

Police

Crime

Fraud

Robberies, murders planned in Luzira, says ex-convict

By Chris Kiwawulo

An ex-convict, who has dedicated himself to work with the Internal Security Organisation (ISO) to fight crime, has revealed how most armed robberies and murders in Kampala are planned in Luzira Prison.

Paddy Serunjogi, popularly known as Sobbi, who spent three years and six months in Luzira over robbery until he was released recently, said instead of reforming, convicted criminals plan to execute robberies and murder of persons who may have caused their arrest.

Sobbi, 44, made the chilling revelation on Tuesday at the ISO headquarters in Nakasero where the ISO boss, Col. Frank Bagyenda Kaka, presented him to the press as the person who has helped them bust a racket of car jerkers in the city. Sobbi said he was now a grown up man with children and that he wanted to live a normal life.

Two suspects; Sharif Lukwago, 27, and Amri Mugwanya, 21, were also paraded after their alleged plan to take a stolen vehicle, a Toyota Mark II, to DR Congo, was thwarted by ISO with the help of Sobbi.

The two suspects were intercepted around Shell Kawempe as Lukwago drove the car towards Bombo Road; a robbery which Sobbi said was being backed by

some crime preventers.

"One of the crime preventers (name withheld) tried to thwart the arrest and he fought with the operatives. He got injured and he is now admitted at Mulago," Sobbi said, which ISO operatives confirmed.

Kaka, who urged the media to support ISO's efforts to fight crime, said: "Sobbi is now a Saul turned Paul. He has accepted to work with us to rid the city of criminals and we are going to crack all the criminal rackets starting with car jerkers."

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ While in prison, instead of reforming, convicted criminals plan to execute robberies and murder of persons who may have caused their arrest.

Sobbi, who for years was a notorious criminal in Kampala, said when he left Luzira, he approached several people including the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Gen. Kale Kayihura, to help him recover and abandon criminality.

"I told the IGP last year about missions to rob and kill people that were planned in Luzira, some of which have come to pass, but he seemed uninterested. I even told him about a plan to kill him and the

people who were behind it, but he never showed any interest," Sobbi narrated.

Sobbi, who said he knew most criminal gangs in Kampala and the surrounding areas, promised the ISO boss that he will work with him and that within six months, crime will have reduced.

Sobbi said he started engaging in hardcore crimes in Kampala in 1994, and accused some senior Police officers (names withheld) of orchestrating criminal acts, some of which he was involved.

Rwandan arrested over forgery

At the same briefing, the ISO boss paraded Paulo Cybahiro, a Rwandan, who confessed to forging documentation for Rwandans, Congolese and Burundian refugees. The refugees would use the forged documents to secure refugee status and later acquire Ugandan passports and travel abroad and seek employment.

Efforts to get a comment from the newly appointed Police spokesperson, Emilian Kayima, proved futile yesterday as his known phone number was busy. However, Lucas Owesigire, the acting Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson, said the Police would look at the issues Sobbi was claiming and take them up.

Additional reporting by Charles Etukuri