Two children die in Amuru bush fire

BY JAMES OWICH

AMURU. Police in Amuru District have launched investigations into the tragic death of two four-year-old boys whose charred bodies were discovered in a bush several days after they went missing while searching for stray cattle.

The deceased have been identified as Deogratious Kizito, also known as Ayella, and Gabriel Odong, both residents of Ongoa Village in Guru-Guru Sub-county, Amuru District.

According to police, the children disappeared on February 6 after reportedly leaving home unnoticed to look for a missing cow and its calf belonging to Kizito's father, Mr George Lawrence Obalo.

Mr Obalo told police that his son had followed the animals into the bush earlier that morning without informing the family. The two boys reportedly took a rope and trailed the cattle up to Aguny Village, nearly 10 kilometres away, where they later vanished.

Their disappearance was reported at Guru-Guru Police Station around 5pm the same day.

After days of searching, the grim discovery was made on February 11 at about 6:30pm, when a group of children looking for wild fruits stumbled upon the charred bodies in a burnt section of the bush in Aguny Village, located on Pukure clan land.

Mr David Ongom Mudong, the Aswa West Region Police spokesperson, said the bodies had sustained severe burns.

"A case of disappearance resulting in murder has been registered at Amuru Central Police Station under CRB 72/2026. Detectives have visited the scene, and investigations are ongoing to establish the exact circumstances under which the children died," ASP Mudong said.

A team of detectives led by Mr Isiko Balisanyuka examined the scene and collected evidence to aid the inquiry.

The bodies were later taken to the mortuary at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital pending post-mortem examinations.

Authorities suspect the children may have been caught up in a wildfire, a common occurrence in the region during the dry season.

Bush burning is a long-standing practice in parts of northern Uganda, often used by farmers to clear land for cultivation or by hunters pursuing small game. However, the practice has increasingly drawn criticism from environmentalists and local leaders due to its destructive impact on vegetation, wildlife, and human life.

BACKGROUND

Amuru District has previously recorded fatal wildfire incidents. In December 2016, a 32-year-old man died after reportedly being trapped in a bushfire in