

Thirteen Ugandans freed by DR Congo authorities

KAMPALA**By Benedict Okethwengu**

After one month in captivity, 13 Ugandans who were being detained by Congolese authorities have been set free.

However, the whereabouts of Denis Ajolorwoth, who went missing from the Police cells a day before the rest were freed, are still unknown.

Bessie Ajilong, the resident district commissioner of Nebbi, received the returnees from Gilbert Unen, the deputy commissioner Mahagi, eastern Congo.

Ajilong tasked the Congolese authorities with ensuring that one of the Ugandans who went missing in their custody is produced dead or alive.

Unen, however, pleaded with Ugandan delegation not to consider revenging for the arrest and detention of its citizens. A source, who spoke to *New Vision* on condition of anonymity, said the release did not happen without something

being given in return.

Ugandan authorities agreed to release a vehicle of a Congolese minister, which had been impounded parked at Arua Police Station.

The source said the high-level meeting involving the Congo and Ugandan delegation which resulted in the release of the cyclists was held in Arua on Friday.

"I am glad to be home, it was such a bad experience," Douglas Ukecha recounted one of the returnees.

James Odongo, one of those freed added that their return brought back both bad and good memories.

They were detained on October 28 following clashes with residents of Mahagi in a bid to get back the motorcycle of one their colleagues, which had been impounded.

He said during the scuffle they were arrested and 14 of their motorcycles, were confiscated by the Congolese authorities.

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