



Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation

PRESS RELEASE

Clarification of Issues Raised Following the Ministry's Appearance before the Joint Parliamentary Committees of Trade and Agriculture

My attention has been drawn to reports in some sections of the media and the distorted and misleading allegations made at another sitting of this joint Committee's sitting by the Member for Aldai Constituency that have misrepresented what I said at the sitting of the joint Committees of Agriculture and Trade when I appeared on Monday, 25th June 2018. I strongly feel that I have an obligation to clarify.

In this war against corruption, which we are all in support of, we must avoid politicizing it, settling scores, maligning others, misrepresenting reports, and misleading Kenyans by deliberately distorting information by misusing the privileges of the offices we hold.

When I honoured the invitation by the joint Committees of Agriculture and Trade, as I should, I tabled a list of registered sugar importers. This is the list compiled by the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) whose Sugar Directorate has the sole mandate of vetting sugar importers to ensure that they meet the stipulated requirements.

In the list that I tabled on Monday, there were 48 companies registered as importers of white refined sugar for industrial use. These are reputable and well-known companies such as Kenya Breweries Limited, Nairobi Bottlers Ltd, Glaxo SmithKline Ltd, Wrigley Co (EA) Ltd.

For clarity, it is important that Kenyans know that the Directorate licences qualifying companies to import either table or industrial sugar.

It is important to note that **NOT** all companies that are in the list that I tabled utilized the gazetted window to import duty free sugar last year. In fact, the sensational claims by the Member for Aldai that the company he chose to single out of the list of 370 registered for Brown and Mill/white sugar importation as having imported the sugar under investigation is not only false, misleading, malicious but also mischievous. **At no time did the company mentioned import a single grain of sugar. In fact, the company, Protech Investment Limited, has never imported any type of sugar.** I am surprised that the name of this company is appearing on the list despite the owner never receiving communication after they applied in 2011 that they were registered.

Among the companies registered to import Brown Sugar, some import for manufacturing processes such as confectionery and cattle feed. Companies in this category include such companies as Jambo Biscuits Ltd, Premier Cookies Ltd, Kenblest Ltd and Kifaru Feeds Limited.

My attention was also drawn to other sections of the media that reported on Tuesday that I explained **'how sugar got mercury'** and that I **"link [ed] sugar contamination to use of uncleaned, open ships that had transported fertilizer and coal to ferry the sweetener from Brazil."**

Fortunately, all the media houses were at Committees' Sitting when I appeared and their recordings and that of the Hansard can bear me witness that I did not say these things that some of you wrote.

Members of the Press, the Hansard is there for all us to verify what I said. My message is this – **the country and the media gain more by reporting truthfully, factually and honestly.** This is a matter of national importance and should be treated as such.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'M' followed by the name 'MWANGI' in capital letters.

Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, EGH, MGH
Cabinet Secretary

27th JUNE, 2018