News from Uganda – December 2014

Politics
The Besigye, Museveni Problem
When delegates of the ruling NRM party convene for its special National Conference at Nambole Stadium in Kampala on Dec. 15, the outcome will be a foregone conclusion; the Secretary General, Amama Mbabazi will be kicked out and President Yoweri Museveni will be crowned as sole candidate in the 2016 elections Read more »

International Anti-Corruption Day - UK Working With Uganda
DFID projects help strengthen Ugandan efforts to tackle corruption and increase accountability. Read more »

Shifting the Discourse From Victimhood to Reconstruction
For transitional justice to be relevant and effective it must be informed by local understandings of justice. The form of justice should be informed by local priorities as identified by victims and survivors. Read more »

Economy
Land of Opportunity?
GDP growth figures good, but wide gap between rich and poor worries economic experts Read more »

Isimba, a Costly Dam
Despite objections from local residents, environmental groups, and tour operators, the Ugandan government plans to go ahead with the construction of a third hydroelectric dam across the Nile. This Isimba dam will end white-water tourism in the region. But Ugandans might end up also paying for it in other ways... Read more »

Online Retailer Jumia Gears Up for Xmas
Ugandans are turning to shopping online instead of walking to the shops to make purchases. Read more »

Regional Affairs
The Lord's Resistance Army - Violence in the Name of God
The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel group is led by Joseph Kony. It has been committing atrocities against civilians in parts of Africa for nearly three decades. The group claims to be fighting “in the name of God.” Read more »

From Fleeing Fighting to Assisting Those in Need in South Sudan - the Story of a WFP Enumerator
Doru Gladys Oliver had only been back in her home country, South Sudan, for two months when fighting erupted. The 20-year-old now works as an enumerator for WFP travelling to hard-to-reach areas to provide assistance to people in need. She tells us her story. Read more »
Local Affairs

International Human Rights Day Op-Ed
Today we celebrate International Human Rights Day, marking the end of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence that began on November 25 with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. While human rights and gender equality should be respected every day, this anniversary offers a special opportunity to renew the global commitment to free women and girls from violence. Regardless of where it occurs—whether in the United States or Uganda—violence against women and girls.

Poor Sanitation Costing Us, Warns Prime Minister
Eighty-five per cent of the disease burden in Uganda is caused by poor sanitation and hygiene, Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda said on Monday.

What Went Wrong On Health?
Two months to MDGs deadline, Uganda trails world on indicators.

Media, Arts and Education

Crackdown On Facebook in Uganda
The government of Uganda has launched a crackdown on political activists who use social media to convey their messages. The first victims are three youthful activists who are behind the popular Facebook page Masindi News Network, where young people in the oil rich Bunyoro region exchange views on governance issues.

If We Don't Document Our History, It Will Disappear, Says Artist Taga
A fine artist by birth who dreamt of painting from a young age, Taga Francis Nuwagaba is a professional oil and water colour painter who owns Tagaframe in Kamwokya, Kampala.