



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

MPs decry varsity staff shortage. Lawmakers on parliament's Education Committee have asked government to increase funding to public universities so that they can fill the vacant positions, particularly the teaching staff, which are needed to lift the quality of education in the country. Dokolo north MP Paul Amoru said the low staffing level at MUST (Mbarara University of Science and Technology) is a serious concern because it was set up to be developed as governments major science institution.

Govt nursery schools to start next year. Plans are underway by the Education Ministry to introduce nursery classes in its public primary schools across the country in the next academic year. Rosemary Seninde, State Minister for primary education, emphasised that the education ministry would now put much emphasis on the children's early childhood education which is nursery education.

Teachers reject govt transfer plan. A number of the head teachers joined the Anglican Bishop of Ankole diocese in rejecting a looming policy which bars teachers who are married from working at the same station. Ms Nakatte Kikomeko, the head teacher of Nabbingo girl's school, however, said administrative issues could arise in case the man is a director of studies and his wife is teaching in the school.

Pupils in danger of contracting Cholera. Teachers and pupils of Buyemba primary school in Luuka district have called upon the district officials to rescue them from an old, overflowing, filthy pit-latrines, saying it is exposing them to diseases.

Govt to pay teachers through mobile money. In a move to curtail rampant teacher absenteeism in schools that has seen students ' academic performance deteriorate, the

Education Ministry has embarked on the introduction of an electronic mode of payment of teachers' salaries through mobile money, that will see all teachers get their salaries through their phones from wherever they are.

President commissions Muni University. President Yoweri Museveni has launched Muni University, a public university in Arua district, with a call on the administrators to develop marketable courses that contribute towards the development of the human resource.

Govt earmarks sh1 trillion for nursery education. Beginning next financial year, every primary school in the country shall be mandated to have a nursery section from where to offer Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes.

Govt admits 80% of teachers can't read. Eight out of every 10 Primary School teachers who qualified last year can neither read nor solve basic primary-level mathematics questions. According to a new government evaluation, re-confirming a systematic decay in quality of the country's education.

40,000 teachers not paid for two months. The Ministry of Finance last evening appeared shocked to learn that up to 40,000 primary and secondary school teachers in 38 districts have gone without pay for two months. According to the Uganda National Teachers Union general secretary, Mr James Tweheyo, majority of the affected teachers work in the newly created districts and municipalities.

ENVIRONMENT

MPs push for bill to mitigate climate change. The Parliament Forum on Climate Change (PFCC) pledged to pass the climate change bill into law by the first quarter of next year. Mr Chebet Maikut, the Head of the Climate Change department in the Ministry of Water and Environment, said he was optimistic the bill will soon be passed into law since MPs and speaker Rebecca Kadaga are supportive.

Bunyoro king in court over Bugoma forest. Advocates for Natural Resource and Development, a non-government organisation operating in Kampala, has jointly sued the king of Bunyoro, Solomon Gafabusa Iguru, and Hoima sugar Ltd over what they call infringing on the right to a clean and health environment by allegedly destroying part of Bugoma forest.

Earthquake destroys homes, property in Rakai. The nerve-racking tremor that killed 16 people in Bukoba Tanzania left more than 500 homes ravaged in Mutukula, Rakai district. Mr Godfrey Mbetegereize, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner, said the 5, 7-magnitude tremor mostly affected Kakuto, Kyeebe, Kifamba sub-counties that are close to the Uganda-Tanzania Mutukula boarder.

Residents use bottle bricks to conserve environment. Residents of Kayunga district have embraced a new innovation where they are turning used plastic mineral water bottles into building materials. Mr Stephen Ssemutumba, the BUVAD executive director, said the innovation follows a survey that was carried out in the district, which showed that there was poor plastic waste disposal in the area.

Expect little rain this year, experts warn. Several parts of the country will from this month until end of year receive less than anticipated rainfall, with potential negative effects says the latest forecasts from Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA).

Nkangi, Minister Ssempijja probed over Lwera wetland. The former Uganda Land Commission Chairperson, Mayanja Nkangi and Agriculture minister Vincent Ssempijja have been cited among those investigated over the controversial sand mining in Lwera wetland, Kalungu district.

