Army recovers 43 guns in Karamoja

BY STEVEN ARIONG
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

KARAMOJA. The army has confirmed recovery of 43 submachine guns (SMGs) and more than 50,000 bullets from suspected cattle rustlers in Karamoja sub-region.

The UPDF 3rd Division spokesperson, Capt Isaac Owera, told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that the guns were recovered between January and December in a continuous disarmament exercise targeting unspecified number of guns in civilian hands.

Capt Owera said the weapons were recovered through "cordon-and-search" operations and through basic counter insurgency operations by peace committees in the sub- region.

"This shows that guns are still hidden in the hands of the Karimojong pastoralists and we shall continue to remove them," Capt Owera said.

Government in 2001 launched a forceful and peaceful disarmament exercise in Karamoja sub-region to return peace in the north-eastern parts of the country.

Statistics show that by September 2013, the army had recovered 31,892 guns and more than 20,000 bullets.

The army, however, recovered more bullets within one year due to the cooperation of the community peace committees.

Two month ago religious leaders in Karamoja sub-region asked the government to review the disarmament exercise in the region to identify challenges and failures so that fresh action would be taken.

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