



Lira High Court and Chief Magistrates' Court, where the accused was charged from on Monday

# KOLE CID OFFICER CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED RAPE, REMANDED

By Hudson Apunyo

A court in Lira district has remanded a 39-year-old detective after charging him with the attempted rape of a 19-year-old student.

Detective Assistant Superintendent of Police Dickens Louis Ebong, who has been in charge of the Criminal Investigations Department in Kole, was on Monday charged with attempted rape and remanded to Lira Prison until today, when he is due to appear again.

The charges were read by Lira senior principal magistrate Jane Tibagonzeka.

According to the charge sheet, Ebong is accused of attempting to rape a Senior Five student of Akalo Comprehensive Secondary School in Kole after allegedly luring her to his residence with the promise of giving her a history book.

The student told the Police that Ebong convinced her to go to his residence to collect a history book that she wanted to read:

The student told Police: "I trusted him because he was a police officer. I never imagined he would do this to me. He spoke like a good person, someone I could even seek counsel from."

The girl said when she arrived at Ebong's residence, he grabbed her with the intention of forcing her into sex.

"When I entered, he pulled me inside quickly and locked the door. He told me that he

had lied about the book. He said he just wanted me," she said.

At this point, the student said she resisted Ebong's attempts.

"He pointed a pistol at me and told me not to make any sound. I feared for my life," she said.

By this time, neighbours had gathered outside Ebong's house after hearing the girl cry out.

"He panicked," she said. "He told me to dress quickly, then forced me under the bed."

She claims he warned her not to say anything.

"If you speak, I will shoot you," he is quoted as saying.

## LOCAL LEADERS INTERVENE

Richard Okello Ojok, the LC3 chairperson of Kole town council, said he responded after receiving an urgent call from a local leader.

"The girl's father told me clearly, 'My daughter is inside that house,'" Ojok said.

After nearly 30 minutes of waiting and growing tension, Ebong reportedly emerged from the house, leaving the victim behind.

"He was sweating, confused, and without a shirt," Ojok said.

"But he denied there was any girl inside."

However, Ojok called the girl's phone number to establish her whereabouts.

"The first time she did not pick up. The second time she answered — and she was crying," he said.

"She told me, 'chairman, I am inside his house.'"

## DISCOVERY AND ARREST

The house of the suspect, Dickens Louis Ebong, was opened and the student was found inside.

"That is when the truth came out," Ojok said.

He said the community expected Ebong's superiors to arrest him, but this was not the case.

"We expected an immediate arrest at the scene. Instead, he was allowed to drive himself under escort."

North Kyoga regional Police spokesperson Patrick Jimmy Okema said investigations have been carried out and that the case is now before the courts of law.