

National News

Bunga landlord says Ggaba killings suspect liked children

Last Thursday, Mr Paul Mukasa, a landlord from whom the prime suspect in the murder of four toddlers at Ggaba Early Childhood Development Programme, Christopher Okello Onyum, rented a house, told the court that Okello loved children in the neighbourhood. We present proceedings.

BY ANTHONY WESAKA
& JULIET KIGONGO

Prosecution witness 9, Paul Mukasa
Jonathan Muwaganya,
Chief State Attorney: My lord,
my next witness is Paul Mukasa.
Presiding judge Alice Komu-
hang'i Khaukha: How old are you?
Mukasa: Forty three.
Anna Kiiza, Chief State Attorney:
Repeat your name for the court record.
Mukasa: Paul Mukasa.
Kiiza: What do you do for a living?
Mukasa: I work in Owino market.
Kiiza: What exactly do you do there?
Mukasa: I deal in shoes.
Kiiza: Do you know the accused per-
son? [Pointing at Christopher Okello
Onyum]
Mukasa: Yes.
Kiiza: How did you know him?
Mukasa: He came home.
Kiiza: Do you know his name?
Mukasa: Okello.
Kiiza: How did you come to know
Okello?
Mukasa: He came looking for a house
to rent.
Kiiza: When was that?
Mukasa: In November.
Kiiza: Which year?
Mukasa: 2025.
Kiiza: Please go on.
Mukasa: I told him the house goes

for Shs150,000, while electricity goes for
Shs20,000 per month. He said he had
rent for one month.
Kiiza: Hold on, where are those hous-
es located?
Mukasa: Bunga.
Kiiza: Please go ahead.
Mukasa: He said he had one month's
rent, but in the next one or two weeks,
he would have cleared the balance.
Kiiza: Why would he say he had only
one month's rent, had you given him a
requirement?
Mukasa: I had wanted an upfront of
three months' rent.
Kiiza: Go ahead.
Mukasa: He said that after one or two
weeks, he would bring the balance.
Kiiza: Go ahead.
Mukasa: After one week, indeed, he
brought the balance.
Kiiza: Yes, please go on.
Mukasa: When he brought the bal-
ance, I asked him whether he needed a
receipt, and he declined it.
Kiiza: What was the mode of pay-
ment?
Mukasa: He brought cash.
Kiiza: Is he still a tenant at your hous-
es?
Judge: Ms Kiiza, he hasn't told us
about his coming to stay at his house.
He had told us up to the point of pay-
ing rent, can we pick it up from there,
please?
Kiiza: Most obliged. After the accused
had made the payments, did he return

to stay in his house?
Mukasa: Yes.
Kiiza: Is he still a tenant in your hous-
es?
Mukasa: No.
Kiiza: When did he leave?
Mukasa: Like in the second week of
March.
Kiiza: Which year?
Mukasa: 2026.
Kiiza: For the time the accused was a
tenant in your houses, how was he re-
lating with the neighbours?
Mukasa: He was a good person.
Kiiza: What do you mean?
Mukasa: He would exchange pleas-
antries with the neighbours and also
touch... touch children, and he moves
on.
Kiiza: You said he would touch...
touch the children, how was he relating
with them?
Mukasa: Okay, there was a neighbour
who used to have a maid, he would
leave his clothes behind to be washed,
washing plates, and upon return, he
would give them some money.
Judge: He hasn't answered that ques-
tion; the question was in respect to the
children. Was he playing with them?
What he called touching... touching?
Was he playing with them?
Mukasa: They never used to under-
stand his language, but he would ex-
change pleasantries with them.
Kiiza: You talked of him giving things
to the neighbour to clean. What do you
mean?
Mukasa: He used to give them to the
housemaid to help him.
Kiiza: What would he ask the house-
maid to help him with?
Mukasa: Wash his trousers or plates.
Kiiza: Yes, anything else?
Mukasa: ...[Silence from Mukasa]
Kiiza: When the accused was your
tenant, did he use to have visitors?
Mukasa: Only his mother came there
to visit him, and they talked.
Kiiza: How long would the mother
stay?
Mukasa: For just a short time, and
she would leave.
Kiiza: Mr Mukasa, what else did you
observe the accused person doing at
the houses other than the way he re-
lated with the neighbours and children?
Mukasa: He would fetch water and
go back into his house.
Kiiza: Where was he fetching water
from?
Mukasa: From the tap at home.
Kiiza: When you were with him, did
he ever behave irrationally?
Mukasa: No.
Kiiza: That is all my witness.
Judge: Any cross-examination?
Sarah Awelo, defence lawyer: Yes,
my lord. Do you have any proof that this
accused has ever rented one of your
houses?



