

BY RAJAB MUKOMBOZI

MBARARA. A sombre mood engulfed Kanyigoshora Village, Rubaya, Mbarara District, as mourners flocked to pay their last respects to Pamela Tumwebaze, 46, who was killed on February 11, during a break-in at her home in Gwafu West Village, Mukono District.

Pamela was the director of students' affairs at Uganda Christian University in Mukono.

Unlike most burials that begin with a church service, this ceremony took a different turn. The Ankole Diocese has a policy that burials on Sunday cannot be conducted before 2pm, forcing organisers to start with speeches.

Speaker after speaker, including siblings, relatives, colleagues, and community members, demanded justice and answers about who the assailants were and what their motive could have been.

The atmosphere grew even heavier when Pamela's children, Elijah Matsiko, 9, and Noah Sean Matsiko, 13, delivered heartfelt speeches that moved many to tears.

"My mummy lived a unique life,

Get to the bottom of her killing, family tells govt

was always happy, liked praying and a kind person, constantly read the Bible and taught us how to pray," Elijah said.

His elder brother Noah remembered his mother as loving and deeply faithful.

"Even on simple things like cooking or driving my mother would first pray, she loved people," he said.

The church service began at 4pm, led by the Bishop of Ankole Diocese, the Rt Rev Sheldon Mwesigwa, who expressed concern over police investigations that often stall.

"When police tell you we have started investigations most times this means the files have been closed. Let me hope it will not happen to this one, we need results and culprits get answerable," he said.

Mourners demanded justice and raised questions about what could have triggered her killing. Many wondered how someone described as humble, loving, and God-fearing

could be brutally killed.

In a statement released on Saturday, police confirmed that the prime suspect, a former househelp, Hussein Dak Taewaiko, had been arrested in Budaka District with some of the deceased's property.

Her brother, Mr Joseph Tumwebaze, said their prayers were for a thorough investigation.

"Even though the assailant is caught, put in prison for 30 years or more, it is not enough. We want to know if he was working alone, what hatred he had with him because she was brutally killed," Mr Tumwebaze said.

The Vice Chancellor of UCU, Prof Aaron Mushengyezi, also questioned what kind of person could kill Pamela, who was known for her kindness and compassion. He noted that she had shown signs of distress before her death.

"Before she died she had started telling us that she was to get married, it



Pamela Ruth Tumwebaze

brought excitement among staff and students but the mood changed, she was not happy as usual, always quiet, even in staff meetings she had changed, she was not herself and we believe she knew what was going to kill her, we pray that some of her close friends might know. The public needs to know the enemy that person was," Prof Mushengyezi said.

He said the deceased's benefits would be given to family.

"As the policy, the deceased is entitled to retirement and other benefits. After the burial, we are going to sit

with the family and work out on how it will be channelled to the mother of the deceased or any other person as the family may wish. But as the university community both staff and students we have collected over Shs2 million, which we are going to give to the mother of the deceased," Prof Mushengyezi said.

Clan leader Zedekia Karokooro echoed similar concerns, saying testimonies from all sides raised questions about what prompted such an attack.

"I have attended almost all gatherings held in memory of her passing on, all testimonies point at what a selfless, loving, compassionate, and hard working person she was, we are told police have made breakthrough, we pray they get to the bottom of this [so that] we know the motive and all those behind it," Mr Karokooro said.

Family friend David Bangirana, father of Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa, also called for justice.

"When I got the sad news of Pamela's death, I called the Rt Hon Deputy Speaker, to know how our daughter died [and if government was helping]. He assured me he had informed the director of CID to handle it, we need justice," Mr Bangirana said.