ONE OF THE SUSPENDED INTERPOL OFFICERS COULD HAVE INTERFERED WITH THE SYSTEM – MUGIMU

Namibia investigates Ugandan doctor over money laundering

BY GLORIAS MUSIIME

A new twist has emerged in the never-ending tribulations of Dr David Mugimu, who was arrested at Mutukula border returning home from a 27-year stay in Namibia as an expatriate doctor. Mugimu has had running battles with the Police after he accused them of extorting from him $82,000 in early October while returning from Namibia.

The Police also impounded his three vehicles and has refused to release them, pending investigations over their right ownership.

According to Interpol sources in Uganda, Namibia has written to say that Mugimu and his three vehicles are subjects of an investigation relating to tax evasion and money laundering.

According to the letter, which *Saturday Vision* has seen, Mugimu and his properties are being investigated in Windhoek, capital of Namibia, over fraud, forgery and money laundering. The document requested Interpol Uganda to keep Mugimu's vehicles as they wait for more details from Namibia.

The Interpol director, Fred Yiga, said they had sent a message to Namibia inquiring whether the three cars (two Prados and a Fortuna) were stolen or illegally entered into Uganda as earlier alleged by the three Interpol officers, who are now on suspension.

Mugimu had reported to the Police Standards Unit that the two officers extorted $82,000 from him and impounded his cars. They are Edson Bukoli and Chris Musana. These were suspended, together with the Interpol deputy director, Elly Womanya, their boss, who they said sent them to Mutukula.

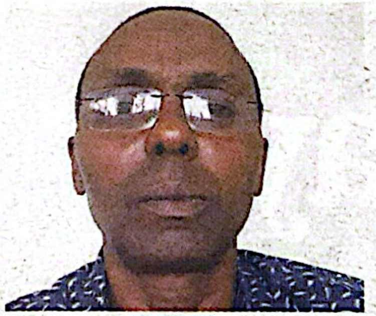
However, Mugimu expressed surprise at the revelations, saying his three cars have valid documents and were legally entered into the country.

He said he suspected that one of the suspended Interpol officers could have interfered with the system and connived with the Namibia bureau to craft similar cases that were used to arrest him in October.

He also suspects his stepbrother, Gordan Sengoye, who helped him handle a related tax issue around March this year.

"The tax authorities in Windhoek froze my bank accounts and confiscated my money. With the help of Sengoye, we negotiated and re-calculated their claims and in August, all the tax issues were resolved. My accounts were released and the money was returned to me. That is the money I withdrew before I travelled back here with the same brother, who knows me in and out," he says.

Mugimu says his three cars crossed several countries and were stamped at all entries and exits. If he had a problem in Namibia, how come they were not impounded at any of these checkpoints?



Dr David Mugimu

"The little I understand about money laundering is that the source of the money must be illegal. But in my case, there is evidence that I accumulated the money from my profession and the entire source can be traced. Even the account statement can show when I withdrew the money," he says.

However, Yiga insists that they will respect the Interpol request.

"We have written back to the Namibia Bureau to furnish us with their investigations, track Mugimu's bank accounts, safety of money and the character of man he was while in Namibia," he said.

> **FRED YIGA**
> **They told us they are investigating Mugimu and his property, but they did not list his property and the issues they are investigating.**

Mugimu showed *Saturday Vision* a document from the finance ministry in the department of inland revenue in the Namibia finance ministry, issued on November 22, 2017 and signed by a commissioner that was affirming that he was a taxpayer, in good standing with the department of inland revenue regarding all tax obligations in Namibia, rendering of returns, payment and other tax-related issues.

A source in Namibia, who wanted to speak on condition of anonymity, said he has known Mugimu for a long time. The doctor worked with the Namibian government for several years. He later resigned to start his own clinic. Later, he was accused of not paying revenue for many years. His bank accounts were blocked until investigations were done and Mugimu was cleared. That was when he decided to return to Uganda, the source said.

Yiga says they now want more details about Mugimu's case.

"They told us they are investigating Mugimu and his property, but they did not list his property and the issues they are investigating. We shall await their response before releasing his cars. About the money he said was stolen from him, the two officers who were involved will face courts of law," Yiga said.

Mugimu's case is now confusing. Last month, he was allegedly arrested from his hotel room in Ndeeba, a Kampala suburb, by a one Moses Muyande, working with Special Force Command and taken to Criminal Case Task Tracking Team, where he was charged with money laundering. His belongings, among them sh15m and $4,000, were confiscated from the hotel room. He still reports to Police on bond.