

elections 2016

Otafiire faults police on election violence

Provoked. The contestant for Ruhinda County MP seat says police in Mitooma District are partisan.

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MITOOMA. The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has threatened to cause disciplinary action against police in Mitooma District for allegedly taking sides during the election period.

Maj Gen Kahinda Otafiire, who is contesting for the Ruhinda County parliamentary seat, made the remarks during a meeting of police and aspiring candidates in the district in Mitooma Town Council.

The meeting was organised by the Electoral Commission (EC) in a bid to defuse the animosity between politicians and their supporters in the district following acts of violence. At least 25 people, including two police officers,

were last week injured in a fight between supporters of Gen Otafiire and Capt (rtd) Donozio Kahonda, both contestants for the Ruhinda parliamentary seat. The fight took place near Kashenshero Town council, Gen Otafiire's home town.

However, at the weekend meeting, Gen Otafiire, who is an Independent candidate, accused police of escalating tension in the constituency.

He accused the police of only arresting suspects from his camp over the fight while those of his rival, Capt Kahonda, were not arrested.

"On Monday, you arrested 17 suspects after the fight. I

"There is a clear sign that police in Mitooma is in move with my opponents to fail me. I will fight until the end. When you see a leopard sleeping, do not take it for cat,"

KAHINDA OTAFIIRE

brought them to you so that they can be charged with breaking electoral laws and I wanted you to also arrest the other culprits from Kahonda's camp. But you produced in court only my supporters yet others destroyed property of my supporters. This increases tension among voters," Gen Otafiire said.

He added that police had agreed to grant the suspects from his camp police bond as they find the best way of settling the matter amicably only to hear that they had been remanded to Nyamushekyera Prison in Bushenyi District.

Greater Bushenyi region police commander Micheal Musani Sabila asked Capt Kahonda to produce his supporters who were involved in the fight. He also ordered all candidates to stop actions of ferrying supporters to rallies.

Mr Elisha Kahaika, the EC district registrar, asked candidates to desist from using abusive language.



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