# UPDF warns of security impersonators targeting investors

BY ANDREW BAGALA

**KAMPALA.** The Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) has warned of an increase in the number of conmen who impersonate security personnel and dupe unsuspecting investors in fake deals.

The Acting Director of Defence Public Information, Col Chris Magezi, said some of the conmen contact international companies and lure them into fake security or business deals.

"We, therefore, urge members of the unsuspecting public to take extra caution and conduct due diligence while running their day-to-day business. Any suspected criminal behaviour should be reported to the nearest police or UPDF authority for timely and appropriate intervention," Col Magezi said at the Ministry of Defence headquarters in Mbuya, Kampala City, yesterday.

**Shs164b**
**OBTAINED BY FALSE PRETENCE**

He said from mid-last year, they had registered 18 cases in which the criminals impersonated security personnel.

Col Magezi cited one suspect who allegedly used fake identities of Maj Gen Sam Kiwanuka to con investors from Israel and Romania in a dubious security deal to train personnel of the UPDF and police. The investors own Black Wolf Global, a company specialising in security and defence consultancy

"They signed a contract worth $993m (Shs3.65 trillion). Ssekidde [suspect] had promised the investors of Black Wolf Global that he had secured them a contract to train security personnel in Uganda," he said.

Col Magezi added that it is not the first time the suspect has been accused of obtaining money by false pretence. He said that in 2021, the suspect allegedly conned a Kenyan company and made off with $310,000 (Shs1.14 billion).

"The suspect was arrested, but was released and jumped bail. The accused was again produced in the latest incident, and he was remanded to prison," he added.

Col Magezi also added that a police sergeant was impersonating personnel of the Defence Intelligence and Security, before arresting innocent people and extorting money from them.

He said the suspect was operating with a constable and a civilian as his accomplices.

Last year, the police registered 8,455 cases of obtaining money by false pretence. It is the seventh highest offence in the country, and the victims lost over Shs164b in the same period. The police were only able to recover Shs10b.