

**Troubled.** Fred Kyogonza's lawyer walked out of the courtroom after the magistrate refused to grant two weeks to the suspect and his lawyer to prepare their defence against the evidence of the prosecution.

BY ISMAIL BATEGEKA  
& FELIX BASIIME  
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

**MASINDI.** A man accused of punching Masindi Chief Magistrate Catherine Agwero was on Tuesday evening left stranded in the dock as his lawyer stormed out of court in protest.

Mr Fred Kyogonza's lawyer Kaganzi of Kantuntu & Co. Advocates walked out of the courtroom after Grade One Magistrate Daniel Mwesigwa refused to grant two weeks to the suspect and his lawyer to prepare their defence against the evidence of the prosecution.

"We pray to this honourable court to give us a short period of time for me and my client to study this evidence and statement," Kaganzi asked court.

However, the trial magistrate declined to grant them the two weeks and instead gave them one hour to study the prosecution's evidence and present their defence.

"This may be a delaying tactic. I am giving you one hour," Mwesigwa said before he adjourned court.

When court resumed an hour later, counsel Kaganzi told court that the one hour period given to him and his client was too short and he would move out unless he was granted two weeks he requested earlier. The magistrate refused to yield and Kaganzi stormed out of court.

Kyogonza refused to cross-examine the four state witnesses, saying he had no lawyer to represent him. He pleaded with court to grant him a two-week adjournment to allow look him procure another lawyer.

Prosecution objected to the adjournment, saying the State had incurred costs to transport the witnesses.

## Punched magistrate: Lawyer abandons suspect in court



**Hard times.** Mr Fred Kyogonza is led by Prisons personnel back to jail on Tuesday.

PHOTO BY ISMAIL BATEGEKA

Court adjourned the case yesterday at 4pm as the accused was taken back to prison.

Efforts to talk to Kyogonza or his lawyers were fruitless as he was whisked back to prison and his lawyer refused to talk to journalists.

Drama unfolded in Masindi court on December 13, 2017 when Kyogonza's file was the first to be read by the

Court Clerk, in which he is accused of failing to pay Shs4.8m to Mr James Magadua, a Masindi-based businessman.

Kyogonza, a former clinical officer in Masindi District, went into the dock and listened attentively as the hearing proceeded.

Court ruled that Mr Kyogonza had defaulted paying the money to the

creditor and he was given an option of either paying Shs4.8m or be imprisoned for six months.

In reaction, Kyogonza charged at the trial magistrate: "I'm not going to prison. I will show you."

In a lightning attack, he jumped from the wooden dock and advanced towards the Chief Magistrate who was seated about two metres away. He rained on her several punches, injuring her head and mouth.

The court session ended prematurely as the injured magistrate was rushed to hospital for treatment. She was later transported to Kampala for further medication.

**“ This may be a delaying tactic. I am giving you one hour.” Mwesigwa said before he adjourned court.”**

DANIEL MWESIGWA, GRADE ONE MAGISTRATE

The accused was re-arrested from court and taken to police before he appeared in court for fresh charges.

On December 14, 2017, Kyogonza was charged with causing bodily harm to a court officer and contempt of court and disobeying lawful orders. He appeared before Grade One Magistrate Daniel Mwesigwa.

The Resident Senior State Attorney, Mr Stanley Baine, submitted: "The accused while in the courtroom before the Chief Magistrate, willfully and willingly interrupted court proceedings by beating up the Chief Magistrate, Ms Catherine Agwero while in court session."

Kyogonza denied the charges and was remanded to Masindi Prison until January 9.