

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, November 1st, 2010 (covering November 1st to November 7th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

1) State-owned media

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. November 1, 2010, in English

- President Museveni says he supports the restoration of indigenous institutions with the aim of preserving languages and culture.

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. November 2, 2010, in English

- Three senior members of the opposition Uganda People's Congress have quit the party to join President Museveni's National Resistance Movement party.

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. November 3, 2010, in English

- The Uganda Police Force in partnership with the UK and the Irish government is launching a new program to strengthen capacity of police in public order management and community policing.

2) Privately owned media

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. November 1, 2010, in English

"Candidates hit campaign trail" by Emmanuel Gyezaho

- Today, the eight nominated presidential candidates have exactly 109 days to comb every corner of the country in order to convince people to vote for them. In that period, the candidates are expected to visit all of Uganda's 112 districts.
- Bidding for an unprecedented fourth-elective term in office, Mr Museveni flags improved service delivery and more jobs as the centrepiece of the NRM political platform for the next five years. Dr Kizza Besigye, the Inter-Party Cooperation presidential candidate, unveiled a 24-member national campaign task force on Saturday led by Mr Sam Njuba and flagged "promoting the national good" as the bedrock of his administration, once elected.
- The only female candidate Ms Beti Olive Kanya of the Uganda Federal Alliance, continues with her tours of Kampala promising a federal system of government in return for votes.
- A former close ally to President Museveni, Mr Bidandi, the People's Progressive Party flag bearer, has pledged to reconcile the past and the future, to pave way for a smooth transition of power from the NRM leader.
- Former United Nations Ambassador Olara Otunnu, standing on the Uganda People Congress party ticket, heads to the epicentre of the 1981-86 bush war and will undoubtedly talk about the alleged atrocities committed at that time.
- Democratic Party's Norbert Mao takes his team to eastern Uganda and puts a promise to end corruption as a key election pledge.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. November 2, 2010, in English

"UBC denies sacking staff over Otunnu interview" [Author unknown]

- Already being criticized for not being balanced in its coverage of the ongoing presidential elections campaign, a public broadcaster, the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation, has denied reports that it sacked three of its employees allegedly for interviewing Uganda People's Congress presidential candidate Olara Otunnu on nomination day last week.
- The corporation's spokesperson said although they never completed the interview with Mr Otunnu, this was because the UPC candidate did not stick to the guidelines. "The candidates were not supposed to launch personal attacks on the other presidential candidates (but) Otunnu started a blame game," she said.
- Ms Kasumba, however, declined to comment on accusations that UBC was favoring President Museveni in its coverage of the presidential campaigns. Yesterday, the station broadcast the launch of President Museveni's manifesto at a party meeting in Kampala live on air. Under electoral laws UBC must provide equal and fair coverage to all presidential candidates.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. November 5, 2010, in English

"President Museveni starts campaigns in Lango region" by Hudson Apunyo

- President Museveni has urged the people of Lango [northern Uganda] to liberate themselves from people whom he said have been telling them "goba" (lies) that he intends to grab their land: "If we have not stolen land in the last 24 years, why should we start stealing land now."
- Land issues remain contentious in Lango and Acholi subregion, an area where customary land tenure is tailored along communal ownership systems. It was partly because of this consideration that the government struck a compromise with area MPs when the amendment to the Land Act was being considered to exclude them from falling under its new provisions.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. November 5, 2010, in English

"Daily Monitor's election guidelines" [Author unknown]

- These guidelines arise out of the Nation Media Group [NMG] Editorial Policy and Objectives which state, inter alia, that: "[NMG] supports the principles of democracy as they are most widely understood, that is, good governance, transparency and accountability, regular, free and fair elections as well as social equity. The group also supports the role of responsible and credible civil society organizations in the promotion of democracy and good governance. It supports and promotes the protection and promotion of human rights and civil liberties." They are nevertheless tailored to our local reality.
- In covering political campaigns and the election itself, our role shall remain one of thought stimulation, explaining and informing in order to help voters make intelligent decisions on the basis of knowledge, and signal to the political leaders that the public is vigilant and will not be swayed by untruths and spin. To achieve this, our coverage will go beyond reporting what newsmakers, including politicians, say to analyzing the underlying issues and examining the truthfulness of the platforms of the various contenders.

- In all this, we shall adhere to the highest standards of accuracy, fairness, impartiality and balance in reporting. Equitable coverage of all serious political actors will be ensured through strict application of a comprehensive set of election coverage guidelines.
- We shall be guided by the following specific principles: Strict adherence to accuracy, fairness and utmost integrity to ensure journalists/editors do not accept payments, gifts or favors from political candidates, parties or their agents. A policy of zero-tolerance will be maintained and any proven infringements will be punishable with instant dismissal. Journalists and editors are barred from political activism. Editorial vigilance to ensure objective/fair description of candidates and political events. We will maintain a fair focus on all political parties and candidates. Proper management of political and campaign rallies will be guaranteed to ensure balanced coverage [...]