

ACP Rusoke Kituuma, the police spokesperson addresses the media at Police headquarters in Naguru, Kampala, on Monday. PHOTO/BENSON TUMUSIIME



Police swoop nets 1,000 countrywide

According to police, the operations targeted blackspots, criminal hideouts, and narcotics hubs.

BY BENSON TUMUSIIME

A police swoop across the country to bring down the current wave of crime has netted more than 1,000 suspects linked to burglary, aggravated robbery, narcotics abuse, and street mugging, among other vices.

Mr Rusoke Kituuma, the police spokesperson, told the media yesterday at the police headquarters in Naguru, Kampala, that the operations targeted blackspots, criminal hideouts, and narcotics hubs.

He said the intelligence-led operations led to the recovery of dangerous weapons, other exhibits, and also rescued victims after emergency calls from the public.

Mr Kituuma listed pangas, broken implements and other dangerous weapons; narcotics, stolen motor vehicle parts, multiple SIM cards, and livestock, among the items recovered.

He said the operations were conducted daily for seven days in Kampala Metropolitan Areas, Aswa West, West Nile, the Albertine North, Elgon, Savannah, East Kyoga, Wamaala, and other regions.

*A total of 1,095 suspects were

arrested, many of them habitual offenders and gang members involved in robberies, burglaries, phone snatching, narcotics and related crimes," Mr Kituuma said.

He said they would be screened and taken to court, while others shall receive cautions after being verified to have no other criminal record.

Black spots

In Kampala Metropolitan East and South, disruptive operations in areas such as Kira, Mukono, Kyanja, Eweyogerere, Nsangi, Nanteete, Katwe, and Entebbe targeted narcotics smokers, violent gangs, and hardcore robbery suspects, with the operations netting over 700 suspects.

In Entebbe, 20 suspects were arrested in Kiwafu Cell, with four identified and charged with aggravated robbery after linking them to an earlier incident, while another rapid response operation in Abaita Ababiri followed an online distress video and led to the arrest of a key suspect.

In Gulu City and Elegu Town Council, the joint forces arrest-

ed rogue elements and suspected criminals, recovering 30 SIM cards, broken implements, and marijuana from some of the suspects. Similar joint operations in the Savannah region of Luweero and Nakaseke town councils and cattle markets led to the arrest of suspects involved in simple robberies and burglaries.

Enforcement in Nakawa and Lugogo traffic lights junctions targeted suspects who vandalise motor vehicles in traffic, leading to the recovery of stolen parts such as side mirrors.

"Many of our operations were informed by community intelligence, complaints from residents, and support from boda boda motorcycle riders and local leaders," Mr Kituuma said.

He said the operations aimed to disrupt criminal gangs, prevent night crime and support lawful business by ensuring neighbourhoods are free from rogue elements.

"Police reiterate its commitment to sustaining these intelligence-led operations, working with the public, sister security agencies, and local authorities to keep communities safe," he added.

Maj Gen Christopher Ddamulira, the police Director of Crime Intelligence, said the police are alive to the plight of those who have fallen victims to crime and everything within means is being done to ensure a peaceful environment for everyone.

Gen Ddamulira said although several complaints were reported, most of the cases have been resolved.

Operations.

A total of 1,095 suspects were arrested over the seven days, many of them habitual offenders and gang members involved in robberies, burglaries, phone snatching, narcotics and related crimes - Rusoke Kituuma, police spokesperson