
MORE DETAILS ON THE ARRESTS OF BUGANDA OFFICIALS

Posted by Astartois - 2008/07/22 15:19

Interesting read

Last updated : 22 Jul 2008, Kampala

The arrest of the three Buganda officials was carried out by agents of the Directorate of Military Intelligence, not by the Uganda Police or the CID as reports have been saying.

According to sources in the police with first hand information, the Inspector General of Police, Major General Kale Kayihura, was in Masindi on Friday for the passing out parade of police officers and constables.

Kayihura got a phone call from somebody in Kampala telling him that Betty Namboze, Charles Peter Mayiga, and Medad Lubega had been arrested. Kayihura was taken by surprise.

No doubt Kayihura is part of Museveni's rotten and oppressive system but this time he seems not to have issued the arrest order. The order came from CMI and CMI got the marching orders from State House.

There have been clumsy efforts by the police to handle the release of information on the arrests to the public because they don't know where to begin. State House ordered the police to claim responsibility for the arrests so that the role of CMI is kept secret.

According to this informer, Museveni has directed that the three Buganda officials should be moved from prison to prison frequently, for the next three months. They are going to be moved from place to place as pawns in the game he is playing.

We have got information that the Mengo minister Charles Peter Mayiga who had been sent to Bundibugyo near the border with DR Congo was relocated by CMI operatives at 6:00am on Monday July 21st and moved to an unidentified place.

Betty Namboze Bakireke has been detained in Kyenjojo on the way to Fort Portal but was also re-located to an unknown place at 6:00am yesterday.

Last Saturday on Radio Simba's morning talk show, according to one of our informers, Tamale Mirundi the press secretary to the President kept on celebrating in the studio the news of the arrests.

Normally Mirundi comes late for the Radio Simba talk show as a habit, but on Saturday Mirundi was in a very good mood and was the first one to arrive for the show. Could his good humour have come from prior knowledge of his boss Museveni's evil intentions, or something else?

As this is all going on, Radio Katwe is trying to monitor the CMI team that was sent to South Africa allegedly to request the government to stop its sales of the arms to Rwanda. The argument is that Rwanda has been infiltrating arms into Uganda for the anticipated assassination of Museveni and the overthrow of his government. That is the story some people in intelligence are pushing, but the situation remains unclear. No one has yet suggested a plausible strategic reason to help us understand this scenario.

Three weeks ago Major Roland Kakooza Mutale the presidential advisor told journalists at his farm that a plot to overthrow Museveni had been uncovered and it involved senior figures from western Uganda. So how does the Mengo group come into the picture? Or is Museveni muddying the waters by annoying and distressing Mengo before he makes other big moves?

You remember earlier in May this year, there was an incident where a Rwandan Mi-17 helicopter entered Ugandan airspace. The incident was resolved after the two sides met though a curious explanation was given, that the Rwandan pilot "overshot". No further details were given to help the public understand what kind of pilot "overshoots" by 80 km then circles over a UPDF army camp as was reported.

Stay tuned as we collect more info on these serious developments.

Readers Comments:

22 Jul 2008

1.

Thanks for the good wk dear RK.

Please allow me some space for a few expressions- I rarely write here...but am getting concerned at the excesses of this dictator,M7.

As a person who worked with M7 at his state house for 6 good years 24/7, M7's current actions against Buganda's ministers and the Kabaka are based on his dominant low opinion of the Baganda as a people.

From his Luwero and post-Luwero dealings and intractions with the Baganda, M7 used to tell us, his closest staff viz,•@,"hat the Baganda were:

-The most cowardly tribe of Uganda

-The most opportunistic to a level of prostitution and self betrayal/destruction

-Agendaless (irrespective of level of education or Royalty)

-And would never ever rule Uganda for a single day

These statements M7 used to 'rightly' make them every time after Royalists like the late Mugwanya and Omulangila Mulondo brought him reports at state house, about the weaknesses of Kabaka Mutebi, almost daily after midnight, right from the early 1990s.

