Graft unit probes sh13b gold scam suspect's release

By Charles Etukuri

The State House Anti-Corruption Unit (SHACU) has launched an investigation into the release on bail of former Duck Hunters Security Company Ltd managing director Mohammed Ali by Makindye Chief Magistrates Court. The development comes after it emerged that he allegedly submitted a forged medical report and a forged marriage certificate.

SHACU spokesperson Mariam Natasha confirmed the investigations were ongoing and that they had written to Kibuli Hospital, which allegedly authored the medical report and the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC) which allegedly issued the marriage certificate.

"We have launched an investigation after allegations of forgeries in the medical and wedding certificate of one of his sureties emerged," Natasha confirmed.

THE PROBING

At the centre of the probe is a hospital medical director, who allegedly authored the fake medical report that the suspect used for his release.

Sources at SHACU said they wanted to understand why court released the suspect on bail using medical records that were not certified by the Uganda Prisons, claiming the suspect had internal organ complications, but upon his release, the suspect organised a series of parties to celebrate.

On May 5, detectives from the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID) wrote to Sheikh Ziyad Swaleh Lubanga requesting the original copies of the marriage certificate between Mohammed and Janet Mbabazi registered under PMPU/ CRB/089/2025.

Mbabazi was one of the sureties Mohammed presented as surety on April 21, when he was charged as his girlfriend, but the state opposed the bail application because the sureties presented were insufficient.

However, a week later, he was released after he allegedly presented Mbabazi as his wife in court.

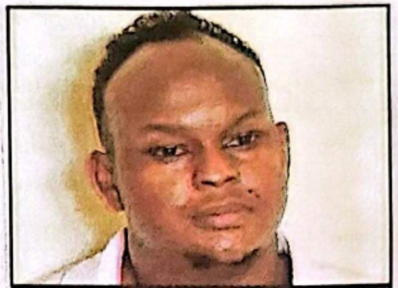
Sheikh Lubanga wrote back to CID confirming receipt of their letter on May 5, and said: "Your request as per attached photocopy of the referred marriage certificate is under our consideration. However, to facilitate the same, we request that you avail us with the original copy of the marriage certificate to enable us to access the features on the document."

BETWEEN THE LINES

Sources say SHACU is investigating circumstances under which the suspect, who was remanded until May 5, was released on April 28, without court notifying the investigating officer at SHACU and neither was his file present in court.

VICTIMS THREATENED

The investigations come in the wake of the Dubai-based investors, who are in the country, petitioned SHACU and President Yoweri Museveni, indicating that they were now receiving threats from the suspect and his cronies.



Muhammed, key suspect

"We are being threatened and asked to back off the case," one of the investors told *New Vision*.

In a statement released shortly after he was arraigned, SHACU said Mohammed, between September and October 2025, while working as a manager at Duck Hunters Security Company, and others still at large, allegedly stole and cheated Dubai-based investors of $3.5 million (about sh13b) in fake gold transactions.

SHACU said the investors had travelled to Uganda seeking gold suppliers and were allegedly introduced to different suppliers by Mohammed. The investors reportedly initially bought 10kg of gold at $700,000 (about sh2.6b) from one of the companies.

Mohammed later allegedly lured the investors to enter into another transaction to purchase 30kg of at $2.4m (about sh8.8b).

"Upon purchase of the 30kg of gold, they got it tested at Azzura Refinery and thereafter took it to Duck Hunters Security Company for storage, pending exportation to Dubai. However, the consignment disappeared, prompting the investors to return to Uganda only to realise they had been defrauded," SHACU said.

Mohammed was transferred to the Defence Intelligence and Security, formerly the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence, the intelligence arm of the Uganda People's Defence Forces, to assist in probing the complex web of fraud, the actual amount of money stolen and which other individuals were involved in the scam.