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UPDF renovates late Okoya's house

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GULU. Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) has begun renovating a 12-roomed dilapidated house belonging to the late Brig Pierino Okoya.

The late Brig Okoya was a senior army officer during Milton Obote's regime.

Brig Okoya, then deputy army commander and commander of the Second Infantry Brigade of Uganda Army in Masaka District, was shot dead at his home in Koro Sub-county in Gulu District on January 25, 1970, along with his wife Anna Ajok.

According to Warrant Officer II Ronald Mutakubwa from the UPDF 4th Division undertaking the exercise, the renovation is funded by State House to the tune of Shs51 million.

He said renovation works commenced late last month following a directive from President Museveni.

"Historically, Brig Okoya is among the senior army officers in Uganda's

history who served this country but were brutally killed. The UPDF is trying to recognise their work," he added.

The 4th Division infantry spokesperson, Capt Caesar Olweny, told *Daily Monitor* in an interview that the renovation exercise was part of the UPDF constitutional mandate as the people's army.

About Okoya

Brig Okoya was born in 1928 at Palaro village in Gulu District. He joined the King's African Riffle (KAR) in 1950 where he joined Idi Amin, Tito Okello Lutwa and Shaban Opolot who had enlisted earlier.

He rose fast through the ranks from captain, major, and colonel to a brigadier in 1968 because of his capabilities.

Mr Johnson Lajul, the eldest son of Brig Okoya, applauded the UPDF for their positive move to renovate his late father's house after the family had petitioned the president years back.