The Baganda officials used to come to state house to backbite and defame their own king before M7 for money and government posts, including the Kabaka's own young beautiful sister (a former school teacher), by the name Ndagire, to whom was delivered 4 million shillings bi-weekly from M7 after he'd had his way with her. Things for the Kabaka were not made any better by the opportunistic defection of prof Nsibambi to the NRM, whom M7 in his absence refers to as an educated idiot!!

In all, this is the message embedded in M7's arrests to the Kabaka and his Baganda.

"I know you are cowards and the first arrests of a few of your loud-mouthed but toothless ministers will send you kneeling before me for clemency"...(READERS WATCH BUGANDA'S RESPONSE TO M7'MOVE)!!

"As you may know, I, M7 have a low opinion of your Kabaka and society because I know all your weaknesses...opportunism, materialism and betrayal of each other...I, M7 know that within 48 hours, some Muganda will have come here to sell me information about the Kabaka and the plans of his cabinet, which I will use to blackmail Buganda and its so called king, who is always at my mercy".

I bet you readers, from my personal experience with M7 and Buganda, this is what is rotating in his bald rusting head, after ordering these arrests, because from the best of my knowledge and personal experience, this is how the dictator views Buganda, its Kabaka and society-LOWEST OPINION!!

I remember, it's the same way he used to view UPC under Cecilia Ogwal. Ms Ogwal (Like the late Mugwanya, late Price Kimera, late Kabaka Mutesa's young brother former diplomat in China-Mpisi?? later found poisoned in Fairway hotel) Mulondo, Mr. Mulwana, Princess Ndagire, Mr. Kakungulu (son of late Kakungulu, the late Kagodo, to name but a few,) used to make lots of noise from Uganda House and Lira, but many Ugandans didn't know that from 1992, up to the end of the Congo war, Ogwal was always locked up in routine secret meetings with M7 at state house every Friday at midnight. When M7 once offered her the post of Vice President before Kazibwe took it. During the Congo war, Ogwal was making noise against the war, while she had the biggest tender of supplying maize and beans to the army both in Congo and the North...M7 used to laugh any time we showed him an article with Ogwal making noise against the NRM.

M7 had wanted to make Ogwal VP to blackmail her and UPC just as he has done to Nsibambi as PM to blackmail the Kabaka and Mengo.

That is what he continues to do with the Kabaka and Baganda, I wonder how many people in the Kabaka's cabinet have the eyes to see this now-It seems even my former lecturer Apollo Makubuya, the brilliant lawyer can't smell the coffee and make a decisive move for Buganda to follow prof Mamdani's advice and join other branches of the Ugandan society to fight this NRM dictatorship before it obliterates the kingdom.

I don't live in Uganda, but I grew up in Buganda in a Muganda's family. My personal humble view is that so long as Buganda continues to blindly seek selfish agenda's from the rest of the country, it will continue facing difficulties with every central government, if Amin and Obote's examples have not provided any relevant lessons hitherto. I say this because history and contemporary trends seem to indicate that no Ugandan-non Muganda would support/tolerate the emergence/existence of a sovereign state of Buganda. This to me, is a statement of fact devoid of any bias whatsoever. I am simply using available indicators to present an analysis for the predicaments currently facing Buganda in M7's Uganda. I am sure Buganda has seen these indicators in its many complex alliances since independence in 1962, to date, none of which have so far delivered a Buganda state for the Baganda.

The Kikuyu in Kenya who are the equivalent of our Baganda, face the same predicament with equal rivalry from the Jalu who are the equivalent of the Banyoro. However, instead of seeking a state, the Kikuyu have exploited their central geographical position and the infructuous/economic advantage to join politics and relevant security and civil service organs to wrestle power to their side rather than risk being viewed by the rest of Kenya as mere separatists striving to split the country into smaller kingdoms and fiefdoms that could destabilise the regions under revisionism, which Buganda stands to be accused of by myopic dictators like M7. The Sukuma in Tanzania have vented no sovereign designs, which begs the question, why the Baganda of Uganda when the region is thinking in terms of East Africa and the continent in terms of a USA.

