

DUBIOUS DEALINGS

Detectives are accused of sabotaging cases at premature stages and allegedly sharing some of the grabbed pieces of land

By Simon Masaba

The Police's Land Protection Unit (LPPU) has been overhauled in a move aimed at ridding it of officers who allegedly perpetrate land grabbing.

This was after disturbing details emerged implicating detectives attached to the unit, linking them to land grabbers countrywide.

The detectives are also accused of sabotaging cases at premature stages and allegedly sharing some of the grabbed pieces of land with the suspected top land grabbers.

Taking action

Sources said the report regarding the alleged dubious actions by LPPU officers has prompted the Police chief, Gen. Kale Kayihura, to suspend the entire unit.

Kayihura communicated the decision to dissolve the entire lands unit to all Police units on Tuesday and called for fresh vetting and recruitment of other officers into the unit.

In a letter dated July 4, Kayihura appointed Senior Commissioner of Police (SCP) Christine Nanding, as the commandant LPPU.

Nanding replaced Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Charles Mutungi, who has been

Kayihura suspends land protection unit

lined up for further training.

"I have appointed SCP Christine Nanding as the commandant LPPU. SSP Charles Mutungi is to be sent on a course (next immediate course)."

In the message, Kayihura instructed his deputy, Okoth Ochola, to oversee the overhaul (vetting and deployment of personnel) of the LPPU.

Ochola will be assisted by a committee composed of directors of operations, Criminal Investigations Directorate, Director Criminal Intelligence and Commandant Professional Standards Unit (PSU).

Kayihura gave Ochola and his team one week within which they should have finalised the overhaul and report to him.

Yesterday, PSU officers spent the greatest part of the day carrying out vetting ahead of the new deployments.

After dissolving the LPPU headquarters, the team will go to divisions and districts where such officers had been attached to probe their past activities.

Among the issues that the vetting team will be looking at are the period each officer has spent in LPPU, cases reported, investigated, and how many

SUSPENSION

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were concluded. CID, Interpol and PSU spokesperson Vincent Ssekate, could not be reached for comment on the matter.

In the past 10 years, the unit has been commanded by a number of officers who include Mutungi (outgoing commandant), Julius Twinomujuni, Fred Enanga and William Kototyo.

Museveni appoints probe team

The move to overhaul the LPPU comes at a time when the land commission is conducting the public hearings countrywide and the Police has come top on the list of those accused of abetting land fraud.

Last year, President Yoweri Museveni appointed the commission

clean up the sector and make lasting changes to a sector which is the bedrock of any country's development."

Besides Bamugemereire, other members of the commission are Makerere University law don Rose Nakayi, former Attorney General Fred Ruhindi, Robert Ssebunya lawyer and presidential advisor on Buganda affairs, Joyce Habasa and George Bagonza.

The commission of inquiry is assisted by four people – Olive Karazawe, who will act as secretary, Dr. Douglas Singiza (assistant secretary research), Ebert Byenkya as lead counsel and John Bosco Rujagaata as co-lead counsel.



Police chief Kale Kayihura