

Onyonka 'denied shooting order'

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THE former minister for economic planning and development, Dr. Z. Onyonka, in a second statement made to the police on September 29, last year, denied ever having given instructions to his former bodyguard, Francis Masai Ndirangu, to shoot Uhuru Ndege.

This was stated yesterday in the Kisumu High Court by the Nyanza deputy criminal investigation officer, Mr. Elkana Chituyi, when he testified in the case in which Onyonka, Ndirangu and three other people are jointly accused of having murdered Uhuru Ndege, before last year's general elections in Kisii district.

Following the incident Onyonka made two separate statements to police, the second of which was yesterday produced in court. The first statement was produced last week.

Producing the second, Chituyi said Onyonka had made it at the Kisumu railway station three days after Uhuru's death.

The statement which was read out in the court stated; "I don't know the person who was murdered. I only learnt

of it yesterday at Suneka chiefs centre. This was the first time I heard that some people from Nyangina area had been shot."

The statement went on: "I asked Ndirangu whether he had shot anyone. He (Ndirangu) told me that he had finished his 12 rounds of ammunition.

I don't know about the shooting because I was not there".

Onyonka said in the statement, "I did not send the bodyguard to shoot. He joined the shooting group on his own, "and he was the only one with a gun".

The former minister said he was campaigning on that day (September 25) around Daraja-Mbili. "I left the place with the people very happy with me".

"But while I was still talking to the people", Ndirangu came running to me and reported they had encountered a hostile group which kept following them".

He said in the statement Ndirangu had told him that, "he was forced to shoot in the air several times. It was at this stage that I decided that we report the incident to the chief's camp."