Besides, even if it succeeded in attaining sovereignty, Buganda would still, in addition to possible animosity from the rest of the societies of Uganda, have to seek the protection of the British against its main historical rival, Bunyoro, as it was in the beginning.

Crafty, maligning, manipulating, intransigent and a maximising dictator that M7 is, he knows and banks a lot on these weaknesses and questions, knowing that Buganda and its malleable population (as he perceives it) would never overcome. M7 is, in his evil mind capable of inciting the rest of Uganda against Buganda at genocidal level, if he perceived a demise to his current corrupt and murderous reign.

Readers must have seen a test of my above theory when M7 deliberately promoted the presence of King Iguru of Bunyoro as clear political signal against Mutebi in whose kingdom the Swazi king was being hosted-see the point? M7 deliberately invited the Swazi king to humiliate Mutebi...to show Mutebi how real kings wield real power which he won't have unless he succumbs to M7's whims.

Question is: Which way Buganda?

-Can you (do you have the capacity/audacity to) fight and defeat M7, Bunyoro, Busoga and perhaps the rest of Uganda, to become sovereign, or do you want to maintain respect for yourself within a united Uganda under a functioning and well-meaning Federal Government. Is the time and tide currently in your favour?

Options entail costs that require a cost-benefit analysis, short of which the future of the kingdom and the respect therewith are in the swings, at the mercy of donor caprice under dictator M7. What is Buganda's take on this situation currently unfolding-remember, M7 has a well laid out, chronological agenda for you, with a perception that you are cowards and opportunists whom he can easily manipulate, exploit, intimidate, blackmail or simply fight and defeat. Some generals in UPDF have already floated the idea that the time for kingdoms is over and they should be abolished.

Why? -because they are parasites. -after transplanting the population with their balala mainly on Buganda soil, NRM can now germandise any elections, so they don't need the Baganda to win subsequent elections.

More public humiliation and blackmail of the Kabaka by M7 remains in the offing as he seeks to dictate to Mengo on how to run its affairs, including how the Kabaka should behave and who should be in his cabinet. May be ISO will even be instructed to vet the Kabaka's men before being appointed; what if M7 demands that the Kabaka himself be appointed by all Baganda through some kind of election or general consensus as he has insinuated for the Katikiro. And yes, he can use his guns to decree, basing on his low opinion of Buganda and the Baganda.

Bwana Makubuya, you are brilliant, THINK OF A ROAD MAP FOR BUGANDA AND ITS SURVIVAL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. M7 is worse for the Kabaka and Buganda than were Amin and Obote combined. Moreover, in Buganda's next negotiations, let nobody be deceived that any alliance with parties or government will ever deliver a sovereign state of Buganda through any sort/type of agreement. NEVER, from what analysis shows today and showed 'yesterday'!! Look at UPC -Kabaka Yeka alliance, Buganda and Amin's return of Mutesa:-a sham; M7-Lule:-a sham; M7-Luwero people:- a sham; M7-Mutebi:-Byoya Byanswa...So, Buganda with who next and when/what differently? ZERO!! Only a viable federal status as the best modus-vivendi for a stable strong Buganda in Uganda.

The only viable deal Buganda will ever attain is a Federal status. The sovereign/independent state of Buganda, from the facts on the ground today and from historical perspectives will and can only be obtained through "politics by other means". (see Machiavelli...however, be ware, 'the Terrorist Act, which M7 has carefully coined around the arrested Ministers and subsequently, the entire Kingdom to scare the Kabaka and other Kingdoms of his ilk)...game over and out Kabisa!!

Please, anyone do remind me if a sovereign Buganda ever results from shere alliances and agreements, if I will still be a live. I will apologise for this wrong analysis.

These are my views from personal life experience reading of dictator M7 who currents reigns over a Buganda and Uganda he despises and willfully enslaves.

God bless you all.

Kahuma

2.

The arrest of those three officials of Mengo and being framed as rebels is to target Kabaka. With out mentioning that group, is to formulate one then they link it to Mengo establishment which is headed by Kabaka. Give it time you will hear.

