



PRESS RELEASE

Good afternoon, ladies, and gentlemen,

Thank you, members of the Press, for coming.

Today as the Pastoralist Parliamentary Group PPG which is made up of 105 members from 15 pastoralist counties, met to discuss insecurity and the devastating effects of the drought that continues to ravage many parts of our country. Kenya is one of the Horn of Africa countries hit by the region's current catastrophic drought, which has left millions facing acute food poverty and malnutrition.

The National Drought Management Authority NDMA has reported that the drought situation has worsened in 20 of the 23 arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties, with three more counties entering the warning phase. Some of the counties that are currently in alarm stage include Isiolo, Mandera, Garissa, Turkana, Wajir, Samburu, Laikipia, Tana River, Tharaka Nithi and Marsabit. Others like Baringo, West Pokot and Lamu are in normal drought phase, a situation attributed to moderate off-season rains.

With the drought situation worsening, the number of Kenyans in need of emergency food aid is expected to rise to almost 4.35 million between October and December according to NDMA. As we speak, 942,000 children below five years and 134,000 pregnant or lactating women require treatment for acute malnutrition in the Arid and Semi-Arid areas of this country.

We are calling for immediate action from the national and county governments to mitigate the drought. President William Ruto, in your inauguration speech, promised that you were determined to ensure that no county slips into the emergency phase and will coordinate with county governments, which are the first line of response. You promised to mobilize resources to reverse this situation. We are calling on you now to act fast to protect the lives of the people who are facing starvation.

As a pastoralist yourself we believe you feel our pain and devastation in situations like these where our people have lost all their sources of livelihood. As you know pastoralists occupy 89% of Kenya's land mass and represent 36% of the population in Kenya. We ask you to speed up the mobilization of resources to help our people. We hope that your government in collaboration with the PPG and the counties will find preventive and lasting solutions to the drought problem.

We are also suggesting that KWS allows pastoralists to graze their livestock in the national parks and reserves. We also need investors, like hotels, and NGOs to contribute to a kitty to cushion the people who are facing starvation. We are also suggesting that cash is transferred to the affected people instead of food distributions.

The insecurity situation in the region has also become a menace. We have lost hundreds of lives for decades. The drought situation has aggravated the insecurity situation in the North. As leaders, we need to find lasting solutions to the insecurity that has affected all aspects of our lives. KPR earn little money, yet they do a lot of work. We need to look at their welfare if we are to protect and ensure that

our people are safe from any tacks. Mr President, we are ready to work together to ensure that we have peace in our regions so that our people can grow in all aspects of their lives.

About PPG

The Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG) was formed in 1998. Its purpose is to mainstream the pastoralists' agenda within the national political and policy processes. The membership of PPG is open to all members elected or nominated from the pastoralist counties to the National Assembly (MPs/CWR) and the Senate (Senators) regardless of their ethnicity or political party affiliation.

PPG is established to be a critical parliamentary force that ensures security, unity and prosperity for pastoralists in Kenya. Its mission is to provide political leadership in the development and implementation of policies and legislation that achieve pastoralism's full potential.

Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative DLCI is the secretariat of the PPG. DLCI provides technical support and policy advisory services to members of parliament elected from 15 counties in Kenya (PPG