

CRIME | Court released him on a Sh1.5 million bond on Friday but he could not raise it by 5pm

Mbuvi spends weekend in custody

The MP is facing two counts of receiving money by pretences

BY ANGIRA ZADOCK
zochiang@ke.nationmedia.com

Makadara MP Gidion Mbuvi spent the weekend in police custody. He was released on a Sh1.5 million bond on Friday but could not raise it by 5pm.

The MP, popularly known as Sonko, was booked at the Kileleshwa Police Station on Friday night and is expected to process the bond today.

Kibera chief magistrate Cecilia Githua released Mr Mbuvi on bail following an application by five lawyers led by Cecil Miller, Paul Muite and Cliff Ombeta.

The court had twice refused to release him on bond.

The magistrate also lifted a warrant of arrest issued against him seven years ago for jumping bail in a Sh18.1 million case.

Chief Inspector Joseph Musyoka did not object to the bail application.

Mr Mbuvi is charged with fraudulently obtaining Sh500,000 from Ms Patience Chepchumba Kogo in Mombasa on November 24, last year.

In the second count, he is alleged to have conspired to defraud Tile Carpet Centre Ltd of Sh2.8 million on August 16, 2006.

The cases will be heard on December 28, and February 1, respectively.

Mr Mbuvi, who only joined national politics few months ago, vied on a Narc Kenya ticket and beat former MPs Dick Wathika and Reuben Ndolo

by nearly 3,000 votes. However, as soon as he was sworn in, controversy surrounding his past arose, but he dismissed it as an attempt to tarnish his name.

The legislator has been accused of, among other things, escaping from lawful custody, fraud, and forging documents to acquire prime land in Mombasa.

The new Constitution bars people facing criminal charges from seeking or holding public office — until they are cleared of wrongdoing.

BACKGROUND

Right to bail is absolute

■ Bail refers to property or money given as surety that a person released from custody will return at an appointed time.

■ Under the new Constitution right to bail is absolute. However, the court may refuse to grant bail if it might interfere with the case.

■ The person loses the freedom when they fail to honour subsequent court summons. A warrant of arrest is issued and the bond is cancelled, meaning they shall remain in custody until the case is heard and determined.



HEZRON NJIROGE | NATION

Supporters of Makadara MP Gidion Kikoko Mbuvi protest at the Kibera Law Courts last week. The MP spent the weekend in police custody after failing to process a Sh1.5 million bond by close of business on Friday.

Uganda and Kenya in arms mop-up drive

BY NATION CORRESPONDENT

A new campaign to disarm pastoralists in Northern Kenya has been launched, this time in co-ordination with Uganda.

Cabinet ministers and senior security officials from Kenya and Uganda met last Friday in Kacheliba, near the Ugandan border, to launch the cross-border initiative.

The aim of Dumisha Amani Phase Three is to reduce acts of banditry by mopping up illicit arms.

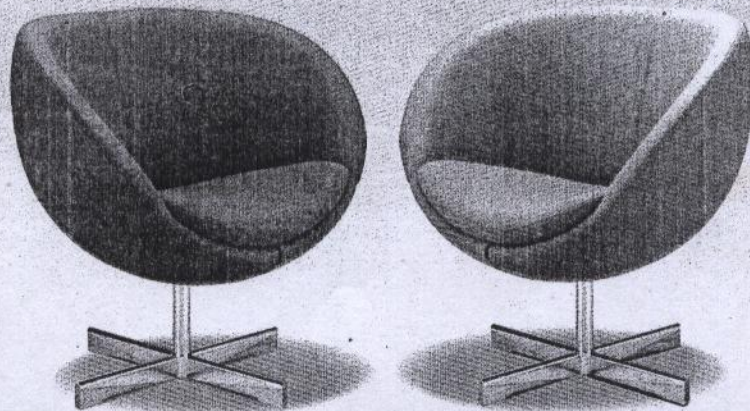
"In Kenya, rustling and banditry have been on the increase, especially in the North Rift and North Eastern Province," Security assistant minister Orwa Ojodeh said.

Pool resources

The assistant minister led the Kenyan team that included Police Commissioner Mathew Geere, Administration Police Commandant Kinuthia Mbugua, Defence assistant minister David Musila and Mr Boaz Kaino, the chairman of Parliament's Select Committee on Cattle Rustling. Uganda had 16 delegates.

"We have to do (disarmament) simultaneously with Uganda. If we do it without the involvement of the Ugandan government, it would be an exercise in futility because most of the guns come from the Ugandan side," Mr. Ojodeh said.

Imperial Bank now open in Riverside



Imperial Bank's 14th branch promises you more royal treatment, more convenience, more excellence. Come experience more at our new branch located on 1st Floor, Riverside Green Suite, Riverside Drive.

NAIROBI: Head Office - Lower Hill/Bunyala Road Junction: Tel. 2874000 Fax. 2719705 • IPS Building Branch - Kimathi Street • Industrial Area Branch - Bamburi Rd
• Karen Branch - Cross Roads Mall • Upper Hill Branch - Upper Hill • Parklands Branch - Regal Plaza

MOMBASA: Imperial Bank Building - Kaunda Avenue • Changamwe Branch - Refinery Place

MALINDI • ELDORET • DIANI • KILIFI • WATAMU • THIKA

info@imperialbank.co.ke • www.imperialbank.co.ke



Looking after your interest!