

# POLICE ARREST 7,159 SUSPECTS IN TWO MONTHS

PHOTO BY MIRIAM NAMUTEBI

By Sarah Nabakooza

The Uganda Police Force has arrested 7,159 suspects across the country between January and February this year, the deputy Inspector General of Police, James Ocaya, told Parliament yesterday.

Appearing before Parliament's public accounts committee, chaired by Mawogola county legislator Gorreth Namugga, to respond to audit queries for the financial year that ended December 2025, Ocaya said 3,724 of the suspects had already been arraigned before courts of law.

Ocaya said Police has intensified operations to tackle crime in various parts of the country. Within the Kampala metropolitan area, he said Police arrested 3,512 suspects during the two months, of whom 1,935 were arraigned before court.

Police also recovered several exhibits linked to criminal activities, including guns, pangas, housebreaking implements, assorted vehicle parts, motorcycles and drugs, such as marijuana.

Ocaya revealed that individuals, companies and mobile money agents handling large sums of cash without adequate security measures are increasingly becoming targets for criminals. "This has acted as a bait for criminals," he said.

Ocaya informed legislators that the general security situation in the country remains calm and peaceful, with only a few isolated incidents being handled by security agencies. He revealed that crime had reduced by 10.3% in 2025, according to the Police annual crime report expected to be released soon.

Ocaya attributed the reduction to enhanced policing strategies, including the



Front row, L-R: Ocaya, Wunyi and other officials appearing before Parliament's public accounts committee yesterday. (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

sub-county policing model, community engagement and close collaboration with other security agencies.

Police have also intensified patrols and deployments in crime-prone areas, road junctions and other black spots to curb crimes, such as street thefts, vehicle vandalism and attacks by criminal gangs.

## POLICE WELFARE

Looking ahead, Ocaya said the force will continue strengthening crime prevention while improving officers' welfare. He noted that the Police is currently constructing 1,200 housing units in Naguru, although the force still faces a backlog of about 38,000 housing units required for officers across the country

## AUDIT QUERIES RAISED

Among the key concerns raised by the Auditor General, Edward Akol, was the slow implementation of the sub-county policing model, which was introduced in 2020 to extend Police services to rural communities.

The model requires the

## STATISTICS

Police statistics show that the crime rate declined to 427 cases per 100,000 people in 2025, down from 476 cases per 100,000 people recorded in 2024. In total, 196,155 cases were reported in 2025, compared to 218,715 cases in 2024, based on an estimated national population of 45.9 million people.

deployment of 18 officers, three motorcycles, radio communication equipment and a counter phone in each sub-county police station.

According to the Auditor General's report, the programme requires 39,420 officers to cover 2,190 sub-counties and town councils across the country. However, Police statistics

show that only 12,080 (30.6%) of the required personnel have so far been deployed in 20 out of the 32 Police regions.

This means that 12 regions, representing 37.5%, have not yet received any deployments, while the regions with deployments remain understaffed with an

average of about 10 officers per sub-county.

Namugga described the situation as worrying, saying the performance of the model was "alarming" considering the level of staffing and logistical gaps.

Aggrey Wunyi, the Police's under-secretary and accounting officer, acknowledged the shortage of personnel, but said the force had already recruited 10,000 probationer constables, who are currently undergoing training and are expected to be deployed upon completion.

The report noted that the programme requires 6,570 motorcycles to facilitate operations across the 2,190 sub-counties. However, only 3,155 motorcycles (57%) had been distributed, leaving a shortfall of 2,341 motorcycles.

Some regions, including Mt Moroto and Kidepo, the report noted, had not received motorcycles at the time of the audit.

Responding to the query, Wunyi said the Police had since received another 1,000 motorcycles, although delays in registration had slowed their deployment.

Namugga also cited reports of overflowing sewage systems, poor drainage and inadequate maintenance in barracks, such as Nsambya and Mbuya, warning that poor living conditions could undermine the morale and safety of officers.

According to the audit, the force currently has only 1,300 housing units for an

entitled staff population of about 20,000 officers, leaving a deficit of more than 18,700 units.

Wunyi admitted that the force faces a major housing challenge in terms of both quantity and quality of accommodation. He said police had constructed 420 housing units in Naguru barracks and 100 modular apartments, while another 1,200 units are currently under construction.

In addition, he said 2,000 housing units are being built countrywide under the sub-county policing model, while construction of another 120 apartments in Entebbe and Jinja barracks is ongoing.

Police also plans to construct 1,200 housing units in Kireka, 2,400 units in Nsambya and 600 units for the fire brigade, with another 1,600 units expected to start in the next financial year.

Namugga also questioned the Police about the presence of civilians living in the barracks.

But Wunyi said many of them were adult children of police officers, who continue staying there on humanitarian grounds, but said the force has advised that individuals above 25 years should no longer reside there.

The committee further examined the operations of the Marine Police Unit, which had a budget of sh16.69b, but only sh804.3m (4.5%) was released.

Auditors noted that the unit operates with 316 personnel across 33 detachments covering the country's major water bodies. Namugga questioned the low level of funding and asked Police to explain the limited resource allocation to marine policing.

In response, Wunyi said the force had prioritised the procurement of new boats and other capital equipment.



Namugga chairs Parliament's public accounts committee