



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

REMARKS BY DR ANDREW TUIMUR, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 1ST NATIONAL FODDER AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE HELD AT SAROVA WOODLANDS HOTEL, NAKURU ON DECEMBER 14, 2017

The Chief Guest, Hon. Cabinet Secretary - Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries; Mr. Willy Bett, EGH

The Chair Council of Governors, H.E Josphat Nanok

H.E the Governor of Nakuru County, Lee Kinyanjui

The Director of Livestock Production

Chairman-National Fodder Agribusiness Conference Secretariat

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen;

I take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this very important function. Today's function marks a very important day in our calendar of events by ushering in the first ever fodder conference to be held in our county.

The theme of the conference is “*Re-Positioning the Fodder Value Chain for sustainable livestock production in Kenya*”

- The choice of the conference theme: **(Re-positioning the fodder value chain for sustainable livestock production in Kenya)** and its slogan '*Tujijenge na Fodder*' is very appropriate and relevant to the livestock industry as it sends a strong message about enhancing productivity of the enterprise. The choice of venue being Nakuru County provides a suitable launch pad since Nakuru is reputed for vibrant fodder business.

Ladies and gentlemen

The livestock sector contributes significantly to the livelihoods of rural and pastoral communities across the country. Our human population is rapidly increasing as rural-urban migration continues to grow. With a growing economy with extra disposable income among urban families, the demand for animal proteins is expected to increase. This requires commensurate strategies to increase livestock production to meet the demand.

A vibrant livestock industry will enhance food and nutrition security, generate house hold incomes and provide employment. There is therefore, a need to investment in the livestock production value chain in order to enhance benefits. The sector is however faced with many challenges that are of technical, socio-economic and environmental concerns and the Government is doing all it can to minimize the impact.

Such efforts include but not limited to formulation of appropriate policy and regulatory framework, strengthening of collaborations, partnerships and linkages to service providers and development partners as well as supporting strategic interventions to remove bottle necks in production and trade of livestock products.

Distinguished participants

This workshop has been organized with the broad understanding that provision of the fodder value chain is a collaborative venture. This is why the composition of the participants traverses different

stakeholders with various roles to play in fodder production, value-addition and marketing.

Ladies and gentlemen ;

We appreciate the specific roles each one you play individually to contribute to the achievement of our aspirations which is, to provide fodder production and marketing information to end users.