

Gashumba runs to court over arrest

By Vision reporter

City businessman Frank Gashumba has petitioned Nakawa Chief Magistrate's Court seeking to be unconditionally released from custody.

The application of habeas corpus was yesterday filed by Denis Nyombi, a lawyer, on behalf of Gashumba and his brother Innocent Kasumba against the Attorney General (AG).

Habeas corpus is used to bring a prisoner or any other detainee before the court to determine if their detention is lawful. Nyombi states that the duo's continued detention for more than 48 hours without being arraigned in court or granted bond is illegal.

"The duo has been denied bond yet charges have been preferred against them. We want court to order their release from wherever they are held," Nyombi said.

Nyombi claims that the duo's relatives are in fear that they might be undergoing torture since they have been denied access to them.

"It is just and equitable that the applicants be released forthwith as their continued incarceration is unlawful," Nyombi contends.

"I went to the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI) and they referred me to special



Frank Gashumba (centre) and his brother Innocent Kasumba (left) being paraded before the media by Lt. Deo Akiki Asiimwe after their arrest on Tuesday

investigations directorate and they referred me back to CMI. Therefore, I do not know which exact place the duo is being held," Nyombi said yesterday.

The application has been allocated to Grade One Magistrate Jackline Kagoya for hearing. The magistrate is to hear the application today.

"We still have them in our custody and we are yet to forward the file to the Director of Public Prosecutions for legal advice so that they are produced in court," Police spokesperson Asan Kasingye

Forty-three-year-old Gashumba is Ugandan of Rwandan origin. Gashumba was born on December 3, 1974 in Villa Maria, Masaka district. He attended St Francis Primary School, Aga Khan SS (Masaka) and later Nkumba University. He later worked for the Latter Day Saints Church and launched Mali Group of Companies. He leads Sisimuka Uganda, a pressure group.

WHO IS GASHUMBA?

said in a related interview.

On Tuesday, the army paraded Gashumba together with his brother Kasumba

before the media, claiming that they had been arrested for allegedly trying to fleece an investor while impersonating

defence ministry officials.

Gashumba, the chief executive officer of Sisimuka Uganda, a pressure group, is reported to have been arrested on Saturday at CMI where he had gone to check on Kasumba, who had earlier been picked.

On Tuesday, the UPDF revealed that the arrest of the duo followed a whistleblower's report to the defence ministry permanent secretary about a group that was planning to fleece an investor while posing as defence officials.

"The fraudsters, under the cover of a company named Flagship Group, claimed to have been contracted by the defence ministry for outsourcing purposes and invited the investors to Golden Tulip Hotel in Nakasero for a meeting over a purported deal to supply UPDF with hundreds of military trucks," reads a statement issued by deputy army spokesperson Lt. Col. Deo Akiki Asiimwe on Tuesday.

Following the tip-off, another suspect, Nasser Mukungu, linked to Kasumba, was arrested by the Joint Anti-Terrorism Team operatives during the transaction of the now aborted deal.

Kasumba was arrested on Saturday (October 29), and a search conducted on his residence yielded several items that included over 20 various

stamps, including one of the defence ministry.

Other exhibits included multiple identification documents, including his two passports with separate identities and another passport Number B0892687 with Frank Gashumba's photograph but bearing names of Ssentogo Frank Disans.

Investigators also want Gashumba to explain the source and circumstances surrounding multiple identification documents under his name. He has since been asked to explain his role in Flagship Group under which the investor was to be 'defrauded'.

Although the Police are leading the investigations related to the case filed at Kampala Central Police Station, the accused have on several occasions been at CMI for interrogation.

According to Asiimwe, the army is interested in the case because "the accusations include that of an alleged deal to supply UPDF with hundreds of military trucks/fuel them in strategic points. This is a serious matter. This explains our interest."

Security also want Gashumba to explain the source and circumstances surrounding the multiple identification documents under his name.