

10 arrested over land fraud, forgery

Crime. Some suspects reportedly conned people living abroad, claiming they were land brokers.

BY JOSEPH KATO

jkato@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. Police have arrested 10 people from around Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts over land fraud and forgery of academic documents.

The suspects, who were arrested in the last five days, allegedly defrauded people of more than Shs300m.

The Kampala Metropolitan acting police spokesperson, Mr Luke Owoyesigire, told *Daily Monitor* on Tuesday that some suspects have been disguising as land brokers and duping unsuspecting people.

For instance, in Kampala, two women were accused of conning their relatives of more than Shs100m using a forged land title of a plot of land in Gayaza, Wakiso.

"These women were so smart that they could send photos of forged land titles and pieces of land on sale [to the relatives] yet they don't own even an inch of land. Several victims complained to us and we launched a hunt for them," Mr Owoyesigire said.

They were detained after the victims flew into the country to check

on the land they had purportedly bought.

In another land fraud, police in Kiwatule and Kajjansi arrested two men for defrauding two people of more than Shs92m in land transactions.

"We are asking people to be very careful, especially those who have returned from abroad because they are being targeted by fraudsters. They know they have the money and the only way to con them is through land transactions and quark business deals," Mr Owoyesigire said.

In another development, police on Tuesday raided City House and arrested six people suspected of forging academic documents.

This follows several complaints from university authorities on people duplicating their documents.

"The university managers became concerned about their documents being duplicated and they partnered with police to investigate the source and we landed on a racket at City House," Mr Owoyesigire said.

CHARGES

Police said the suspects will be charged with, among other offences, impersonation, forgery, uttering false documents and obtaining money under false pretence.