Govt acquires shs6 billion weather-reading machines. The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA), has acquired automatic weather reading equipment that will enable the authority gather and dispatch faster information to avert the effects of natural disasters. UNMA executive director, Mr Festus Luboyera said that monitoring of the weather patterns, gathering of information and dispatching it had been boosted.

HEALTH

Monitor story saves Jinja psychiatric unit. The psychiatric unit of Jinja Regional Referral hospital will in the next three months start dispensing drugs to its patients without rationing, thanks to a donation from Rene industries, one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in the country.

Dokolo seeks 200,000 Hepatitis B doses. An emergency vaccination campaign was launched in Dokolo district in an attempt to curtail the spread of hepatitis B virus that has affected hundreds of people in the district.

MPs query sh19b Mulago medic's housing project. Members of parliament on the health committee have questioned the expenditure of sh19.37b by Mulago hospital management to construct 110 housing units for the hospital junior staff.

Medical interns protest scrapping of allowances. Medical interns from different government hospitals carried out countrywide demonstrations, the second in two weeks, protesting the proposal to scrap allowances for privately sponsored students and the delay to deploy them.

Kayunga hospital gets facelift. Renovations on Kayunga hospital have kicked off, bringing a smile on the faces of the patients and health workers.

24,000 go blind in Karamoja. At least 24,000 people in Karamoja sub-region have gone blind after being attacked by trachoma and cataract diseases. According to a report by slight savers Uganda, Blindness in Karamoja stands at 0.6 per cent, higher than the national average of 0.3 per cent.

TB cases provoke govt action. The health minister has inaugurated a special committee to oversee TB prevention and treatment after it dawned on the officials that contrary to the estimates, over 100,000 people contract the airborne diseases annually, yet only 45,000 access treatments.

HIV patients in Karamoja abandon drugs over hunger. Hunger in Karamoja sub-region has forced people living with HIV/AIDS to stop taking their drugs as required. The senior nursing officer and HIV/AIDS focal person for Kaabong district, Margret Ajilong, explained that some patients attempted to take the drugs with alcohol and were left with complications.

Play your part to reduce mortality rate, Mrs Museveni urges leaders. The first lady, who is also the minister of education and sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, has appealed to leaders at all levels in Uganda to play their part in the reduction of maternal mortality rate in the country. Mrs Museveni said community leaders, members of parliament and health workers should mobilise the community and educate them on the need to make better

Mulago grappled with blood shortage. Uganda is exercising shortage of blood at its referral hospital- Mulago as road accidents and birth related complications have left the blood bank dry. According to the ministry of health report 2014/2015, Mulago hospital attended to 61,568 emergencies, 39,081 deliveries and 13,397 major surgeries, which all required emergencies blood.

Researchers making headway in fighting against malaria. The fight against malaria- one of the leading killer diseases in the world is one that governments, scientists and donors have been involved in for decades. According to world health organisation, 60 countries have reduced the incidence of malaria cases by 75 per cent. Globally, the rate of new cases has also decreased by 37 per cent.

100 children to get free surgery. (URN) an estimated 100 children below six years old with abdominal defects such as hernia will get free surgery at Soroti regional referral hospital. Dr Emmanuel Batibwe, the hospital's director, said they conduct similar surgeries annually since there are many children with abdominal defects.

600 heart patients miss out on surgery annually. The Uganda heart institute is seeking for a non-wage budgetary allocation of \$7.5m (about shs25b) in the next financial year if it's to handle about 1,000 patients in need of their open or closed heart surgeries annually. According to Omagino, annually about 16,000 children in Uganda are born with heart defects and need immediate intervention of either open or closed heart surgery if they are to survive.

Court halts new health ministry policy on medical interns. Kampala high court has issued an interim order halting the health minister Dr Ruth Aceng and the Attorney General (AG) from implementing the new stringent guidelines for medical interns pending the disposal of their main case. The order was issued by Alex Ajiji, the deputy registrar of the civil division of the High court.

ECONOMY

UMA International Trade fair to focus on women. Women who are involved in manufacturing will be the focus of this year's international trade show by the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA). UMA executive director Mubarak Nkuutu said this year's show is to promote mainly goods made in Uganda in line with the governments 'Buy Uganda Build Uganda' policy.

Farmers ask govt to speed up insurance. A cross-section of farmers in the districts of Rakai, Ibanda and Masindi, have asked the government to expedite the implementation of the Agricultural Insurance Scheme.

