

Kayihura sets up mineral protection unit

By Simon Masaba

As the country grows in mineral exploration and mining for development, the Inspector General of Police, Gen. Kale Kayihura, has set up a special force to protect activities in the areas rich in minerals.

The unit, which is the first of its kind in Uganda, is reported to have been set up on the orders of President Yoweri Museveni.

"The unit will implement plans,

policies and strategies for effective security of minerals in the country," reads Kayihura's August 7 letter to his deputy, Okoth Ochola, copied to all directors.

In the letter, seen by *New Vision*, Kayihura stated that the unit, headed by Superintendent of Police Jesca Kigombe from the Aviation Police, will report directly to him.

The permanent secretary at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Stephen Isabalija,

welcomed the creation of the unit.

Kayihura said the force will liaise with the energy ministry to ensure compliance to standards guiding the mining industry. It will also develop and manage systems on maintenance and regulation of technical equipment and other resources for the unit, develop capacity of the unit to handle minerals protection in the country.

The unit will also prepare periodic reports on policing,

collaborate with other institutions in managing minerals and sensitising communities on safe mining and environmental impact.

The creation of the unit comes as the Police's Criminal Investigations Division has been probing fraud and murder cases, as dealers scramble for the country's minerals.

Preliminary Police findings indicate that the Government and the indigenous people have not reaped much from minerals.



Inspector General of Police Kayihura

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