=====

Re:MORE DETAILS ON THE ARRESTS OF BUGANDA OFFICIALS

Posted by Meli - 2008/07/23 06:59

This goes to Kahuma who is telling us how the Baganda brought him up, nursed, educated, fed and watered him, and gives it as the reason he and his likes won't allow them their God given freedom. Well Kahuma you might have grown up in a Baganda household but believe me living with someone doesn't mean you know him very well. All of you think you do, but you don't. In every part of the world, and during difficult times, there are always weak people who sell their souls

for a few peanuts. It happened in the times of Jesus. Didn't you hear of such during the WWII? It's not something that only the Baganda do. And it has never hindered a determined few to get to where they are going. So stop using such dull arguments thinking you'll intimidate us. You are wasting your time. You don't know where we come from or where we are going or why we do the things we do. We are not as cowardly as you think. Only the devil and those possessed by him would say such a thing about people who cared for you when your own couldn't. You are unappreciative, but you'll not kill our faith, because that's what you are aiming for. We will wrestle our faith from you evil hold, we will fight you all and after that we will keep on welcoming other God's good people. Humanity is way much bigger than just you. We are part of the rest of the freedom loving black world, and you are lagging behind, we are sick and tired of dragging you about. Yes, we with our God on our side are going to fight the biggest modern devils and we will prevail. You are not going to dictate to us what we want, need or what we will or will not do. Sorry, but we already have our God for the job. We don't care what the Sukuma and Kikuyu did, you can go copy their every move if you want to. It's your prerogative, but we think it's a damn pathetic way of living a life. You people are falling over each other to prove that because the Baganda have been welcoming and nice to you, therefore they are cowards and needy and maybe even stupid. This is exactly the same thing that Satan tries to convince people who aspire to do good. In our book, according to our God, goodness is strength. Did you foresee David killing Goliath with a single stone, did you? Well watch out for a rerun. And by the way, we won't need your apology, it's worth nothing, just like your thank you.

=====

Re:MORE DETAILS ON THE ARRESTS OF BUGANDA OFFICIALS

Posted by JeenaJulia - 2008/07/23 07:24

Meli...Meli...Obusungu nga olina buyitilivu?Oba ndaba bubi naye ffena tulumwa olwembeera eliwo kati,nze ndaba nga Kahuma azze okutubila kukyama ate nomukyukila.Kahuma alabye ekitangala ela namanya nti noli gweyali asinza(M7) muntu munafunsi nyoo kwe kumwanika ffena tumanye kikyali.Bwemba nkilabye bubi mumpabule anti noluzungu lwatugirila,ebintu nyinza okuba mbisomye kifula nenge.Akuume God.

=====

Re:MORE DETAILS ON THE ARRESTS OF BUGANDA OFFICIALS

Posted by Astartois - 2008/07/23 15:13

Just for clarity this article was posted on Radio Katwe site and was only sharing it with the connectors. Meli I think your message would make an impact if posted on the Radio Katwe site, do not bite my head off, it's just a suggestion.

=====

Re:MORE DETAILS ON THE ARRESTS OF BUGANDA OFFICIALS

Posted by Balyokwabwe - 2008/07/23 15:27

Kahuma by accusing Baganda at this moment of this and that is irrelevant and disinformation peddled by M7 a hydra-headed monster and his sycophants. Time will tell but M7 should be warned and his TUTSI junta in Kampala that he can never win on BUGANDA.

He may have the black Mambas and guns but the land is BUganda land. No matter what Buganda will prevail !

When he left Rwanda he never came with land in Buganda ! Many have tried before M7 to annex Buganda before and failed

miserably.M7 leave BUganda alone!!!!

=====

Re:MORE DETAILS ON THE ARRESTS OF BUGANDA OFFICIALS

Posted by sabuni - 2008/07/23 17:57

Whoever this KAHIMA might be, his analysis of BUGANDA is a complete blind, biased collection, filled with hate for Buganda. Kahima, just like any of them, (you have seen one of them, you have seen them all) knows nothing about Buganda. Once a "kahima" always a "kahima". You people you will never change or even be realistic, no matter how long you live with Baganda.

