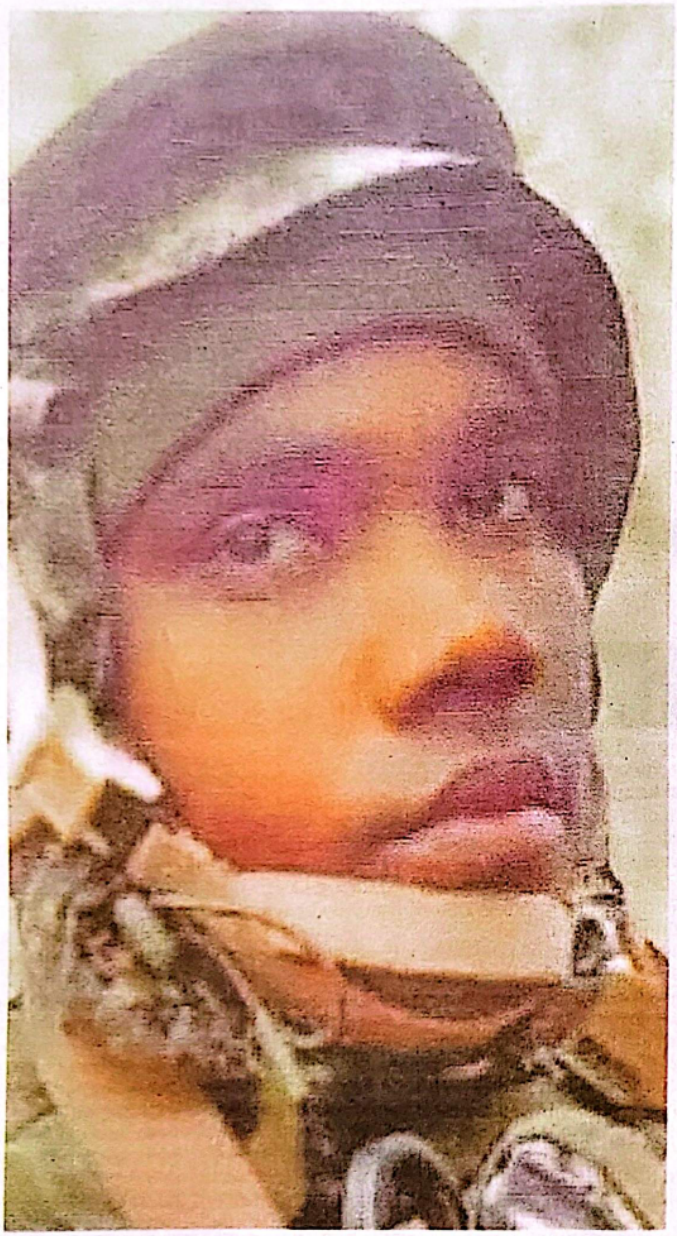
How job offer in Ukraine turned tragic for Kenyan

Like many young Kenyans, Clinton Nyapara Mogesa travelled to Doha, Qatar, determined to improve his family's fortunes but fate took a tragic turn.



Clinton Nyapara Mogesa, who was fighting in the Russia-Ukraine war.

BY RUTH MBULA

Grief has engulfed the quiet village of Riateri in Bonchari, Kisii County, following the death of 29-year-old Clinton Nyapara Mogesa in Russia, a tragedy that has left his family searching for answers.

News of Nyapara's death has left his loved ones grappling with disbelief, mourning a son who left home in search of opportunity, only to return in a casket.

Driven by hope and the promise of a better future, Nyapara left his village in 2024.

Like many young Kenyans, he travelled to Doha, Qatar, determined to improve his family's fortunes. Instead, fate took a tragic turn.

According to a report by Ukraine's Defence Intelligence, the agency tasked with safeguarding the Ukrainian state, Nyapara's body was identified at a position held by Russian occupation forces.

"Ukrainian military intelligence identified the body of Clinton Nyapara Mogesa, a citizen of the Republic of Kenya, born in 1997," the report stated.

The report further revealed that Nyapara had been living and working in Qatar before signing a contract with the Russian armed forces, where he was assigned to one of their assault units.

After a brief period of training, he was killed in what was described as a "meat assault" in the Donetsk region.

Russian forces reportedly failed to evacuate his body. He was also found in possession of passports belonging to two other Kenyan citizens, believed to have been recruited under similar circumstances.

TRAGEDY

According to a report by Ukraine's Defence Intelligence, the agency tasked with safeguarding the Ukrainian state, Clinton Nyapara Mogesa's body was identified at a position held by Russian occupation forces.

In its January 31, 2026, report, the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine warned foreign nationals against travelling to Russia or accepting work there.

"We are warning foreign citizens against travelling to the Russian Federation or accepting any form of employment on its territory, particularly illegal work," the agency said.

Back in Kisii, the pain of loss is compounded by shock and confusion.

Nyapara's brother Joel Mogere said the family had made significant sacrifices to support his journey abroad.

"We had to sell part of our family land to enable my brother to travel to Qatar so he could support us later. We were never informed that he had travelled to Russia and been recruited as a soldier. He is our last-born and main breadwinner. His death has really shocked us. We sent him to Qatar, only to hear later that he ended up in Russia," Mr Mogere said.

Their mother, Mellen Moraa, said her son had been her primary source of support, especially for her medical needs.

"He used to help us with everything. I am pleading with the government to help us," she said.

The family disclosed that they were unaware of the agent who facilitated their son's travel abroad.

They have appealed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to intervene, pursue justice for their son, and rein in individuals accused of luring young people into war zones under the guise of employment.

They are also urging the government to assist in repatriating their kin's body for a dignified burial at home.

Nyapara's death comes amid growing reports of Africans, including Kenyans, being recruited to take part in the Russia-Ukraine war.

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