

## PRESS RELEASE

Good afternoon, ladies, and gentlemen,  
Thank you, members, of the Press, for coming.

Yesterday, we had the first Pastoralist Parliamentary Group PPG Women Caucus meeting of the members of the 13th Parliament. The meeting was attended by 15 women MPs out of 25 and three PPG members nominated by the President to the cabinet- Hon Sopian Tuya – nominee to the Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Environment, Hon Kipchumba Murkomen, EGH – Cabinet Secretary (CS) nominee for the Roads and infrastructure and Hon Aden Duale, EGH, CS nominee for the Defense.

The meeting laid a critical foundation for our 5-year work plan. We called you here today to inform you of the issues discussed in that meeting that continue to affect the Dryland Counties. These are:

- 1. Insecurity and peace among pastoralist communities in Northern Kenya.** As leaders, we are deeply concerned and have resolved to take national leadership in championing the issue of ending cattle rustling and the bandit ecosystem in the pastoralist region. Cattle rustling, as you are all aware, has become a major problem that has claimed hundreds of lives.
- 2. Drought-** We discussed how the effects of drought are causing pain and anguish in our counties and we are worried that the situation is getting worse. Millions of livestock and wildlife have been reported to have died as a result of a lack of water and pasture. There have also been cases of people dying as a result of hunger, particularly children and now adults.
- 3. Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK) Termination of Unregistered Lines-** We understand that CAK plans to terminate all unregistered phone lines by October 15, 2022. A service provider such as Safaricom is a critical lifeline for millions of vulnerable families in remote areas who receive cash transfers. It is currently the primary source of income for these families. Pastoralist communities have not registered because of the distance and drought that has forced them to travel to distant locations in search of water and pasture. We are requesting that the deadline be extended so that our people can register their lines.
- 3. Drug Abuse and Youth:** Drug abuse is a major problem among youth and the productive population, particularly in the Lamu, Marsabit, and Isiolo counties. The drug trade is now intertwined with banditry and cattle rustling, both of which have an impact on the region's livestock trade. We are asking for help in getting methadone medicines to FAZA hospital in order to manage drug addicts' rehabilitation and to stop the drug trade in Lamu county.

**Key Action Points:**

**1. Urgent meeting with HE Dr William Ruto**, the President of the Republic of Kenya. We would like a meeting with the president to raise and discuss strategic solutions to the issues that have become a thorn in the flesh in our counties. We will also be urging President William Ruto to declare drought a national disaster.

**2. Round Table discussion with donors and key actors** government and non-state actors involved in supporting Kenya on the issues of Insecurity & Peace, drought and drug. We would like a discussion with donors and key actors in drought and Peace and Security sectors to know what is being done, the geographical area of operation, the gaps and how to bridge the gaps.

**3. Peacebuilding activities in conflict-prone areas-** We have agreed that we will have meetings and peace caravans to encourage peaceful cohesion among the communities in conflict-prone areas.

**Thank you so much.**

#### **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).