



Republic of Kenya

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND IRRIGATION
STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

PRESS STATEMENT

Strategic Food Reserve Maize prices for 2018

Statement from the Principal Secretary, State Department of Agriculture
Research

My attention has been drawn to a story (by Otiato Gaguyu) in today's (December 18) *The Standard Newspaper* which quotes me as "settling" the debate between Government, Farmers and politicians. The author of the article did not write it with the best intention for Kenyan farmers. The article is riddled with factual misstatements and misrepresentations that can only be malicious.

The article insinuates that I made a statement on maize prices that in essence, challenges a Government position earlier made by the Cabinet on the same matter, which is not only wrong, but also grossly malicious. The irresponsible report sets Government against wananchi in general and farmers in particular.

The Cabinet already pronounced itself on the price at which the Strategic Food Reserve will purchase maize for the 2018 long rain season. The recommendation from the Strategic Food Reserve Board was to purchase 2 million bags at 2,300/= per 90 kg bag. The cabinet approved that recommendation, which has not changed and which as a PS, I can only implement.

I would like to state categorically that as PS in the Ministry of Agriculture, I have no powers to settle debates on maize pricing between the Government, Farmers and politicians or any other debates for that matter. My responsibility is to implement Cabinet Decisions and Government Policy and strategies.

I urge reporters not to play around with the emotions of Kenyan farmers by publishing misleading information. For farming to be meaningful it must be technology-led and market guided. That is my position.

I therefore demand the erroneous story published by *The Standard* be disregarded and an appropriate apology be offered by the management of the Newspaper.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Boga', enclosed within a rectangular box. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Prof. Hamadi Boga, PhD,
Principal Secretary
State Department of Agriculture Research**