

CASE HOSPITAL MURDER: SUSPECTS CONFESS

BY VISION REPORTER

Two of the prime suspects into the murder of former Case Hospital accountant, Francis Ekalungar, have reportedly confessed before investigating officers to kidnapping and murdering him.

A highly placed security source revealed that the head of operations for Bodaboda 2010, Huzair Kiwalabye, who is also a brother to Abdullah Kitatta, the group's patron, together with, Muzamiru Mawa, the driver of the Case Hospital director, have confessed and given investigators very useful information about the murder.

"They have so far been co-operative and they have given investigators useful leads that have resulted into the arrest of many more conspirators in the murder of the accountant (Ekalungar)," the source revealed.

He said the probe has led them to many other cases in which many of the arrested suspects, including Kitatta, are implicated. Kitatta is also the National Resistance Movement (NRM) chairman for Rubaga division. "There are many cases and complaints against Kitatta as a person and his group. So, we are also looking into all that," he stated.

Some of the complainants, who are bodaboda riders, accused Kitatta and his group of using guns to torture them, the source said.

When *Sunday Vision* sought confirmation from the army deputy spokesperson, Lt. Col. Deo Akiiki, on whether the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI) recovered any guns from Kitatta, he neither denied nor confirmed, saying this could jeopardise investigations.

The source added that one of the suspects told investigators that Ekalungar was followed from Case Hospital using a bodaboda and surrounded before reaching the Mulago round about, as he headed to dfcu bank to deposit sh15m on the hospital's account.

It is said a lady, Resty Nanyondo, was the one on the bodaboda that was following Ekalungar and that she would constantly brief her accomplices who were in a Toyota Super Custom number UAU 506A that was waiting on the way.

Nanyondo, who was also arrested, is said to have been frequenting the hospital, but the hospital administration said they did not know her.

The Super Custom, which is said to have been hired at sh200,000 on a self-drive basis, has since been impounded by CMI operatives, who are



Deceased accountant Francis Ekalungar

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working together with their colleagues from Internal Security Organisation (ISO).

The operatives are now also investigating whether the kidnappers were armed, which could be the only reason Ekalungar was forced to enter the Toyota Super Custom without any resistance. "If he had resisted, probably people would have gathered and foiled the kidnap," the source observed.

The source added that the suspects mainly wanted Ekalungar's car, a Toyota Premio, whose buyers were already available before the kidnap. The buyers, Kikandi Muhindo and David Bizimani, who are Congolese nationals, were also arrested together with over 20 other suspects.

Operatives are, therefore, investigating reports that the Congolese suspects have always been coming to Uganda to pick stolen cars whose registration details are altered before they are driven out of the country. Ekalungar's vehicle number plate and lights had been altered.

Over the past one week, CMI

and other security agencies have arrested scores of Bodaboda 2010 leaders over the murder of Ekalungar.

Ekalungar was kidnapped on January 2, by unknown assailants on his way to bank over sh15m belonging to the hospital. A day later his body was found burnt in Kajjansi along Entebbe road. On Monday, CMI arrested a "key suspect" by the security operatives identified as Deo Yiga.

Yiga is a top leader of Bodaboda 2010 in Rubaga division. He was allegedly arrested from a hideout in Bukesa-Nakulabye, a Kampala suburb in Rubaga.

Sources said security had received intelligence that Yiga was one of the people who trailed Ekalungar as he travelled from the hospital heading to the bank to deposit money before he was kidnapped.

After interrogating Kiwalabye, operatives arrested Kitatta, hitherto regarded as "untouchable" on account of his close links with powerful political and security figures.