

Defao given two weeks to pay hotel debt

By NATION Correspondent

Congolese musician General Defao, who is facing Sh594,400 fraud charges, has up to May 27 to pay the money.

Lawyer Cecil Miller yesterday told a Kibera court that negotiations were taking place with Kilimani's Palacina Residential Hotel to settle the debt.

He said an agreement was about to be reached and asked for two more weeks to settle the matter.

Mr Miller was making an application for adjournment in a case in which Defao had earlier denied the charge.

The hotel's general manager, Mr Macksoud A. Macksoud, confirmed what the lawyer said. He said he had no problem with the court giving them more time to look for money.

Kyanguli deaths drama

Suspect tells of his sorrow in alleged confession

By PAMELA CHEPKEMEI

A suspect in the Kyanguli murder case apologised for the deaths of 67 students in a dormitory fire last year.

"I apologise for not giving the information in advance and blame myself for the deaths of the students in Kyanguli," Felix Mambo Ngumbao said.

Mambo's apology is contained in a statement which was read to the trial court yesterday by Inspector Roy Odipo.

Mambo stated that the arson would not have occurred if he had taken "measures seriously."

Mambo and Davies Otieno Onyango are standing trial before Mr Justice Robert Mutitu for allegedly killing their colleagues on the night of March

25 and 26 at Kyanguli High School, Machakos District.

The statement also gave a detailed account of how Mambo and Onyango planned the arson.

On March 23, 2001, Onyango told Mambo of his plan to burn one of the boys' dormitory so that the school could close early, said the statement.

"I agreed to burn it as long as nobody would get hurt in the process," Mambo said.

The two calculated the items to be bought for the "mission" and each contributed money.

Onyango left the school on March 24 with the basketball team for Machakos Boys where games were being held and was joined later by Mambo.

Mambo had asked for permission to

buy medicine because he was suffering from asthma.

The two left Machakos Boys for town on foot, where they bought jerry cans for carrying petrol.

Mambo said Onyango inquired from him on March 25 afternoon whether he had fare to Nairobi because he would burn the upper boys dormitory.

They attempted to burn the dormitory at 7.30 pm but a watchman spotted them. Onyango, he said, vowed to accomplish his mission.

He was later awoken up by some students who told him the dormitory was on fire. "I realised that Onyango had accomplished his mission as I and my colleagues watched the fire from the window of the dormitory," said Mambo. The hearing continues.

Man charged for failure to give bribe, court is told

By NATION Correspondent

A policeman charged a suspect with tax evasion only after a bribery deal had gone sour, a court was told.

The detective investigating a multi-million shilling tax scandal demanded a Sh1.5 million bribe from Mr Mohammed Twahir Mohammed alias Babadi Kipara to help him avoid being arrested.

Senior Superintendent J. Maritim allegedly asked for the bribe in a case in which Mr Mohammed, a clearing and forwarding agent, was said to have failed to pay duty amounting to Sh6,894,193 at Kilindini Port.

The suspect's lawyer, Mr Taib Ali Taib, told Mr Justice David Onyancha that when his client declined to pay the bribe, police charged him with the offence in January.

"The criminal case preferred against my client is merely to persecute him for having refused to give out a bribe," the lawyer told the High Court sitting in Mombasa.

Mr Taib was making submissions during the hearing of a case in which the Attorney General has applied to have Mr Mohammed's bail set aside. The orders were issued on July 18.

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