

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, January 31st, 2011 (covering January 24th 2011 to January 30th 2011)**

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

**1) State-owned media**

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

**Uganda launches SMS service for voters [Author unknown]**

- The Electoral Commission has launched a short messaging service to enable voters verify their particulars on their mobile phones ahead of elections. A registered voter can type in their voter identification number and send it to 8683 on any network.
- Result: A short message with the voter's details, including surname, first name and polling station. First-time voters without voter's cards can use a 17-digit handwritten number on the voter registration card. Voters are allowed up to five requests per number.
- The service is funded by the United States Agency for International Development. Yesterday, the Commission chairperson, B. Kiggundu, said the initiative aimed at increasing voter awareness and promoting free and fair elections.

**Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. January 24, 2011, in English**

- Electoral Commission chairman said all ballot papers that have been brought to the country will be protected.
- Vice-President Gilbert Bukenya says the ruling party is seeking over 80 percentage win for President Museveni in next month's elections.
- Over 500 Uganda People's Congress members have quit the party to join the ruling party in Otuke District.

**2) Privately owned media**

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. January 25, 2011, in English**

**"Museveni opposes UN on Ivory Coast polls" by Tabu Butagira**

- President Museveni has described as "simplistic" the UN's recognition of Alassane Outtara as winner of Ivory Coast's disputed presidential ballot and instead called for an independent investigation.
- State House called this newspaper yesterday to say Mr Museveni prefers the African Union sets up an ad hoc committee to find out how the conduct and results of the vote have generated a difference of opinion.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. January 25, 2011, in English**

**"Army wants to rig polls for Museveni, says Godi" by Yasin Mugerwa and Felix Okello Warom**

- Arua Municipality MP Akbar Godi [FDC] said at a news conference in Parliament that the chief of defense forces, Gen Aronda Nyakairima, met Ms Atima, the district returning officer at Bondo Army Barracks. "The army leadership met Ms Atima on 20 January," Mr Godi said. "They gave orders to Ms Atima to find a way for soldiers from DR Congo to vote whether they are registered with voters cards or not. This is

rigging. Unfortunately, the Electoral Commission is not helping us to investigate this matter."

- Mr Godi said while the polling station at Bondo Barracks has only 600 registered voters, "the army wants to bring in DRCongolese soldiers to rig for President Museveni."

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. January 25, 2011, in English**

**"Polls in crisis?" by Isaac Khisa**

- With barely three weeks left, opposition leaders yesterday demanded next month's elections be postponed until voters' cards are issued to more than four million newly-registered voters to avert a possible crisis. The government, however, responded that "it is not possible to postpone the elections because voters' cards are not a pre-condition to voting".

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. January 26, 2011, in English**

**"FDC loses cards case" by Lydia Mukisa**

- The FDC [opposition party] yesterday lost an application in which it had asked the high court to compel the Electoral Commission to issue voters' cards to all registered voters. But Justice Eldad Mwangusya said a voter's card is not the only way in which a registered voter can be identified.
- Ms Salaam Musumba, the FDC party vice-president in charge of eastern region, in her affidavit in support of the application, said the four million voters risk being disenfranchised by the electoral body.
- "I know that EC disenfranchised many voters by deleting their names from the voters' register in 2006 having read the presidential petition judgment of the Supreme Court of 2006," Ms Musumba stated. The ruling comes a day after the opposition parties asked the EC to clean the voters register, issue voters cards or postpone the February 18 elections.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. January 28, 2011, in English**

**"World condemns killing of gay activist" by Risdell Kasasira, Johnson Mayamba and Andrew Bagala**

- The killing of a prominent Ugandan gay rights activist drew worldwide condemnation yesterday as the Uganda police moved to delink homophobia from his death.
- David Kato, 46, an advocacy officer for the gay rights group Sexual Minorities Uganda, was found with serious head wounds at his home in Bukusa, Mukono District on 26 January but died from his injuries on his way to hospital.
- There were calls from the US government and the European Union asking the Ugandan police to "actively" and "vigorously" investigate the killing.
- Kato's picture had been published by a local tabloid, the Rolling Stone, next to the words "Hang them" last year. Authorities however argued that the aim of the attacker had been robbery.
- News of Mr. Kato's death went viral on the web yesterday, following a statement by the international rights group, Human Rights Watch, which condemned the killing and urged Ugandan authorities to protect minorities, by deterring "threats or hate speech likely to incite violence, discrimination, or hostility toward them."

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. January 29, 2011, in English**

**"Army won't shield Museveni on polls" by Tabu Butagira**

- Inter-Party Cooperation flag bearer K. Besigye on 27 January assured voters that the UPDF will not shield President Museveni in power if he is voted out on 18 February.
- The Forum for Democratic Change party leader told journalists at a press conference in Arua that "the army I know" has many patriotic people and will not risk stooping so low in defense of one man.
- The military also have their own set of grievances apart from problems ordinary Ugandans face on daily basis, he added. The military has been marginalized. "The welfare of the men and women in uniform is the worst. They receive very low remuneration, have poor housing and no proper health insurance," he said.