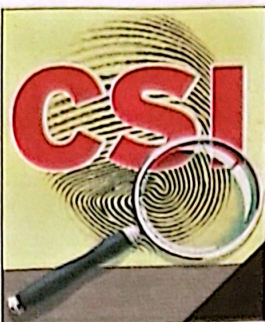


POLICE, FAMILY PUZZLED OVER HIS SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE AS HUNT ENTERS THIRD WEEK



CRIME | SUSPENSE | INTRIGUE

Detectives have hit a brick wall in their three-week search for GTCO Bank teller Isaac Waako. With his known communication lines switched off, hopes of tracking down the missing banker are rapidly fading, writes Ibrahim Ruhweza

What began as an ordinary workday for 27-year-old bank teller Isaac Waako, has turned into a troubling mystery that has left his family searching for answers.

Waako, a father of one and employee of Guaranty Trust Bank (GTCO) stationed at the Uganda Revenue Authority offices in Mpondwe border town, vanished on May 2.

Over three weeks later, Police officers said there has been no trace of him.

His father, Godwin Kyomukama, also said every effort by family members to locate him has failed.

"He has not been at his place of residence, and his known communication lines are not reachable. We request members of the public who may know his whereabouts to contact the family or report to the nearest police station," Kyomukama said.

The disappearance has since raised disturbing questions about what may have happened to the young banker who, according to relatives and friends, was deeply committed to his work.

At his place of work, the staff and managers are

SHOCK AS GTCO BANK TELLER GOES MISSING



Waako's father: Kyomukama

equally puzzled.

LAST CONVERSATION

Kyomukama said the last time he spoke to his son was through WhatsApp, shortly before the birthday celebration of Waako's one-year-old son.

"When we spoke, he told me he had no chance of getting a day off," he said.

The family celebrated the child's birthday without him, something they had become used to because Waako often worked overtime, including weekends and holidays.

"He rarely came home because he was always working," Kyomukama said.

He added that he only learnt about his son's disappearance two days later, not from the bank or workmates, but from an elderly friend who also works at the busy Uganda-DR Congo border point in Mpondwe.

Mpondwe, located in Kasese district at the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains, is Uganda's busiest land border crossing with the DR Congo. The town serves as a major commercial hub handling cross-border trade in fish, agricultural produce, and manufactured goods.

A close family friend identified as Joshua Kwezi said Waako was known for his dedication and long working hours.

"Every day I would see him going to work and returning late after serving people nonstop," Kwezi said.

However, on May 4, Waako failed to report for duty.

"We thought he had decided to take a day off because he was

always overworked," Kwezi added.

Waako, Kwezi said, graduated from Mountains of the Moon University with a degree in banking and finance in 2024.

Around the same time, he secured employment with Guaranty Trust Bank, something his family considered a breakthrough.

Kyomukama said Waako hoped to continue his education immediately after graduation by pursuing a master's degree.

"The job came at the right time because he wanted to use the salary to continue studying," Kyomukama said.

Waako reportedly shared his plans with supervisors at work, hoping he would be allowed to balance employment with further studies.

However, his plans are said to have been interrupted after another employee was transferred from the branch, leaving only Waako and a female colleague managing operations at the bank.

Kyomukama added that his son increasingly complained about pressure at work and long working hours that made it impossible for him to continue with school.

"He wanted to study while working, but his bosses failed to support him," he said.

KEY CLUES

As pressure at work increased, Waako reportedly began raising concerns about unexplained loss of money from the bank safe.

According to his father, Waako had been entrusted with the safe keys while his female colleague retained the access code, meaning both employees were needed to access the money.

The arrangement reportedly came after another employee who had previously handled the keys was transferred to Mbarara district.

However, after some time, Waako allegedly started noticing discrepancies involving money in the safe.

"He suspected his colleague of stealing the money, but he could not prove it," Kyomukama told the



Still missing: Isaac Waako

Police in a statement.

Kyomukama added that at one time his son wanted to quit the job, but managers begged him to stay.

So, was Waako trapped in the money syndicate situation? This is the question that detectives are probing? Detectives told *The Weekend Vision* that a search at Waako's rented house in Mpondwe was conducted, but they found most of his belongings untouched.

However, something else puzzled the detectives.

"The door was closed but not locked," one detective said. The detective added: "Safe keys and the original house padlocks were missing."

Events that followed at the bank deepened the family's suspicions. "Upon discovering that bank safe keys were missing, we instructed Waako's female co-worker not to open the safe. However, shortly after, we discovered that the safe had already been opened with the help of welders," a detective said.

According to detectives, the co-worker initially informed the Police

ENTER CMI

On May 10, officers visited the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI) to report the disappearance of Isaac Waako. The CMI is responsible for investigating individuals who had communicated with Waako before he disappeared. However, according to Kyomukama, all those arrested were later released after investigators found no incriminating evidence against them. Commenting on the matter, the officer in charge of criminal investigations at Mpondwe Police Station said: "We are still investigating the matter."

Waako's female co-worker (name withheld) declined to comment, saying: "I don't want to say much about that matter because it is under investigation." The manager of the bank also declined to comment on the issue, saying: "The matter is before the Police and CMI." Waako's disappearance adds to growing public concern about unresolved missing person cases in Uganda.

that the safe contained sh330,000. After verification, it was reportedly established that sh300,000 was missing.

PHONE TRACKING

Police investigations later traced one of Waako's last phone calls to a bodaboda rider. The rider was reportedly found at his stage and questioned by investigators.

According to detectives, the rider said Waako had asked him where taxis were travelling to Fort Portal from Mpondwe at around 5:00 p.m.

"Phone tracking data reportedly showed signals moving from Mpondwe toward Kasese through the Katadoba telecommunications mast area before the phone eventually went off completely. Since then, all known communication lines to Waako have remained switched off," a detective said.

The family has since made announcements on radio and television stations in Fort Portal and Kasese. Waako's whereabouts remain unknown.