



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES & COOPERATIVES

Office of the Cabinet Secretary

Telegraphic Address "MINAG" NAIROBI

Telephone: 020-2718870

Email: cabinetsecretary@kilimo.go.ke

KILIMO HOUSE
CATHEDRAL ROAD
P.O BOX 30028
NAIROBI

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FLAGGING OFF OF POTATO BREEDER SEED TO COUNTIES

WHO: Hon. Peter Munya, MGH, Cabinet Secretary and Chairman of the CGC&FSWG

WHAT: Flagging-off of potato breeder seed to the counties for multiplication by common interest groups

WHEN: Monday May 18, 2020 **10.00 am**

WHERE: MoALF&C Head Office, Kilimo House.

Potato is the second most important crop after maize that is produced in 20 of Kenya's 47 counties under varying socioeconomic and climatic conditions. Potato farmers in these counties continue to face various production challenges leading to an average production of 10 tons per hectare against a potential of 60 tons per hectare.

Breeder seed is produced under the highest level of genetic control to ensure the seed is genetically pure and accurately represents the variety characteristics identified by the breeder during variety selection. This seed requires further multiplication and is therefore given out to seed producers to multiply it for wide distribution to farmers.

Climate change has continued to be a major challenge generally to agriculture including potato production. Although KALRO has made several efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 is a threat that is undermining those efforts and is likely to exacerbate these effects by affecting labour supply on farming. This may further affect crop

and livestock production and productivity which is worsened by the increased costs on health reducing input use and adoption of appropriate technologies.

Journalists are welcome to engage the Cabinet secretary on this issue and in line to the Ministry's ongoing efforts to ensure that food continues to remain available and affordable to Kenyans throughout the pandemic.

Additional enquiries be sent to:

Email: foodsecurity.covid-19@kilimo.go.ke

Mobile Tel: +254 725 996 566