

## Regional News

The baby went missing on July 19, 2025, shortly after its mother underwent a c-section operation at Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital.

BY TONNY ABET

**N**ine months after a newborn girl disappeared from Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital, the management has issued a statement, alleging that the mother, upon discharge, mistakenly handed the baby to a stranger she believed was a relative.

This new information contrasts with the previous narrative by the parents, Ivan Sserumansi and Namulondo Ngunazabuula (Zanula), that a stranger had disappeared with their baby from the hospital ward in July 2025.

In an April 28 statement, the hospital's director acknowledged that 20-year-old Namulondo delivered at their facility in July 2025 and was accorded "appropriate care".

"Upon discharge, the mother reportedly handed over the baby to a person whom she initially identified as a cousin from Nansana, Wakiso District. However, later it was reported that the said person had disappeared with the baby," the hospital director, Dr Robert Ssentongo, stated.

He said immediately after the matter was reported, the hospital activated its internal emergency response procedures. But recently, the couple told the

# New details emerge on missing Kayunga baby

media that the processes to help them recover the baby have been slow amid frustrations.

Dr Ssentongo said: "The incident was promptly escalated to hospital security, senior management, and subsequently to the Uganda Police Force, who are cur-

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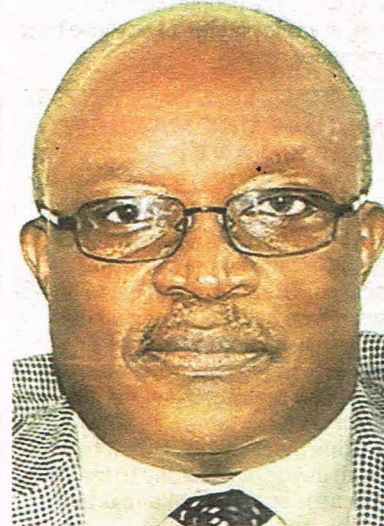
unknown female stranger in the ward volunteered to carry the baby for her, but unfortunately, she disappeared with it."

- Mr Ivan Sserumansi, baby's father

**Hospital's response.**

The hospital takes patient safety, particularly that of mothers and newborns, with the utmost seriousness. We wish to assure the public that we are cooperating fully with investigative authorities and will continue to support all efforts aimed at resolving this matter," -

Dr Robert Ssentongo, the director of Kayunga hospital



Dr Robert Ssentongo, Kayunga Hospital Director. PHOTO/COURTESY

rently handling investigations."

The director also said preliminary findings from internal reports indicate that the mother had entrusted the baby to an individual known to her before the disappearance.

"At the time, the individual was perceived by both the mother and her attendants to be a relative or close associ-

ate, and there was no indication to hospital staff of any immediate risk," he stated.

Dr Ssentongo called for calm among members of the general public so that ongoing investigations can proceed without speculation or misinformation.

"The hospital takes patient safety, particularly that of mothers and newborns, with the utmost seriousness. We wish to assure the public that we are cooperating fully with investigative authorities and will continue to support all efforts aimed at resolving this matter," he said.

According to the couple's earlier account, Ms Namulondo underwent a caesarean section on July 19, 2025, after developing complications during labour.

Mr Sserumansi, said when Ms Namulondo was still in pain shortly after delivery, an unidentified woman in the maternity ward reportedly volunteered to help carry the baby and then disappeared with the child.

The couple said they reported the incident to hospital authorities, but were partly blamed for handing over the newborn to a stranger. The matter sparked anger among residents and relatives, with some accusing the hospital of negligence and failing to act with suf-

### OTHER INCIDENTS

On March, 15, 2026, an imposter allegedly stole a three-day-old baby from Kiganda Health Centre IV. Reports showed that an unidentified woman entered the postnatal ward disguised as a medical officer. She moved around, attending to patients and reviewing their treatment notes. After picking up the baby and reviewing the treatment notes, she told the mother that her baby's condition was deteriorating and prescribed medication. She reportedly gave the mother Shs10,000 to buy the drugs from a nearby pharmacy. When the mother left for the pharmacy, the imposter fled with the baby.

Three years ago, the police reported that they had recovered a day-old baby who had been stolen from Mityana hospital on October 25, 2022 at around 4pm.

It is alleged that the newborn baby was stolen from its 20-year-old mother, four hours after delivery.

ficient urgency.

"My wife failed to give birth normally and was operated on, and a baby girl was removed. However, as the mother was still in pain, an unknown female stranger in the ward volunteered to carry the baby for her, but unfortunately, she disappeared with it," Mr Sserumansi said.