

## National News

The 14th prosecution witness says the suspect threw the knife outside the chain-link fence of the school after the killings.

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**T**he killer knife that prime suspect Christopher Okello Onyum allegedly used to stab four toddlers to death at a daycare in Ggaba, was yesterday displayed before the court at the ongoing mobile High Court marathon trial.

Detective Assistant Inspector of Police Jim Mutaka, a Scene-of-Crime-Officer (SOCO), attached to Kabalagala Police Station, said the type of killer weapon was black in colour, labelled 'Mingfen', a kitchen knife.

Measuring approximately 1.1 feet in length, he said the suspected killer weapon was then treated as a critical exhibit.

"A black knife labelled 'Mingfen Kitchen Knife' was recovered and dumped outside the school fence," Mutaka testified before the court presided over by Justice Alice Komuhangi Khaukha.

Mutaka, 32, explained that he was dispatched to the scene at Ggaba Early Childhood Development Programme at about 11.30am, where he processed the crime scene at the same institution and collected exhibits.

According to his testimony, the recovery of the knife followed information from a key witness.

"I was briefed by the caretaker, Phoebe Namutebi, that upon arrest, the suspect threw the knife outside the chain-link fence," the 14th prosecution witness told the court presided over by Justice Alice Komuhangi Khaukha.

Acting on that tip, Mutaka said he searched the area and located the killer weapon.

"Using my visual ability, I saw the knife. I measured the distance it had been thrown about 21 feet from the western wall," he told the court.

Mutaka described a gruesome scene at the daycare, which he identified as the primary crime scene.

"It was the seat of the crime," he said,

# Ggaba killer knife displayed in court



Assistant Superintendent of Police James Eserait displays one of the knives that was reportedly recovered from Christopher Okello Onyum's house, in court yesterday. PHOTO / ABUBAKER LUBOWA

explaining that although some victims were found elsewhere, the attack occurred at the centre.

Inside the compound, investigators said they found widespread signs of violence.

"I observed suspected blood stains at different spots. Some appeared dry, while others were on the carpet. Play toys were scattered on the ground," he testified.

The body of a young victim, identified as Ryan Odeke, was found on the verandah. "The body was lying in a prone position with visible cuttings on the right side of the neck," Mutaka said.

He added that swabs were taken from the wounds and various blood-stained areas to preserve DNA evidence.

"We swabbed different spots and marked them for analysis," he said.

Additional items recovered included sunglasses suspected to have blood stains, as well as multiple knives alleged-



### Critical exhibit.

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edly found on the suspect.

"Two black knives with sharp ends and branded 'Pigeon' were handed over by a police officer who recovered them from the suspect," Mutaka testified.

A bag believed to belong to the suspect (Okello) was also recovered, containing a disturbing collection of items.

"Inside the bag, we found surgical

blades, gloves, tablets, a padlock with keys, and a smartphone," he said.

The bag also contained a receipt from Ggaba Community Church dated the same day as the incident.

Mutaka further told the court that investigators proceeded to Wentze Medical Centre, which he described as a secondary scene where more victims were found. "Three bodies were lying on emergency beds, covered with a green bedsheet," he said.

The deceased were identified as Eteku Gideon, Sseruyange Ignatius, and Agenorwoth Keisha.

All exhibits recovered were sealed and submitted for forensic analysis as the prosecution continues to build its case.

Further hearing continues today with the prosecution expected to line up more witnesses to testify against Okello.