

STATEMENT BY THE RIGHT HON. 2ND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ON THE RECENT MURDER OF TWO UGANDANS- CHARLES KULE AND NINSIIMA WILLIS – AT WESTERN BARINUM, LAKES STATE, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN Rt. Hon

Speaker of parliament,

Rt. Hon Prime Minister and leader of Government Business,

Hon. Ministers,

Distinguished Hon members of Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Right Hon. Speaker, on 26th day of May 2019, two Ugandans, namely; Charles Kule and Ninsiima Willis were killed by yet to be known assailants, at Western Barinum, Lakes State, South Sudan. The deceased were both teachers of Atyaba Senior Secondary School.

They were shot at while on course of duty in a school vehicle. The motive is said to be a revenge killing following the death of a paramount chief in the area- one Makur Kuel Del who was knocked in an accident by a lorry driven by a Kenyan, one Mburu. Preliminary reports indicate that the murder was an act of retribution against any foreigner, to which the deceased fell as the victims! The bodies were taken to Salva Kiir Hospital for postmortem.

Following the killing, the Uganda Ambassador in Juba met with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs – Hon. Deng Malek and the Governor of Lakes State (Rumbek) - Hon. Mahmoud Solomon Agok. Both expressed regret for what happened and promised to investigate and bring the killers to book. The Government of Uganda worked closely of the Government of South Sudan to repatriate the bodies to Uganda and also facilitated the burial process.

Government of Uganda condemns this act of lawlessness, and continues to work closely with the Government of South Sudan, under the able safeguards of the EAC legal framework, to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous act are arrested and brought to book. Additionally, through the established EAC structures, efforts are being undertaken to fully integrate and strengthening cooperation between the Republic of Sudan and Uganda.

Right honourable speaker, in pursuit of the above highlighted remedy (ies), Uganda will invoke the EAC legal and regulatory framework for dealing with any misunderstanding or crimes between citizens of Partners States.

It will be recalled Right Hon speaker that the Republic of South Sudan acceded to the Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community on 15th April 2016 and deposited the instrument on 30th September 2016, thereby becoming a fully-fledged member of the EAC.

It is the core objective of the Community under Art, 5 of the Treaty establishing the EAC to promote cooperation in political, social, economic as well as legal and judicial matters. Observance of peace and security and good neighborliness among Partner States is the cornerstone of EAC integration as enshrined in Art 5 (3) (f) for the Treaty establishing the EAC.

Our Diplomatic and Security agencies are already engaging their sister agencies in the Republic of South Sudan with a view of apprehending the perpetrators and ultimately ensure that justice prevails.

Art. 124 of the Treaty establishing the EAC, enjoins Partner States to consult and cooperate with each in arresting and repatriating offenders, exchange of information on National mechanisms for combating criminal activities, joint operations and patrols. The EAC Protocol on Peace and Security, under Art. 3, categorically seeks to prevent, contain and peacefully resolve conflicts and disputes among within among Partner States.

The Ministry of East Community Affairs will invoke the above provisions and together with the sister Ministry in the Republic of South Sudan work out strategies of making the environment safer for the Citizens of the Community while in the Republic of South Sudan.

MAY THE SOULS OF THE DEPARTED UGANDANS REST IN ETERNAL PEACE.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.

Hon. Julius Wandera Maganda
Minister of State for East African Community Affairs