



NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN OF NDMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MR RAPHAEL NZOMO, MBS, DURING FLAG-OFF OF LIVESTOCK FEEDS AND VEHICLES ON AUGUST 21, 2019 AT KICC GROUNDS

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by thanking you all for joining us at this ceremony. We are gathered here to witness the flagging off of vehicles as well as Livestock feed that will help mitigate the ravages of drought within our arid and semi-arid parts of the country.

The NDMA is a specialised institution that provides a legal and statutory framework for the implementation of activities related to drought management. Through the NDMA Act of 2016, we have been tasked to coordinate all matters relating to drought management including implementation of policies and programs. We are required to operate an efficient drought early warning system, as well as coordinate drought response initiatives; and finally most importantly, identify and implement programs and projects that strengthen community resilience to drought and climate change.

Drought, unlike other natural hazards, sets in slowly. We can therefore reasonably anticipate and plan for it. It is no longer excusable that year on year we still have the 'surprise' effect at the onset of drought. Just like winter, we know it's coming and must prepared for it.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Arid and semi-arid lands - or ASALs - which constitute more than 80% of Kenya, continue to bear the biggest brunt of drought scourge. The NDMA has, therefore, given priority to the ASAL region in its operations. However, the expansiveness of the region poses logistical challenges to our operations. The 23 ASAL counties

where the NDMA has offices are not only vast but some of the areas are also hard to reach due to the terrain and weak infrastructure.

Let me thank the European Union for supporting the NDMA and Kenya's wider drought risk management efforts since 2007. The fact is, to perform our functions efficiently, and in order to end drought emergencies, we shall require adequate resources.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that the EU played a major role in laying the foundation for the establishment of the NDMA as a permanent institution for drought management in Kenya and has since then held our hand and walked with us.

The EU has supported us through different projects that have facilitated the discharge of our mandate. The projects have supported the Authority to strengthen the drought early warning system; they have participated in formulation of policies related to drought and ASAL development; and they have helped us strengthen drought management coordination through capacity building of national, county and community level structures. Over the years, the EU has also provided resources for drought response and implementation of strategic projects as identified and prioritised by the afflicted communities themselves.

In addition, the projects have enabled the NDMA to build capacity of our staff and engage additional personnel where required, as well as procure equipment, including vehicles. To further ease NDMA transport constraints, today we are flagging off 8 vehicles that will support NDMA logistics in drought coordination. The total cost of the 8 vehicles and a 12-seater boat for Lamu County is **KSh 76 million**, composed of EU contribution of KSh48 million and a Government of Kenya contribution of KSh 28 million through NDMA.

The vehicles will be used at NDMA headquarters and counties that have the most pressing fleet needs. These are Baringo, Samburu, West Pokot, Lamu and Kilifi.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At present the drought situation continues to deteriorate in a number of arid and semi-arid counties due to the delayed start and poor performance of the March to May long rains. Cumulative effects of the poor performance of the just-ended long rains and the 2018 short rains have affected the condition of pasture and browse in most ASAL counties.

Our drought response began early in February this year using contingency funds provided by the European Union. Between February and August, the NDMA has disbursed a total of **KSh 218 million** to Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Laikipia, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir, and West Pokot counties to

enhance animal health, maintenance of water facilities, fuel subsidies, water trucking, and peace-related activities.

Pastoralism is the mainstay of communities living in ASAL areas. The absence of pasture and browse has resulted in the emaciation of livestock; decline in milk production; and in some instances, loss of livestock. This in turn affects food and nutrition security at the household level.

The NDMA is, therefore, providing specially formulated livestock feed supplements to the vulnerable communities to see them through this difficult time.

Beginning August, we have so far distributed **24,600 bags** of the highly nutritious drought pellets. The European Union has supported this intervention to the tune **KSh 38 million**. Priority has been given to the hardest-hit counties of Garissa (10,200 bags), Wajir (8,400 bags) and Tana River (6,000 bags). The demand for livestock feed is likely to increase due to incoming requests by other drought-affected counties.

I conclude by thanking all our development partners, and in particular on this occasion to profusely thank the European Union, who have consistently partnered with us in our drought risk management efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me now to invite you to witness the official flag-off of livestock feed supplements to vulnerable communities in ASAL counties, as well as the vehicles that will enhance our drought coordination efforts.

Thank you

**Raphael Nzomo, MBS
August 21, 2019**