

How can teens remain safe amid rising insecurity?

For many families, safety is no longer something to be taken for granted, but rather something that is actively being negotiated each day.

BY DAPHINE NAKABIRI

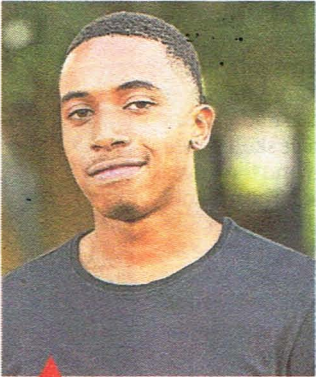
As fear continues to steadily creep into our daily life, reports of rising house break-ins, deadly shootings, unexplained fires, and both day and night robberies by panga-wield-

ing thugs, indicate that as a country, we are grappling with a wave of insecurity that can no longer be ignored.

Last week, the police announced the arrest of more than 7,000 suspects in ongoing operations, a figure that underscores the scale of concern.

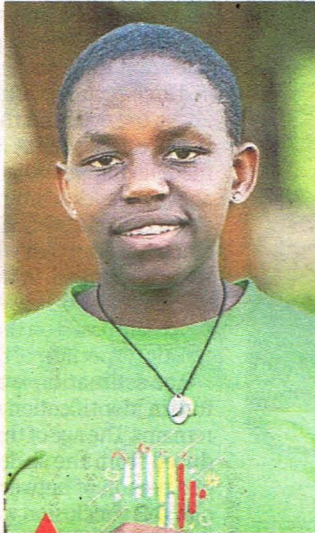
As students commute to school, hang out with friends, and navigate social media spaces, thinking carefully about your personal safety is vital.

As such, students share the practical steps you can take to stay alert, protected, and prepared amid the rising insecurity.



Gerald Mirembe Ainomugisha S.4
St Charles Lwanga International School, Kakiri

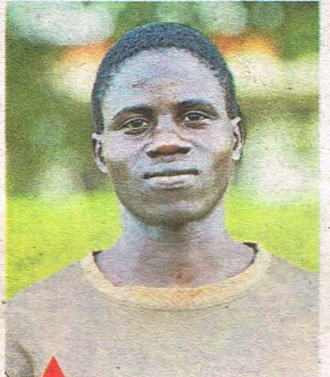
Keep valuables and money discreet to reduce the risk of being targeted by thieves. Do not move at night unless in company of an adult.



Gloria Namutebi Kizito S.4

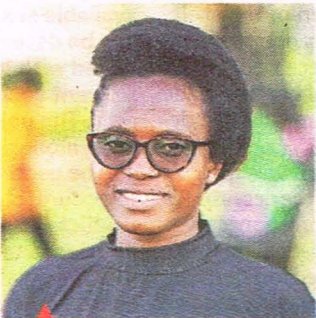
Mount of Olives, Kakiri

Learn some basic self-defence and safety skills as this knowledge or awareness training can boost your confidence and preparedness in risky situations.



Jonathan Sevume, S.4
St Mbaaga's College, Nadangira

Walk in groups with friends, particularly after school activities to lower the risk of being targeted.



Oliva Mirembe S.6
Mount of Olives, Kakiri

Resist peer pressure and the temptation of bribery as those with ill intentions often use them to lure you into criminal acts.



Robinah Jesca Achieng S.5

St Charles Lwanga International, Kakiri

Beware of your surroundings, notice unusual movements, and trust instincts. Also avoid distractions such as walking while deeply engrossed on your phones, especially in isolated areas.



Catherine Babirye Nabadda, S.4
Mount of Olives, Kakiri

Limit posting real-time locations, school details, or home addresses online. Also learn to delay posts and keep your social media accounts private.



Swabur Wamala S.2
Bbalibaseka S.S

Adhere to curfew times and inform your parents or guardians about your whereabouts.



Shadia Nalukwago S.4
Bbalibaseka S.S

Avoid shortcuts and use well-lit, busy routes when walking home from school to reduce vulnerability.