

## RUBANDA

By Nelson Ahimbisibwe

Six Rubanda district officials have been charged and remanded to Luzira Prison over allegedly embezzling sh107m meant for agriculture activities in Habuhutu-Mugyera town council. This follows a sweeping operation by the Inspectorate of Government (IG) over the alleged mismanagement and theft of public funds.

The suspects were arrested on Monday during an operation led by Noeline Nsungwa, supervisor for ombudsman affairs at the IG's Kabale regional office, after months of investigations.

Those arrested are Benon Kahangi, 48, the district production and marketing officer; Stephen Buregyeya, 46, the senior treasurer; Sixtus Ahabwe, 29, assistant veterinary officer; Owen Atuhaire, 42, former assistant inventory management officer; Wilson Kwizera, 38, assistant agricultural officer; Pamela Musimenta, 29, assistant agricultural officer and Pamela Turinayo, an assistant agricultural officer. Also arrested was Nicholas Karuhanga, 41, director of Hummer Consults Company Limited, a contractor allegedly linked to the fraudulent transactions.

According to a prosecution charge sheet dated February 12, 2026, signed by Brenda Kimbugwe, the manager in charge of prosecutions at the IG and Inspector General of

# Rubanda district officials remanded over sh100m theft



The Rubanda district officials who were arrested for allegedly embezzlement

Government Lady Justice Aisha Batala Naluzze, the suspects face multiple counts of embezzlement, abuse of office and causing financial loss to the government. The alleged offences were committed between January and June 2023.

The charge sheet indicates that between February and March 2023,

Kahangi and Buregyeya allegedly stole sh529,300 from the district account number 3100073137 held in Centenary Bank, to which they had access by virtue of their offices.

In January 2023, Ahabwe and Atuhaire are accused of stealing sh9,778,900 from the same district account. Kwizera and Kahangi

allegedly stole sh9,789,900 for services in Ruhija sub-county. Musimenta and finance officer Peter Turinayo, who remains on the run, are accused of stealing sh9,789,900 meant for agricultural extension activities in Bubaare sub-county.

Fisheries officer Gerald Sibomana, also still at large, and another official

allegedly stole sh9,780,900 that had been allocated for extension services in Nshanjare town council.

The prosecution further alleges that between January and June 2023, Kahangi and Karuhanga siphoned sh67,383,000 out of the district account. The money was allegedly transferred to Karuhanga's company account under Hummer Consults Company Limited for services investigators say were either not delivered or irregularly accounted for.

Preliminary IG findings indicate that several items reportedly procured and paid for under government programmes were never supplied.

## SUSPECTS TRANSFERRED TO KAMPALA

Nsungwa says the suspects have been transferred to Kampala and are expected to be arraigned before the Anti-Corruption Court.

"We are committed to ensuring that public funds are protected. Any official found culpable faces the full force of the law," Nsungwa said, adding that efforts to apprehend the two officials still on the run were ongoing.