

# Pallisa authorities hold witch doctor over rape

By Egessa Hajusu

The Police in Pallisa district have arrested a witch doctor on allegations of raping two girls who had gone to his shrine to seek his services.

The Bukedi region police publicist, Sowali Kamulya, confirmed the arrest, saying the suspect was in custody at Kibuku Police Station. He identified the suspect as Stephen Wako 21, a resident

of Rweta village. According to Kamulya the incident happened when Simon Tugume a resident of Japan sub-county took his family members to Wako's shrine for divination.

"The witch doctor asked Tugume to leave the shrine so that he could administer medicine on the girls, but he instead raped one girl and warned her not to tell anyone if she did not want to be

killed," Kamulya said.

He said the following day Wako went to Tugume's home claiming that he had come to treat the second girl and still asked the family members to leave them alone in the hut.

Kamulya said when Tugume left with the girl, Wako forced her into sex but the girl escaped and reported to her parents.

He said it was at this point that the other girl also

informed her parents that she had been raped. Kamulya said on sensing danger, Wako fled but he was arrested and taken to Police.

Kamulya said cases of witch doctors raping their clients were on the increase in the region but only a few of the victims report such cases.

He said the few that have reported always claim that they were threatened with death or evil spirits.

Kamulya appealed to the leaders of traditional healers to caution their members against taking advantage of others.

Lawrence Sabitti Camiro, the secretary of Busia traditional healers association, said in Busia all traditional healers have been registered, adding that this makes it easy to take action against those that abuse clients.

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