

BY JULIET KIGONGO

KAMPALA. A senior forensic police officer has told the International Crimes Division of the High Court that one of the suspects in the 2015 murder of senior prosecutor Joan Kagezi confessed to participating and led investigators to a shrine where he allegedly sought cleansing after the killing.

The case resumed yesterday after a five-month hiatus due to inadequate funding for the division.

Superintendent of Police Damian Serunjogi, the 21st prosecution witness, testified that suspect Daniel Kisekka admitted involvement in the murder and volunteered to help reconstruct events sur-

rounding the crime.

"I interacted with Kisekka, and he was fluent in Luganda, normal, and of sound mind. When we asked him about his participation in the murder, he said yes, he participated and was ready to help us in the reconstruction of the scene," Serunjogi told the court.

Serunjogi, attached to the Directorate of Forensic Services, said he was at the time serving as deputy head of the Criminal Identification Department, responding to crime scenes.

He said he was contacted by Commissioner Lydia Katono after Kisekka's arrest and joined a team of investigators to veri-

fy the suspect's claims.

According to his testimony, Kisekka led officers to a shrine in Kitimbwa Sub-county, where he claimed to have gone two days after the murder in search of cleansing to evade arrest.

"He told us in his confession that he wanted to be cleansed and not be caught," Serunjogi said.

Pay for rituals

At the shrine, the suspect reportedly demonstrated how he and his co-accused, identified as John Kibuuka and another man, met a traditional healer and paid Shs200,000 for rituals.

"They gave the witch doctor money, and a concoction of herbs was prepared. All this was captured on video," he said.

However, investigators found that the alleged witch doctor, identified as Olo Francis, had already been arrested and was in prison on unrelated charges.

The court heard that police later arranged an identification parade at the Counter-Terrorism headquarters in Naguru, where the traditional healer was asked to identify individuals who had visited his shrine in 2015.

"The exercise was conducted twice with the suspects mixed among volunteers and dressed differently," Serunjogi

said. "Olo identified Kisekka and Nasir Abdallah as the people who had come to his shrine for cleansing."

He added that in a second round, the healer also identified Kibuuka. John, further reinforcing the prosecution's case.

Serunjogi emphasised that the consistency between Kisekka's confession and the healer's identification strengthened the credibility of the evidence.

"These two had never been together during the identification, but both pointed to the same individuals. To me, that showed consistency in their accounts," he told the court.

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