

SH450M GOLD SCAM: THREE REMANDED

By Charles Etukuri

As the crackdown on gold scammers by the Police Minerals Protection Unit continues, three suspects, who conned a Romanian national out of sh450m, were yesterday charged before Makindye Chief Magistrates' Court, with counts of obtaining money by false pretence and remanded.

The trio are city lawyer Faith Namusana, Jose Maringa, an Angolan national and Moussa Moise Mawotela, a DR Congo national. They were arraigned before Magistrate Robert Magara and remanded to Luzira prison, until May 19, after the Makindye Senior State Attorney Caroline Opia said investigations into the matter were ongoing.

Namusana, a 42-year-old lawyer from Ngora, gained attention in August 2025 when she picked nomination forms to run for president in the 2026 general elections.

THE ALLEGED SCAMMING

According to the Mineral Police Unit, the complainant, a Romanian national, Cristinel Ile Giju, was connected to Maringa by a friend and he travelled to Uganda in February this year interested in dealing in gold.

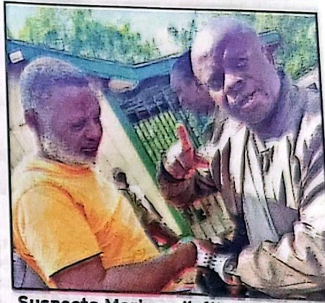
Upon arrival, Joseph connected him to Moussa and Namusana, who acted as partners in Okanyum and Company Advocates located on the second floor, Office No. 196 at Tirupati Mazima Mall, along Nsambya-Ggaba road in Kabalagala, Kampala. Mawotela and Namusana allegedly agreed to supply 700kg of gold.

However, the victim informed them that he only wanted 300kg. Each kg was valued at \$90,000 (about sh339m.)

An agreement was drafted between the lawyer, Moussa and the buyer; it had a collateral of 50kg and they were to supply 300kg of gold wanted by the victim.



Namusana, suspect



Suspects Maringa (left) and Moussa

The victim then deposited the first installment on Namusana's account at the Stanbic Bank, Kabalagala branch, for shipment and the other balance was paid via wallet USDT to Moussa. After the payments, Mineral Police say no gold was delivered.

Also, roped up in the investigations is another company, Diligent Minerals, which on its website claims: *[It] emerged as a distinguished player, earning its reputation through a deep-rooted specialisation in both precious and base minerals. We are dedicated to selling and distributing a diverse range of minerals. With a robust presence established across key mining sites in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Tanzania, our company has solidified its position as a prominent player in the mineral industry.*

This company allegedly received the mineral in DR Congo for onward transmission to Kampala.

Mineral Police sources noted that this was not the first time Namusana was being charged; she had two other sanctioned files. The operation against this trio comes in the wake of increased cases of foreigners being scammed by unscrupulous Ugandans.

SIMILAR
Last month, the (SHACU) arrested Hunters Security allegedly defrauded in a gold scam.



REVISED

Kampala public the April 202

1. 30'
2. 21
- 8:
3. 21
- (2
4. 28

The Bu below,

- 1 U
- 2 C
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

All th

Ther

Inpu

pub

Qua

Ch
BY