

# Baringo herders in Uganda

AMUDAT

By Olandason Wanyama

About 100 Pokot pastoralists from Baringo county in Kenya have crossed into Uganda via Amudat district with unspecified number of animals in search of pasture and water.

Baringo is home to the former Kenyan president, Daniel arap Moi, who ruled from 1978 to 2002.

Along the Amudat-Nakapiripirit road one finds herds of cattle, sheep and goats with herders armed with sticks. Others are equipped with bows and arrows, whereas their donkeys are loaded with skins, dry meat and gourds, among other personal belongings.

The herders began joining their colleagues, the Uganda Pokot who reside in Amudat district last December enroute to Teso and Karamoja via Nakapiripirit district.

Most of the pastoralists have occupied Karita sub-county, with few numbers in Moruita that remained behind during the 2016 drought.

However, those who crossed into Uganda by Friday are headed to the Pian Upe Game Reserve that occupies a huge part of Nakapiripirit.

The Amudat resident district commissioner, David Ssempe, confirmed the entrance of the pastoralists from Kenya.

He attributed the migrations



Pokot pastoralists driving their goats and sheep into Uganda. Photo by Olandason Wanyama

to the prolong dry spell that has affected most parts of Pokot, Turkana and Samburu areas in Kenya.

Ssempe said the pastoralists travelled an estimated 380km to get to Uganda.

"They are heading to Nakapiripirit and beyond," he said, adding that most parts in Karamoja are at risk of climate change following the death of over 3,000 head of cattle last year.

Capt. Abert Arinaitwe, the Third Division army spokesman,

## BETWEEN THE LINES

The drought in northern Kenya has forced hundreds of pastoralists into Uganda. The migration follows successive long dry spells that hit northern Kenya in 2008 to 2010.

cautioned the pastoralists not to carry any form of ammunition into Uganda.

He said the army will take the responsibility to protect the pastoralists and asked them to respect Ugandan laws.

Arinaitwe said since the long dry spell is taking a toll on communities, more herdsmen from northern Kenya are expected in the country.

Unspecified numbers Turkana pastoralists are scattered in Moroto and Kotido districts after successive years of drought and cattle thefts on the Uganda-Kenya border.