

National News

The latest operation follows several days of investigations targeting former Speaker Anita Among yesterday extended their probe to Parliament, storming her office and sealing off parts of the institution as investigations into alleged abuse of office and self-enrichment intensify.

BY BUSEIN SAMILU

Detectives investigating corruption allegations against outgoing Speaker of Parliament Anita Among yesterday extended their probe to Parliament, storming her office and sealing off parts of the institution as investigations into alleged abuse of office and self-enrichment intensify.

The operation, conducted by officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (CID) and other security agencies, marked a dramatic turn of events at Parliament, the same institution where security operatives in July 2024 blocked anti-corruption protesters from accessing the premises.

At around 8am, two dark blue Toyota Hiace vans branded "Police", accompanied by two white vehicles labelled "Evidence Collection" and a Toyota Hilux carrying armed officers, entered Parliament premises under tight security.

The CID detectives, some dressed in khaki uniforms and others in plain clothes, carried what appeared to be evidence collection kits and documents before proceeding into the building.

Security personnel at Parliament granted the officers access to the premises before they moved to the Northern Wing on the fifth floor where the offices of the Speaker, the Government Chief Whip, Parliamentary Commissioners, and the Leader of the Opposition are located.

The detectives later entered the chambers and sealed off parts of the area with notices reading: "Crime Scene. Don't Cross."

By the time journalists accessed the building, the investigators had already commenced the search operations.

At around 11am, Ms Among's lawyer, Mr Caleb Alaka, arrived at Parliament and was granted access to the restricted area.

The detectives later split into teams

Corruption probe expands



Investigators enter Parliament ahead of their investigations. PHOTOS/ABUBAKER LUBOWA



Police personnel from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (CID) and other security agencies arrive at Parliament yesterday.

Hopeful. If this operation *Maliza Ufasir* is to be taken seriously by the Ugandans, it must come to all. That's when we shall take it seriously, but it is selective, and it's disenfranchising the people who are only against a certain narrative.

— Mr Edward Mugisha, a youth leader from Sheema District and member of the NRM Revolutionary Network (NRN).

and widened the search to include the Office of the Clerk to Parliament, the external auditor's office, and the Directorate of Finance.

The latest operation follows several

days of investigations targeting Ms Among over allegations of corruption and illicit enrichment.

At the weekend, detectives raided Ms Among's residences in Nakaseke and Munyonyo-Kigo, sealing them off as crime scenes.

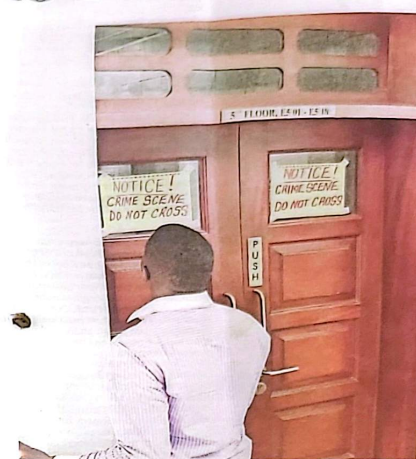
Her luxury vehicles, including a Range Rover, reportedly valued at Sh3.4 billion and a Range Rover valued at Sh1.3 billion, were on Monday towed from her Kigo residence to Kampala Police Headquarters through the city's main roads.

By yesterday evening, detectives were still searching offices at Parliament for additional evidence, although it remained unclear whether Ms Among would be brought to the scene for questioning.

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to Parliament



A cordoned off section of Parliament yesterday.

Political storm deepens

The investigations come amid mounting political pressure on the Bukedea District Woman MP, whose political fortunes have rapidly declined in recent days.

Analysts say the tide began turning against Ms Among during a State House meeting chaired by President Museveni last week, where she was reportedly questioned over alleged illegal dealings and corruption.

Although she had earlier secured endorsement from the NRM Central Executive Committee (CEC) to retain the speakership, fresh political

developments soon complicated her position.

Last Friday, the Chief of Defence Forces, Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba publicly endorsed West Budama Central MP Jacob Markons Oboth-Oboth as the preferred candidate for Speaker under the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU).

The following day, as Oboth-Oboth's candidature was officially launched with backing from PLU, NRM CEC members, and hundreds of MPs, as security operatives simultaneously raided Ms Among's homes.

The investigations yesterday expanded to Parliament itself.

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Investigators carry equipment in the lobby of Parliament.



Investigators undergo screening as they enter Parliament to conduct investigations.

Mixed reactions

The widening probe has drawn mixed reactions from the public, with some Ugandans praising the crackdown while others accuse authorities of selectively targeting individuals.

Mr Edward Mugisha, a youth leader from Sheema District and member of the NRM Revolutionary Network (NRN), questioned why other institutions accused of corruption had not faced similar investigations.

"If this operation *Maliza Ufasir* (operation end corruption) is to be taken seriously by the Ugandans, it must come to all. That's when we shall take it seriously, but it is selective, and it's disenfranchising the people who are only against a certain narrative," he said.

He also criticised public celebrations over Ms Among's troubles, arguing that corruption remains a broader national

problem affecting livelihoods across the country.

Protesters vindicated?

The latest developments have also revived memories of the July 23, 2024, anti-corruption protests at Parliament during which more than 100 youth were arrested while demanding Ms Among's resignation.

The protests were led by activists, including former Makerere University Guild president Shamin Nambisa Praise Alokin Opolejo, George Vic Othieno, and Gideon Kwikiriza.

Security agencies used force to disperse the demonstrators, whom authorities accused of attempting to destabilise Parliament.

Despite surviving the political storm and completing her full term as Speaker last week, Ms Among has withdrawn from the race for Speaker in the 12th Parliament. In a statement on her official X account, she said she had decided not to seek re-election in order to maintain the position within the ruling NRM party.

"I pledge my total support to the dates who will be endorsed by the party and the party," she stated. Ms Among also pledged to co-operate with the investigators.