

## The gang leader met his fate on **Tuesday night** after they attempted a raid

By Olandason Wanyama

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) have shot dead a self-styled rustlers' leader during a gun-fight in Napak district.

The army also recovered an AK47 gun from the body that was found in the wilderness, about 50km northeast of Napak district headquarters.

The deceased has been identified as Loila Lokamol Ng'atuk, a resident of N'akongum East village in Napumpumu sub-county, Kotido district.

The UPDF 3rd infantry division public relations officer, Maj. Isaac Oware, on Wednesday said the deceased was among the notorious raiders on the wanted list.

He said joint security forces, in pursuit of the criminal elements in areas of Napak, engaged and put out of action, one armed warrior.

Oware added that Ngatuk has been responsible for the raids in Moroto and Napak districts and in the Acholi sub-region.

"He was among the people who have been stealing and selling animals out of Karamoja," Oware said.

"The gang leader met his fate on Tuesday night after they attempted to raid some animals in the areas of Apeitolim sub-county in Napak district.

"We are pursuing the other suspected raiders who ran in disarray," he said, adding that forces will continue with the targeted intelligence operations in Karamoja. The development follows reinvigorated security operations against armed cattle

# KARAMOJA: SELF-STYLED LEADER OF CATTLE RUSTLERS SHOT DEAD

PHOTO BY OLANDASON WANYAMA



UPDF soldiers searching for guns in grass thatched huts in Karamoja

rustlers in Karamoja in the past 11 months.

Social workers, security personnel and geologists top the list of civilians shot dead by armed cattle rustlers.

As a result, ongoing security crackdowns have since seen over 320 killed since last year.

The operations in the region escalated when geologists were gunned down together with two army UPDF officers

➤ **Oware said Ngatuk was among the people who were stealing and selling animals out of Karamoja.**

in March. The geologists were identified as Charles Olweny, Edina Musiime and Richard Kigwe, all attached to the Department of Geology and Mineral Survey of the Ministry

of Energy and Mineral Development.

According to Mt. Moroto Police spokesperson, Mike Longole: "The geologists and UPDF soldiers were shot dead by suspected Karimojong warriors, who also fled with the victims' guns."

### MUSEVENI INTERVENES

President Yoweri Museveni has this week set camp in the eastern and north-eastern region with a clarion call to the security organs to nip in the bud the threat of re-insurgence of cattle-rustlers in Karamoja region. The rustlers, who have changed raid tactics in a network that involves criminals with guns, bows and arrows, stick-squads that drive the cows and collaborators (spy network), have recently wreaked havoc, leaving a trail of death, rape, destruction and threatening the prevailing peace and security in the region.

Meeting security officials and local leaders on Wednesday and Thursday in Kapchorwa district, Museveni commended security forces in the region for their concept of a reaction force and intelligence-led operations to curb cattle rustling, including profiling suspects. In an earlier

similar security meeting held at Morulinga State Lodge in Napak on September 12, 2021, the President had directed formation of kraal-based intelligence, reaction forces per district backed by enablers and 24-hour reconnaissance by day and night.

"We thought this could react and destroy raiding parties and abort their missions. However, cattle rustling is now commercial; when people steal cows, they want to sell them for slaughter. There are not many roads here, mount roadblocks so that they are intercepted," Museveni told security officers on Wednesday.

The President also stressed the need for Police to establish units per sub-county to quickly deal with other crimes, including murder and rape.

During the meetings, the UPDF 3rd division commander, Brig. Gen. Joseph Balikuddembe, said the resurgence of cattle rustling in 2019 in Karamoja also affected the nearby sub-regions of Teso, Acholi, Bugisu and Sebei.

He said this prompted UPDF and intelligence organs to launch another disarmament operation code named Usalama Kwa Wote in July 2021 and that since then, several efforts have been made to recover guns used in cattle rustling.

"A total of 309 guns and 2,592 rounds of ammunition have been recovered so far, while 441 criminals are now serving court sentences," Balikuddembe said.

By Francis Emorut

Uganda has received \$3m (about sh12.4b) to fight drought in the Karamoja region.

According to George Kavulunze, the regional co-ordinator of Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa, the funding is from Adaptation Fund, a United States-based organisation.

He said, in Uganda, the focus will be in Karamoja, where communities have suffered from the effects of drought.

"Drought has ravaged communities in Karamoja, and we want to ensure that we develop strategies that will cushion them from drought and related shocks," Kavulunze said.

He said this can be achieved by investing in early warning systems and strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations working with smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

Kavulunze made the remarks during the regional stakeholders meeting on drought resilience for smallholder farmers and pastoralists in the Inter-Governmental Authority

## Govt receives sh12.4b to fight poverty in Karamoja

on Development (IGAD) Water Resources Institute in Entebbe, recently.

He pointed out that the regional stakeholders meeting was crucial in developing action plans for water resource management for drought and climate change.

He said the kitty for the project is to the tune of \$13m (about sh48b) for four countries – Uganda, Sudan, Djibouti and Kenya.

According to the commissioner in the water ministry, Callist Tindimugaya, drought is one of the major natural hazards affecting people's livelihoods and socio-economic development.

He said in the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) region, the farmers, especially the small-scale holder farmers and pastoralists, are subjected to advance effects of drought.

### OBJECTIVES

Khaoula Jaoui, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory climate department co-ordinator, said the overall objective of the project is to increase the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists to climate change risks, mainly those related to drought, through establishment of appropriate early warning systems and implementation of drought adaptation actions in the Intergovernmental Authority for Development region.

He pointed out that in Uganda, the focus will be in Karamoja region, which has experienced drought. The meeting attracted delegates from Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti and Sudan.

It was organised by Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa in conjunction with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS).

According to Khaoula Jaoui, the OSS climate department co-ordinator, the four countries are implementing a regional project titled *Strengthening Drought Resilience of Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists* in the IGAD region.

She said the project will aim to develop and promote regional investments in drought early-warning systems and improve on the existing ones, facilitating smallholder farmers and pastoralists with inputs to undertake innovative adaptation

actions that reinforce their resilience to drought.

It also includes enhancing knowledge management and information sharing on drought-resilience and strengthening and improving the capacity of key stakeholders in drought-risk management at regional, national and local levels.

Steve Reuben Muhangi, the senior project manager at OSS, observed the need to identify existing and form new regional drought management multi-sectoral stakeholder platforms, as well as design strategies to operationalise the platforms to support drought management in the region and at national level.

He said to achieve the specific objectives, the project is structured around four components, which include promoting investments in early warning system, strengthening capacities of key stakeholders at regional, national and local levels, and supporting innovation, knowledge management and information, among the key actors.