

Businesswoman on trial over stealing human kidney

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KAMPALA. A businesswoman has been committed to the High Court to face trial in connection with aggravated human trafficking after she allegedly duped her shop attendant to donate a kidney to save her ailing husband.

Mr Brian Arinaitwe accused Mbarara-based businessman Miria Rwigambwa of using deception to organise, facilitate and prepare him to travel to India for removal of his body part.

Prosecution further states that Ms

Rwigambwa on July 2014 forged Arinaitwe's birth certificate with serial number 6081 and a citizenship verification form B with serial number 235720.

According to the evidence before court, in March 2013 there was a strike between Ntare High School and Mbarara High School and among the students badly affected by the tear gas was the accused's son, Michael Arinda, who was rescued by the victim (Arinaitwe).

Due to the assistance rendered by the victim, he was welcomed in the family by the accused and consequently offered a job in the family's

hardware shop in Mbarara.

However, after working for a few months, the accused requested the victim, who first hesitated before consulting his mother, to donate a kidney to her sick husband Rwigambwa, who later died.

Accusation

"The accused knowing she had control or authority over the victim instead lured him with hefty rewards which included part of the family arcade in Mbarara, a plot at Makenke (outside Mbarara Town) and another plot with an incomplete building in Katete in Mbarara Municipality in

return for the kidney donation although no written agreement to this effect was made," prosecution submitted.

It is further stated that the victim consented to donating his left kidney to the accused's husband. He was then taken to Mulago National Referral Hospital and later, the Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, for blood and DNA testing to establish if he could be a suitable donor and the results indicated indeed he was suitable.

It is stated that the accused embarked on processing travel documents for the victim using forged information on a birth certificate

presenting herself and husband as his biological parents instead of indicating Ms Busingye Kyabalongo and the late Kyabalongo as his parents.

The documents also indicate that on July 2014, the accused facilitated the victim, her husband and her stepson Dickson Tumwebaze to travel to Indraprastha Apollo hospital in India for the kidney transplantation.

However the accused's husband died shortly after the transplant and upon returning to Uganda, Ms Rwigambwa alleged that her stepson and Arinaitwe had killed her husband and, therefore, forfeited all the promises she had made.

This prompted Arinaitwe to report the matter to police that recommended a medical examination which revealed that he had no left kidney.