

BY JULIET KIGONGO
jkigongo@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. Eight *Red Pepper* editors were yesterday remanded to Luzira prison after being charged with seven counts of publication of information prejudicial to security, libel and offensive communication.

They denied the charges before Buganda Road Chief Magistrate James Ereemye.

Those sent on remand include: Richard Tusiime, the chief executive officer, Arinaitwe Rugyendo, founder and chief marketing officer, Patrick Mugumya, chief operating officer, Johnson Musinguzi, chief finance officer and James Mujuni, chief commercial officer.

Their co-accused are Ben Byarabaha, the managing editor, Francis Tumusiime, the news editor, his deputy Richard Kintu and journalist James Mujuni.

A prosecutor from the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), Mr Abdul Salam Waiswa, presented their case to court since prosecutors are on strike.

Genesis

Prosecution states that on November 20 at the *Red Pepper* offices in Namanve, Mukono District, the accused unlawfully caused publication and distribution of a newspaper with a story on military operations, strategies and troop location well knowing that such publication can disrupt public order and security.

Mr Max Mutabingwa and Kandebe Ntambirwaki, the defence lawyers, unsuccessfully argued for the release of the suspects

Red Pepper bosses remanded to Luzira



Charged. Red Pepper directors and editors in the dock at Buganda Road Chief Magistrate's Court yesterday. PHOTO BY MICHAEL KAKUMIRIZI

on bail, which they argued was a constitutional right.

"Since all the charges against the accused people are bailable and investigations are not yet complete, we pray that this court release all the accused on bail," Mr Mutabingwa said.

The lawyers also argued that the media proprietors and editors had

fixed places of abode within the jurisdiction of the court, substantial sureties to stand for them and were responsible members of the society who cannot jump bail.

"Court should not deny the accused people just because the state wants to," Mr Mutabingwa said.

Mr Waiswa asked court to remand

the group to allow him ascertain the authenticity of the documents presented by the sureties.

"There is a need to have enough time for the investigating officers to swear affidavits in relation to some of the issues which have been raised by the applicants which includes confiscating of their telephones," he said.

The trial magistrate concurred with the state and adjourned the case to December 5.

OTHER ALLEGATIONS

The accused are also said to have caused publication and distribution of newspaper story lines that injured the reputations of President Museveni, his brother Gen Salim Saleh and the security minister, Lt Gen Henry Tumukunde.

The publication allegedly subjected the trio to hatred, contempt and public ridicule.

The accused are further said to have willfully and repeatedly used their computers for no legitimate purposes "to disturb the peace and privacy" of the President, Gen Saleh and minister Tumukunde by portraying them as people who plotted to overthrow Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

Nile Union of Persons With All have called for a public hearing their plight. Speaking at a corner in Kampala last Friday, Mr Per the chairman of the association said they have not been given hearing from the public. "The injustices and unfairness go through is too much. We given equal opportunities as people. We are humans too said. [Derrick Wandera]

Cavendish launch

KAMPALA. Cavendish has launched an App that require Internet for the access learning materials lecturers as they will connect into the unique tail Vice Chancellor, Prof yesterday said the project save a lot of time as they will not have to come to campus to do their "With this App, you can access the tab which is a is registering for a campus," he said

Mothers ti

KAMPALA. ministry of health to feed their children with nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition, an official said most mothers responsible on such number of children in the country. I has shown children camps [Mose