

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, December 20th, 2010 (covering December 13th to December 19th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

1) State-owned media

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. December 14, 2010, in English

"Inter Party Cooperation defies UPDF" by Charles Ariko

- The [opposition] Inter Party Cooperation has refused to retract a statement they made last week in which they accused the UPDF of training a secret militia to cause violence during next year's elections. Wokuri, the spokesperson for the IPC Campaign Bureau, last week told a press conference that the UPDF was training 1,500 people under the supervision of Gen Elly Tumwine in Kapeeka. He added that another 8,000 militiamen were being trained at Ngoma under the charge of Brig Fred Mugisha.
- The army denied the report and gave the IPC two days to retract the statement, which they did not, or face court action.

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

"EC warns government officials" by Charles Ariko

- The Electoral Commission has issued a warning to government officials against using public resources for parliamentary campaigns. The campaigns kicked off yesterday.
- Kiggundu issued the warning during a press conference at the EC offices in Kampala. He also issued other campaign guidelines, which, he said, should be followed by the parliamentary candidates. Kiggundu advised candidates or their agents to desist from using defamatory or insulting language, which he said could incite public disorder. Kiggundu warned candidates and their agents against making false or malicious statements containing sectarian words.

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

"Museveni leads with 66 per cent - poll" by Barbara Among

- If Ugandans were to vote today, President Yoweri Museveni would win with 66 per cent of the vote, while FDC chief Kizza Besigye would come second with 12 per cent, according to a poll. The winner needs only 51 per cent, according to the Constitution.
- The ruling National Resistance Movement party has gained support across the country, including the eastern and northern regions, where Museveni performed poorly in the 2006 elections. In the central the poll gave Museveni 59 per cent of the vote, 83 per cent in the west, 59 per cent in the north and 64 per cent in the east. This is about 20 per cent gain for Museveni in the north.
- Surprisingly, his two-time rival, Besigye, who beat him in the east and north in 2006, has only 11 per cent in north and 13 per cent in the east. In the central, where political analysts expected him to do well, he scored 12 per cent.
- The poll was released in Kampala yesterday by the Afrobarometer at the offices of the Deepening Democracy Group, which commissioned it.
- The good news for the Electoral Commission chairman Badru Kiggudu, is that 53 per cent of Ugandans said he was doing a good job.

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. December 15, 2010, in English

- The army has dismissed as false reports that UPDF soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic are starving, lacking medical services, and are not being paid.
- Police in Masaka have raided a home in Bukomansimbi where over 40 children are said to have been receiving suspicious training. The police spokesman said that Shaykh Yusuf Mbaziira and the trainer only identified as Kassim escaped arrest. The police are investigating the school for possible links to terrorism.
- Aid agencies call for efforts to prevent "Christmas massacres" by LRA rebels during this year's festive period. On Christmas Day 2008, and over the following three weeks, LRA massacred more than 800 people in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo and southern Sudan.

2) Privately owned media

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. December 13, 2010, in English

"Uganda Electoral Commission cannot hold free elections - report" by Evelyn Lirri

- The Electoral Commission cannot hold credible, free and fair elections next year, a new report by the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (Fhri) shows.
- The conclusions are based on oral interviews conducted between January and October 2010 by Fhri with a cross section of ordinary citizens, parliamentarians, political party groups, civil society, non-governmental organizations and donor groups.
- "Public perception is that the EC is not representative of all political interests and there is general distrust in the EC", the report shows.
- The report also notes that many opposition candidates do not have equal access to the media. Many, especially in the countryside are denied access to talk shows on radio stations, majority of which are owned by individuals loyal to the ruling government.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. December 16, 2010, in English

"Nyakairima cautions Sudan government" by Sam Lawino

- The army chief, Lt-Gen Aronda Nyakairima, has warned the Khartoum government that Uganda will not hesitate to back south Sudan if it tampers with the results of the referendum slated for January. Lt-Gen Nyakairima said the people of Uganda and south Sudan have suffered at the hands of the Sudan government through its bombings of south Sudan and Ugandan territory in the recent past, adding that Uganda would not tolerate this.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. December 17, 2010, in English

"Gen Aronda places army on high alert" by Hudson Apunyo

- The chief of defense forces, Gen Aronda Nyakairima, has placed the army on high alert citing possibilities of unrest arising from the elections. He noted that politicians "were saying many things during the campaigns, some warning on the possibility of war". "We shall be on red alert," said Gen Nyakairima.
- Without naming the politician, the army chief said months back, one had been found with documents detailing plans for war.

- Gen Aronda asked the 5th Division Commander, Col Sam Kavuma, to enlighten his soldiers about the coming elections. He urged his lieutenant to "ensure that everyone knows why to vote, how to vote and even whom to vote for".

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

"Opposition dismisses election survey" by Emmanuel Mulondo

- The opposition yesterday dismissed as "stage managed" a poll survey that gave President Museveni a 66 per cent lead over his rivals in the current presidential race. The ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) said the poll was just spot on.
- Opposition politicians, reacting to poll results printed in the Daily Monitor of 17 December said there was nothing on the ground to justify the Afrobarometer findings. They accused the research firm of just doing business to promote President Museveni.