

The two were allegedly collaborating with civilian criminals to steal motorcycles from a police yard and sell them.

BY ANDREW BAGALA

Police have arrested two of their officers in Hoima City as part of a crackdown on the rising theft of motorcycles across the country.

Mr Denis Ssemaganda, the head of CCTV/ICT in Hoima City, and Police Constable Elias Kamugisha were arrested over allegations of collaborating with civilian criminals to steal motorcycles from a police yard and sell them.

Albertine Regional Police spokesperson Julius Hakiza confirmed the arrests yesterday.

"The incident happened last week. They were dismissed from the police Force," Mr Hakiza said.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the officers worked with civilians to steal more than four motorcycles that had been kept at the police yard. The suspects are also being investigated in connection with a separate case of aggravated robbery registered at Hoima Police Station.

Following internal investigations, the Regional Police Commander charged the two officers before the disciplinary court, which convicted them and recommended their dismissal on Tuesday. The Police Council is expected to ratify the decision unless the officers appeal.

After the disciplinary proceedings, the two former officers, alongside three civilian suspects, were arraigned before the Hoima Chief Magistrate's Court and charged with theft of motorcycles. They were remanded to Hoima Government Prison in Kiryatete until March 10, 2026.

The arrests come amid growing con-

Two police officers fired over bike theft



Some of the impounded motorcycles parked at the Central Police Station Kampala recently. PHOTO/FILE

cern over cases involving security personnel linked to criminal activities.

In January, police arrested five suspects, including two security officers, in connection with aggravated robberies carried out by a violent gang in Kampala. One of the suspects reportedly claimed they were acting on instructions from a senior officer attached to the Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force (JATT). Three firearms were recovered during the operation — one belonging to the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), another to the police, and a

third registered to a private security company.

Meanwhile, incidents of motorcycle theft and violent robbery continue to rise, particularly in urban areas.

Last week, Kampala Metropolitan Police conducted operations in several parts of Makindye Division following a surge in robberies and motorcycle thefts by men armed with pangas.

Deputy Police spokesperson Luke Owoyesigire said more than 109 suspects have been arrested since February 24, 2026.

"Kampala Metropolitan Police South carried out coordinated operations in Valley Zone in Salaama, Nakasazi, Kimbejja, Magwa-Mpangala and Kabalagala. We identified crime hotspots and locations associated with simple robberies, muggings and motorcycle thefts. Over 109 suspects were arrested," Mr Owoyesigire said.

Another operation in Katwe Police Division led to the arrest of five suspects accused of robbing a motorcycle belonging to Kenneth Mukasa on February 16, 2026.