

Court dismisses Senkeeto's application to halt his trial over sh24.7b

By Edward Anyoli

The Anti-Corruption Court has dismissed Apollo Senkeeto's application to have his trial halted. Senkeeto is being tried over theft of sh24.7b meant for the construction of the Mukono-Katosi road.

Yesterday, Justice Lawrence Gidudu rejected Senkeeto's application on the premise that the Inspectorate of Government (IGG), is a well constituted body and has power to prosecute all corruption-related cases.

Gidudu said the office of the IGG has been prosecuting cases since the 1995 Constitution came into force. He said Article 226 of the Constitution also gives the IGG jurisdiction to prosecute individuals, whether in public offices or not.

Senkeeto who is accused of theft and conspiracy to defraud had, through his lawyer, Peter Mulira, asked the Anti-Corruption Court to halt his trial and refer the case to the Constitutional Court for interpretation.

Senkeeto had argued that he is being prosecuted without a complainant and that the IGG has no mandate to prosecute him.

He also asked court to refer the case to the Constitutional Court to determine whether his rights are being infringed upon or not.

On the contrary, Justice Gidudu ruled that the question whether the IGG has the mandate to prosecute private individuals on charges of theft or not has been dealt with by the Constitutional Court in petition number two.

"It is my opinion that the question framed by the applicant (Senkeeto) has not met the benchmark, upon which I can grant the application," Gidudu said.

He added that Senkeeto had not demonstrated to court that the issues he raised in his petition require constitutional interpretation.

Gidudu said having perused the application, he did not find any merit in the issues raised by Senkeeto to compel him to refer the case for interpretation. He said the hearing of the case will resume on December 18, as scheduled.

The trial of Senkeeto and six others accused of different charges at the Anti-Corruption Court in Kololo, Kampala has been ongoing since February last year.



Lawyers Emmanuel Twagira and Mulira with Ssenkeeto leaving the Anti-Corruption Court in Kampala yesterday. Photo by Ashraf Kasirye