M7 Might 'Kill' BUGANDA, But BUGANDA Won't Die - Not Yet

Two months ago, a phone discussion and email exchanges I had with the untiring Andrew Mwenda, chief of the newsmagazine The Independent, ended as an article in his magazine (and got the juices of the CID up, as they felt I had "insulted" the President with my choice of words).

In there, I argued that going on to 2011, Museveni had the option of courting anti-Buganda feeling in parts of the country, to find new sources of support for his president-for-life project. Anti-Buganda feelings, surprisingly, remained quite raw in several parts of the country, but Museveni's regime cleverly stoked them up, by appearing to give the region preferential treatment in his first few years in power.

Anyhow, quite a few people wrote in, puzzled at how exactly Museveni, who based his rebellion in Luweero, the heartland of Buganda, and whose electoral "victories" in the past were delivered by the massive support he enjoyed in the region, could ever end up in an Obote-type relationship with Buganda.

With the arrest of three Buganda kingdom officials on the weekend, and the expectation that more will be picked up in the days to come, there are now fewer puzzled people. All this is truly remarkable because one of the people arrested, lawyer Charles Peter Mayiga, was once considered "too soft" in negotiations with Museveni by hardliners in Mengo, and some of whom even labeled him a traitor.

So is it Museveni who changed, or the likes of Mayiga? The radicals in Buganda were always seen to be too crude, even "ungrateful", in the demands they made upon Museveni for "federo" (a watered down form of federalism), the return of Buganda's vast tracts of "crown" land, and what they saw as Kabaka's diminished status.

The moderates were thought to be better positioned to negotiate concessions from Museveni, and they promised that a gradual approach would eventually deliver Buganda the goods. But Museveni granted them nothing. Even the little they had, he took away. In disarray, moderates like PM Prof. Apolo Nsibambi joined Museveni, and were consigned to a life in political limbo.

Others like Mayiga became louder in their complaints about the central government stabbing Buganda in the back, and outspoken critics in the media. How did we come to this? Since Uganda's independence, and especially Idi Amin's time, the north (especially Acholiland) and Buganda have occupied a complex space in Uganda's politics. It's Buganda's that has changed the most.

Conventional wisdom and stereotype used to have it that Buganda was relatively economically more developed than the rest of the country, so its elite would be reluctant to be engaged in violent politics because they would lose too much property. Also, that because it was the most modern region, its leaders were "corrupted" and so given to cutting deals, they would do a deal with the devil.

After the disputed December 1980 election, all that was proven wrong and thrown in the rubbish bin. It became apparent

that it was, in fact, easier to mobilise an armed rebellion in Buganda precisely because it was once very prosperous.

People who were once rich, feel the pain of dispossession and poverty more than those who were always wretched. Buganda also poses a challenge that other regions don't. For all the claims that Ugandan politics is tribal, in several respects, Buganda doesn't fit the bill. Some of Buganda's grievances are legitimate broad issues in democracies that have moved beyond tribal politics.

Its land rights claim are much like what we see in parts of Asia and Latin America. In Europe, especially in the former Soviet bloc, we are seeing the same cultural arguments about their past kings as we hear about the role of Mutebi. And Buganda's "federo" is more or less the same form of self-determinationist demands one hears from Scotland, Northern Italy, and the Basque regions in France and Spain.

To compound matters, Buganda is aware that it has things every president in Uganda wants - votes, and rich lands. In the 2006 elections, for example, one in every five voters in Uganda came from just four districts; Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka and Mukono. The votes in these four districts, all of them in Buganda, were much higher than all the votes from the northern region.

Because Buganda is, relatively "modern", it has demands that cannot be resolved purely by whoever is in State House giving it "tribal" gifts. It requires the kind of reforms, and policy actions that the Museveni government is incapable of, and that others failed to muster in the past.

Also, Buganda is the one part of the country that has nearly a whole two generations of exiles, as the trek begun in the mid-1960s after the ouster of Kabaka Freddie Mutesa.

