

FBI investigates women murders

By Vision Reporter

The Police have hired four Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) forensic experts to expedite investigations into murders of women in Wakiso district, barely a week after the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI) took over the cases.

By last week, CMI had arrested six suspects over the murders in Nansana and Katabi town council. Previously, Police was the lead agency in the investigation of the murders and had arrested over 100 suspects and arraigned scores of them in court.

The suspects were charged with terrorism, murder and aggravated robbery at Nabweru and Entebbe Chief Magistrates' courts and were sent on remand to various government prisons.

Until yesterday, CMI operatives moved with an alleged 'key suspect' who is said to be a national of a neighbouring East African country as they reconstructed events at various crime scenes in Katabi town.

The FBI is the domestic intelligence and security service of the US, and its principal federal law enforcement agency.

A high-ranking Police officer who spoke to *New Vision* on condition of anonymity said the FBI forensic experts will play a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information through the analysis of physical evidence.

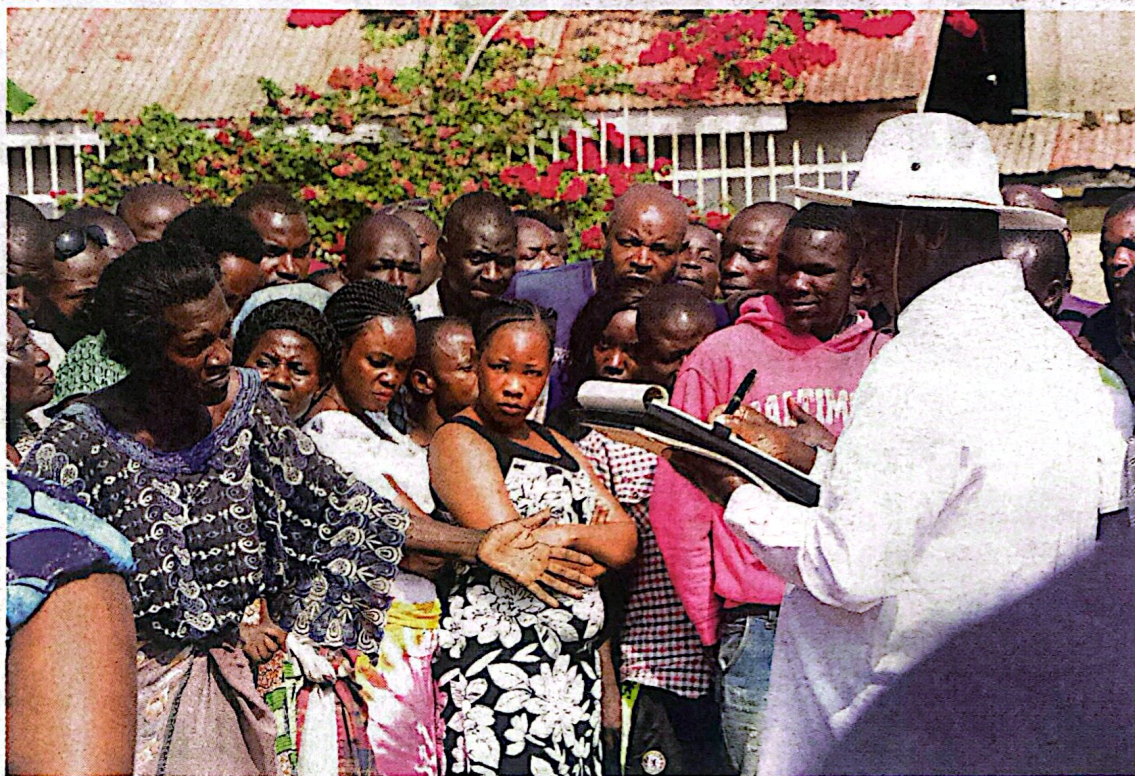
"During an investigation, evidence is collected at a crime scene or from a person, analysed in a crime laboratory and then the results presented in court," the Policeman said.

The sources said the FBI were invited by the Inspector General of Police, Gen. Kale Kayihura. It is not the first time the Police have worked with FBI on high profile cases that include terrorism and drug barons.

Subsequently, the Police officer refuted claims that the army's elite unit (CMI), is in-charge of the case (women murders).

"They are a sister agency who can play a supportive role. CMI is not in charge," said the policeman.

A source privy to CMI investigations said the army's investigative unit



President Museveni interacting with some of the residents of Lyamutundwe, Katabi zone, in Entebbe municipality recently. About 23 women were murdered in a period of three months

BETWEEN THE LINES: History of the murders

■ Since April 23, women have been killed in Nansana and Entebbe, both in Wakiso district. The Police observed that the killers in most cases would first rape the women before strangling them. Some victims also had sticks shoved into their private parts.

commander, Col. Abel Kandiho, was recalled from a foreign official trip and handed the task to bring to book suspects linked to the gruesome murder of women.

During his impromptu visit to a murder scene of one of the victims, Sarah Nelima, 22, and his interaction with Entebbe residents, President Yoweri Museveni said: "We shall bring an end to these murders. We are going to use new technology such as DNA to investigate and install CCTV cameras

in major cities to ease Police work."

Nelima was an employee of Friends Restaurant and Takeaway near Mango Sports Bar in Katabi town.

Victims' phones recovered

Hours after Museveni left the scene of crime, in a Police-led operation; operatives attached to the Special Forces Command arrested a suspect, Matthew Sebulime, allegedly in possession of two phones of deceased women, including that of Nelima, and

eight SIM cards.

The Police said Sebulime is a prime suspect in the murder of Nelima. He was picked from his rented unit at Kabaale A village, Katabi town council, Wakiso district. At the time of his arrest, Sebulime lived with his pregnant wife.

An operative privy to the probe said they had recovered six mobile phones, two of which belonged to murder victims.

Addressing a press conference at the Police headquarters in Naguru, a city suburb recently, Police spokesperson Asan Kasingye said security had been stepped up, with several sister security agencies joining the hunt for the killers.

While appearing on a local television last month, security minister Lt Gen. Henry Tumukunde disclosed that there was suspicion that women murders were politically motivated.