

# Red Pepper editors ordered to reveal computer passwords

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KAMPALA. Police detectives yesterday ordered the editors of *Red Pepper*, a daily tabloid to reveal the passwords of the electronic gadgets that were confiscated on Tuesday evening.

The officers confiscated more than 300 mobile phones from workers and dozens of desktop computers at *Red Pepper* offices in Seeta, Mukono District. The officers want to analyse the communication of each gadget to establish the source of information that was carried by the newspaper on Monday.

The editors, who are currently under detention, told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that they declined to share the passwords with the police be-

cause it will endanger the confidentiality of their sources.

"The laws on confidentiality do not allow journalists to reveal their sources. Police also respect our rights not to divulge our sources," one of the detained journalists said.

The editors are Mr Ben Byarabaha (managing editor), Mr Richard Kintu (news editor) and Mr Francis Tumusiime Tinywana (*Bwino* news-

paper editor, who doubles as general manager).

*Red Pepper* premises were sealed off by police on Tuesday in an operation commanded by Kampala Metropolitan Police commander Frank Mwesigwa, a day after the tabloid published a story about alleged worsening relations between Uganda and Rwanda governments. Uganda issued a statement, denying plans to support any Rwandan dissidents.

Police spokesperson Emilian Kayima yesterday said police will stay at the newspaper's premises until they have secured the information they are searching for.

Eight journalists were arrested on Tuesday and detained at Nalufenya, a high profile detention facility in Jinja District.

## PAST CLOSURES

In 2013, police raided *Red Pepper* and *Daily Monitor* offices after the two media houses published a story about a letter authored by Gen David Sejusa, the former coordinator of intelligence services.