The result is that the Buganda Diaspora is Uganda's largest and provides a back-up for the region outside the control of the Uganda government that only the broader north is beginning to establish.

For Museveni, this means you can arrest all the Mayigas but you cannot really break Buganda' political back.

cobbo@nation.co.ke

=====

Re:MORE DETAILS ON THE ARRESTS OF BUGANDA OFFICIALS

Posted by kasajja - 2008/07/23 19:37

Response to Kahuma and Museveni's perception of Baganda as cowardly, opportunistic and agenda less.

If the Baganda are as cowardly as Museveni perceives them, then why did he not start his war to overthrow Obote from his own area of Ankole? It was the Baganda who paid the highest price for the removal of Obote than Banyankole or any other tribe.

I was in Kampala in January 1986 during the fall of the city, and the first faces I saw of Museveni's liberators were Baganda children called Kadogos. Museveni and the so called courageous Banyankole were hiding behind these

Baganda orphans. These Baganda orphans called Kadogos captured the Lubiri barracks. I used to live in Mengo during the fall of Kampala.

If Museveni despises the Baganda as cowards, then why did he and some Banyankole devise a plot to kill Kaggwa who was their best machine gunner? The answer is because they were afraid of him and because he was a Muganda. The most able bodied soldiers and potential Baganda leaders in the NRM have all been systematically eliminated over the years. The names include Mugabi, who was shot at point blank range by Jack Musinguzi on the orders of Museveni. Ahmed Seguya, Sebyala, Captain Musisi, and many others who were all killed on the orders of the so called brave Museveni. Is the reason for the murder of all these people because they were cowardly Baganda? Not at all. The reason is because these people showed incredible courage in the battle field and Museveni became worried about them as potential rivals.

There is no way Museveni could have come to power without the Baganda's support. Why did the NRM have to expel nine Baganda military officers all at the level of Captains at one swoop on fabricated charges that they were planning to assassinate the President? The reason was because he was worried about the Baganda. He knows their courage. Those few Baganda who betray their tribe are not real Baganda. Many people call themselves Baganda, but when they are not. Many Banyarwanda and foreigners who came to Buganda in the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s are now Baganda. Such people cannot have the love for their adopted tribe at heart because they are genetically not Baganda. These are the ones betraying us now.

The easiest way for one to become a Muganda is to call yourself a Mulangira, i.e. Prince or Princess. This is because Balangira do not have a clan, and therefore their lineage is hard to trace. So people like Professor Nsibambi, Tamale Mirundi, Princess Ndagire, Prince Mulondo, the late Mugwanya, Mulwana, may fall in this category. Jealousy and the love for money can be the motivating factor of even close relatives of Kabaka Mutebi like Kakungulu, Mpisi and even Princess Ndagire to betray their King. Offcourse in every tribe there are bound to be Judases. But it is wrong to characterize all Baganda as such.

It is the Baganda who hid Museveni in Luwero. This shows that the Baganda can keep a secret. A Muganda man in Luwero was tortured and even killed, but he never disclosed to the soldiers of Obote where Museveni was hiding.

If Museveni is so courageous and clever as he claims, then he should remove the gun from Uganda politics. He should let the people say what they want without being intimidated and harassed. He should let police and the courts do their work without being tampered with by his intelligence organizations like the CMI.

Museveni being a great coward, he always hides behind the gun. The so called cowardly Baganda are defenceless. But let both sides be equally armed and then see who is a coward and who is not. Had Museveni started his war of liberation in Ankole, and not in Buganda, he would not have succeeded. I know so many Banyankole who were Obote staunch supporters, who used to celebrate with Obote during the heroes day at Bushenyi, who immediately changed sides as soon as Museveni captured power and are now Museveni supporters.

To say that a Muganda will never rule Uganda for a single day is not for Museveni to decide. Man proposes but God disposes. The greatest weakness of the Baganda is their civility. We intended to play the political game according to the rules democracy. The problem is that our enemies are not as civilized as we. When we hope for fair elections, Museveni only thinks about rigging them. I am a hundred percent sure that if elections are held today in Uganda and in a fair environment without intimidation, Museveni can never win any election, unless he resorts to Robert Mugabe's tactics. If DP and FDC are not allowed to campaign in Kampala, and their supporters are harassed, how can you then turn around and call their supporters cowards?

