

Nantaba weeps after police arrest

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KAYUNGA. State minister for Lands Idah Nantaba was yesterday arrested by police on allegations that she was found with pre-ticked ballot papers.

The Ssezibwa regional police commander, Mr Deo Obura, said Ms Nantaba, who also is Kayunga District Woman MP, was intercepted by the police at Kungu village, Kangulumira Sub-county, while trying to distribute the pre-ticked ballot papers which were in favour of Tom Sserwanga, the independent candidate for the district local council seat.

"At 11am we received intelligence that the minister and three other people were distributing pre-ticked ballot papers. We pursued them until we intercepted them near a polling station in Kungu village," Mr Obura said. "When we intercepted them, they locked themselves in the car and pre-ticked all the candidates on the ballot paper in a bid to confuse us," he added.

Arrested

Ms Nantaba together with Mr Bashir Eriyazaali and David Kamoga were bundled into a police van and taken to Kayunga Police Station where Ms Nantaba was detained.

Mr Eriyazaali and Mr Kamoga were transferred to Naggalama Police Station.

A sobbing Nantaba denied the claims and accused the police of framing her. Mr Obura said Ms Nantaba had been charged with involvement in electoral malpractice but said they would consult further to get a "suitable charge" for her.

The police fired live bullets in the air to disperse Nantaba's supporters who had converged at the police station after receiving the news of her arrest.