

Govt asked to provide vet services

GULU

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The Government's effort to restock northern Uganda might end up in a waste if extension services for animal husbandry are still in the hands of the private sector.

The Aswa County MP in Gulu district, Ronald Reagan Okumu, said the people who are receiving cattle in northern Uganda lack the means to privately procure veterinary services.

Okumu said on Saturday that while the Government has done some commendable work in crop husbandry, less has been offered to animal husbandry.

"The Government should refocus on agriculture as a major activity. If people cannot treat themselves, how can they afford to buy medicine for animals," he asked.

The MP's remarks follow the death of over 20 cows in Atiak sub-county, Amuru district due to what is suspected to be as a result of foot and mouth disease. He said the Government should stop wait

until there is an emergency for it to respond since the affected communities will not get help in time.

Dr Batulumayo Okwonga, the Amuru district veterinary officer, said blood samples will be taken to Entebbe for testing to confirm the actual disease.

Okwonga said the movement of animals in the affected area of Elegu zone "A" has been restricted to avert the spreading of the disease to other areas.

He said as the dry season starts, cows tend to drink dirty water, which exposes them to diseases.