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'Cattle poisoner' decamps

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THE KZN commercial farmer accused of poisoning communal farmers' livestock has gone into hiding following escalating threats from residents of Emthekwini village in Hluhluwe.

Residents have been storming the farm of Arno Raath accusing him of poisoning 29 head of cattle drinking from a water trough at the Kaas Farm in May.

Last week, agriculture and rural development MEC Cyril Xaba and economic development, tourism and environmental affairs MEC Mike Mabuyakhulu met with the communal farmers in a bid to defuse the tension.

Hluhluwe Commercial Farmers Association chairperson Peter Haze confirmed that Raath, who denied responsibility for the poisoning, had left the area. provinces@thenewage.co.za