

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, March 15th, 2010 (covering March 8th to March 14th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. March 10, 2010, in English

"Bududa landslides: About 700 families moved to camps" by David Mafabi

- About 712 families from the landslide-affected areas of Nametsi in Bududa District [eastern Uganda] have been relocated to camps set up at Bulucheke Sub-County headquarters. The move comes after President Museveni said the government would establish temporary camps for the survivors of the Bududa landslides to stay in for about four months as alternative land is sought.
- Eight days after the mudslides buried an entire village of Nametsi and killed about 350 people, rescuers have only managed to retrieve about 91 bodies. The conditions the survivors live in are harsh and the risk of epidemics is high. The national Emergency Coordination and Operation team, along with the Red Cross, is currently working on improving the situation.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. March 10, 2010, in English

"CBS denies inciting September riots" by Alfred Nyongesa Wandera & Anthony Wesaka

- Central Broadcasting Services Limited, which owns CBS radio, has denied charges by the state that it mobilized and incited the public into violence during last year's September riots. In court documents filed to contest an attempt by the government to force it to pay damages for losses suffered during the riots, in which 27 people were killed, CBS says it only mobilized Baganda and other well-wishers to attend Kabaka's [king's] functions and visits to his subjects in all parts of Buganda and acted in accordance with the constitution.
- Government blamed the radio, which was shut down during the riots following allegations that it was fanning violence, and which has remained shut since then. [The station] argues that the chaos was caused by the government's decision to bar the Katikkiro [kingdom's prime minister] from visiting Kayunga [town, in central Uganda] ahead of a planned visit by the Kabaka. The government said it could not guarantee the safety of the Kabaka in an area where a small minority is seeking to secede from Buganda.
- CBS insists that the powers of the Broadcasting Council in the Electronic Media Act do not include closing down a radio station and withdrawing its broadcasting licence. Instead the radio argues that any terms and conditions that purport to give such powers to the Broadcasting Council are illegal because the Act forbids the prevention of broadcasting of a programme on account of its contents.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. March 11, 2010, in English

"MPs pass ICC Bill" [Author unknown]

- Parliament yesterday passed the International Criminal Court Bill, three years after it was tabled. The bill makes provision in Uganda's law for the punishment of the international crimes of genocide, crime against humanity and war crimes. The suspects tried and convicted for the crimes will not be sentenced to death. They will instead be liable to life imprisonment, under the provisions of the bill.
- Although there is already a war crimes court in Uganda, it has not commenced work because of the delay to pass the bill.
- The bill is intended to enforce the law in Uganda after the Rome Statute was adopted in July 1998 by the UN and ratified by Uganda in June 2002. The bill is also intended to enable Uganda cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in performance of its functions, including the investigation and prosecution of persons accused of having committed crimes referred to in the Rome Statute.
- It further provides for the arrest and surrender to the ICC of persons alleged to have committed crimes against humanity in addition to enabling the ICC conduct proceedings in Uganda.
- The ICC has already indicted Lord's Resistance Army rebel Chief Joseph Kony and his top commanders.
- The House, however, rejected a proposed amendment by the committee to delete the clause on immunity of the president. The committee had called for the deletion of the clause, arguing that the bill was inconsistent with the constitution because it did not recognize the immunity of the president from arrest or court proceedings while holding office.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. March 11, 2010, in English

"WHO approves Luzira HIV drug factory" by Irene Nabusoba

- The World Health Organization has finally approved the antiretroviral drugs manufactured in Kampala by Quality Chemicals Industries, a local pharmaceutical giant. This means the company can produce for export and can benefit from contracts involving donor money.
- Dr Joaquim Saweka, the WHO country representative, commented: "Once you are pre-qualified, you are internationally accepted. Global bodies like the Global Fund, Malaria Medicines Ventures, the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief, and Medicines Sans Frontiers can buy drugs from you."
- It becomes the first plant in sub-Saharan Africa approved by the WHO outside South Africa. Its production is expected to reduce the monthly cost of ARVs from 30,000 shillings to 16,000 shillings. With local production, it is expected that more people in Uganda and the region will access treatment at a low cost. Quality Chemicals intends to export to Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.

