

BY JULIET KIGONGO

KAMPALA. The Nakawa Chief Magistrate's Court has sentenced a 20-year-old Senior Six student to six months in prison after he pleaded guilty to two counts of malicious information under the Computer Misuse Act.

Edison Ssemugenyi, who was arrested while preparing for his final examinations this year, appeared before Chief Magistrate Esther Nyadoi for sentencing yesterday.

He had earlier pleaded guilty to Count One and Count Three, both relating to the publication of malicious information on his TikTok account @iam_edson. He denied the second count of hate speech, for which the trial will begin on January 6, 2026.

While delivering her ruling, Magistrate Nyadoi acknowledged Edison's young age and his decision not to contest the charges he admitted to.

"He has not wasted court's time by pleading guilty, he is also a young man who was in Senior Six and doing his final exams when he was arrested in this matter and I believe he can change," she said.

The magistrate, however, stressed that despite his youth, the offences were serious and called for punishment.

"For that to happen, he needs to be

S6 student jailed over malice against Museveni, son

punished though not with a deterrent punishment as prayed for by the State because of what I have explained above," she added.

Case

According to the prosecution, Ssemugenyi used his TikTok platform between August and November 2025 to spread false information on President Museveni's health and Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba's sexual orientation.

Both statements were labelled as knowingly false and harmful.



A photomontage of President Museveni (left) and Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba

SIMILAR CHARGES

In October, 28-year-old Vincent Ngabo, a Rwandan by nationality and resident of Rubaga Division in Kampala, also a manicurist at Mabirizi Complex in Kampala, was remanded to prison on allegations of burying President Museveni's campaign poster underground and engaging in hate speech.

In August, the Entebbe Senior Magistrate Grade One, Edgar

Tibayeita Tusiime, convicted a shoe hawkler and National Unity Platform (NUP) supporter, Juma Musuuza, alias Madubarah, on six counts: three counts of hate speech and three counts of malicious information against President Museveni, Speaker Anita Among, and First Son Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba.

In November 2024, two youth were remanded to prison for allegedly spreading hate speech

and malicious information against President Museveni, his son, and three NRM-learning artistes through the short-video sharing platform, TikTok. They are David Ssengozi, alias, Lucky Choice and Isaiah Ssekagiri.

The two were jointly charged alongside one Julius Tayebwa, who was arraigned in court recently and remanded to Kigo Prison over the same offences.

Magistrate Nyadoi also noted that although the law provides for an option of a fine for the offences, she found it inappropriate in this case.

"I also note that the sentence as provided for in the law provides an option for a fine. However, given the circumstances of the offense, I find that option does not abide given the person is a fountain of the defence forces by virtue of their positions. They deserve to be respected rather than spreading malicious information," she ruled.

She then sentenced Ssemugenyi to six months' imprisonment to run concurrently for the two counts he pleaded guilty to.

Branding Museveni a thief

The remaining charge of hate speech stems from allegations that Ssemugenyi posted content branding the President a thief, which the State says was likely to degrade, ridicule or promote hostility against the Head of State.

Ssemugenyi was sent to Luzira Prison to begin serving his sentence as he awaits further proceedings on the remaining charge.