

Lightning strikes 30 cattle dead, Nakapiripirit Uganda

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Residents of Tokora Trading Centre in Nakapiripirit District were recently left in shock when lightning struck, killing 30 head of cattle. The scary Sunday incident happened at about 3pm with a gush of heavy winds before the heavens let loose.

Mr Paul Lokiru, a witness, said the incident happened so fast that residents could not do anything. "I saw a rainbow then in the space of about three minutes, came the lightning with the thunder. I just heard a loud sound and the cows mooing in pain," he told Daily Monitor. He said nobody was injured.

The cows were part of a herd of 200 that were in a kraal of three Tokora communities. According to the District Agriculture Officer, Mr Mario Tengei, this was the first time lightning was killing animals in Nakapiripirit. "It's a sad moment because in Karamoja, losing a cow is like losing a human being. A cow is the source of living in Karamoja, without it, survival is difficult," he said. He advised the communities to transfer the other cows elsewhere. "We still believe that when lightning kills something, that area becomes prone. The communities should look for shelter elsewhere just in case something happens."