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e Suspected CJ impersonators to represent selves - court

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KAMPALA. Two traders accused of impersonating Chief Justice Bart Katureebe and defrauding Shumuk Group of Companies boss of \$125,000 (about Shs419 million) will have to represent themselves if their lawyer fails to turn up in court today.

The suspects, Mr Bob Joseph Nabasa, 33, and Mr Martin Matovu, 45, are facing nine counts, including obtaining money by false pretence, forgery and uttering false documents, all of which they denied.

Buganda Road Chief Magistrate James Ereemye was yesterday compelled to make this resolution that the duo will have to represent themselves after the matter was rescheduled in the afternoon but their lawyer, Mr Frank Kanduho, failed to show up for the trial, and neither did he formally notify court of his whereabouts.

However, Mr Ereemye adjourned the matter to today for hearing after the suspect, Mr Nabasa, told court that their lawyer had tasked him to seek an adjournment on grounds that he had been caught up in some other case before the High Court.

The State was ready with its witnesses, including Mr Shukla Mukesh, the chief executive officer of Shumuk Group of Companies.

Prosecution contends that the duo and others still at large in 2015 in Kampala, obtained \$125,000 from Mr Mukesh by pretending they had been sent by the Chief Justice whereas not.

On April 16, 2015, they also allegedly forged a letter purporting that it had been signed by Justice Katureebe as a document for official handover of Hotel Diplome, a disputed property.

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