

National News

Four more charged over Central Bank break-in

Prosecution says the accused stole six laptop computers belonging to BoU, valued at Shs35.4m.

BY JULIET KIGONGO

Four more suspects have been charged in connection with the recent break-in and theft at the headquarters of the Bank of Uganda (BoU), bringing the total number of accused persons in the case to 12.

The latest suspects appeared before Buganda Road Chief Magistrate Ritah Neumbe Kidasa yesterday and denied charges related to office break-in and theft stemming from the May 3 raid at the central bank offices on Kampala Road.

The newly-charged suspects are Boaz Michael Kule, 19, a casual worker; Ramathan Kabuye alias Rama, 27, a bus conductor; Isaac Rubangakene alias Izoo, 32, a mobile phone accessories dealer, and Jorem Jude Oedo, 43, a computer technician.

Prosecution led by Ms Grace Amy presented an amended charge sheet which was admitted before court presenting the four suspects.

According to the amended charge sheet, Kule and Kabuye, together with others still at large, are charged with office break-in contrary to the Penal Code Act.

The prosecution alleges that during the night of May 3 at Plot 45 Kampala Road, the accused broke into offices numbered 3A-02, 3A-03, 3A-04, 3A-05 and 3A-06 inside the BoU building with intent to commit theft.

The suspects are also facing theft charges contrary to the Penal Code Act.

Prosecution contends that the accused stole six laptop computers belonging to the Central Bank, all valued at Shs35.4 million.

The charge sheet lists the stolen items as Lenovo ThinkBook 16 G7IML laptops and an HP EliteBook device, with investigators relying on specific serial numbers in tracing the allegedly stolen property.

Court documents further indicate that the accused persons are also facing charges related to receiving and retaining stolen property contrary to the Penal Code Act, although particulars of that offence were not immediately read out in court.



The four suspects in the dock at the Buganda Road Chief Magistrates Court in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO/MICHAEL KAKUMIRIZI

The amended indictment also retained earlier charges against eight security personnel accused of neglecting to prevent a felony during the break-in.

Those previously charged include Sgt Joseph Amone, Police Constables Wilson Ouma, Thomas Omach, Shafic Mungusho and Brian Oryono, all attached to the Directorate of Counter Terrorism Tactical Unit and deployed at the Bank of Uganda headquarters.

Also charged are Alex Onduri and Solomon Orach, security guards attached to Ultimate Security Ltd, and Morish Ocen, a guard employed by Saracen Uganda Limited.

The eight are accused of failing to use reasonable means to prevent the commission of office break-in and theft on May 3, despite allegedly knowing that unknown persons were committing a felony at the central bank premises.

All the 12 accused persons have denied

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The initial batch of eight suspects had earlier appeared before Grade One Magistrate Rophine Achayo, who remanded them after informing them of their right to apply for bail once the required documents are uploaded onto the Electronic Court Case Management Information System.

the charges.

Ms Amy informed court that investigations into the matter were still ongoing and requested an adjournment to allow inquiries to continue.

"Inquiries are still ongoing. I pray for an adjournment to the next convenient date," she submitted.

Chief Magistrate Kidasa noted that the matter already had a scheduled court date and adjourned the case to May 29, 2026 for mention.

Kule and Kabuye have faced separate charges of office break-in and theft into Stanbic Bank offices where they allegedly stole various laptops valued at about Shs27 million.

They also denied the charges before Grade One Magistrate Winnie Nankya.

The BoU break-in case has drawn widespread public attention due to the high-profile nature of the institution involved and concerns over the security of Uganda's Central Bank.

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