

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, April 26th, 2010 (covering April 19th to April 25th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. April 20, 2010, in English

"East African partner states agree on regional police, army operating procedures" by Milton Olupot

- The East African Community (EAC) partner states have agreed on operating procedures and standards for the police and army in the region. The process is geared towards the creation of a regional police force as the partner states approach political federation, expected to be concluded by 2013.
- The chairperson of the sectoral council on inter-state security, Sophia Simba, said the security sector was instrumental in identifying threats that may delay the integration. On the 16 April, Security and internal affairs ministers, together with the regional police chiefs, signed recommendations that would ensure a coordinated workforce.
- They also discussed the implementation of the customs union and common market protocols scheduled to start in July this year. It was underlined that as the customs union and the common market protocol come into force, criminals may take advantage of the freedom of movement. The key areas include human and drug trafficking, motor vehicle theft and small arms and light weapons control.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. April 22, 2010, in English

"Police summon Otunnu again" by Isaac Khisa

- The police have summoned the Uganda People's Congress president, Mr. Olara Otunnu, to record a statement with a view to charging him with promoting sectarianism.
- "Inquiries are being conducted into allegations that on 12 April 2010 at Radio Lango in Lira District, you uttered words to the effect that the war in northern Uganda was facilitated by President Museveni and his government, which tends to promote sectarianism contrary to Section 41 of the Penal Code Act," reads the summon issued on Monday by Mr. Moses Sakira, the deputy CID chief.
- But Mr. Otunnu yesterday denied uttering sectarian statements, saying President Museveni instead should be in the dock. "On the issue of promoting sectarianism in the country, who has recruited more people in government basing on ethnicity? It is Museveni and he is the one supposed to be investigated," Mr. Otunnu told journalists at Uganda House in Kampala.
- The former top UN diplomat said he would not retract his statements, saying he has evidence and ready to tell Ugandans truth.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. April 22, 2010, in English

"Parliament passes second crucial electoral law" by Emmanuel Gyezaho and Mercy Nalugo

- Parliament yesterday passed into law, a bill to amend the Electoral Commissions Act (2005) which includes provisions that compel the electoral

body to avail political parties engaged in an election a copy of the national voters' register.

- The decision has been heralded by the opposition as a victory in the pursuit of free and fair elections. Given the amount of hostility that has been shared between the government and the opposition during debate of proposed reforms to the country's electoral laws, proceedings on the floor yesterday saw both sides make remarkable concessions.
- For political parties, the decision will mean that they will no longer have to dip into their pockets to pay the Electoral Commission to avail copies of the registers. In the past, parties have had to fork out up to 100m shillings [about 470,000 dollars] to access a register before an election as the EC charges 500 shillings per page in printing costs.
- The new provision now mandates the EC to hand out copies of the voters register to political parties participating in an election at least six months before the election. This is the second of four crucial electoral law reform bills that have been passed.

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0700 GMT. April 24, in English

- The Northern Uganda Reconstruction Program has finally closed. The 20m-euro program was initiated in 2006 to reconstruct war-ravaged northern Uganda. It has ended its operations in the region and will be replaced by another 20m-euro program known as the Agricultural Livelihood Recovery Program.
- The regional coordinator for Northern Uganda Reconstruction Program, Adi Gresto, says the need for the new program stems from the realization that increased household incomes are crucial in warding off poverty. He underlines that many households are still vulnerable and need support to cope with the rest of the country. The new program will begin in July.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. April 25, 2010, in English

"Museveni to mediate in Iran nuclear row" by Tabu Butagira

- President Museveni yesterday revealed that UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown has asked Uganda to vote in favor of fresh sanctions against Iran but he has dithered to take a decision due to conflicting accounts about Tehran's nuclear program.
- Uganda is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. US President Obama is pushing the world body to pile new sanctions on Tehran for allegedly seeking to develop bombs.
- Mr. Museveni told a press conference at State House Entebbe that he addressed jointly with Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad - who left last evening after a 2-day state visit - that British and Iranian emissaries he has met have offered varying versions on the weapons row.
- "I have discussed this matter with President Ahmadinezhad in detail [...] I am going to engage the USA and tell them what we have heard," he said, adding: "We are not agents of anybody. After we have got the facts, we shall consult our other African brothers and see what position to take [on Iran]."