

Quack in court for lack of vet documents

BY RUSHDIE OUDIA

A quack vet who claimed to be able to bring back to life the dead Northern White Rhino – Sudan – was charged in a Kisumu court.

Mr Walter Ochien'g Ouma, 25, faced three counts of practising veterinary medicine without being registered by Kenya Veterinary Board, unlawfully being in possession of injectable poisons, and failing to keep the poisons in safe custody.

Mr Ouma had claimed he could prevent the extinction of the white rhino Sudan, which died last week, by cloning another young one with a similar genetic make-up.

"I can prevent the extinction according to my genetic engineering knowledge," said Mr Ouma.

Mr Ouma was arrested on Monday at Kanyamedha in Kisumu West while castrating a dog during an operation spearheaded by Kenya Veterinary Board Western regional coordinator Amutete Ekhuya.

Dr Ekhuya said the suspect does not have documents licensing him to administer veterinary medicines and that some of the scientific terms he uses don't exist in veterinary neurology or neuro-surgery.

"To practise, you must be qualified and must be registered by the veterinary board," said Dr Ekhuya.

He added that Mr Ouma is the sixth to be arrested in Kisumu, operating without the required qualifications.

Other cases have been in Holo and



Walter Ouma in a Kisumu court where he was charged with practising veterinary medicine without a licence.

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Kiboswa in 2016, and two in Sondu last year.

The board acted following public outcry over Mr Ouma who had been posting his activities and purported scientific researches on Facebook since 2014. Mr Ouma has been the talk of town, receiving praise and criticism in equal measure.

When he appeared before Winam Resident Magistrate Catherine Njalale, he pleaded guilty to all the charges, but denied having failed to keep poisons safely.

"I accept that I did all the things I have been accused of. But I am only a student who was helping a colleague to remove a bone that had been swallowed by a dog," said Mr Ouma.