

How thugs broke into BoU premises



Security operatives launched an operation yesterday after break-in at BoU offices. PHOTO/ABUBAKER LUBOWA

Sources say alleged insider collaboration enabled the attackers to operate with ease.

BY BENSON TUMUSIIME

Thugs yesterday morning staged a daring break-in at the heavily guarded Bank of Uganda (BoU) premises in Kampala, stealing seven laptops in an incident that has raised serious questions about internal security at the central bank.

Preliminary police investigations indicate that the thugs allegedly worked in connivance with some members of the security team deployed at the facility. They are said to have accessed the building through the entrance facing City Square, entered the commercial offices, and spent about three hours inside before walking out with the laptops.

Investigators believe the suspects may have used duplicated keys to gain entry, as there were no signs of forced access such as broken windows or cut doors.

According to sources familiar with the probe, the suspects are said to have disconnected Internet systems during the operation, likely to disable surveillance monitoring and communication channels within the premises.

Security sources further revealed that the assailants also made off with additional equipment, including a CCTV camera server and an internet router, collectively valued at about Shs50 million.

However, they reportedly failed to access the main safe containing cash.

A detective involved

"I do not have the information that you are asking me," the spokesperson said, adding that investigations were still ongoing.

Sources, however, indicated that BoU management had requested police to limit public commentary on the matter as internal investigations continue alongside criminal probes.

Security insiders revealed that

two police counter-terrorism guards who were on duty reportedly left their post before the morning shift arrived, leaving a security gap that may have been exploited by the intruders.

The breach was discovered by a morning shift guard, who immediately alerted senior security officers before the matter was reported to Central Police Station Kampala.

"The night shift security team has been summoned to record statements at BoU premises and assist police in ongoing investigations," a detective said.

In a statement issued by Director of Communications Kenneth Egesa, BoU acknowledged that unlawful entry had been detected at its head office at Plot 45 Kampala Road.

"The incident is believed to

have occurred overnight, during which seven laptop computers were stolen," the statement reads.

BoU added that it is working closely with security agencies to establish the circumstances surrounding the break-in and ensure appropriate action is taken.

The central bank, however, assured the public that its operations remain unaffected.

BANK OF UGANDA



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Deadline Extension for Licensing of Large Registered Societies or Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies under the Microfinance Deposit-Taking Institutions Act Cap.58 and Micro Finance Deposit-Taking Institutions (Registered Societies) Regulations 2023

The Bank of Uganda informs the public that the deadline previously issued to Regulated Financial Service Providers (RFSPs) to update their Know Your Customer (KYC) practices and transact only with licensed Registered Societies/Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs) has been extended from 31 March 2026 to **30 September 2026**.

This extension is intended to:

1. Enable the Bank of Uganda to undertake a stakeholder engagement including further sensitization and public awareness on its role in licensing and regulatory oversight of eligible SACCOs. These engagements will inform changes to existing regulatory oversight, if necessary.
2. Provide eligible SACCOs—those with voluntary savings exceeding UGX 1,500,000,000 and institutional capital exceeding UGX 500,000,000—with additional time to prepare and submit the required licensing documentation.

During this period of extension, all RFSPs are encouraged to continue with the support being offered to registered societies or SACCOs in the process of obtaining requisite licenses. The Bank of Uganda does not expect any RFSP to deny financial services to the eligible SACCOs until the expiry of this period.

For further information regarding the licensing and regulation of large SACCOs, please contact the **Director, Non-Bank Financial Institutions Department, Bank of Uganda**, on +256 414 234652.

MANAGEMENT

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BACKGROUND

- Police suspect insider collaboration.
- Thugs reportedly gained entry through the City Square-facing entrance.
- Investigators believe thugs used duplicated keys.

- The suspects are said to have spent about three hours inside the premises.