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# Police bust racket of city robbers

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**KAMPALA.** Police in Kampala have arrested 11 suspected serial armed robbers who have been carrying out coordinated attacks on businessmen mainly in the suburbs of Bukoto, Kawempe and the greater Kampala area since November last year.

While parading the suspects before journalists yesterday at police head-

quarters in Naguru, police spokesperson Fred Enanga said the group, believed to be part of a bigger racket, has been using army-like fatigue, masks and two guns to way-lay and rob businessmen that are not target-hardened.

Police, acting on intelligence picked from a robbery in Bukoto last week, arrested other suspects from different locations in Kampala.

Police also recovered one SMG

rifle under serial number 9001752 and 110 rounds of ammunition. A certificate of Amnesty Commission in the names of Lt Rajab Rasulu, an ex-combatant of UNRF 11, an Ipsum vehicle, among other items, were also recovered from the suspects.

"This followed specific intelligence that was picked from a robbery in Bukoto on February 4," said Mr Enanga.

The group is detained at the Spe-

cial Investigations Unit in Kireka.

"The group had two guns, we are trying to find out where the second gun is and because of the leads that we have, we shall be able," said Mr Enanga.

Police say the group has been very active between January and February, with four shootings that led to two murders. Mr Enanga said police are also investigating whether the activities of the group are politically motivated. "We are still investigating to establish whether, given the timing, this spate of violent criminality is politically motivated to cause fear and panic in the public," he said.

## THE BACKGROUND

Although police introduced the Flying Squad Unit to break organised crime, especially in Kampala, organized criminals still exist. Some of the known groups include Kifesi, BT3, Kibanda, Ecomog and Nato. Just last month, the Inspector General of Police, Gen Kale Kayihura, sacked all crime intelligence officers and three police commanders in the Kampala Metropolitan area over failure to prevent such crimes, alleged connivance with criminal gangs, drunkenness and negligence. However, Mr Enanga yesterday said thorough investigations are ongoing to get to the bottom of such rackets.