

Defao freed on Sh200,000 bail

But musician is remanded in prison after he fails to secure sureties

By NICHOLAS NGOLYO

Congolese musician General Defao has been remanded at Industrial Area Prison after he failed to secure a Sh200,000 bond with two Kenyan sureties.

The king of "Kiwanzenzu" dancing style, described by his lawyers as having a "fanatical" following in Kenya, is facing Sh594,400 fraud charges.

Lawyers Cecil Miller and Cliff Ombeta successfully applied for bond before Kibera Senior Principal Magistrate Wanjiru Karanja saying that the

musician has four concerts in Eldoret, Nakuru, Mombasa and Kisumu.

Applying for bail, Mr Miller said that if his client was denied bail, it would interfere with the business of his 12-member band and concert promoters.

In her ruling, Mrs Karanja said she had considered the defence lawyers' application that their client was diabetic and suffered from high blood pressure.

Mr Miller had earlier produced doctors letters to confirm the musician is on treatment and special diet. He said there were receipts to prove that drugs were bought.

The lawyer said Defao's medical condition may get worse in remand.

The magistrate said the prosecution had argued that they feared the musician could abscond if released on bail.

"I have allowed bond with very stiff conditions. You will be released on a Sh200,000 bond with two Kenyan sureties in the same amount," she said and ordered that he deposit his passport in court.

But the musician was unable to obtain the sureties immediately.

The case was fixed for hearing on April 10.

Defao allegedly incurred the debt at Kilimani's Palacina Residential Hotel between October and March by pretending he could pay for the services, the prosecutor, Chief Inspector William Kemboi, told the court.

Mr Miller told the court that it was unfair for Mr Kemboi to say that his client had no fixed abode, adding that Defao was an international entertainer who could not jump bail.

The other members of the band were being investigated and might be charged together with Defao, Mr Kemboi had earlier told the court.

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