Seventeen arrested over vandalism, attacking headteacher

BUYENDE

By Tom Gwebayanga

The Police in Buyende have arrested 17 locals who allegedly vandalised the home of the former headmaster of Gumpi Primary School.

The headteacher was accused of being responsible for the demons that attacked children.

The suspects are accused of leading a mob that stormed Sebastian Baligeya's home last Thursday in Busuleeta and destroyed property.

The mob came from Bugabula, Budope, Buwaibuga, Buleero, Gumpi and Busikwe villages, all neighbouring Gumpi Primary School, which Baligeya headed until 2015 when he was transferred to Wandago Primary School.

The parents claimed that Baligeya, 58, has some fetishes in his house which unleash a demon popularly known as *obumenke*.



Property which was destroyed by the locals



A wall that was smashed during the attack

Baligeya survived the angry mob that was wielding clubs, stones and machetes. "We heard the alarm drums and took off, owing to earlier reports of the attack. They were so hostile," Baligeya told *New Vision* on Sunday.

The vandalised property includes sofa sets, furniture, utensils, beddings and clothing which they set ablaze. The mob also attempted to raze the house. They shattered the windows, ripped the doors and left gaping holes in the walls. They also broke the door of the master bedroom and stole cash.

Suspects

According to the Police spokesperson for Busoga North, Michael Kasadha, the suspects include Moses Kasapatu, Moses Kisibo, Kassim, Jaffer Bazaale and Julius Laaliyo. Also in detention are Waiswa, Ssande and Budala Musagala of Buleero village and Mutebe of Busikwe village. Baligeya, however, blamed the Police for their reluctance to act saying if the Police had arrived early, the attackers would have been repelled.

"The DPC responded quickly and deployed the truck to Bugaya Police Station. However, the OC was slow to act, citing lack of fuel," Baligeya lamented."The suspects are facing charges of malicious damage of property and threatening violence," Kasadha said.

Incidents of demon attacks have prevailed in Busoga and Buganda regions, where the possessed pupils bark like dogs, move like snakes and jump like frogs.

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