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Ugandan Citizen Sentenced for Aggravated Identity Theft

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that Pius Mayanja, 22, of Uganda, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Portland to imprisonment for 12 months and one day and 1 year supervised release for aggravated identity theft. Mayanja pleaded guilty on August 21, 2008.

According to court records, in September of 2007 Mayanja, who had overstayed the temporary visa that permitted him to visit the United States from Uganda, used the Maine driver's license and social security card of Thomas Kasenge to obtain employment. Kasenge was a fellow Ugandan citizen and a lawful permanent resident of the United States. Mayanja remained employed under Kasenge's name until his arrest in March of 2008.

Further investigation later revealed that Kasenge had willingly provided Mayanja with his driver's license and social security card, with the understanding that Mayanja would pay Kasenge for use of the documents in obtaining employment. Kasenge was later charged with aiding and abetting Mayanja's criminal activity. On February 13, 2009, after a two-day trial, a jury found Kasenge guilty of aiding and abetting social security fraud, aiding and abetting employment verification fraud, and aiding and abetting aggravated identity theft. Kasenge is awaiting sentencing.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration

and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Special Agent-in-Charge Bruce M. Foucart of ICE's Office of Investigations in Boston said, "Fraudulently using someone else's identity in order to unlawfully gain employment in the United States will not be tolerated. ICE takes very seriously the responsibility to investigate fraud and restore integrity to our nation's immigration system."

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