Banning used clothes will disrupt economy-KACITA. The Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA) has warned that an immediate ban on the importation of second hand clothes and shoes will disrupt the economy.

Uganda has highest mobile money fraud cases-report. More than half of Uganda's mobile money agents have reported the highest incidents of fraud among the eight countries studied, a new report reveals.

Traders want equal access as Kenya opens new terminal. The spokesperson of the Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA), Mr Issa Sekitto, has called for equal treatment and access to systems of clearance as Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) launched a new terminal at Mombasa port.

Private sector renews call for local content. Members of the private sector have renewed their demand for participation in the various infrastructural projects undertaken by the government through supply of locally-manufactured raw materials. Sebaggala Kigozi, the Executive Director of Uganda Manufacturers Association, said this will build the capacity of the local industries and create employment.

Power theft loss rises to shs100b. The amount of money lost due to power theft including non-payment of bills, vandalism and illegal connection has risen to annual average of shs106b annually from an average of shs73b in 2014.

UMA calls for ban on imported furniture. Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) has asked government to stop importing furniture in order to support the local industry. Mr Sebaggala Kigozi, the UMA Executive Director, said government should start enforcing the 'Buy Uganda build Uganda policy by ensuring that consumption of home-made products is prioritised.

Shs6 trillion World Bank loan halt could extend to next year. The decision by the World Bank to halt \$1.8b (shs6.1trillion) loans to Uganda could span beyond the financial year 2017 if the government does not quickly address the weakness in implementation gaps. The World Bank country manager Ms Christina Clavo Malmberg, said the current financial institutions total portfolio to Uganda is \$2.5b (shs8.5 trillion), of this, about \$200m (shs677b) is grants, while the rest \$1.8b (shs6.1trillion) is a loan, which is being withheld.

Building materials scarcity delays Jinja bridge works. Scarcity of building materials, time spent waiting for the arrival of procured products and the laborious processes involved in

importing construction items, is set to delay the completion of the mega Nile bridge project.

National housing set to resume low-cost estates. National Housing and Construction Corporation (NHCC) has said they are resuming the construction of low cost housing estates countrywide to address the housing needs of the middle income population.

Govt to extend interest-free loans to women groups. More than 2,000 groups of women will acquire interest-free loans worth shs43b from the government under the Uganda Women's Entrepreneurship programme. The ministry of gender permanent secretary, Mr Puis Birgirimana said the move aims at lessening financial hurdles that limit women from kick-starting and expanding enterprises.

60 per cent of foreigners in Jinja have national IDs, passports. 60% of foreigners in Jinja district are in possession of documents that identify them as citizens of Uganda, rendering them eligible to run retail and other petty businesses they would ideally not have been entitled to.

New road to boost trade with Kenya. Trade between Uganda and Kenya is projected to increase as the construction of a new and shorter route from Mbale to the Lwakaka border post in eastern Uganda kicks off. The state minister for trade, Michael Kafabusa Werikhe, said when this road is complete, the quality of exports and imports through Kenya is set to increase

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Archbishop Ntagali warns on legalising abortion. Church of Uganda archbishop Stanley Ntagali has warned government and proponents of the Abortion Bill that the practice is against the Christian ethos and is likely to cause doom to the country.

Bishop urges residents to marry immigrants, condemns violence. Enock Kayeeye, the retired bishop of north Kivu in DR Congo, has challenged the people of Kabarole to intermarry with immigrants and avoid domestic violence, which is a danger to development.

Lira bishop calls for decent housing. Lira diocese Bishop Joseph Franzelli has said low income earners should be supported if their dream of putting a roof over their heads is to come true. Speaking at the launch of "Sente Home Loan," a micro housing loan product of centenary bank, in Lira Town last Friday, bishop Franzelli said many Ugandans do not have money to build decent houses and therefore need to be supported.

Church land under attack, says Ntagali. The Church of Uganda has resolved to lease out part of the land registered in its name to curb the rampant encroachment and grabbing of its land, Archbishop Stanley Ntagali has said.

Cardinal condemns police kicking of piglets at protest. Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala has joined a growing chorus of animal's rights activists condemning security operatives who kicked piglets at parliament last week.

Police grill pastor Kakande over illegal guns. Police authorities interrogated Pastor Samuel Kakande of Synagogue church of all nations in Mulago over a case involving his deputy who was found with two guns and 87 bullets.

