New details emerge on arrest of Bobi's poll police guards

Police sources say five policemen who were guarding Bobi Wine in 2026 polls were arrested last Friday.

BY BENSON TUMUSIIME & DERRICK WANDERA

New details surrounding the arrest of bodyguards assigned to National Unity Platform (NUP) party presidential candidate, Robert Kyagulanyi, alias Bobi Wine, during the 2026 presidential campaigns, have emerged.

Police sources from the Directorate of Counter-terrorism, from which the bodyguards were drawn, told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that five of the police officers were arrested last Friday and detained at the Railways Police Station in Kampala.

"The policemen were arrested on the orders of Counter-terrorism Director, AIGP David Wasswa Ssengendo. He created the team that executed the arrest and sent them to the Railways Police Station," the source said.

The source added that the suspects have since been interrogated by detectives from Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force (JATT), and were taken on Monday to Mbuya, the headquarters of JATT, for more questioning on Saturday. They were later brought back to the Railway Police Station on Sunday.

"According to our station's daily book record, the suspects are charged with disobedience of lawful orders and withdrawing from work without permission," the source said.

But Assistant Commissioner of Police Kituuma Rusoke, the police spokesperson, said no information regarding the arrest of the officers had reached his desk.

"By Monday, information regarding the arrest was not yet clear, but my position is that every police officer is liable to disciplinary action in case he or she has questions against him or her," he said.

Members of the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) yesterday tasked the police chiefs, who appeared before them to explain the circumstances surrounding the officers' arrest and reports that they had not yet received their salaries despite completing their assignment during the election period.

AIGP Ssengendo, who appeared before the committee, said the officer's fall under his Directorate but the responsibility for their payment lies with the Electoral Commission.

Mr James Ochaya, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, who led the high-level police team, requested for more time to investigate the matter.

But the Deputy Committee chairperson, Ms Gorreth Namugga, tasked the police chiefs to immediately make inquiries and report back to the committee. Ms Namugga also asked the Budadiri East Member of Parliament and former presidential Candidate James Nathan Nandala Mafabi whether his own security detail had been paid.

Mr Nandala said he was not aware since the election period had ended and his relationship with the officers assigned to him had also ended.

Bobi Wine, who has since gone into hiding after the January 15 presidential polls, said on Wednesday through his social media platforms that in the 2021 election, the police officers who were assigned to protect him during his campaign, were attacked violently and subjected to all manner of brutality.

He said after the election, several of the bodyguards, including their head, one Kato, were arrested and detained for a long period.

"We learnt that they were questioned about our sources of funding, who I was meeting, what our plans were, etc. They were also interrogated about why they always sought to protect us from violent attacks by other sections of the police and military," Bobi wine wrote on his microblogging site, X handle.

He said he had again heard of the recent arrest and interrogation the officers assigned to protect him during the concluded 2026 presidential campaigns.

"These officers are usually targeted for doing their job with professionalism and patriotism. May we all stand in solidarity with them, and work for their freedom," Bobi Wine said.

Mr Joel Ssenyonyi, the NUP party spokesperson, said they were aware that the police officers had been arrested and were reportedly being held at the Railways Police Station in Kampala.

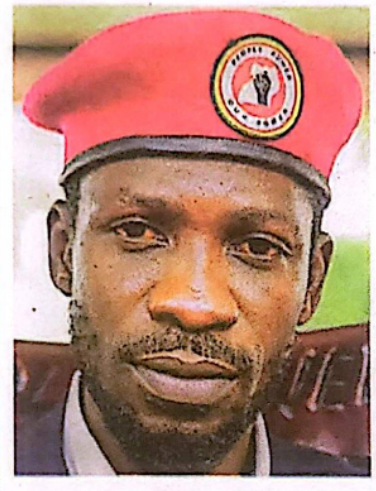
He said some of their family members had approached them and complained to the party leadership about their disappearance, and asked to know their whereabouts.

"We have been told they [bodyguards] are being asked what our plans are, who funds us and things like that. This is not the first time they are doing this because in the 2021 presidential election, Kato, the commander of the people that were protecting the party presidential candidate, was arrested and he was asked why he had been keenly protecting the president [Bobi].

"We call upon the security to let us of these Ugandans because they did what they had been deployed to do," Mr Ssenyonyi said.

Last year, all the presidential candidates, including incumbent President Museveni, who had been duly nominated by the Electoral Commission, were given personal security detail to guard them during the campaigns.

Each candidate was given 16 police guards from the Counter-terrorism Directorate, with their allowances footed by the EC.



Robert Kyagulanyi, aka Bobi wine. PHOTO/FILE

> **Allegation.** "We learnt that they [his police guards] were questioned about our sources of funding, who I was meeting, what our plans were, etc. they were also interrogated about why they always sought to protect us from violent attacks by other sections of the police and military," NUP president Robert Kyagulanyi, aka Bobi wine, said on his X handle.

CamScanner