

Police detain man over kidnap of six-year-old boy

BY BENSON TUMUSIIME

KAMPALA. Police have arrested a 25-year-old man in connection with the alleged kidnapping of a six-year-old boy, following a week-long manhunt that involved tracking the suspect through his social media activity.

The suspect, a shamba boy employed by Mr Emmanuel Tumwesigye, a resident of Kawempe Division, Kampala City, was arrested in Busukuma on Gayaza-Kiwenda Road in Nansana Municipality, Wakiso District last Friday.

The incident occurred on December 12 when the suspect allegedly left home with the child and went to an unknown location, prompting the family to alert police.

Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson Racheal Kawala said security agencies immediately launched a hunt

for the suspect, who went into hiding while posting videos on TikTok.

“Through analysis of the suspect’s TikTok videos, security agencies were able to trace his movements and successfully recover the victim,” Ms Kawala said.

Seven days after his disappearance, the boy was found abandoned in a house in Busukuma, Nansana Municipality, Wakiso District, where the suspect had reportedly been staying. The suspect fled the scene, but security agencies continued tracking him and arrested him two days later in the same area.

The suspect is detained at Kira Division Police headquarters and is facing charges of kidnap. The suspect is expected to be produced in court this week.

The boy was reunited with his parents.

Last year, the police recorded a total of 245 kidnap cases up from 219 cases in 2023.