

BAMANYA HAPPY'S CORRECTIONAL STORY

I am **Bamanya Happy**. I come from, Kakabala Sub County in Kihumba village, Kyegegwa District

In 2013, I took my shoes to a local cobbler but after repairing (working) on my shoe he let it in a sack on the veranda among other shoes. The following day I was committed and could not spare time to pick it. The robbery took advantage and untied the sack and put out many shoes including mine. They went ahead to use me for fulfilling their missions and left it behind after robbing and rapping one Lady who was coming from a night club. When the lady chased them, they dropped the shoes. The Police took them as exhibits used on the scene. Police used sniffer dogs to hunt for the criminals. The Dogs came up to my house indicating that I was involved in the said criminal case. On interrogation, I accepted the shoes not knowing that they had been used wrongly. I was arrested and taken to a prison in **Fort portal District**. In the same year, I was taken to the High Court in Fort portal which used the circumstantial evidence to convict me and sentenced me and I was **imprisoned for to 40 years**.

Immediately after my sentencing, I was taken to Luzira upper prison. I looked at the situation of the place and I got scared. But when I saw that there were so many things I looked for what to start with which weren't easy at all.

I first went into school and I started in primary Four but I was stopped that most of the time that needed for school I couldn't get it and even my file could give me worries since 40 years were too many for me and there I had to give up on education.

I decided to learn vocational jobs for example tailoring and I focused on tailoring since it could take away my worries and I gave it more time.

I have gained experience in tailoring machines and I can make any designs of clothes for example uniforms of soldiers of higher ranks, lower ranks, flags, east Africa prisons, Police, Presidential among others.

According to what I have learnt, I have enough experience and I can now start my own workshop and to become an important person in my family and the country at large. I have learnt to be determined that I can do every job.

In **2016** September, I went to court and they reduced on the **sentence of 40 years to 20 years** and I continued to appeal to high court to reduce on the years.

All I want is to be released so that I can start my own businesses such as tailoring where I gained more experience. I will be very grateful.