A coward is the person who points a gun to a defenseless person, and then claims to be stronger than him. Adolf Hitler

killed six million Jews, because they were defenseless and not because they were cowards. This does not mean that the Jewish victims of the holocaust were cowards. Let Germany now attack Israel and see if it can defeat it? In the same way Obote humiliated and killed many Baganda, because the Baganda were defenceless. But the army we used to call strong melted away when faced with an equally armed young Baganda orphans called Kadogos. Just our Baganda children called Kadogos sent Basilio Okello and his forces fleeing from Kampala to Gulu.

Museveni's military victory was brought about by the fearless Baganda children who were orphaned in Luwero and elsewhere in Buganda. Without their courage and sacrifice, Museveni and his Banyankole and Bahima clique of tribesmen would never have come to power. The people Museveni is turning around to despise as cowards and opportunists are the ones to whom he owes his Presidency. The day you will lose their support you will go as Obote did. It may take longer but it will happen. The Bible says that "by strength shall no man prevail."

Seezi Sewagaba

=====

Re: MORE DETAILS ON THE ARRESTS OF BUGANDA OFFICIALS

Posted by sabuni - 2008/07/23 20:26

Court orders release of Mengo ministers, govt says no

Breaking News

Written by Edris Kiggundu

Wednesday, 23 July 2008 20:58

Parliament chases away minister over arrests

The Buganda Road Chief Magistrates Court today ordered for the release of the three arrested Mengo officials but government said it will not.

The court ruling follows a petition filed by a group of lawyers that included Kampala Central MP, Erias Lukwago and David Mpanga, Buganda's minister of State for Research, challenging the constitutionality of the detention.

Court agreed with the lawyers saying the three should be released unconditionally because it is unconstitutional to hold someone beyond 48 hours without producing them in court.

The arrested officials are Charles Mayiga, the minister of Information and his deputy, Medard Lubega and Betty Nambooze, the chairperson of Buganda's Central Civic Education Committee.

They are charged with inciting violence, promoting sectarianism and possible links with armed groups.

The court celebrations, however, were short-lived as government maintained the trio will remain in custody—in unknown places—despite the court order.

The Third Deputy Prime Minister, Kirunda Kivejinja, told journalists that the Mengo officials were a threat to national security and will not be produced before court within the mandatory 48 hours.

He refused to be drawn into the nature of the threat.

"We are not like previous governments who abducted people without a trace. The officials will be produced before court any time," he said.

During a press conference where tempers flared, Kirunda refused to reveal, to the inquisitive journalists, where each of the three officials was being held. He just said they were being held in the districts of Kamwenge, Kyenjojo and Bundibugyo. However, The Weekly Observer learnt from other sources that the officials had been moved to Fort Portal, where they will be reportedly tried.

Kivejinja said cabinet was trying to look into the matter and had urged security organs to expedite the investigations.

It is not the first time government has defied court rulings. Last year the High Court granted bail to the suspected Peoples Redemption Army (PRA) rebels but government used its machinery to keep them in detention.

On its part, Mengo insists that if the officials have committed any crime, then they should be arraigned before court.

Tensions between Mengo and central government have escalated.

Some analysts have likened the arrests to the 1966 Kabaka crisis when Prime Minister Milton Obote instructed the army commanded by Idi Amin to invade Sir Kabaka Mutesa II's palace at Lubiri, following allegations that Buganda was amassing guns to fight the central government.

In the city centre, police has been heavily deployed to ensure no riots take place.

Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Committee on Defense and internal affairs today declined to debate a ministerial statement tabled by Matia Kasaija, the State Minister for Internals Affairs, arguing that the ministry should first clarify on the whereabouts of the arrested officials.

For almost two hours, Kasaija pleaded with the committee MPs to allow him deliver the statement but to no avail.

ekiggundu@observer.ug

=====