

Police officers arrested over aiding land grabbers, bribery

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KAMPALA. Police Professional Standards Unit (PSU) has arrested at least 34 police officers for allegedly aiding land grabbers, bribery and negligence from different parts of the country.

PSU officers arrested 25 officers in districts of Luweero and Nakaseke for mismanaging land-related cases to favour suspected land grabbers.

Mr Vincent Ssekate, the spokesperson of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, said 30 case files related to land have been taken over by a new team for review.

"Our team looked at the files and found that the officers had not done any work to help victims of land grabbing. This is negligent of duty and indiscipline, which can't be tolerated in police," Mr Ssekate said yesterday.

The police are to write to the Director of Public Prosecutions to reconsider his opinion on some of the cases that had already been taken to court.

In some cases, the land grabbing victims had been prosecuted on trumped-up charges.

Since March this year, when President Museveni accused the police of having been infiltrated by criminals, the police have been tough on its officers who are mismanaging case files and those who solicit bribes.

In Kampala, PSU officers arrested detective Assistant Inspector of Police (AIP), Edward Kasango and Sulaiman Kato, a police operative on allegations of conniving with Bright Muyingo of God Healing Centre in Nabweru to detain a woman who he had allegedly robbed Shs20m.

"We have also summoned the commander of Katwe Police Station to explain how the victim ended up in police cells," he said.

In another case, PSU arrested Assistant Superintendent of Police Justus Namara, the officer in charge of Bujuuko Police Station and his criminal investigation department commander, AIP Martin Ecik, for framing rape charges against Holly Kizito in order to extort Shs700,000 from him.

Extortion

"After extorting money from him, they released him and then dropped the charges. This is criminal," he said.

At Kireka Police Station, PSU officers arrested Detective Sergeant Moses Lwamusaayi as he received a bribe he allegedly solicited from a complainant.

"He had demanded for Shs250,000. So the complainant informed PSU and we trapped him. After he had received Shs100,000, we arrested him on corruption charges," he said.

Four other officers were arrested over negligence of their duties while handling cases.