

19 AUG 2001

SNNI-SIGNING

THREE HEADS OF GOVT SIGN MUNYONYO-KAMPALA DECLARATION ON MEDIA

By: Mikhail Raj Abdullah

KAMPALA, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- The Munyonyo-Kampala Declaration on Media was signed here on Sunday by three heads of government and this paved the way for the formation of the Smart News Network International International (SNNi).

SNNI would be an alternative news network among South-South countries.

The signatories included President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique and Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The declaration was signed at the ongoing Global 2001 Smart Partnership International Dialogue held at the Speke Resort at the Munyonyo Village, some 15 km from the Ugandan capital.

A statement issued after the signing said the declaration would enable the exchange of news items between news organisation from several participating countries in the smart partnership dialogue to receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.

The statement said Uganda was "pleased to announce the formation of the SNNi as a further exercise of such freedom of opinion and expression."

BERNAMA, the national news agency of Malaysia, Utusan Malaysia, The Star and The New Straits Times are the initial participating members of SNNi from Malaysia. Other founding members include the Daily News of Botswana, Mozambique News Agency, Namibia Today, Buaneews of South Africa, New Vision of Uganda and the Herald of Zimbabwe.

SNNI also aims to foster closer understanding between the peoples of the participating countries. -- BERNAMA

MR SHY SHY