

By Simon Masaba

Police have arrested two bodaboda riders, who allegedly took advantage of the trust put in them by the parents of two young girls to transport them to school and instead defiled them.

Police are now detaining 27-year-old Ali Sentongo and his colleague, 25-year-old Shafic Nsubuga for defiling the girls aged 13 and 15 respectively.

Ssentongo and Nsubuga had been assigned to transport the girls on a daily basis to a school in Ndeese, Mukono district.

Addressing journalists

at the Police headquarters in Naguru yesterday, Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson Racheal Kawala described the case as a disturbing betrayal of parental trust.

"The suspect broke the trust of the parents. Rather than take the child to school, he would reportedly divert her and sexually abuse her," Kawala said.

Sentongo's alleged crimes came to light on February 24 this year when he was trailed



Racheal Kawala

and reportedly caught in the act. Police investigations further revealed that Sentongo's

# Two bodaboda riders arrested for defiling school girls

## BETWEEN THE LINES

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misconduct extended beyond one victim.

He is accused of transporting another 15-year-old girl, a friend of his victim and handing her over to Nsubuga, who

allegedly also defiled her.

Kawala warned parents and guardians against trusting transporters without proper vetting and urged families to closely monitor the daily movements of their children.

Veronica Watsembe, a security expert, said defilement cases reflect systemic gaps in child protection, noting that defilement often thrives where informal arrangements go unchecked.

"Many families rely on bodaboda riders without

background checks or formal agreements. Communities should establish local registration systems for riders transporting children and create monitoring mechanisms involving schools and parents," Watsembe said.

She called for open communication in families, saying children must feel safe to speak up when something is wrong. "Swift prosecution also sends a strong deterrent message to offenders," she added.