

Imam, daughter killed in home attack

KAGADI

By Andrew Musinguzi

Residents of Mabaale town council in Kagadi district are reeling in shock after assailants attacked the home of a local imam, setting it on fire and killing two family members.

The incident occurred at around 2:00am on Wednesday in Mabaale North cell, Mabaale town council.

The Albertine South regional Police spokesperson, Superintendent of Police Julius Allan Hakiza, identified the deceased as Ausi Katatumba, the imam of Burora Mosque, and his three-year-old daughter, Asirat Atuhura. Katatumba's wife, Sofia Katatumba, is in critical condition at Mulago National Referral Hospital.

Hakiza said two suspects — Sheikh Twalib Tibenda, a former county sheikh of Mabaale zone and Ramadan Aguma, a brother of the deceased — are in custody at Kagadi Central Police Station to assist with the investigations. He appealed to the public to provide any information that could lead to the arrest of other suspects.

The Police recovered exhibits at the

PHOTO BY ANDREW MUSINGUZI



scene of crime, including a bottle of petrol and pipes fitted with a funnel. A case of murder and arson has been opened against the suspects.

"We have already arrested two prime suspects in connection with this tragic incident. I appeal to the residents to remain calm and provide reliable information that can help us apprehend other accomplices,"

Hakiza said.

LOCALS SPEAK OUT

Bonny Katarbarwa, the Mabaale North LCI chairperson, said the deceased lived with his wife and their young daughter. The child reportedly died from severe burns before she could be taken to hospital.

Katatumba and his wife were

Residents look puzzled after assailants set ablaze the home of Ausi Katatumba, the imam of Burora Mosque in Mabaale town council, Kagadi district. The fire led to the death of family members

ACT CONDEMNED

Sheikh Haji Muhammed Isingoma, the Kibaale district khadi, condemned the attack, describing it as un-Islamic.

"As a Muslim community, we condole with the family of the deceased. The Quran condemns such heinous acts and we pray that those responsible are brought to book. Disputes should be resolved through lawful and non-violent means," he said.

acts of violence. People with misunderstandings should seek help from relevant authorities instead of taking the law into their own hands," Katarbarwa said.

Gloria Sikora, a neighbour, said the attackers reportedly locked the doors from outside.

"We heard an alarm from inside the house. When we rushed there, we found the door secured with wires and a big stick. We managed to break it, but found the child already burnt, while the parents were lying unconscious with severe burns," Sikora said.

initially rescued from the burning house with critical injuries and rushed to Hoima Regional Referral Hospital. However, due to the severity of their condition, they were later referred to Mulago Hospital, where Katatumba died shortly after admission.

"It is a regrettable incident, and I strongly condemn such