Mr Christopher Okello Onyum, the prime suspect in the murder of four toddlers at Ggaba Early Childhood Development Programme, in the dock last week. PHOTOS/ABUBAKER LUBOWA

Mukasa: No.
Awelo: Do you stay in the same vicini-
ty as your tenants?
Mukasa: Yes.
Awelo: What time do you go to Owino?
Mukasa: Between 12:30pm and 1pm.
Awelo: At what time do you return?
Mukasa: At 4pm.
Awelo: Describe your houses.
Mukasa: Built facing each other.
Awelo: How many are they?
Mukasa: About eight.
Awelo: Do you have any qualifica-
tions in psychiatry?
Mukasa: No.
Awelo: That is all, my lord.
Judge: Ms Kiiza, any re-examination?
Kiiza: No, my lord.
Judge: I have a few questions. I just
want to understand something that
didn't come out well. When he said he
was going to pay for one month first,
did he bring back the balance?
Mukasa: Yes.
Judge: So, he paid for three months.
How long did he stay in your house?
Mukasa: He said that for three
months, and in the fourth month, he
disappeared.
Judge: Did you ask him for any docu-
ments that indemnify him?
Mukasa: Upon payment, I asked
him to go and introduce himself to the
chairman of the area



Mr Paul Mukasa says he rented a house to Mr Christopher Okello Onyum, the prime suspect in the murder of the four toddlers at Ggaba Early Childhood Development Programme in Kampala.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, no, be-
cause when I assessed him, he was
not undergoing symptoms that could
have caused the killing of the children.
Muwaganya: Doctor, did you sign
the report?
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, I signed
the report. This is my signature.
Muwaganya: And when?
Dr Nuwamanya: This was on April
7, 2026.
Muwaganya: My lord, I pray to ten-
der the police form 24 as an exhibit.
Judge: Mr Kumbuga [defence law-
yer], do you have any objection to ten-
dering in of the police form 24?
Defence lawyer Richard Kumbu-

ga: No, my lord.
Judge: The police form 24 dated
April 7, 2026 in respect of Mr Christo-
pher Okello Onyum, authored by Dr
Emmanuel Nuwamanya, is admitted and
is marked PE7.
Judge: Any further questions for
him?
Muwaganya: No, my lord, that is all.
Judge: Mr Kumbuga, before you
come in for cross-examination, I have
a few questions for the doctor. What are
the symptoms, in your opinion?
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, symp-
toms include divisions, hallucina-
tions, abnormal gesturing, incoherent
mood, and incoherent speech. Perfect
means inconsistency between what a
person reports to feel and the way they

present on the outlook, among other
symptoms, my lord. I cannot exhaust
the list.
Judge: So, doctor, you mean what
they feel is different from how they ap-
pear? Is there a fight?
Dr Nuwamanya: Yes, my lord, they
might be very angry, but when they
are laughing.
Judge: So, doctor, when he report-
ed to you about attempted suicide in
2023, as a professional police officer
and a psychiatrist, didn't you find it
necessary to refer him to Butabika
when you were doing all this?
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, that was
his history in the past, and the time I
examined him, he did not have these
symptoms.

Judge: From this medical form, does
it allow you to refer someone for fur-
ther medical investigations?
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, the form
does not state that I should refer.
Judge: Then you said the findings
above are as of April 7, 2026, suggest-
ing a medical condition of psychiatric.
What are psychiatric episodes?
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, psychi-
atric episodes refer to periods when
a person breaks down, mentally, with
symptoms that show that this person
is not in touch with reality.
Judge: So sometimes they appear,
sometimes they do not; it just comes
and goes?
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, yes.
Judge: That is all.

Kumbuga: We are looking at the
conduct of mental patients. Will I be
right to say somebody with a men-
tal challenge can do certain things in
their life?
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, can coun-
sel come clear on the question?
Kumbuga: Will I be right to say
someone with a mental challenge can
do certain things for their life?
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, I believe
counsel wanted to ask if somebody
was functional at some time.
Kumbuga: Yes.
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, yes.
Kumbuga: Okay, so that person can
sometimes be able to drive if he has a
car with knowledge of driving?
Dr Nuwamanya: My lord, yes.