

Pastoralists finally return home

KARAMOJA

By Olandason Wanyama

Hundreds of pastoralists from Karamoja and the Turkana in Kenya have finally returned home after a 10-month search for pasture and water in Karamoja and neighbouring regions.

However, the Toposa from South Sudan did not cross into Uganda.

Information availed shows that the Turkana pastoralists from Kenya are now driving their herds back home via Oropoi area inside the western rift valley. Other crossing areas include Kotein in Kotido district.

In the South of Karamoja, pastoralists are returning home via Lokirama and Loru'gum border areas. However, most of them are camped along the Uganda-Kenya 400km border stretch. The return has been facilitated by the ongoing stable rains in the Karamoja cluster.

"Apalochubakur, a clan leader in Moroto district, said he was happy to be home after months of drought."

Whereas in Karamoja, most herders who moved to Teso and Lango areas have arrived in their homes. The Jie from Kotido district had migrated into Kaabong district's green belts, Lango and also via Napak district into Teso.

The Matheniko, who had moved to the north of Nakapiripirit district through Napak district, into Teso, are also back home in Moroto district.

Apalochubakur, a clan leader in Moroto district, said he was happy to be home after months of drought.

"We did not make losses as it has been in the past," he noted, adding that cows

did not die.

The Pokot pastoralists from Baringo are heading home again via Amudat district, with the Pokot of Uganda camping North East of Nakapiripirit district.

The Bokora herders from Napak, who were reluctant to move out of their district remained in Lochoman and K'ochulut jungles, with most of them camping at the Teso-Karamoja boundary.

"The biggest problem we have in most districts in Karamoja is pasture," Joseph Lomonyang the Napak district chairperson said.

He added that there is a lot of water, but because of the many animals, pasture

is eaten up fast.

Lomonyang appeals to local leaders to find means of zoning the region, so as to have some areas reserved for pastures during the dry season.

The Kaabong district chairperson, Mark Abuku, acknowledged hosting the Jie and Turkana pastoralists. He, however, said since the onset of the rains most of them have moved back to their homes in Kenya and Kotido, respectively.

Abuku added that some Turkana pastoralists are still roaming on the Uganda-Kenya border, in anticipation of a break in the rains.

He further said the pastoralists had occupied most of the eastern part of the district for fear of crossing into the west due to a horde of tsetse flies.

According to the pastoralists, the Karamoja region is conducive for cattle keeping, especially during the dry spell, unlike Turkana and Toposa land that are totally arid.

Police hold two over defi

The Police in Luuka district are nine-year-old girl. Tony Kibuuka after the victim, a Primary Five pupil on Tuesday. She said she had gone to village, Bukanga sub-county. The victim to shoot her if she reported the matter charge of Buwologoma Police Post accused will appear in court to answer

Residents protes

MAYUGE

By Vision Reporter

Local leaders and residents in Mayuge district have demonstrated over the poor state of Bwondha-Iganga road.

The protest was led by the Iwuub-NRM chairperson, Dan Kayera. Residents say the road is in an appalling state and has turned into a death trap due to countless potholes.

The demonstration started when one of UNRA's vehicle got stuck on the road at Mayuge town council. The residents say the 58 kilometre