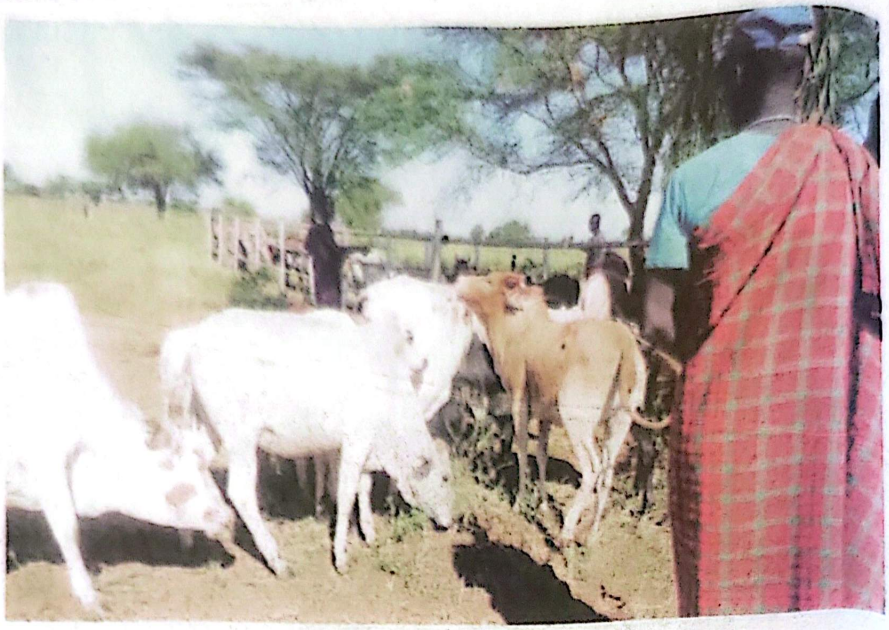


Farmers. Karimojong tend to their cattle recently. The pastoralists move with the livestock to neigbouring districts during the dry season. FILE PHOTO

Otuke leaders caution Karimojong pastoralists

Complaint. Karimojong pastoralists are accused of letting their animals destroy peoples crops

BY BILL OKETCH
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OTUKE. Local leaders in Otuke District have cautioned Karimoja, who travel to the district in search of water and pasture for their livestock during the dry season, against unlawful acts.

The leaders said Karimojong pastoralists should learn to live in harmony with the host communities.

The pastoralists migrate to the neighbouring districts in search of pasture and water for their livestock during dry season.

In February, the pastoralists moved with an estimated 10,000 cattle and goats to Otuke and Alebtong districts. Several acres of crops were reportedly destroyed by their livestock.

Early next year, the pastoralists are expected to migrate with their livestock from Karamoja sub-region to neighbouring districts during the dry season.

When the Karimojong pastoralists visited Otuke early this year, cases of malicious damage of crops were reported.

> "They move their animals anywhere they like and in large numbers and even in the process of moving their animals in large numbers they uproot any cassava plantation. This is the kind of misbehavior we don't like from our brothers,"
>
> BENSON OGWANG, FORMER OTUKE LC5 CHAIRMAN

Around that same period, there was a case where a Karimojong youth, who had been employed by a cattle farmer in Ogwete, Olilim Sub-county in Otuke, stole 28 heads of cattle. He was arrested and the animals recovered. The juvenile is currently undergoing psychosocial rehabilitation at a rehabilitation centre in Mpigi District.

Mr Benson Ogwang Ogo, the former LC5 chairman of Otuke, told Daily Monitor recently that the Karimojong pastoralist always misbehave during dry spell.

"They move their animals anywhere they like and in large numbers and even in the process of moving their animals in large numbers they uproot any cassava plantation. This is the kind of misbehavior we don't like from our brothers," he added.

Mr John Wafula, the Otuke Resident District Commissioner (RDC), said the district leadership has sent out a "clear and coordinated message" to the leadership of Abim and Kotido districts in Karamoja.

"You see, the other time there was a lot of public concern about the Karimojong pastoralists. But what they agreed is that there must be an arrangement between the local governments of Kotido, Abim and Otuke," the RDC said.

According to the RDC, who also chairs the district security committee, the people of Otuke benefited when the Karimojong moved with their animals to Olilim and Ogor sub-counties recently.

"We were getting meat and also getting milk from them cheaply. For them they don't weigh. They just have the meat in two hands and say this is about Shs10, 000. But when you take home and weigh you realise that you have bought five kilos at only Shs10, 000," the RDC says.

A litre of milk was being sold at Shs600. In Lango, a kilo of meat is sold at Shs10, 000 and a litre of milk goes for Shs1, 500.

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Driver injured in S. Sudan

GULU: A Ugandan driver is nursing gunshot injuries on his right leg after he was shot at by unknown gunmen on Nimule-Juba highway in South Sudan. The Monday morning incident happened in Nisitu town, about 92 kilometres away from Uganda South Sudan Nimule border point. The Aswa Regional

Farmers acquire skills

LIRA. More than 200 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) farmers in Lango sub-region have revived business and financial skills. The training was conducted on Monday by Centenary Bank. The Centenary Bank, Lira branch manager, Mr Samuel Ebinu Ekadu, urged the beneficiaries to

New registration system

LAMWO: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has introduced biometrics registration of refugees in the three settlement centres in Lamwo District to get rid to prevent multiple registration of South Sudan Refu

CamScanner