

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
COOPERATIVES

LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND

PRESS RELEASE BY HON. PETER MUNYA, MGH, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND COOPERATIVES ON THE DESERT LOCUST INVASION AND CONTROL IN KENYA

Government Effort to Contain the Pest

As you are aware Kenya is experiencing invasion of desert locusts. The locust swarms started crossing the border into Kenya from Ethiopia and Somalia on 28th December, 2019. The invasion has so far been confirmed in eight counties; Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit, Garissa, Isiolo, Meru, Samburu and Laikipia.

In response the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries initiated the following interventions to control the locust and stop their spread to other areas.

Deployment of spray aircrafts for control operation

- Two spray aircrafts, from the Desert Locust Control Organization of Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), in Wajir and Isiolo. The aircrafts have undertaken aerial control of seven locust swarms in the following areas; Wajir county: dulgub, Habaswein, Lakdima, Rhamu, Masaleand Beramu and Kachiuru in Meru County
- Aailed and distributed 4700 litres of control pesticides to four affected counties namely Wajir, Marsabit, Mandera and Isiolo.
- Aailed and distributed support in form of control equipment i.e 3 vehicle mounted sprayers, 18 motorised knapsack sprayers, 50 hand held ULV sprayers, 175 Personal protective equipment (PPEs) to the affected counties.

Empowerment and capacity building of counties

- The government has deployed a team of experts to the affected area to train and mobilize the county teams that will support the control efforts. A total of 145 officers from the eight affected counties have been trained and deployed to do surveillance/monitoring of the pest.

- To harness available expertise the ministry has formed a multi-institutional technical team that will strategies and guide the management desert locust in the country. Members of the team are drawn from the following institutions;

- ☞ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
- ☞ Kenya Agricultural Research Organization (KALRO)
- ☞ Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
- ☞ Pest Control products Board (PCPB)
- ☞ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ☞ University of Nairobi (UoN)
- ☞ International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (Icipe)
- ☞ Centre for Agricultural and Biosciences International (CABI)
- ☞ Joint Agriculture Secretariat (JAS)
- ☞ Council of Governors (CoG)

The government has provided additional Ksh 230 million to support the control operations

Contribution by the Private sector

Aircraft hired by the private sector has controlled three swarms in Bassa, Kipsing, Naibungaga and lantili in Isiolo and Laikipia counties

WAY FORWARD

1. The Ministry is hiring and deploying three more spray aircrafts to cover Garissa, Marsabit and Mandera Counties
2. Deployment of three surveillance Helicopters from other government agencies
3. Distribution of additional 20,000 litres of control pesticides
4. Continuous capacity building of County field officers

I wish to assure Kenyans that the Government is in control of the situation as most of the swarms have been controlled and the remaining 5 swarms are being monitored very closely.

However, Kenyans should remain vigilant and immediately report any new swarms sighted.

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Dated 15th January 2020