

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, September 27th, 2010 (covering September 20th to September 26th 2010)**

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

**1) State-owned media**

**Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. September 24, 2010, in English**

- The Lord's Resistance Army rebels are implicated in trading of arms in the DR Congo and South Sudan.
- The Minister for information and national guidance calls for self regulation of the media in Uganda.
- Ruling National Resistance Movement electoral commission sets up tribunals to assist in handling election complaints at lower levels.

**2) Privately owned media**

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. September 22, 2010, in English**

**"Uproar over new law on public gatherings" by Sheila Naturinda**

- Outrage at the proposed Public Order Management Bill was mounting yesterday with civil society, the opposition and human rights defenders attacking the government for trying to enact a law to reverse a Constitutional Court ruling and further limit civil liberties. The uproar comes against the backdrop of Monday's suspension by Metropolitan Police chief Andrew Sorowen - citing the threat of terrorism - on gatherings involving more than five people unless sanctioned by the Inspector General of Police.
- Ms Sheila Muwanga of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative observed that it is "suspicious that such a Bill is coming prior to elections in February 2011," echoing fears that the ruling National Resistance Movement government wants to make it very hard for its opponents to rally support. "It reinstates articles in the Police Act which were already nullified by the Constitutional Court in 2008," she said.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. September 24, 2010, in English**

**"Clinton's new report praises and attacks EC" by Tabu Butagira**

- The Obama Administration has criticized alleged manhandling of political opponents in Uganda ahead of the 2011 elections and voiced fresh disapproval about the independence of the Dr Badru Kiggundu-led Electoral Commission.
- "The Ugandan government continued to intimidate and restrict the activities of opposition parties," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says in a new report to Congress on Uganda's preparations for the upcoming election.
- In this, the second such filing to lawmakers, Ms Clinton says the government "took no action" to further the independence of the EC despite agitation by opposition leaders and some donors, including the US, to reconstitute the team.
- The government yesterday reiterated its position that the EC is "independent enough" to organize flawless elections and is going nowhere.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. September 24, 2010, in English**

**"RDCs can vet radio talkshow guests, says minister" by Emmanuel Mulondo**

- Resident district commissioners [RDCs] have the authority to vet guests on radio talk shows to take care of security in their jurisdictions, Information Minister Kabakumba Masiko has said.
- The minister, who was meeting a team of international journalists and media rights activists in Kampala yesterday, said if RDCs "sufficiently" suspect a guest is going to make statements with a negative bearing on security, they should block such a speaker from accessing a radio.
- Ms Masiko said the Press and Journalists (Amendment) Bill 2009 does not exist, although principles for it have been developed and approved by cabinet. The media fraternity is opposed to the Bill that among others introduces annual licensing of newspapers by the government.
- Courtney Radisch of Freedom House, an American-based organization that advocates free institutions, said Uganda was not making any progress in media freedom ratings - with the latest placing it at 109th position out of 195 countries.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. September 25, 2010, in English**

**"Free media campaign taken to US Congress" by Emmanuel Mulondo**

- Global partners in the fight for freedom have promised to take the campaign for a free press in Uganda to the US. "We will be meeting some Congress representatives to urge them to pull the strings. Right now we are going to meet the American ambassador. Our colleagues from London shall do the same in the UK," said Ms Courtney Radische, the senior program officer at the Washington-based Global Freedom of Expression Campaign.
- She is part of a group of global journalists on a mission to contest the proposed Press and Journalists (Amendment) Bill 2009 which intends to prescribe for annual licensing of the media, which licensing can be revoked on publication of material deemed prejudicial to state security and Uganda's friendly relations with other countries.
- They are also concerned by Penal Code provisions for criminal defamation and the anti-sectarianism law, which limit free speech.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. September 25, 2010, in English**

**"EC officials summoned over army polling stations" by Alfred Wandera**

- Kampala High Court on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September summoned the Electoral Commission chief and secretary to appear before it to explain the existence of polling stations in the army barracks. Eng Badru Kiggundu and Mr Sam Rwakoojo are expected in court on Tuesday.
- Mr Lukwago (who was running for DP) dragged the EC to court over alleged breach of parliamentary electoral laws by reportedly refusing "to phase out army polling stations and failure to gazette places of display of voters register".
- Last week, Mr Lukwago and the EC officials met as court had earlier advised them in order to resolve the matter amicably out of court, but a new dispute emerged when the Electoral Commission rejected the new sites proposed to shift the contested polling stations.