

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, March 7th, 2011 (covering February 28th 2011 to March 6th 2011)**

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

**1) State-owned media**

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. February 28, 2011, in English**

**'Phone tapping law comes into force' [Author unknown]**

- President Yoweri Museveni has assented to the Regulation of Interception of Communications Act 2007, which authorizes the tapping of telephones and other private communication for security purposes.
- The president assented to the act on 5 August 2010. The act provides for the interception and monitoring certain communication in the course of their transmission through telecommunication, postal or any related service or system. The act, which has now become law, forbids repeated sending of abusive messages and letters.
- In 2010, the bill raised concerns from human rights activists who protested against the "invasion of privacy" and interference with people's rights and freedoms. Rather than the minister issuing interception warrants, they shall be issued by a designated judge and not the minister to avoid conflict of interest.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. February 28, 2011, in English**

**"MPs propose to extend the presidential term limit" by Mary Karugaba, Barbra Among and Pascal Kwesiga**

- A week after President Yoweri Museveni was voted in for the fourth term, his party MPs are planning to have the presidential term extended from five to seven years. James Kakooza, who hatched the plan to have Museveni run for a third and fourth term in office, is the brain behind the proposal. Kakooza's proposal will require a constitutional amendment since Article 105(1) says a president shall hold office for a term of five years.
- While a section of MPs welcomed the proposal, others have described it as undemocratic. Opposition MP Odonga Otto (FDC) said he would welcome the idea if it involved reinstatement of the presidential term limits.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. March 2, 2011, in English**

**"Police chief warns public on protests" by Henry Mukasa and Henry Sekanjakko**

- The call for mass protests to challenge the results of the presidential elections is a declaration of war on the government, the inspector-general of police [IGP] has warned.
- "The mass demonstrations will not be peaceful. Intelligence information has shown that the protesters want to burn buildings, police stations and personnel. It is a declaration of war on the government," Maj. Kayihura said.

**Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0700 GMT. March 2, 2011, in English**

- The Netherlands withdraws 4.4m dollars in budgetary support to Uganda.
- Gunfire and loud explosions rock Sembabule following renewed protests over election results.

## 2) Privately owned media

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. March 1, 2011, in English**

### **"Besigye: I can't rule out war" by Tabu Butagira**

- Dr Kizza Besigye has said he is not ruling out the possibility of going to the bush to dislodge President Museveni from power, but a final decision is pending because he believes "other avenues still exist to remove the illegitimate government".
- The Forum for Democratic Change party leader, in his first wide-ranging interview with a newspaper since losing the presidential ballot, said Mr. Museveni and the Electoral Commission colluded to steal the election through a combination of ballot stuffing, vote-buying, intimidation using the military, disenfranchisement of registered voters and alteration of actual results.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. March 1, 2011, in English**

### **"Kiboko squad leader, Juma Ssemakula, arrested" by Tabu Butagira**

- The self-proclaimed leader of the militia group was arrested on Monday morning. Ssemakula, whose infamous group became known in 2009 for allegedly clobbering opposition supporters at the Clock Tower in the city, bragged last week for commanding assault on voters and journalists during the failed Kampala mayoral elections.
- The stick-wielding group, bold in the past for beating civilians in police presence, has been a sting in a country, and under President Museveni's government, that proclaims to have restored the rule of law.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. March 2, 2011, in English**

### **"Besigye gives self 47% of votes cast" by Mercy Nalugo and Phillipa Croome**

- Dr. Kizza Besigye came under attack yesterday after announcing his own set of presidential election results that put his votes ahead of President Museveni's - already declared winner by the Electoral Commission. From a country sampling of 2.3 million voters - a third of the voters who voted on 18 February - Dr. Besigye said he took 1,040,372 votes representing 46.95 per cent, while Mr. Museveni came second with 994,862 votes, representing 44.89 per cent.
- But NRM deputy spokesperson Ofwono Opondo dismissed yesterday's announcement as a last-ditch effort by the opposition candidate.
- Dr. Besigye said the party will also petition the African Union (AU), who after observing Uganda's elections agreed they were not free or fair. "We expect them to stop an illegitimate Mr. Museveni taking up the Ugandan seat at the AU purporting to represent us," he said. "The AU - if it does not do so it is also on trial."