

# Murdered UPDF officer buried

LIRA

By Hudson Apunyo

He survived bullets from the enemy in northern Uganda, DR Congo and for one year in Somalia but ended up being killed at his home by the son-in-law while on pass leave.

Sgt Benson Okidi alias Richard Akor, 39, a serving UPDF soldier from 27th Battalion, 309 brigade under 2nd Division based in Mbarara, was killed by his son-in-law at his home in Atek 'A' village, Bar sub-county in Lira district last week.

Okidi returned home on leave to settle domestic problems and learnt that his elder daughter was suffering at the hands of her husband in Aloji sub-county and decided to pick her.

The husband, Geoffrey Akodo, went to their home last week and a scuffle ensued in which Akodo stabbed Okidi on the chest, leading to his death.

Okidi was laid to rest at his home on Saturday with full military honours in a ceremony attended by the resident district commissioner (RDC), Robert Abak, local leaders, relatives,



The late Benson Okidi

friends and in-laws. He is survived by two wives and seven children, with the youngest just eight months old.

Okidi joined the army in 1999 and served in various places including DR Congo, northern Uganda during the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency. Between 2014 and 2015, he served in Somalia under the African Union peacekeeping mission. The army, which was represented by Capt Moses

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The LC3 chairperson of Bar sub-county, Tom Edward Lemu, condemned the brutal murders taking place in his area and attributed it to alcohol consumption and smoking.

Leku, contributed sh500,000 towards the burial expenses. Okidi's murder is one of eight in Bar sub-county in the last two weeks.

The LC3 chairperson of Bar sub-county, Tom Edward Lemu, condemned the brutal murders taking place in his area and attributed it to alcohol consumption and smoking. He said together with the Police, they will embark on community sensitisation and stop early and late hour drinking.

The Bar sub-county LC5 councillor, Denis Oweru, condemned the act. He appealed to the public not to take the law into their hands, but report their grievances to authorities.

Oweru said he believed the trauma the people went through during the LRA insurgency is the cause of the high rate of crime in the region.

Abak called on the youth to engage in economic activities and avoid being redundant. "We are going to mount an operation to look for gardens of marijuana and those who are engaged in the practice will be arrested and prosecuted," he said.

Okidi's wife, Betty Okidi, said the biggest challenge she will face is educating her children.