Police in Kasese region launch security clean-up

KASESE

By John B. Thawite

Police in Kasese yesterday launched a security clean-up operation to secure ill-prepared leisure points against potential terrorism this festive season.

Confirming the move, the Rwenzori East Regional Police Commander (RPC), SSP Julius Caesar Tusingwiire, said the move, is aimed at stemming security threats.

"We have threats. So, we are moving in to step up the alertness of various places of socialisation and worship," Tusingwire said on phone.

He noted that the operation was specifically targeting bars, lodges, hotels and places of worship, which attract big numbers of people and hence become vulnerable to attacks.

The move comes about a month after the Police convened a meeting of managers, owners and workers of various bars, lodges and hotels to sensitise them about the security measures to be put in place to protect their clients.

The meeting, which took place at Uhuru At 50 Hotel in Kasese municipality, was addressed by the deputy RPC, Patrick Bingi, who also decried the lack of a remand home for juvenile offenders.



Caesar Tusingwiire

Tusingwiire said the operation was targeting places which attract many people

"Many young girls are taking to prostitution and often engage in crime, but we find it hard to detain them as the adults," Bingi said.

Meanwhile, the chairperson of the Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu cultural institution), inter-priministerial commission, Gad Mbayahi Baluku, has said there were groups planning to attack the Government for not releasing their leader, Charles Wesley Mumbere.

Mumbere and 160 of his subjects, including his former acting premier, Johnson Kitsumbire, were arrested last year, during clashes between the Government forces and OBR Royal Guards that culminated into the seizure and burning of his palace, and the death of scores of people, including 16 Police officers.

The Jinja Chief Magistrate's Court, where the case is being handled, has since granted Mumbere bail, but prohibited him from visiting Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko and Wakiso.

Addressing the media at Virina Gardens on Tuesday evening, Mbayahi, currently the overseer of the kingdom affairs, revealed that some people were planning attacks across the Uganda/DR Congo border and Kampala.

"Some of those people have written an anonymous letter to the RPC claiming that the king's case has dragged on for too long and are demanding his immediate release," Mbayahi said.

He disassociated the Rwenzururu from the groups, urging anyone who wants to lobby for the release of the king and his subjects to pray and go through his committee.

He urged security organs to arrest anyone purporting to be fighting for the kingdom.

"I have told the security personnel that whoever claims to be working for us and trying to cause war against the Government and chaos among the community should be dealt with according to the law without fear or favour," Mbayahi said.

He urged organisers of functions to start giving room to Rwenzururu leaders at various levels, to enable them pass on messages of peace.