

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, May 24th, 2010 (covering May 17th to May 23rd 2010)**

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

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. May 19, 2010, in English**

**"Mao denies being Museveni's agent" by Alfred Tumushabe and I Khisa**

- Democratic Party [DP] President General Norbert Mao yesterday denied claims that he is on a mission to weaken the opposition's hand ahead of next year's general election.
- Speaking in Mbarara as public verbal exchanges sniping between the opposition's umbrella Inter-Party Cooperation (IPC) and DP seemed to escalate, Mr. Mao said he is not a mole of the ruling party.
- Mr. Mao's reference to talk that he may be a government plant, comes days after the IPC expressed irritation at DP's refusal to join a single front against President Museveni's bid for a fourth elective term in office. The DP, meeting in Bwebajja, Wakiso last week, turned down a proposal to front a single opposition presidential candidate, but said it could cooperate with the IPC at parliamentary and local council levels. The IPC is composed of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), the Uganda People's Congress (UPC), the Justice Forum (JEEMA) and the Conservative Party (CP).
- A few weeks ago Mr. Mao caused debate when he lavished praise on President Museveni in Gulu and when he recently when he said the FDC was yet to get past the "military mentality" after the latter fronted two former soldiers for its flag bearer race.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. May 20, 2010, in English**

**"NRM MPs vote to reject term limits" by Mercy Nalugo, Emmanuel Gyezaho and Sheila Naturinda**

- The opposition in parliament was resigned in defeat yesterday after ruling NRM [National Resistance Movement] party MPs succeeded in blocking attempts to introduce constitutional amendments, the highlight of which was a proposal aimed at restoring presidential term limits.
- The private members bill sought to restore the two five-year presidential term limits, that was deleted by parliament in 2005.
- The bill also sought to legislate for the exclusion of the army from partisan politics, proposing the removal of army MPs from parliament, and also contained a proposal to compel the president to seek the opposition's opinion before appointing senior members of the Electoral Commission, a move the opposition said would make the body more independent.
- Prime Minister Apolo Nsibambi told MPs that there was not enough time to entertain constitutional amendments.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. May 21, 2010, in English**

**"Museveni defends elections bosses" by Milton Olupot**

- Museveni was meeting the US assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Johnnie Carson, at State House Entebbe. They discussed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.
- Carson reportedly said it was in the interest of the government to strengthen the commission in order to instil confidence among the political players. He explained that it was not the practice of the US government to support candidates in elections.

- President Yoweri Museveni defended the Electoral Commission, saying it is independent. He said the commissioners were recruited through sourcing from various professional groups, and vetted by parliament.
- On the voter registration exercise, Museveni said it was an initiative of the government to ensure that Uganda has a clean voters register. He said the exercise is expected to capture the photographs and fingerprints of the voters in order to eliminate double registration.
- Museveni challenged Americans to give him concrete evidence that the Iranians are developing nuclear weapons and that they have refused to comply with the regulations.

**The Sunday Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. May 23, 2010, in English**

**"No elections - Col. Kizza Besigye" by Milton Olupot**

- Unless government yields to the opposition parties' demand to overhaul the Electoral Commission, there will be no elections, the Forum for Democratic Change leader has warned.
- The FDC leader doubted that EC chairman Badru Kiggundu and his team can organize credible elections and said they should step down. "We do not want to fight after fraudulent elections. The fight should be now," he emphasized.
- It is still not clear what action FDC and IPC would take to stop the elections. When contacted, FDC spokesperson Oguttu repeated his boss' words, but refused to elaborate.
- The IPC, comprising FDC, Uganda People's Congress (UPC), Conservative Party (CP) and Justice Forum (JEEMA), plans to field a joint presidential candidate in the 2011 elections. They are convinced they could win the election with a restructured EC.

**The Sunday Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. May 23, 2010, in English**

**"Army creates new unit" by Chris Kiwawulo**

- The army has created a new unit, the Uganda People's Defence Reserve Forces (UPDRF) to complement the existing armed forces.
- Army spokesperson Lt-Col Felix Kulayigye confirmed the launch and said the unit (UPDRF), which is commanded by Maj-Gen Levi Karuhanga, is independent like other units within the army.
- "The unit comprises of all retired officers and men but its commanders are in active service," Kulayigye said.
- The source said with the creation of the UPDRF, the Local Defence Unit and other auxiliary forces will cease to exist as they will fall under the new force.
- Officers and men of the UPDRF can be recalled for deployment any time when need arises.