

# Kazinda's behaviour angers judge

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**Complaint.** This comes after Kazinda changed lawyers five times in a case where he is facing multiple charges.

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**KAMPALA.** The High Court trying former principal accountant in the Prime Minister's office was yesterday provoked into fury after the suspect changed his lawyer for the fifth time.

"Do you think I am a joke? No, I am not. You can fool some people all the time but some people cannot be fooled all the time," Justice Lawrence Gidudu told Geoffrey Kazinda who is faces a host of fresh corruption charges.

Kazinda is already serving a five-year prison sentence for forging the signature of his former boss Pius Bigirimana.

Kazinda appeared before the Anti-Corruption Court in Kampala yesterday to defend himself on charges of abuse of office, embezzlement, causing financial loss of more than Shs316m to government and diversion of public resources.

The judge took issue with Kazinda's continued change of instructions to his legal team, this time round, coming to court with a fifth lawyer.

"It is becoming a characteristic for Mr

Kazinda to change advocates one way or the other. This cannot go his way, I shall never abdicate my role to you. It shall go in my way," the judge said and added: "The court shall no longer provide him a boat to go fishing."

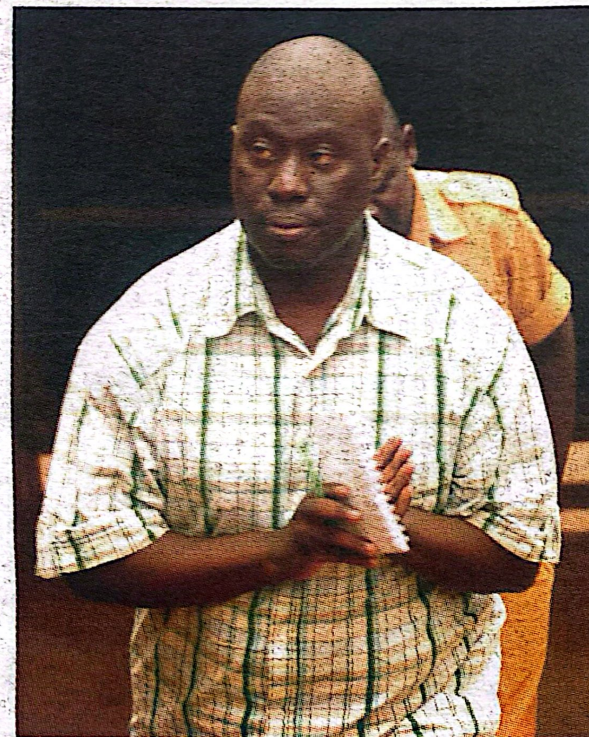
Recently, Mr Ernest Kalibala, the accused's lawyer, abandoned his client midway the trial for nonpayment of legal fees.

The case was adjourned to April 1 for further hearing. Kazinda is facing 69 corruption charges in the same court.

He is jointly charged with Ms Beatrice Kezabu (assistant resettlement officer), who faces a separate case of false accounting, Ms Shamim Masembe, the proprietor of TOTAL fuel station in Ntinda, and Mr Hussein Katumwa, the station manager.

## FRESH CHARGES

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Government has opened a new charge of illicit enrichment against Kazinda. He will plead to the new charge on February 15. Kazinda is on trial before another Justice Margaret Tibulya on a separate case where he is jointly charged with officials of the Ministry of Finance on theft of Shs5.4 billion meant for rehabilitation of the war-ravaged northern region.



Former principal accountant in the Prime Minister's office Geoffrey Kazinda at the Anti-Corruption Court in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO BY MICHAEL KAKUMIRIZI

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Chinese women petition DDD over robbery