

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, October 11th, 2010 (covering October 4th to October 10th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

1) State-owned media

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. October 6, 2010, in English

"Uganda hosts base for UN peace force" by Barbara Among

- Uganda has become the UN regional hub from which it will carry out all its peacekeeping activities in the Great Lakes region. The UN peacekeeping missions in the region will be serviced by the Regional Service Centre to be based at Entebbe Old Airport. The UN base will have an annual budget of 5bn dollars (11 trillion shillings), with an overall strength of about 50,000 military and police contingents and 11,100 civilian staff.
- Functions like air assets management, civilian pre-deployment training, procurement and human resource management, which are currently carried out in peace-keeping areas in the DRC, Sudan and Burundi, will be relocated to Entebbe.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. October 7, 2010, in English

"Museveni wants no-fly zone over Somalia" by Barbara Among

- President Yoweri Museveni has called for a no-fly zone to be imposed over Somalia in a bid to curb the influx of arms and the terrorism activities in the war-torn country. He made the call yesterday during a closed-door meeting with the 15-nation team from the UN Security Council. He proposed that the no-fly zone be enforced by the big powers which have aircraft carriers based in the Indian Ocean. "If such a move is implemented, it will reduce the influx of arms in Somalia by over 70 per cent," Museveni reportedly told the delegation.
- He later pointed out that the African Union did not support the International Criminal Court's indictment of President Umar al-Bashir because they thought it would jeopardize the peace process in Sudan. He also dismissed a recent UN report on DR Congo that accused Uganda of several human rights abuses and war crimes during the conflicts in the 1990s as a "concoction and lies."

2) Privately owned media

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. October 6, 2010, in English

"Electoral Commission not ready for elections - report" by John Njoroge

- Failure by the Electoral Commission to address constant harassment, arrests and intimidation of politicians has largely dented its credibility four months to elections, says a new report. The findings, assessing Uganda's compliance with international standards of conducting elections, notes that whereas the EC is legally empowered to ensure a smooth playing field ahead of elections, it has not satisfactorily done that.
- The report was written by Ms Margaret Sekaggya, the former Uganda Human Rights Commission head and the current UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. Launched in Kampala yesterday, the 70-page report published by the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa and AfriMAP, also raises concerns about voter registration and polling processes.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. October 6, 2010, in English

"Extradition laws hindering war on terror, says Kayihura" by Andrew Bagala

- The inspector general of police, Maj-Gen Kale Kayihura, has described the Kenyan court ruling which blocked the transfer of the 11 July bomb suspects to Uganda as a fallacy.
- Maj-Gen Kayihura said the demand for the use of extradition laws in the East African Community (EAC) to transfer terror suspects is undermining the fight against terrorism. His remarks come weeks after Kenya and Tanzania authorities demanded that Uganda uses the extradition laws to enable them transfer the 11 July twin bombings suspects to Uganda.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. October 6, 2010, in English

"Court drops sedition case against radio journalist" by Anthony Wesaka

- The Court has dismissed sedition charges against Radio One journalist Robert Kalundi Sserumaga following a recent constitutional court annulment of the law of sedition. The case had come up for mention but the journalist's lawyer Mr. David Mpanga challenged Buganda Road Court, saying it was unlawful to continue trying Mr. Sserumaga under a law which was scrapped from Uganda law books.
- Prosecution had accused Mr. Sserumaga of making statements against the person of the president. He was tortured and kept incommunicado for more than eight hours and later taken to Central Police Station and kept for three days before being charged with sedition. Mr. Sserumaga was one of the eight journalists who lost their jobs for allegedly fuelling last year's September riots that broke out in Buganda region following a refusal by the government to allow the kabaka travel to Kayunga.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. October 8, 2010, in English

"Mengo to issue titles for Kabaka Mutebi's land" by Robert Mwanje

- The Buganda Land Board has resolved to issue land titles for the kingdom's land including the 350 square miles owned by the kabaka. BLB Executive Director said the move is aimed at improving the financial value of the kingdom's land, ensure safety of tenants and cut-out middlemen.

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

"Government seizes pro-Besigye book" by Charles Mwanguhya Mpagi

- Government officials have seized a consignment of books that largely profile opposition leader Dr Kizza Besigye's challenge to President Museveni in the 2001 and 2006 general elections.
- The book titled: "The Correct Line? Uganda under Museveni" is authored by Dr Olive Kobusingye, a surgeon. Dr Kobusingye is Dr Besigye's sister. The book questions the fundamental change promised by President Museveni when he took over power in 1986 to-date and goes into detail to explore at what points and how the promise failed and the movement got derailed.
- Published in London, "The Correct Line?" was couriered into the country by a major international courier but was seized at Entebbe Airport first by the Uganda Revenue

Authority Customs department under pressure from another unnamed arm of government.