The seat of Arua Catholic diocese at Ediofe, west of Arua town was left under a security lockdown. Following running battles between police and army and parishioners opposed to Bishop Sabino Odoki's leadership. Internal state minister Mario Obiga Kania and police chief Kale Kayihura rushed to Arua to help calm the volatile situation.

Odama urges dialogue over Arua diocese saga. Gulu archbishop John Baptist Odama has called on Arua catholic diocese parishioners who are bitter with Bishop Sabino Odoki to hold a peaceful dialogue instead of choosing violence.

Bishop Kaggwa to demonstrate over bad roads. Masaka bishop John Baptist Kaggwa has given Masaka municipality authorities a one-week ultimatum to fix all the potholes in the municipality or else he stages a demonstration.

Pastor Mulindwa mentored many in religion, education. The Seventh-day Adventist church is mourning the health of Pastor Patrick Mulindwa, whose death occurred during the annual feast of Tabernacles (camp meeting) in Jinja Cathedral. In his eulogy, Pastor Fredrick Ofwono, the bishop of eastern Uganda field, said despite the sudden death, the church is happy that Mulindwa's sermons at the camp meeting had reaped 94 converts and the number is still increasing.

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Anglican Church creates new diocese in Ankole. The church of Uganda (COU) announced it had consented to an application for the creation of an independent diocese north-west of Ankole, which will primarily chaperone the flock in Ibanda district. Archbishop Stanley Ntagali said the assembly approved in principle the creation of the 37th COU diocese of Northwest Ankole, to be inaugurated in a year's time after the outstanding works and activities have completed.

Church land under attack, says Ntagali. The church of Uganda has resolved to lease out part of the land registered in its name to curb the rampant encroachment and grabbing of its land, Archbishop Stanley Ntagali has said. Archbishop Ntagali was addressing journalist at the provincial offices in Namirembe.

Cardinal condemns police kicking of piglets at protest. Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala has joined a growing chorus of animal's rights activities condemning security operatives who kicked piglets at parliament last week. The cardinal, who was speaking during a Mass to celebrate the 68th anniversary of Ggoli Catholic parish in Kamengo Sub-county, Mpigi district, on Sunday, said taking pigs to parliament cannot solve unemployment.

Forget political differences, Kigezi Bishop tells leaders. Kigezi diocese Bishop George Bagamuhunda has asked politicians to forget their political differences and focus on promoting government and community programmes for poverty eradication. Former state minister for privatisation Manzi Tumubweine asked the church to invest in income generating projects instead of relying on the Sunday offertories.

Christians cautioned against bickering. The Bishop of Busoga diocese, the Rev. Paul Nayinane, has cautioned Christians against bickering and infighting. Nayimane said Christians who do not contribute financial or material support to the church are always

Cleric in Busoga wants religious sects screened. Religious leaders in Busoga sub-region have applauded a proposal by government to monitor faith based organisations, saying it has been long overdue. Rev Canon Aaron Mwesigye, the director of religious affairs at the directorate of ethics, told participants the policy will offer guidance on the role of religion in the public sphere as per the constitution.

POLITICS

Besigye, MPs clash at UNAA. Opposition leader Dr Kizza Besigye clashed with a section of MPs attending the Uganda North America Association convention in Boston, USA, after he accused them of wasting taxpayer's money to attend the conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Speaker Rebecca Kadaga asked the organisers to stop inviting the MPs if they think their attendance is unnecessary.

Besigye in UK for post-Museveni lecture. Opposition leader Kizza Besigye returns to the United Kingdom for the second time in two weeks to deliver a lecture in which he is expected to make a case for a "better post-Museveni Uganda". Mr Ddumba said Dr Besigye will make a case that "working towards post-Museveni Uganda will guarantee stability, inclusive and sustainable growth in the country."

FDC proposes salary car loans for public officials. Opposition Forum for Democratic Change Party has set in motion plans to table a proposal to have public officials acquire vehicles on a loan basis, unlike now where taxpayers bear the burden of buying and servicing the vehicles.

Speaker Kadaga awards Besigye, Byanyima medals. Parliament will this month award current and former legislator with golden jubilee medals ahead of the forthcoming October 9 Independence Day celebration. Former FDC presidential candidate Kizza Besigye and his wife Winnie Byanyima are some of the prominent former legislators on the medal list.

