

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, July 19th, 2010 (covering August 2nd to August 8th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

1) State-owned media

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. August 2, in English

- A spokesman for the African Union peacekeepers in Somalia has said the soldiers are no longer in the country to fight, but to create an environment that can facilitate dialogue among the Somali people. He said the mandate of the peacekeepers does not allow them to fight.
- The Democratic Party has criticized a proposal by the Electoral Commission to deregister some political parties.
- The Prime Minister of Buganda Kingdom has asked the public to take part in next year's general elections.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. August 4, 2010, in English "Parties want constitution amended to delay 2011 elections" by Anne Mugisa

- Some Ugandan opposition parties want the constitution amended to shift the 2011 general elections from February to July so that they can influence the break up of the Electoral Commission.
- They also want multi-party liaison committees created at the national, regional and local levels to forestall and resolve election conflicts and violence. The parties cited the example of Malawi, where they recently visited to study the conduct of the elections.
- The political parties, under the Inter-Party Organization for Dialogue (Ipod), announced yesterday that they had resolved to continue holding party dialogues to resolve the challenges facing Uganda in the run-up to the elections.

2) Privately owned media

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. August 3, 2010, in English

"Gunshots, chaos mars NRM polls" by Mercy Nalugo

- Violence overshadowed some of yesterday's National Resistance Movement district elections as party heavy weights tussled. Two people were shot and injured in Ssembabule District where Lwemiyaga MP Theodore Ssekikubo stormed the venue of the polls protesting anomalies in the exercise. His rival, Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kutesa, retained the seat.
- In Butaleja and Tororo districts, the polls were postponed after rival camps clashed. Men armed with stones, sticks and iron bars besieged a polling station at Butaleja District headquarters and disrupted the National Resistance Movement party elections.
- The group was mostly comprised middle-aged men. They attacked the district chairman, Mr. Richard Waya, and pelted him with stones. They accused him of scheming with one of the rivals, Mr. Imran Muruga, to hide around 340 delegates in Tororo for five days.

- In the other districts like Mbale, Moroto, Abim, Napak, the polls were called off due to problems that ranged from late arrival of voting materials, and complaints irregularities.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. August 4, 2010, in English

"Army says 100 soldiers killed in fighting" by Sheila Naturinda

- At least 100 soldiers serving with the Uganda People's Defence Forces in the theatres of conflict in Somalia, Central African Republic and Karamoja sub-region have been killed in the last one year, General Wamala, a senior military officer, told parliament yesterday.
- Amisom, which was given the green light at the recently concluded African Union Summit in Kampala to carry out pre-emptive attacks against militants, is locked in battle with at least two hardline Muslim factions; Hizbul Islam, and the Al-Shabab who are known to be linked to global terror group, Al-Qa'idah.
- Gen. Wamala told the committee about the army's hunt for Joseph Kony, who relocated to the Central African Republic in 2009. He said the army has rescued 707 abductees ever since they first dislodged the LRA from its hide-out in the DR Congo's heavily forested Garamba National Park during the December 2008 Operation Lightning Thunder.
- In Karamoja, the UPDF continues to pick its way through what has become a complicated disarmament campaign. Begun in 2001, the campaign is proving difficult as some warrior communities refuse to give up their weapons because they are essential to the practice of armed cattle raiding. As of today, 1,041 guns and 8,500 bullets are said to have been recovered. The army has killed 478 warriors in combat.
- Commenting about the situation in Karamoja, human rights organizations have accused the army of committing grave human rights abuses and atrocities, including allegations of the excessive use of force and outright mass murder. An internal military investigation ordered by President Museveni is underway although some rights activists say the army cannot be impartial in a matter where it is the accused.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. August 4, 2010, in English

Angelo Izama entitled "Journalist arrested over Kampala bomb blast story"

- Timothy Kalyegira, a former Daily Monitor columnist and current publisher of an online newspaper, yesterday became the first Ugandan to face sedition charges arising from the use of new media.
- Police on August 2nd summoned Mr. Kalyegira to appear for interrogation over reports that questioned whether it was really the Somali-based militants, the Al-Shabab, that bombed and killed at least 80 people and injured others in Kampala last month.
- Mr Kalyegira's website, www.ugandarecord.co.ug, has questioned the official line in the 7/11 bombings. A debate over this view has been raging on the site - as well as other websites and forums. To date, there has been numerous sedition charges brought against print and broadcast journalists.
- Additionally, the security minister, Mr. Amama Mbabazi, has pushed through an eavesdropping law this week, allowing authorities access to phone-calls, emails and other communications from any individual.