

The following information was gathered during the period of March 1-9, 2010 from: AFP, The new Times, VOAnews and Africa Press

UNFPA donates to Rubavu women

The United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) has donated 500 health kits to victims of recent floods in Rubavu district. The kits contained towels, kitenge cloths, blankets, Sosoma (a combination of sorghum, soya and maize flour), sugar and other material for home use.

Source: <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14192&article=6402>

Women MP's advocate for expectant mothers

On International Women's Day, Women parliamentarians under their umbrella organisation, Rwanda Parliamentarian Women Forum (FFRP), in partnership with White Ribbon Alliance (WRA), have called on all Rwandans to protect the lives of expectant mothers and fight all forms of violence against women to end maternal deaths.

Source: <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14194&article=26718>

Rwanda Formally Welcomed Into Commonwealth

Rwandan President Paul Kagame joined celebrations in England as Rwanda was formally welcomed into the Commonwealth Club of Nations.

"I am pleased to be here on this special [day] as my country, Rwanda, is formerly welcomed into the Commonwealth," President Kagame said.

Rwanda was admitted to the Commonwealth in November 2009, during the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Kagame says he wants Rwanda's youth to benefit from Commonwealth educational and training programs, and hopes his country will gain financially by being a member.

Source: <http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Rwanda-Formally-Welcomed-Into-Commonwealth-87013602.html>

Uganda Landslide Kills 106

A Ugandan official says a massive landslide in eastern Uganda has killed at least 106 people. Minister of State for Disasters Mussa Eweru told VOA's Swahili service that 300 people remain missing.

The landslide engulfed three villages in the Bududa region near Mount Elgon late on Monday, following more than a week of heavy rain in the area.

Officials say the mudslide destroyed homes, markets, schools, and a health clinic.

Source: <http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/central/Uganda-Landslide-Kills-106-85978057.html>

Follow the UNFPA example

Editor,

Recently, The New Times published some articles about the Rwandan response to the Haitian earthquake. Different initiatives were made to raise funds for the victims of the earthquake and, surprisingly, even students were involved in the fundraising. In fact, students of Green Hills Academy raised one million francs, all by themselves.

However, it seems to me we are not giving enough to our own. I'm grateful for the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) donation of 500 health kits to victims of recent floods in Rubavu district. These kits contained towels, kitenge cloths, blankets, Sosoma, sugar and other material for home use.

Although I'm truly grateful for this UNFPA assistance, I'm wondering when Rwandan civil society will come to the fore and take care of its own.

I'm not saying that we shouldn't be concerned by what happens outside our borders (we should), however, I think that we must be as generous with our time and money to help fellow citizens.

Amza Tumusiime, Kimironko , **Source:** <http://newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14193&article=26654>

Grenade blast wounds 16 in Rwandan capital

Two near-simultaneous grenade explosions occurred in Kigali last Thursday (4 march) injured 16 people in the Rwandan capital Kigali, police said Friday.

President Paul Kagame has already accused a former army chief now in South Africa of being behind blasts last month.

Thursday's grenade attack is the second to rock Kigali in less than a month. On February 19, two people were killed and several others wounded in two grenade attacks in the capital during rush hour.

Source: AFP (<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hhuuOUImw-bKT1T8X3JS5w8Uj3hQ>)

GCAP launches campaign to reduce maternal mortality

A new program that seeks to reduce maternal mortality was launched yesterday by Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Rwanda, an advocacy and campaign group set up to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's).

The Gender Cluster Coordinator in the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, Egidia Rukundo, hailed GCAP Rwanda for the initiative and called upon stakeholders to mobilise and motivate Rwandans to end maternal deaths.

Source: <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14190&article=26592>