reconstruction and Development.

UCC pledges shs50m for Youth Meet. Ugandan Communications Commission (UCC) has Pledged shs50m as support for the youth who will meet Pope Francis at Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala. Mr Mutabazi said the money will be used to print 10,000 T-shirts for which the youth, who will be accredited to attend the meeting with the pope, will be dressed.