

Key players in today's Ggaba daycare judgment

BY JULIET KIGONGO

KAMPALA. As the much awaited judgement gets to be rendered this morning, we bring you the mini profiles of some of the key players.

Christopher Okello Onyum

Okello is the key suspect in the case. Born on June 23, 1987, at Kitwe Central Hospital in Zambia, he is the third of four sons of Ms Olive Acakara and Mr Asuman Sebayiga Onyum. His father hails from Kwanza District, while his mother is from Kumi District. Okello spent part of his early childhood in Zambia before the family relocated to Kampala in 1997, settling in Kisugu and later, Bunga.

The 38-year-old attended Jack and Jill Nursery School and later Aga Khan Secondary School, but his education was disrupted due to financial constraints and health challenges.

He later joined Ggaba Parents Secondary School.

In 2003, Okello moved to the United States with his siblings, where he briefly pursued pharmacy studies before shifting to tax-related work.

He returned to Uganda in 2016.

Justice Alice Komuhangi Khaukha

Justice Komuhangi Khaukha is the presiding judge in this high-profile trial, with attention focused on her as she delivers the verdict.

She previously served for many years in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). She later served as Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions-in-charge of inspections, quality assurance, research, and training.

In August 2021, she was appointed to the High Court Bench. Justice Komuhangi holds a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University, a postgraduate diploma from the Law Development Centre (LDC), and a Master's degree from Uganda Management Institute.

Jonathan Muwaganya, Chief State Attorney, ODPP

Mr Muwaganya is the lead prosecutor in the Okello case. He is a seasoned government prosecutor with over 18 years' experience in criminal prosecutions.

He heads the specialised unit within the ODPP mandated to prosecute investment-related crimes investigated by the State House Investment Unit, the State House Anti-Corruption Unit, and the State House Health Monitoring



Justice Komuhangi Khaukha

Unit. Mr Muwaganya has handled several high-profile cases, including the Henry Katanga murder case and proceedings involving Pastor Robert Kayanja of Miracle Centre Cathedral.

He holds a Master's of Laws in Sustainable International Development Law from the University of Washington, an LLM from Makerere University, and a Master's in Management Studies from Uganda Management Institute.

He also holds a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University and a postgraduate diploma in legal practice from the Law Development Centre.

Anna Kiiza, Chief State Attorney, ODPP

Ms Kiiza is an experienced prosecutor specialising in complex criminal cases, particularly those involving vulnerable groups.

She is attached to the Department of Gender, Children and Sexual Offences at the ODPP, where she plays a key role in handling Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), child-related offences, and human trafficking cases.

Ms Kiiza has been instrumental in developing prosecutorial tools, including the Prosecutor Plea Bargain Guidelines, as well as training manuals and handbooks on the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of gender-based violence cases in Uganda.

Sarah Awero and Richard Kumbuga

Both are defense lawyers representing Okello.

The duo was hired for Okello by government on a basis termed as "State brief scheme".

This is because the Constitution demands that every suspect facing a capital offense, has to have legal representation if they are to have a fair trial whose maximum punishment is death by hanging.