

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, August 23th, 2010 (covering August 16th to August 22nd 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

1) State-owned media

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. August 16, 2010, in English

“Ugandan vernacular papers boosted by regional radios, TVs” [Author unknown]

- Sales for Vision Group's local-language newspapers have shot up after the company established regional television and radio stations.
- The chief executive officer, Robert Kabushenga, said the broadcasting stations have partly helped increase the newspaper sales and are instrumental in the development, promotion and distribution of other company products.
- He was addressing newspaper vendors, distributors and radio agents at Pearl Afrique Hotel in Gulu [Northern Uganda] last week. Kabushenga explained that Bukedde newspaper sells about 31,000 copies daily, up from 14,000 copies, boosted by Bukedde television and Bukedde radio station.
- Kabushenga said Etop sales are at 10,000 copies daily, from 4,500 before radio Etop was started last year, while Rupiny, which was selling about 3,500 copies, now sells 8,000 daily because of Radio Rupiny.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. August 17, 2010, in English

"52 percent want Museveni - Opinion poll" [Author unknown]

- More than half of Ugandans say President Yoweri Museveni is the best candidate to solve their most pressing problems if re-elected, according to a New Vision opinion poll. They also rate his ruling NRM party highly, saying like Museveni, it will deal with their issues.
- Health, transport, education, children and employment are the top problems that Ugandans want candidates for next years' elections to address, the countrywide poll revealed.
- This is the biggest survey undertaken by a media house in Uganda. A total of 10,097 Ugandans of voting age, randomly selected in 67 counties, were asked to state their most pressing problems and who they thought would adequately provide solutions to them. Museveni, was chosen by more than 50 per cent of respondents as the best person to deliver on all the priority problems. The [opposition] Forum for Democratic Change leader, Dr Kizza Besigye, came second with 16.06 per cent.
- Overall confidence in Museveni was highest in western Uganda at 64.63 per cent. This was followed by Eastern Uganda at 54.05 per cent, Northern with 48.16 per cent and Central 44.94 per cent.
- Besigye's best region was northern Uganda, where about 19 per cent thought he would be the best candidate.
- Museveni's highest rating was on national security. In the northern region, where peace has returned after over two decades of war, about 50 per cent chose him for security.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. August 18, 2010, in English

"Opposition parties react to Vision poll" [Author unknown]

- Opposition parties have dismissed the New Vision opinion poll, saying it did not reflect their true strength, while overrating incumbent President Yoweri Museveni.
- Democratic Party leader Norbert Mao as well as UPC Secretary-General Joseph Bbosa were both criticizing those numbers. The latter argued the following: "The psychology of a Ugandan during such polls is: everybody with a file is a government official. For their own safety, they tell him what government wants to hear because they don't want to be sidelined."

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. August 21, in English

"Ugandan court dismisses government's counter-claim against private radio" [Author unknown]

- The High Court has dismissed the government's counter-claim against Central Broadcasting Services (CBS) radio on grounds that the government has no mandate to sue on behalf of the general public.
- The government had filed a counter-claim saying the radio was promoting violence and ethnicity demanding that CBS pays damages incurred when the riots took place. It also demanded damages of breach of peace and inconveniences caused.

2) Privately owned media

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. August 18, 2010, in English

"UPDF admits killing Karimojong" by Tabu Butagira

- The UPDF yesterday admitted killing civilians during the ongoing disarmament exercise in Karamoja [northeast], but said the 10 individuals died in crossfire with warriors. Lt-Col Felix Kulayigye, the army spokesperson, told this newspaper by telephone that the army has also established that four victims of the 24 April skirmish in Lokitelangilam in Kotido District were children.
- However, no soldier will be punished over the deaths because the victims were allegedly transporting weapons for cattle rustlers, Lt-Col Kulayigye said. He added: "The UPDF was not in the wrong. It is, however, regrettable that these criminals used innocent people, more so children, as shields and to ferry their weapons."
- The military has this week engaged in a debate with Pokot MP Francis Kiyonga who alleged last Friday that the elite Special Forces Group commanded by First Son Lt-Col Muhoozi Kainerugaba, had killed a dozen civilians in Moroto District between April and June 2010. SFG has denied the allegations and instead accused Karimojong warriors of targeting and killing soldiers.
- Yesterday, former government spy chief David Pulkol, who hails from Karamoja, called on the United Nations and other international rights groups to investigate the capricious situation where innocent people are victimized through a "process of criminalization by association".
- "We do not support cattle rustling but it must be done without violation of people's rights," Mr. Pulkol said. "What we are opposed to is the criminalization of an entire ethnic group. A civilized government should arrest only those who do wrong."
- Mr. Pulkol had earlier told this newspaper that the suspects had been hurriedly tried in a military court martial and sentenced to eight years imprisonment.

- He said the UPDF was seizing people's animals indiscriminately and detaining individuals who seek to recover their livestock kept at the military barracks or detachments.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. August 19, 2010, in English

“Ugandan media protest ban on bombing coverage” [Author unknown]

- Media executives yesterday said they would challenge an order issued by the Nakawa Chief Magistrates Court barring print and broadcast media houses from reporting or publishing any information about the 11 July twin bombings in Kampala.
- Daily Monitor journalists as well as the government-owned Vision Group dismissed the injunction, saying that they would not respect it.