MPs to summon KCCA over cracked Wandegaya market. The leadership of parliament's Presidential Affairs Committee has resolved to summon the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) technical team to explain the cracks of Wandegaya market.

MPs, Electoral Commission disagree over LC polls cost. Before 2006, the Local Council (LC) was the basic unit of government in Uganda offering diverse services ranging from administration of justice to political stewardship. Joseph Biribonwa, ECs deputy chairperson told lawmakers sitting on the public service and local government committee that in the current financial year, only sh7b out of the required sh37.5b to conduct LC polls has been released.

Politics killing cooperatives-minister. Political meddling is slowly killing cooperatives in the Country, the Minister of State for Cooperatives, Mr Frederick Ngobi Gume, has said.

FDC gets Congolese lawyer for Mugumya as court martial looms. The Forum for Democratic Change has hired lawyers to represent party activist Sam Mugumya who has been languishing in a Congolese jail since 2014 and is due to appear in a military court there next month.

MPs summon editors over 'negative' stories. Parliament issued summons to news editors of four media organisations to explain what MPs term as "unbalanced reporting" about the legislature. Charles Odoobo Bichachi, the executive editor of daily monitor, added that while parliament is at liberty to summon any member of the public on certain matters, in this particular case MPs have overstepped their mandate.

YOUTH

Don't give up struggle, Muntu tells youth. The FDC party president, Gen Mugisha Muntu, has asked the people of Busoga, particularly the youth, not to give up the struggle for better leadership in the country, saying it is the best tribute they can accord to Dr Wycliffe Kakaire, the fallen party member. Speaking at the burial of Dr Kakaire, Gen Muntu said the deceased has been part of the struggle to rid the country of bad leadership.

Leaders ordered to explain mess in youth programme. Leaders of Fort Portal Municipality have been directed to submit a report, explaining why youth groups in the area have not received funds.

Poor accountability failing youth programme. The effect of the Youth Livelihood programme is little felt as many youth have failed to properly use the funds portraying poor accountability in recovery of the money.

Ugandan youth hopeful about the future-report. Ugandan youth are optimistic about the future and are confident that it will be more prosperous, offering more jobs and better access to health and education, a survey has revealed.

Youth urged to harness farming. USAID Youth Advisor Micheal McLabe has advised the youth in northern Uganda to use their energy to engage in agricultural activities instead of looking for formal jobs or gambling.

Museveni tips youth on development. President Museveni has urged the youth to be at the forefront of ensuring Uganda meets the targets of a middle-income status by 2020. Mr Museveni singled out commercial agriculture, industry, services and ICT as some of the areas that the youth can concentrate on in a bid to pull off the middle-income status target.

Youth leaders arrested over embezzlement. Police in Bududa district have arrested four youth leaders over allegedly swindling youth livelihood funds given under the government programme.

Venture into agriculture Varsity VC tells youth. The vice chancellor Busoga University, Prof David Lameck Kibikyo, has urged youth to venture into modern agriculture instead

President donates shs1.6b to city youths in 3 weeks, and he is just getting started. In three weeks, President Museveni has given out more than shs600m in cash and over shs1b in tools during his charm offensive tours to win over hearts and minds in Kampala.

CHRISTIAN REFLECTION

In 1986, the Catholic Bishops took time to study and analyse the social, political and economic situation of our country and the fruit of this reflection was their Pastoral letter: "*With a new heart and a new spirit.*" Reading that letter today, 30 years after, one discovers that many of the socio-political and economic evils and challenges that existed at that time are still with us! The mass media and in this case the news-papers, are a witness to this.

One of the major issues on which the bishops reflected upon in that letter was the 'youth' whose importance in the life of the society and the Church was underlined. But they also, at that time, spoke of the 'urgency of moral rehabilitation' of the youth after many years of 'moral erosion' in the country.

The youth remain a big challenge both for the society in general and for the faith communities in particular. And, if we really mean what we so often repeat that the 'youth are the future and hope of our nation and faith communities', something serious has to be done, otherwise we are sitting on an atomic bomb! The letter mentioned above has many good proposals if only they were implemented! Moreover, the urgency of 'moral rehabilitation for the youth' felt by the bishops 30 years ago is still there not only for the youth but also and much more so for the adults, because as the proverb says: "It is the old birds that teach the young ones to defecate inside the nest!"