

Is State lawyer convicted of bribery

BY JULIET KIGONGO

jkigongo@ug.nationmedia.com

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KAMPALA. The Anti-Corruption Court has convicted a State lawyer for taking a bribe of Shs400,000 to help a suspect get released on bail.

Edward Bamulutira was convicted for soliciting and receiving the bribe in a case he was prosecuting in order to facilitate the release of the suspect who was on charges of criminal trespass. Bamulutira formerly worked at Arua Magistrate's Court.

"These were lay people who had no idea whether at the end of the day it was the convict (Bamulutira) who had powers to grant bail or not. All they know is that he asked for money and following the failure to raise it the convict objected to the bail," Magistrate Susanne Okeny said.

"It was a little weird for the accused to give out his number and also discuss official matters at his home on a Sunday with a person who had interest in the case he was prosecuting," she added.

Ms Okeny also said the convict's conduct of not opening his door after several banging pretending to be asleep and only come up when the key lock was going to be cut by the police who had gone for a search was clear inference of his guilt.

Court heard that between May 22 and 27, 2012 in Arua District, Mr Bamulutira solicited and received a gratification of Shs400,000 from a one Moses Anguyo as an inducement to aid the release of his brother on bail.

Prosecution led by Ms Daisy Acio asked court to give the convict a custodial sentence that would act as proper signal to intending offenders.

The convict asked for a non-custodial sentence, saying he had learnt a lesson and that he was ready to reform. Ms Okeny set February 29 for the sentencing.