

ANKOLE BISHOP MWESIGWA CLARIFIES ON LAND ROW WITH MUKONO RESIDENTS

BY JOHN MASABA

ANKOLE Bishop Dr Sheldon Mwesigwa has clarified on an ongoing land row between him and residents of Mukono and refuted claims that he is using his influence to grab land.

Reacting to a report in the *Sunday Vision* of October 15, Mwesigwa denied allegations that he used his clout to influence the Police to harass residents of Mukono in a dispute he has with them over land.

The disputed land reportedly belonged to John Bijananaku Mukibi, a prominent mechanic in Mukono, who died in 1979.

Located on Block 107 in Upper Kauga on Jinja Road in Mukono town, the land has been a subject of prolonged court battles between Mwesigwa and the Mukibis and has dragged on for two years.

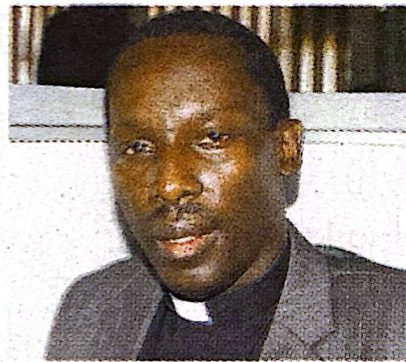
Juma Mukibi, a son to the late

Mukibi, told *Sunday Vision* two weeks ago that he was consistently thrown into Police cells in Mukono and threatened with death after he challenged Mwesigwa in court after learning he had irregularly acquired 0.5 acres of their land.

He claimed Mwesigwa had influenced the Police in Mukono to harass him and break his resolve to challenge Mwesigwa in court.

He claimed Mwesigwa was flouting a court order, which on April 19 declared that the land on Block 107 at Upper Kawuga belongs to his late dad, Mukibi. And also that he and his sisters, Teopista Najjuma, Robina Nabatanzi, Muwanga Kyabagamba Musisi and Resty Nabukalu Namusoke, have a right to claim ownership on the land in question.

However, Mwesigwa furnished *Sunday Vision* with documents showing the land he owned in the



Dr Sheldon Mwesigwa

area. He also clarified that he has never defied any court orders. Instead, court had ruled that the status quo of the suit land be maintained, meaning the Bishop holds the land.

According to Mwesigwa, the Mukibis sold 0.5 acres to him in 2014, but the family, led by Mukibi, is now laying claim to an additional 0.39

acres, which he bought from another family.

"Under these circumstances (stated above), I cannot, therefore, be the one accused of defying a court order, because I am occupying a land that is rightfully mine," he said.

Referring to a May 3 order by the Mukono Chief Magistrate Court, Mwesigwa said the court had recently allowed him to occupy the land by decreeing that "The status quo of the suit property be maintained".

The order, which was issued by Grade One Magistrate Robert Mukanza, noted that whereas respondents (Mukibi and his four sisters) were adjudged by an order of court to give vacant possession (leave the land) comprised at Upper Kawuga, Mukono, they had refused to do so.

Thus, the court issued a warrant to Mwesigwa and his lawyers to kick out

the Mukibis from the land.

"...These (orders) are to command you to put the applicants into possession of the property. The respondents should vacate the property as per the order," the order read.

Sarah Taposwa, Mwesigwa's lawyer, said Mukibi had misled court in earlier judgments.

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Mukibi, 46, says his father left a chain of properties, including five acres of land (Kibanja) at Upper-Kauga Mukono, 40 acres of land at Bugerere and Motor Vehicle mechanics Chattels in Mukono. These were supposed to be divided among his 10 children.

However, he contends that four of his sisters sold part of the properties behind their backs to several people, including Mwesigwa, prompting Mukibi and his siblings to go to court.