

YUMBE

By Benedict Okethwengu

South Sudan MP shot dead

The Police have launched an investigation into circumstances under which an MP for Yei River State Transitional Legislative Assembly in South Sudan was gunned down in Yumbe district on Wednesday.

Jacob Kuwinsuk Gale was shot by unknown assailants, suspected to be from South Sudan, at about 7:00pm. He died as he was being rushed to Arua Hospital.

Josephine Angucia, the West Nile regional Police spokesperson, confirmed the development yesterday.

She said when the incident happened, Gale had gone to visit his relative in Mijale sub-county at the South Sudan-Uganda border.

She explained that Gale was shot on the head and the bullet lodged

inside his skull.

According to Angucia, no rebel group has claimed responsibility.

Angucia said the body will be handed over to the deceased's relatives in Yumbe for burial.

A cartridge for a pistol was also recovered.

"We have not made any arrest. I want to assure the public that our investigations team is working hard to get the motive of the killers," she said.

Angucia also advised all refugees living in Uganda to stay in gazetted places to avoid such incidents.

She told refugees to report cases of illegal guns and those who are holding them should consider handing them over to responsible authorities as soon as possible.

Gale was shot by unknown armed assailants suspected to be from South Sudan at about 7:00pm. He died as he was being rushed to Arua Hospital.

A statement released by Alfred Kenneth Duku, the minister of information, culture, youth and sports of Yei River State, said the MP was in company of other people, carrying out consultations as part of the national dialogue in Uganda.

"The deceased and three other members of Sudan People's

Liberation Army (SPLA), headed by the deputy speaker, Yokoju Sivalano, were sent by the state on November 22 to conduct consultative grassroots peace meetings and dialogue with community members of greater Kajo-Keji counties in South Sudan and the consultations were extremely successful," Duku said in

a statement.

The deceased served in the state transitional legislative assembly as the chairperson for members' affairs, gender and human rights committee.

Last week, gunmen also beheaded two South Sudanese inside the Ugandan district of Moyo. The government of South Sudan has formed a national peace committee that has been visiting the refugee camps with the hope of them returning to South Sudan.

Duku blamed the killings on people loyal to Riek Machar Teny, South Sudan's former vice president and rebel leader.

However, rebel spokesman Lam Paul Gabriel denied having carried out the assassination and instead blamed the government for the killing.

According to him, their military forces have no mandate to cross into Uganda.