

BY RASHUL ADIDI

ADJUMANI. A four-year-old girl who had been reported missing was at the weekend found dead in a locked vehicle at a police station parking yard, three days after her disappearance.

The decomposing body of Michelle Kasikayire Mana was discovered on Saturday inside a black Mercedes-Benz, registration number UAS 720N, which had been parked for a long period as an exhibit at the Traffic Department yard at Adjumani Central Police Station.

According to police, the grim discovery was made at about 2pm. The child was a granddaughter of Sgt Lucy Angeyo, an officer attached to the Child and Family Protection Unit at Adjumani Police Station.

North West Nile Region police spokesperson Collins Asea said preliminary findings indicate that the child may have entered the vehicle while playing and accidentally locked herself inside.

"On March 21, at approximately 1400 hours, the body of the victim was discovered. She is the granddaughter of No. 30398 Sgt Lucy Angeyo, attached to Child and Family Protection Unit Adjumani Police Station," Mr Asea said.

"The victim was found deceased inside a black Mercedes-Benz vehicle

Four-year-old girl found dead in parked vehicle

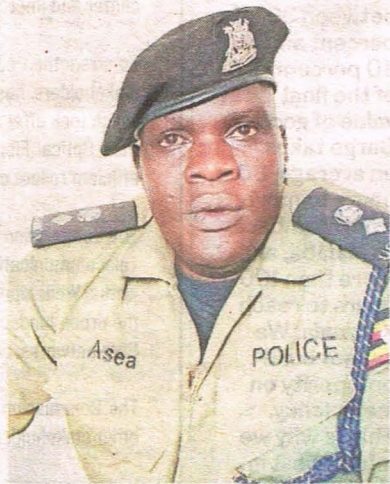
(Reg. No. UAS 720N), which had been parked for an extended period and was kept as an exhibit in the parking yard of the Traffic Department at Adjumani Central Police Station," he added.

Kasikayire had been reported missing on March 18 after she disappeared from the police barracks where she had been staying with her grandmother. She was a pupil at Mummy's Care Nursery and Primary School in Adjumani District.

Police said the child was last seen at about 3pm on the day of her disappearance.

"At approximately 1600 hours, the complainant realised that the child was missing. Efforts to locate her within the police barracks proved unsuccessful, as children present with the victim claimed they did not know her whereabouts. In response, police deployed a sniffer dog to assist in the search," Mr Asea said.

The sniffer dog reportedly tracked a trail from the barracks to the child's school and later to Adjumani Town Council offices, where a large crowd had gathered, but the search did not



Collins Asea, North West Nile Region police spokesperson

yield results.

A missing person case was subsequently opened under Adjumani CRB No. 145/2026. Detectives recorded statements from witnesses and reviewed CCTV footage from the school and surrounding areas, but no immediate

breakthrough was made. Police also issued alerts through social media and local radio stations seeking information from the public.

It was not until Saturday that the child's body was discovered inside the parked vehicle within the police station premises.

"A thorough investigation was conducted at the scene by Scene of Crime Officers and a team of detectives. Post-mortem examination was carried out at the scene. The body showed signs of decomposition with maggot infestation. No physical injuries were observed," SP Asea said.

He added that the body was later transferred to Adjumani General Hospital mortuary for further examination before burial arrangements.

Police suspect the child may have suffocated after becoming trapped inside the vehicle, which had remained unused for a long period. Investigations are ongoing to establish the exact circumstances surrounding the incident.

The incident has raised concerns about the safety of abandoned or impounded vehicles, particularly in areas

accessible to children.

Similar tragedies have been reported across the country in recent years, often involving children who enter parked or abandoned vehicles while playing.

GROWING TREND

- February 2025, Serere District: A three-year-old boy died after entering an abandoned car that had been parked for over two years.

- October 2024, Soroti District: Three children aged 6, 10, and 12 died after suffocating in a locked vehicle while their family attended a burial.

- March 2008, Bweyogerere and Kyebando: Children suffocated after locking themselves inside vehicles while playing.