

Police block bid to hold Ugenya CDF protest rally

BY NATION CORRESPONDENT

Security officers yesterday cordoned off a venue where youth leaders intended to demonstrate against alleged misuse of Ugenya CDF funds.

The officers sealed off the Ugunja Kamukunji grounds as the youths threatened to go ahead with the rally.

The rally was banned at the last minute following a top security meeting.

Armed officers, led by Siaya OCPD Stephen Cheteka, DCIO Kariuki Ngugi and Ukwala OCS Alice Kimeli, kept vigil at the proposed venue for the better part of the day as tension mounted in the town.

Ugenya MP and Lands

minister James Orengo, who met some of the youths at his constituency office in the morning, was at pains to explain the alleged misuse of more than Sh10 million as was reported by the National Tax Payers Association (NTA).

The NTA report ranked Ugenya last in how CDF funds were used between 2007/2008 financial year.

Mr Orengo defended his CDF office from blame, arguing that the funds were squandered by the previous office holders.

The minister accused his rivals of trying to tarnish his reputation. "I have been at the forefront fighting corruption and I cannot accept the vice to mushroom in my office during my tenure," he said.