Herders demand for regional meat factory

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MOROTO. The Karimojong and Turkana cattle keepers have appealed to their respective governments to consider establishing a joint regional meat factory.

They say this will add value to their livestock to boost profits and livelihoods.

The two neighbouring communities made the appeal during the cross border peace evaluation meeting in Lokiriama, Kenya.

Mr Timothy Maruk, one of the Karimojong pastoralists said such a factory would give both communities an opportunity to tap into the East African regional market.

Mr Moses Lokuruka, a Turkana elder from Loima District in Kenya said this would also foster peace and development between the two communities.

"We have decided to initiate dialogue and unity instead of baying for each other's blood, to pursue peace initiatives for unity purposes. We call on our leaders to extend services to our people," he said.

While campaigning in 2016, President Museveni promised to set up beef and cement factories in Karamoja. The Turkana are Kenya's second largest pastoralist group and keep crossing into Karamoja region in search of water and pasture.

The region is currently host to about 70,000 Turkana pastoralists who entered the country with more than 200,000 livestock following the persistent drought in Turkana County in Kenya. They are currently grazing in the areas of Kobebe in Moroto, Loyoro, Kamion and Kalapata in Kaabong District.

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