

Bobi's bodyguards face dismissal from police

The officers are accused of not accounting for Bobi's disappearance.

BY BENSON TUMUSIIME

The Police Disciplinary Unit at the Directorate of Counter Terrorism yesterday charged nine police officers, who were assigned to protect National Unity Platform (NUP) leader, Mr Robert Kyagulanyi, alias Bobi Wine, with disobedience and neglect of duty and recommended their dismissal from the force.

A police source said the officers were accused of not accounting for Bobi Wine when he disappeared from his home in Magere Village, Wakiso

SOME OF THE OFFICERS WHO WERE GUARDING BOBI WINE

1. Jeff Okodan
2. John Osike
3. Joshua Kigenyi
4. Emma Luzire
5. Abangira (commander)

District, in February, days after the General Election.

"Out of 16 policemen that were drawn from the Tactical Unit, Very Important Persons Protection Unit (VIPPU), a unit responsible for protection of high-profile individuals and the Vital Installations Protection Unit, nine of them were charged and recommended for dismissal," the source said.

Bobi Wine's guards were arrested last

Friday and detained at the Railway Police Station in Kampala.

The officers were arrested on orders of the Counter Terrorism Director, AIGP David Wasswa, and were charged with disobedience of lawful orders and withdrawing from work.

"The charged officers are given 14 days to file their appeal against their judgment to the chairman of the disciplinary committee," the source said.

Police Spokesperson Kituuma Rusoke, yesterday said he had not received any information regarding officers appearing before a disciplinary unit.

"Professionally, I am supposed to be briefed. Nobody has given me any information as far as that matter is concerned," Mr Rusoke said.

Daily Monitor couldn't independently verify the names of officers who were charged. When contacted, the Commandant of the Police Professional Stand-

ard Unit, Senior Commissioner of Police (SCP) Christine Nanding declined to comment on the issue. She referred this journalist to the police spokesperson.

"Any matter concerning the police, you should contact the police spokesperson. Besides, the PSU does not charge officers, but it puts compliance and standards on which those units operate," SCP Nanding said.

Bobi Wine, using his social media platform, said nine police officers, who were assigned to his security detail during the election campaign, were charged and dismissed from the force. Bobi Wine said the officers were paraded before a police disciplinary court and dismissed with disgrace.

He added that the authorities accused the officers of helping him escape from his home. The NUP leader dismissed the accusation as "crazy".

"The regime claims they assisted me in escaping from my own home, but by the time I left when the military raided, they were no longer on duty," Bobi Wine said in his statement on X.

During the General Elections, each presidential candidate was given 16 police guards from the Counter Terrorism Directorate. Their allowances were to be footed by the Electoral Commission.