

Newborn stolen from Jinja Hospital

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THE Police in Jinja district are hunting for an unidentified woman who stole a one-day-old baby boy from Jinja Hospital on Thursday.

The mother, Jennifer Namukose, told *Saturday Vision* that the baby thief had befriended her at her hospital bed through the window and requested to carry her child which she did.

Namukose, a resident of Mukonda village, Busakira sub-county in Mayuge district, said in the blink of an eye, the woman had disappeared with the baby.

She had been admitted to Ward

7 on bed number 11. She made an alarm that attracted people as she asked for the whereabouts of the woman.

Namukose broke down as she narrated how she conceived the baby after being raped by an unknown man.

"I wish I had died while giving birth. His father raped me when I was returning home, but I had the courage to carry the pregnancy to term," Namukose said in tears.

She had earlier delivered from a toilet at Evangel Church on Oboja road in Jinja town on Wednesday. She was rushed to Jinja central division Health Centre III from where she was referred to Jinja hospital at 6:00pm for stitching.

Namusoke's parents, Yokosofati Isabirye and Kolositika Mbeiza, chased her away after they learnt that she was pregnant.

This compelled her to go to her sister who lives in Kamuli district, but she left because they were failing to find food. Since last, Namusoke had camped at Evangel Church where she was sleeping at the time she went into labour.

■ POLICE INVESTIGATES

The Kiira regional Police spokesperson, Diana Nandawula, confirmed the incident, saying they had launched investigations into the matter to establish how the baby could have been stolen

from the hospital.

She said they were analysing footage of the day, captured by the Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras of the hospital to identify the suspect.

She also added that they had liaised with other Police stations around the area to recover the baby.

■ SECOND CASE

This is the second case of child theft at Jinja Hospital since February this year. The five-day-old baby boy that was stolen in February belonged to Zaina Magomu, 27 and Francis Mubiru. The duo had threatened to sue Jinja Hospital.