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BY JESSICA SABANO

MUKONO. Residents of Gwafu Village, Seeta Ward, Goma Division, Mukono District, have described the suspect in the UCU director of Students' Affairs murder case as a calm and reserved man.

Speaking to *Daily Monitor* yesterday, locals expressed shock that Mr Hussein Dak Taewaiko, a former househelp of the late Pamela Tumwebaze, is the key suspect in the crime.

Last seen in December

Mr Najjibu Ziwa, who was working in a neighbouring home just 100 metres from Tumwebaze's residence, revealed that he had known Taewaiko for about three years.

"I have worked in this village and in the surrounding homes as a casual labourer, and I know Taewaiko," he said, explaining that Taewaiko had worked for the deceased for about three years, though he last saw him in December 2025.

"I knew him from the deceased's place because I could see him getting in to do some work like cleaning the compound, weeding, washing dishes, and

Key suspect was calm, trusted by Tumwebaze – neighbours

digging in Tumwebaze's garden, which is next to her home," Mr Ziwa added.

He described the suspect as calm and down-to-earth, someone who respected people in the area.

"That man would greet people in this area, but he was a quiet person as he would not engage in long conversations like other men," Mr Ziwa said.

At first, Taewaiko lived elsewhere, but after gaining trust, he was asked to reside within Tumwebaze's home.

He often acted as caretaker in her absence, staying with her two boys, taking them to the shops, and returning with them cheerful and content. "He looked like a good caretaker," Ziwa recalled.

After some time, however, Taewaiko stopped living in the house. Ziwa said he did not know whether Tumwebaze asked him to move out or if it was his own choice, but he continued coming to work as usual.

By last year, he was commuting by bicycle, still holding keys to the gate and able to access the home whenever his

employer called.

"In the last month and this month before Tumwebaze's death, she would call me to get her some items, but I would not see Taewaiko at the home. Actually, the deceased decided to bring a maid recently, and she had spent one week when they murdered Tumwebaze," Mr Ziwa said.

Active but reserved

Another neighbour, Mr James Wandera, also remembered the suspect as active but reserved.

"I used to see the suspect very active at home and in the garden but he would not engage in groups or conversations. I last saw him in September 2025, when I was going to work. He was polite. The deceased used to leave him with keys, especially for the gate, because I could see him getting in and out to get some items after his boss left for work," Mr Wandera said.

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