

MASAKA 'BIJAMBIYA' GANG LEADER JAILED 115 YEARS

By Stuart Ylga

Musa Galiwango, alias Dauda Kawesi, the prime suspect in the infamous 2017 panga-wielding gang that terrorised the greater Masaka region, has been sentenced to 115 years in prison.

Masaka High Court presiding judge Charles Kasibayo made the ruling after the prosecution's evidence pinned Galiwango, a resident of Ntuuma village, Kitanda sub-county in Bukomansibi district, in the murder of retired Senior Superintendent of Police Denis Lumala Ssebugwawo and aggravated robbery, respectively.

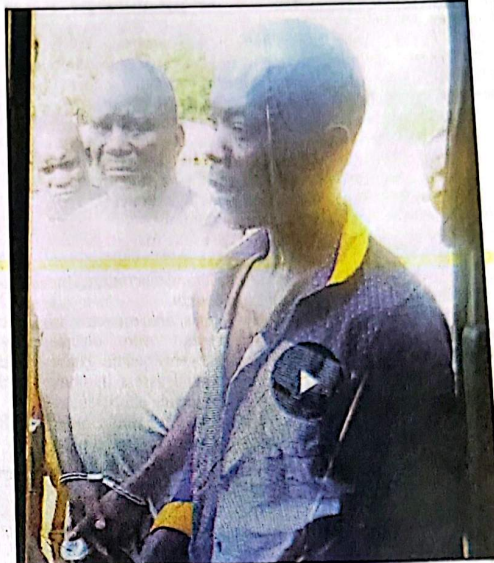
The evidence adduced in court by Masaka city-based Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions Brian Kalinaki indicated that the accused committed the offences on January 1, 2018, with the help of Muhammad Kiddawalime (now deceased) and others still at large, in Kyabagoma village in Bukomansibi district.

Galiwango and Kiddawalime who were arrested by the Police, confessed to having committed these offences and many others in Masaka region and were charged in court.

However, Kiddawalime escaped from court and was killed during another robbery, leaving only Galiwango in the case. The court found out that the accused descended onto Ssebugwawo's home, knocked on his door and gained entry before they embarked on pestering them to give them money.

It is alleged that at the time of the attack, Galiwango, who found Ssebugwawo and his wife in their bedroom, promised to kill them if they refused to give him money. Ssebugwawo reportedly asked him to check the pocket of his trousers, where they found only sh38,000, which they took before they vanished.

The victim (Ssebugwawo), unaware that Galiwango's colleagues were outside surrounding his home, grabbed the accused, who caused



Kiddawalime (left) with Galiwango after they were arrested.

BETWEEN THE LINES

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an alarm and his colleagues rushed to the bedroom and severely assaulted Ssebugwawo together with Galiwango while asking for more money, until he became unconscious in a pool of blood. Galiwango later fled with Ssebugwawo's phone.

Ssebugwawo died shortly after arrival at hospital. His granddaughter, Nancy Nabifo, who was also severely injured in the scuffle, was rushed to Masaka Hospital, where she also died a week later.

Based on this evidence, court sentenced Galiwango to 45 years' imprisonment for each of the two counts of murder and 25 years' imprisonment for aggravated robbery.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

In a related case, Kasibayo also convicted Galiwango, Joseph Terutesa alias Lafair, Geoffrey Lubega alias Mr O, and Innocent Nakabale, on two murder counts and one aggravated robbery count and sentenced them to 35 years' imprisonment on each account to run concurrently.

The evidence presented by the prosecution in court established that armed with pangas, on the night of September 4, 2017, at Kabonera trading centre, the assailants attacked Geoffrey Kulabako at his music and video library, where he also operated a slot gaming machine business, assaulted and also robbed him of sh700,000.

Although Kulabako managed to escape, Godfrey Mujumba, who responded to the distress call when he heard the alarm, was killed at the scene, while Ibrahim Kulabako was assaulted and left in a critical condition and was rushed to Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, where he later died.

