

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, November 22nd, 2010 (covering November 15th to November 21st 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

1) State-owned media

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. November 15, 2010, in English

"Government calls for election observers" by Francis Kagolo

- The government has asked foreign missions and agencies willing to monitor next year's general elections to send observers, assuring them of cooperation and security.
- The EU Exploratory Mission delegation is in the country to assess whether it is feasible to deploy a credible team of election observers from a logistic and security viewpoint. The team will also meet political parties, media practitioners and non-governmental organizations to assess the country's pre-election situation in light of international standards.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. November 15, 2010, in English

"SPLA frees Ugandans abducted from Moyo" by Barbara Omong and Francis Apiliga

- All the 15 Ugandans abducted by the Southern Sudan security were on Friday released at the intervention of the Uganda police and political leaders. The 15 were abducted between 15 October and 10 November from Lefori sub-county. The Sudan security arrested the civilians on allegations of encroaching on land and illegally felling trees in Sudan.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. November 16, 2010, in English

"Security in mid-western Uganda beefed up ahead of 2011 elections" [Author unknown]

- Security chiefs in mid-western Uganda have formed a sensitization committee ahead of the 2011 general elections to avert electoral violence. Speaking to journalists, the resident district commissioner said that the recent party primaries were marred by violence, prompting them to form the committee.
- Meanwhile, more 200 anti-riot police personnel have been dispatched to the poll violence-prone western district of Kibaale ahead of the 2011 general elections.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. November 17, 2010, in English

"Muslims demand government jobs" by Cyprian Musoke

- The Mufti of Uganda, Sheikh Shaban Mubajje, has asked presidential candidates to declare the number of leadership positions they will give Muslims when they assume power. He said this would stem the marginalization of Muslims.
- He asked the faithful to prepare for the coming elections and urged them to compete for local and national leadership positions.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. November 19, 2010, in English

"5,000 LRA victims to be compensated" by Cyprian Musoke and Chris Ocowun

- President Yoweri Museveni has assured the people of Acholi [northern Uganda] that the government will compensate 5,000 LRA victims this year. He said he will consult

the solicitor general to determine the amount to be paid to those who were maimed or lost their relatives during the 20-year insurgency in northern Uganda.

- However, the President called on the residents to sort out the leadership problem, saying the government sends huge amounts of money to the district, but services do not reach people. He cited the water sector, which he said receives 800m shillings annually, yet water coverage remains below average in the district.
- Addressing another rally at Opit Primary School in Lalogi sub-county Gulu district yesterday, Museveni promised to grant the people of Omoro County a district status if they vote the NRM back into power.

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 1000 GMT. November 16, 2010, in English

- A cleric urges Muslims to maintain peace in the run up to the February 2011 elections.

2) Privately owned media

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. November 16, 2010, in English

"Sudan accuses Uganda of aiding rebels" by John Njoroge

- Uganda's ambassador to Sudan Betty Akech Okullu was twice summoned by the Sudanese foreign minister over allegations that President Museveni promised support to a Darfur rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement. The source said JEM asked Museveni to support them by establishing a military base in Uganda, supplying necessary weapons, passports, training and the documents to facilitate movement within the region.
- Ugandan authorities have also dismissed the reports as an attempt by Khartoum to divert attention from the much awaited referendum next year. Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Ambassador Mugume said investigations showed that the names used in the article were of people living in a refugee camp in Darfur.

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

"Gunmen attack Ugandan opposition presidential candidate Mao's convoy" [Unknown author]

- Police constables attached to [opposition] Democratic Party presidential candidate Norbert Mao yesterday disarmed and arrested three armed individuals who attempted to attack his convoy as it made its way into Moroto District, after getting into a fight with Mao supporters because they were putting posters of Museveni over Mao's posters.
- One of them was dressed in army uniform while two wore T-shirts bearing the face of President Museveni. Capt Akiiki however said only one of the three, who he identified as Private Emmanuel Opio, is a soldier. Private Opio is an escort of the Regional Internal Security Officer, Emmy Twagira. The army is carrying out its own independent investigation. The law bars soldiers and other security officers from engaging in partisan politics.

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

"Museveni favored in polls, says report" [Author unknown]

- Although presidential campaigns have been peaceful so far, the playing field is heavily tilted in favor of the incumbent and the ruling NRM party, the Democracy Monitoring Group said yesterday. In a statement released in Kampala, Demgroup said President Museveni's use of state resources during his campaigns, while legal, gave him an unfair advantage over the other seven candidates in the race.
- MPs last week adopted a motion authorizing President Museveni to use state resources on his campaign trail but Demgroup says this contravenes the Electoral Commission Act which bars serving government officials from using state resources during campaigns.
- The NGO statement also noted that state-owned media houses were giving a disproportionately large slice of coverage to President Museveni and the NRM compared to the Opposition. "For example UBC TV only gave live coverage to the launch of the NRM manifesto on 3 November 2010," it noted.