

# Don't intimidate Parliament, UHRC warns security agencies

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**KAMPALA.** The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) has warned security agencies against besieging Parliament when it reconvenes to consider a motion to lift the presidential age limit today.

The UHRC chairman, Mr Med Kaggwa, condemned the heavy deployment of security officers around Parliament last Thursday and described actions by the security agencies as unprecedented, warning that they pose a serious threat to the sanctity of Parliament.

"Whereas the Commission appreciates the duty of the State and specifically that of the police to provide security for persons and their property, the heavy security deployment around Parliament on Thurs-

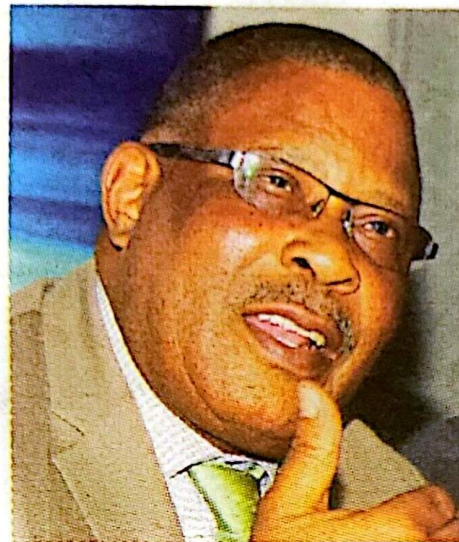
day was unnecessary as it was bound to infringe on the independence, immunity and sanctity of the House," said Mr Kaggwa during a press briefing in Kampala yesterday.

Some NRM and Independent MPs are plotting to table a key motion in Parliament today seeking leave of the House to introduce a private Member's Bill to amend Article 102(b) of the Constitution.

Rival MPs have filed a counter notice of motion with the Deputy Speaker.

A plan to introduce the Bill, last week placed the country on tension, with soldiers and police locking down the city, clobbering and arresting dozens of demonstrators.

The rising tension and bitter exchanges at Parliament, which security forces had surrounded, prompted the Deputy Speaker, Mr Jacob Oulanyah, to adjourn



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**Med Kaggwa.** The heavy security deployment around Parliament on Thursday was unnecessary.

the session to today. Mr Kaggwa condemned the violent arrest of the Kampala Lord Mayor, Mr Erias Lukwago, and closure

of NGOs offices, saying the citizens should be allowed to enjoy their rights to demonstrate but it should be peaceful.

"We have repeatedly called upon the security agencies to facilitate citizens to enjoy these rights and freedoms and to exercise restraint by applying proportionate force in order to ensure the observance of respect of human rights," he said.

On the issue of women, who have been killed in Wakiso District, especially in Katabi Sub-county, Mr Kaggwa said police was not doing enough to stop the killings.

Efforts to get a comment from the police were futile as the Force's spokesperson, Mr Asan Kasingye, his deputy Polly Namaye and Mr Emilian Kayima, the Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesman, could not answer our repeated calls.