

Lwengo LC5 boss sued over caning residents

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Lwengo district chairperson George Mutabazi has been sued for allegedly assaulting several residents in the district.

The suit was filed at the Constitutional Court by Volunteer Uganda Extra Human Rights and Anti-corruption /Legal Protection Greater Masaka on behalf of Bruce Tushabe, one of the victims of the alleged assault.

According to the petition, between 2014 and 2015, Mutabazi, during his campaign to enforce and encourage residents to engage in community service, physically assaulted several people in the district.

The petitioner alleges that on January 28, 2014, Mutabazi assaulted Tushabe at Fresher

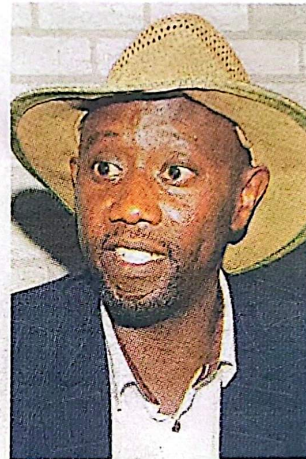


Mutabazi taking disciplinary action on a resident

Restaurant in Lwengo town council.

In 2014, the media was awash with stories of Mutabazi going to villages of Nakalinzi

and Lwentamu in Lwengo, caning people for reportedly refusing to participate in voluntary community work. During the operation which



He has been ordered to file his defence within seven days

would be done early in the morning, it was reported that he would be accompanied by Police officers who would raid several homes, kiosks, bars and gardens, beating whoever

TUSHABE'S PLAIN
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they found while confiscating motorcycles and bicycles.

In his defence, Mutabazi told the media that before the incident, he had made four announcements for the community service, but the residents disobeyed his orders.

The petitioner stated that the conduct of Mutabazi was in contravention of articles 24, 25 and 44 (a) of the Constitution which prohibits torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading form of punishment.

In his plaint, Tushabe argues that Mutabazi could have chosen a better way of mobilising the community for *bulungi bwansi* instead of caning them.

He wants Mutabazi to be banned from vying for the position of LC5 Lwengo district or any other political post and be directed to vacate the office of the LC5 and any other political post he holds.

Tushabe also wants a permanent injunction restraining Mutabazi, his agents or servants from physically assaulting people in the district.

He further wants court to declare that Mutabazi is unfit to be the chairperson of Lwengo district and be ordered to pay damages and cost of the petition.

The Constitutional Court has ordered Mutabazi to file his defence within seven days.