

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, February 28th, 2011 (covering February 21st 2011 to February 27th 2011)**

**By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda**

**1) State-owned media**

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. February 21, 2011, in English**

**"President Museveni's challenges" by Cyprian Musoke**

- The trust Ugandans have placed in NRM by re-electing Museveni as president is a result of his performance in the transformation of the country. But Ugandans expect a lot in Museveni's fourth term. With this renewed mandate, Museveni faces an uphill task to implement critical but expensive programs. These include Universal Primary Education, Universal Secondary Education, free tertiary education, including the student loan scheme and many others.
- Opportunities have to be created to address the high rates of youth unemployment in the country, especially the urban areas. The formal sector can only employ 30,000 people. The President's main campaign issue has been job creation and household incomes and Ugandans will expect him to deliver.
- Also, every survey has shown that the biggest problem Ugandan's face is delivery of health services and lack of drugs in government health centers.
- The Lord's Resistance Army has been defeated but the daunting task now is to work on the welfare of the people of northern Uganda. Now that Ugandans in the north and north-eastern Uganda are no longer in camps, there needs to be drastic development of the areas that were affected by insurgency. Acholi sub-region is faced among other issues with an acute widow and orphan problem.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. February 21, 2011, in English**

**"Besigye blasts election observers" by Conan Businge**

- Hours before the Electoral Commission announced the final tally of the presidential election results; Col Kizza Besigye criticized reports by international observers that the polls were free and fair. He said the observers were not giving the right picture of what transpired, saying it was too early to make such a conclusion.
- Besigye added that some of the observers were from neighboring countries, which have had elections which are not free and fair, and did not have credentials to monitor those of Uganda.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. February 21, 2011, in English**

**Observers to Uganda say polls were "free" [Author unknown]**

- Observers from three African regional economic organizations - IGAD [Inter Governmental Authority on Development], EAC [East African Community] and Comesa [Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa] have said the presidential and parliamentary elections held in Uganda on 18 February were "free".
- The observers, however, noted incidences of "missing" names, double registration, and some voters not identifying or accessing their respective polling stations.
- However, for its part, the Commonwealth Observer Group said although the elections were peaceful there were some localized incidents of violence and intimidation. The

group also said that it needed some time to ascertain whether the elections were free and fair.

- Reflecting on their 2006 observer report on Uganda, the chairperson said a number of issues were unresolved. These include use of public resources for the elections by the ruling party, unbalanced coverage by the state media, the fusion of the state and the ruling party and voter inducements.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. February 23, 2011, in English**

**"Kitgum police halts UPC demonstration" by Wokorach Oboi**

- The police in Kitgum district [northern Uganda] on Monday stopped a demonstration by members of the Uganda People's Congress party. The district police commander, Nasur Oringa, said the demonstrators had not sought permission from the police before demonstrating.
- The demonstrators were protesting the results of Chua parliamentary elections in which incumbent and UPC flag-bearer, Livingstone Okello Okello, was defeated by state minister for international cooperation, Henry Okello Oryem.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. February 24, 2011, in English**

**"The US congratulates President Museveni" by David Mugabe**

- The US Government has congratulated President Yoweri Museveni on his new five-year mandate in the just ended February 18 polls. The US government also advised all participants in the elections to accept the official results declared by the electoral body and refrain from acts of violence and channel grievances through Uganda's independent Judiciary.
- But the US voiced concern over what they described as "diversion of government resources for partisan campaigning and the heavy deployment of security forces on Election Day." The US further recommended that appropriate reforms be undertaken especially by putting in place an independent Electoral Commission that will strengthen the country's commitment to multiparty democracy and human rights for the next generation of Ugandan citizens.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. February 26, 2011, in English**

**"EU congratulates Museveni" by Cyprian Musoke**

- The President of the European Commission, Mr. Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, has congratulated President Yoweri Museveni on his victory in last week's presidential elections. In a statement on 24 February, Barroso, on behalf of the European Union said Ugandans had expressed their political preference and they hoped that under Museveni's new leadership, Uganda would continue with poverty eradication for sustainable development.

**Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. February 26, 2011, in English**

- President Yoweri Museveni has warned the opposition against inciting the public to hold anti-government protests on allegations of electoral fraud. Speaking at his victory rally at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, Mr. Museveni said anybody who tries to use violence would be dealt with decisively.

## 2) Privately owned media

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. February 21, 2011, in English**

**"Otunnu calls for protests" by Isaac Khisa**

- Uganda People's Congress leader Olara Otunnu on 19 February said he will not accept the presidential elections results announced by the Electoral Commission, saying the process was a complete sham. "I will not accept the results and all Ugandans should not accept it," Mr. Otunnu said while briefing the press in Kampala. He added: "It is now upon us Ugandans to do whatever it takes. We shall not accept subjugation and suppression. We shall confront him (Museveni) from all ways in our own terms."

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. February 22, 2011, in English**

**"Six injured as police beat anti-Ssekandi protesters" by Issa Aliga**

- Six Democratic Party supporters in Masaka [southern Uganda] yesterday sustained injuries after engaging in scuffles with the military and anti-riot police. The group, led by Jude Mbabaali, the defeated DP candidate for Bukoto Central, began a demonstration from Kabonera Trading Centre and was heading to the Electoral Commission offices in Masaka town to petition Mr. Edward Ssekandi's victory. But they were blocked before getting there.
- The group was intercepted by a squad of 'red top' military men armed with clubs at Nabajjuzi swamp who ordered that Mr. Mbabaali goes to town without his supporters. When Mr. Mbabaali resisted the order, a scuffle ensued.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. February 22, 2011, in English**

**"How FDC tally centre was failed" [Author unknown]**

- Suspecting the ruling National Resistance Movement would steal the 2011 presidential vote, the Inter-Party Cooperation established its own tally centre. IPC candidate Kizza Besigye vowed during his campaigns to announce his own set of election results "long before Badru Kiggundu and his Electoral Commission announce theirs".
- But the opposition is accusing the government to have blocked some of the phone lines that were supposed to transfer the poll information to the FDC tally center.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. February 23, 2011, in English**

**"Terrorists sneak into country, say police" by Tabu Butagira**

- Uganda has raised its security alert to the highest level following reports that suspected Al-Shabab militants have infiltrated the country and could carry out an attack anytime, highly-placed security sources said yesterday.
- The group crossed here in four foreign-registered vehicles but detectives detailed to track them were by last evening yet to make any headway, officials said. There is, however, no information on the possible number of the extremists aboard the four cars.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. February 23, 2011, in English**

**"Opposition declares defiance campaign" by Mercy Nalugo and Annah Nafula**

- The Democratic Party is consulting with leaders of other opposition political parties, who say they were rigged out in last Friday's presidential polls, as part of preparations to start a defiance campaign against President Museveni's regime.
- Addressing his first press conference since Friday, DP president Nibert Mao released a hard-hitting statement in which he asked Ugandans to reject the outcome of the 18 February polls. Mr. Mao said civil disobedience is the only way to bring an end to what he called President Museveni's despotic rule.
- Explaining the genesis of the flawed electoral process, Mr. Mao said it began with Mr. Museveni's re-appointment of the Electoral Commission which he said had messed up the 2006 elections. He also cited massive vote rigging, bribery and intimidation of voters.