News from Uganda – December 2013

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Photo: Christmas Greetings from South Africa -and a Happy New Year

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Interview

We Can't Hand Over M23 Chief, Says Museveni

If Museveni was Uhuru Kenyatta, he would not attend ICC trial. Uganda is prepared to send more troops to Central African Republic to help maintain peace there. And Joseph Kabila has agreed to sign a deal with defeated M23 rebels. President Museveni discussed these and more issues during an interview with a French news channel last week.

http://allafrica.com/stories/201312131000.html

Politics

Ministers Skip Mandela Tribute Session

Parliament today held a special session to pay glowing tribute to former South African President Nelson Mandela, who died Thursday at the age of 95.

http://allafrica.com/stories/201312110263.html

Black Monday Has Energised War Against Corruption - Larok

It is one year since the Black Monday campaign that was launched by civil society organizations, to expose and fight corruption.

http://allafrica.com/stories/201312051190.html

When Kony Goes Quiet

There has never been a better time for the world to tackle the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Attacks by Joseph Kony’s feared rebel group have dwindled significantly in the past two years. Deserters tell of low morale among his fighters.

http://allafrica.com/stories/201311291478.html
Regional Affairs

Congo-Kinshasa: Making Sense of the DRC Declarations On M23
The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the former rebel group known as the M23 Movement signed declarations on 12 December formalizing agreements to end hostilities in eastern DRC.
http://allafrica.com/stories/201312171657.html

South Sudan Divisions - Fractious Politics in a Fragile State
Armed clashes in South Sudan have highlighted the increasing fragility of the world's youngest state.
It is not clear how much this was the result of a coup attempt or of ethnic tensions. But what is certain is that President Salva Kiir will use this incident to crack down on his political adversaries.
http://allafrica.com/stories/201312190833.html?viewall=1

East Africa: Monetary Union of the Unequal
The pupils of Kabojja Primary School were spot on when they sang at the 15th Summit of East African Community (EAC) Heads of State where the EAC Monetary Union Protocol was signed on Nov. 30. "This is the way to go if East Africa is to grow," the children in their neat white shirt and black bottoms sang, "the monetary union is a necessity for the EAC integration process."
http://allafrica.com/stories/201312090819.html

Economy

Mobile Money Gives Banks a Run
To Richard Mwebaze, the message was loud, clear and a welcome relief from those dreaded bank queues. The head teacher at one of his children's school said parents were now free to pay school fees by mobile money.
http://allafrica.com/stories/201312110325.html

U.S. $1 Billion Rural Power Plan - Let's Avoid the Nakaseke Example
The agency last week unveiled a $1bn plan to take power to the rural areas. The grand plan seeks to have at least 26 per cent of Ugandans access power by 2022.
http://allafrica.com/stories/201312110193.html

U.S. $100 Billion Expected From Ugandan Oil Receipts
Uganda will earn close to $100 billion as its potential share of oil resources, a Tullow Uganda Country Report released last week shows. The Country Report indicates that once production begins, the government's potential share will be $50 billion representing about 80% of the oil revenues after exploration costs are recouped from an approximated oil reserves of 1.7 billion barrels.
http://allafrica.com/stories/201312021497.html

Development, Agriculture & Environment

First Solar Power Plant in Uganda
Kalangala Infrastructure Services Limited (KIS), the company contracted to develop infrastructure in islands district of Kalangala, is to build the first solar power plant in sub-Saharan Africa.
Climate Change Insecurity
Joyce Logiel, an affable 39 year-old mother of seven from Lokirimo in Natopojo Parish, Nakapiripirit District falls in the category of Uganda's millions of subsistence farmers who depend on the benevolence of Mother Nature to get a livelihood from their small pieces of land.

Minister, Researchers Make Case for GMOs
Uganda loses an estimated Shs 570bn to the banana bacterial wilt and Shs 75bn because of the cassava brown streak disease, a senior research official at Kawanda Agricultural Research Institute has said. Dr Andrew Kiggundu warns that unless something is done quickly, the problem will get worse, as the two are the country's main food crops. The money is lost through farmers' lost income.

Local Affairs
Mosquito Nets Get Five New Uses
The government's strategy of fighting against malaria through a countrywide distribution of mosquito nets has been plagued by widespread ignorance, with some people putting the lifesaving items to other uses.

Outrage At U-Turn On Sexual Minority Clinics
Eighteen months after slamming activists who opened a clinic for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in Kampala, Uganda's health ministry has decided it was a good idea after all and has begun setting up similar facilities, prompting outrage from the Ministry for Ethics and Integrity and scepticism from some in civil society.

Iganga School Got It All Wrong
A girls' school in Iganga district has expelled up to 20 students accusing of them of practising lesbianism (see: Iganga Girls expels 20 over lesbianism).

Media, Arts and Culture
Govts Tightly Control Broadcasters
An eleven-country study entitled: On Air: an overview, which looks closely at the current status of broadcasting in Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, has concluded that public broadcasting in Africa has a long way to go if it is to align with continental and regional frameworks, which promote open and free public spaces where all issues concerning people's lives can be aired and debated.