The recent killings, including those of a hotel manager and a security guard on Saturday, have raised alarm bells over rising violent crime in urban residential areas, particularly in hotels and guest houses.

Wave of crime hits Kampala, suburbs

BY BENSON TUMUSIIME

Police are investigating the death of two hotel employees who were at the weekend stabbed to death by unknown assailants in Mbubi Zone, Kampala City.

The attackers also made off with a motor vehicle, a white Toyota Harrier, registration number UBH 633M, that had been parked at the hotel.

Shivani Asasira, 30, the manager of Dave Hotel and Suites, and Lawrence Musinguzi, a security guard, were discovered dead on Saturday evening by a hotel owner. The two were killed in different locations within the premises.

Mr Patrick Lukenge, the LC1 chairperson of Mbubi Zone, told this publication that the officer-in-charge of Lungujja Police informed him of the killings at about 4pm on Saturday and invited him to witness the crime scene.

"I went to the scene and found two people were killed in the hotel, the security guard was killed from his office while the manager was killed from her bedroom, all bodies were left in a pool of blood," Mr Lukenge said.

He explained that the hotel was relatively new, having been converted from a former microfinance training ground.

"This place was abandoned first, it was renovated to a hotel three months ago, I didn't even know that it had started operating," Mr Lukenge said.

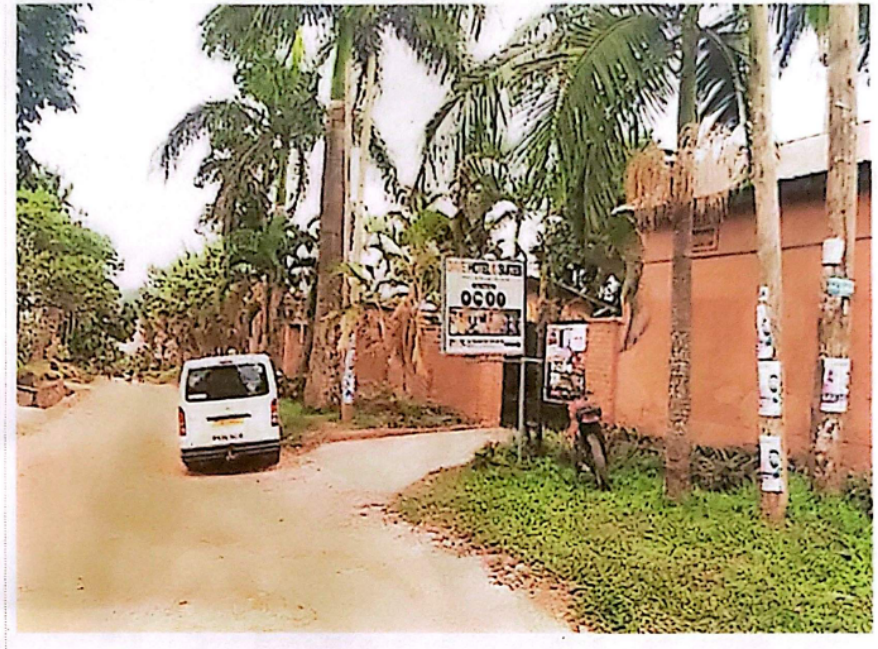
Police detectives from the Forensics Department confirmed that both victims suffered severe injuries from sharp objects to the chest, neck, and abdomen. They noted the killings appeared to have occurred around the same time.

"The assailants undressed the woman, there is a possibility that she was gang-raped and killed after. We have taken all the samples to determine whether there was penetration," a detective said.

The Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson, Ms Racheal Kawala, stated that the deceased were found in separate rooms, each with stab wounds.

"The bodies have been conveyed to Mulago Hospital Mortuary pending post-mortem examinations, investigations are ongoing, and efforts to identify and arrest the suspects," she said.

Preliminary findings show that on February 7, at about 10am, the hotel owner received a call from the manager, Asasira, saying she was searching for the guard, Musinguzi, but could not find him and his phones were switched off. By 11:30am, the owner tried to call her back, but her phone also went unanswered. At 3pm, he went to the hotel and discovered both had been killed.



A police van parked at the gate of the hotel in Mbubi Zone, Lungujja Parish, Rubaga Division in Kampala yesterday, where a manager and a security guard were stabbed to death by unknown assailants. PHOTO/BENSON TUMUSIIME

> **Operations of the hotel.** I went to the scene and found two people were killed in the hotel, the security guard was killed from his office while the manager was killed from her bedroom, all bodies were left in a pool of blood... This place was abandoned first, it was renovated to a hotel three months ago, I didn't even know that it had started operating."– Patrick Lukenge, the Mbubi Zone leader

Alarm bells over crimes

The killings have raised alarm bells over rising violent crime in urban residential areas, particularly in hotels and guest houses.

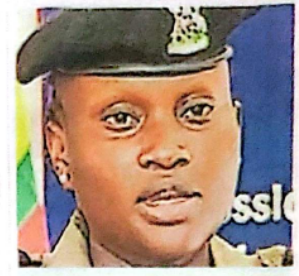
Criminals appear to be changing tack; moving from gun misuse to machetes and other sharp weapons to kill and rob.

In Kira, on the outskirts of Kampala at the weekend, machete-wielding thugs riding boda bodas smashed a car window and stole Shs25 million.

Reports indicate the car owner tried to raise the alarm, but bystanders were caught flat-footed as the thugs executed the robbery in under three minutes.

According to the Police Crime Annual Report 2024, a total of 573 cases of robbery of cash were reported in 2024 compared to 551 cases reported in 2023, an increase of 4 percent in this crime category. Kampala Metropolitan Police (KMP) North region registered the highest number of cases of aggravated robbery of cash in 2024 (86 cases), followed by KMP South with 64 cases, Greater Masaka with 53 cases, Wamala with 48 cases and KMP East with 41 cases. Mayuge District registered the highest number of cases of aggravated robbery of cash in 2024 (25 cases), followed by Mityana and Nansana with 23 cases each, Mukono with 19 cases and Katwe with 17 cases, Kawempe with 16 cases, Old Kampala and Natete with 14 cases each, among others.

The report showed that more than 4,000 homicide cases were recorded nationwide last year – averaging about 12 killings per day. Victims were killed through various means, including assault, poisoning, arson, shooting, domestic violence, and mob action, with a total of 4,329 deaths reported.



> **Investigations ongoing.** The bodies have been conveyed to Mulago Hospital Mortuary pending post-mortem examinations, investigations are ongoing, and efforts to identify and arrest the suspects," **Ms Racheal Kawala, the Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson.**

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