

Police links Makerere students to strikes in other universities

By Nelson Kiva

The Police is investigating a group of students at Makerere University accused of masterminding strikes in other universities.

The Police spokesperson, Fred Enanga, told journalists during the weekly Police briefing in Kampala, that a group of students was being investigated over alleged links with strikes in several other universities.

"There is a force at Makerere University involved in rolling out strikes. The Police has managed to get the list of the students involved and we are investigating them," Enanga said.

He added that the same group had planned strikes at Kyambogo University and Makerere University Business School (MUBS) Nakawa, among other universities.

"Political actors and activists appear to be behind this. We suspect that they have an intention to discredit the Government and security forces," he said.

Security forces and students of Makerere University clashed after the latter went on strike to protest a 15% tuition policy approved by the University Council last week.

The suspicious actors, according to Enanga, have been channelling funds to finance the acts of civil disobedience.

Without providing evidence, Enanga



Enanga (centre) with and the Kampala Metropolitan Police deputy spokesperson, Luke Owoyesigire, after addressing journalists at the Central Police Station Kampala, yesterday. Photo by Betty Musasizi

said: "We have discovered a mobile money outlet in Wandegaya where these funds were being channelled to

the group in order to cause mayhem in universities."

Some sections of the public have

criticised the security forces for the violent crackdown on protests at Makerere University last week.

The Police alleges that of the 39 who were arrested, seven were non-students.

Enanga said this partly justified the Police's assertion that non-students were ferried into Makerere through the porous points of the university to foment violence.

The Police identified the non-students as, Deo Lumala, an artist on Nasser Road; George Kaliisa, who owns a boutique in Kawempe; Derrick Otim, Fahadi Ssenyonga, Tony Kalangila, David Baliyo and Jesero Okiroru.

"We also arrested Polly Bandola, the former chairperson of Mitchell Hall and one of his colleagues only identified as Batte," Enanga said.

"The issue of non-students being involved in the protests at Makerere is being investigated in order to establish their motive. We want to know if there is an under-hand," Enanga added.

He added that another student identified as Ssezi Mutatinwa was arrested for allegedly spreading negative propaganda and fake news against security forces and the university administration in order to incite violence.

The Police was yesterday forced to beef up security at Makerere after the weekend calm.

Enanga said this followed intelligence information that the students were planning to strike again.