



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

NAIROBI

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NEWS RELEASE

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AND CATALYSE RETURNS FOR LIVESTOCK SECTOR

The State Department for Livestock Development in consultation with stakeholders has proposed legislation that will catalyse the commercialization of livestock farming in Kenya.

Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke said the Livestock Bill 2024 which is a product of structured and extensive consultation will grow returns in the sector by addressing policy, regulation, incentives, training, research, and disaster management.

‘This proposed legislation that is aligned and sensitive to livestock farmers interests and aspirations will ensure a robust and sustainable livestock sector by enhancing productivity, market access and sector resilience’ said P.S Mueke.

He added that the Livestock Bill 2024 will address farmers economic stability by securing good returns on investment and developing the livestock value chain.

The legislation that will transform the economic viability of the livestock space will encourage best practices, enhance farm income, and drive economic growth within the livestock sector besides guaranteeing stable prices and making Kenya competitive for both local and international investors.

The bill creates infrastructure to ensure that inputs are free from contaminants and harmful substances thereby guaranteeing superior quality animal nutrition and high levels of efficiency and productivity.

Farmers will now access superior breeding stock. Top breeds translates to high productivity and impressive returns on investment. P.S Mueke revealed that the proposed legislation has taken into active consideration stakeholders' interests to have livestock institutions anchored in acts of parliament.

“Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute, Kenya Animal Genetics Resources Centre, Kenya Leather Development Council and the Kenya Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Council are established under subsidiary legislation. This bill will ensure these institutions are established under substantive law” said P.S Mueke.

The proposed legislation will create unprecedented employment and wealth opportunities for livestock farmers by positioning Kenya as a livestock investment destination.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OVERLEAF

LIVESTOCK BILL 2024

The Livestock Bill 2024 introduces transformative measures designed to revitalize and provide an enabling environment for unregulated value chains in livestock sector industries in Kenya, bringing considerable benefits to farmers, livestock keepers, national and county government operations as well as the economy. The Bill is intended to achieve the following:

1. Sector Development and Provision of an Enabling Environment

Benefit: The Bill establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for the livestock sector, creating a predictable and orderly environment for all livestock sector value chain actors. This will enable sustainable growth suitable for targeted investment.

Impact: This legislative proposal will ensure the sector's development is both efficient and scalable, enhancing long-term viability and operational coherence. Unethical practices which had taken root due to lack of regulation will be fully addressed to allow investors, especially farmers to get better returns on their livestock investments.

2. Provision of Incentives to Farmers

Benefit: Interventions to livestock farmers and support to livestock sector value chain actors have been scarce and uncoordinated due to the absence of an enabling legislation. The provisions in the Bill to offer incentives such as grants, credit, offtake agreements and farm inputs to livestock farmers and the vulnerable livestock sector value chains are crucial for boosting productivity and profitability.

Impact: These incentives will encourage best practices, enhance farm income, and drive economic growth within the livestock sector.

3. Market Access and Value Chain Enhancement

Benefit: Livestock and livestock products have not been marketed adequately locally and internationally in order to facilitate market access while promoting value addition. The Bill through creation of the Marketing Board will open markets for livestock

products such as meat, milk, eggs, honey and leather which currently have no marketing agency. This will enable farmers to reach broader markets and optimize sales.

Impact: Enhanced markets and intelligence, stable prices, increased revenue and bolstering the competitiveness of Kenyan livestock products locally and internationally.

4. Regulation of Inputs in the Livestock Sector and Animal Feedstuff

Benefit: The Bill addresses the age-old challenge of the sector where critical inputs and animal feeds have not been regulated thus endangering animal health as well as humans who consume animal products. The Bill enables the government to protect consumers by regulating all commercial inputs and animal feeds for sale in order to guarantee safety to the consumers of livestock products.

Impact: The health of human beings and animals arising from high quality animal feeds and other inputs free of contaminants and other harmful substances. Better quality of animal nutrition products will lead to healthier livestock and increased farm productivity.

5. Registration of Commercial Breeding Animals

Benefit: The Bill provides for registration of breeding animals for commercial purposes to ensure high standards in genetic improvement and herd quality. This will protect livestock farmers from quacks thus preventing losses.

Impact: Access to superior breeding stock boosts livestock quality thus fostering sustainable sector growth. Better breeds translate to more money in the pockets of our farmers as a result of faster growth, increased productivity as well as drought and disease resistance.

6. National Food and Nutrition Security and Safety

Benefit: Mechanisms to improve food and nutrition security have previously not been supported through sound legislation for the entire sector. This has contributed to frequent losses of our livestock. Utilization and development of livestock resources for food and nutritional security by measures enforced through the Bill will guarantee that livestock products are safe, abundant and integral to the national food supply.

Impact: Guaranteed supply of safe and adequate quantities of livestock products such as meat, milk, eggs, honey and leather will bolster public health and well-being,

contributing significantly to national food security and improved countrywide nutritional standards.

7. Promotion of Research and Innovation

Benefit: By prioritizing research and innovation, the Bill fosters the development of new technologies and practices in the livestock sector to better address challenges through a focussed research institution. The establishment of the Kenya Livestock Research Organisation will advance livestock research and production technologies.

Impact: This research-driven approach ensures continuous sector advancement, addressing emerging challenges and improving overall sector efficiency. The utilization of research findings in commercial livestock enterprises will foster innovation as well as ensure that resources are directed towards addressing critical sector challenges, thus improving management practices and productivity.

8. Establishing Existing Livestock Institutions in Substantive Law

Benefit: Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute, Kenya Animal Genetics Resources Centre, Kenya Leather Development Council and the Kenya Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Council are currently established under legal notices (subsidiary legislation). Through this Bill they will be established under substantive law as an ACT of Parliament while the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) will be reformed to establish the Kenya Livestock Research Organization (KLRO).

Impact: Sustainable production of high quality and effective vaccines, enhancement of livestock genetics to improve the nations breeds, growth of the leather industry to supply all the country's leather needs as well as bring foreign exchange earnings from exports, more effective tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication efforts and the separation of livestock research from crop research leading to enhanced benefits for the livestock sector.

9. Enhanced Capacity Building and Anchoring of Training Institutions into Law

Benefit: The anchoring into law of the existing livestock training institutions which have been in existence administratively over the last 30 years will strengthen them, leading to better governance and accountability. This will provide essential skills and knowledge to livestock keepers more efficiently. The training is on all middle level

skills such as dairy management, animal health and production, hides, skins and leather management, range management, food safety and meat inspection. The Bill also provides for capacity building across all livestock sector value chains.

Impact: Sustainable development of livestock professionals leading to better extension services, improved livestock management as well as enhanced production and productivity.

10. Disaster Management and Response

Benefit: Provisions for disaster management to address preparedness and response to emergencies affecting the livestock sector.

Impact: Effective disaster management minimizes the impact of crises such as drought, floods and diseases. This will safeguard livelihoods and ensure the continuity of livestock sector operations by mitigating losses to farmers.

Conclusion

The Livestock Bill 2024 represents a significant advancement in the regulation and development of Kenya's livestock sector. By addressing critical areas such as policy, regulation, incentives, training, research, and disaster management, the Bill will ensure a robust and sustainable livestock sector. Its comprehensive approach will enhance productivity, market access and sector resilience thus contributing to the economic stability of Kenyan farmers, livestock keepers and pastoralists.

Good returns on investment by livestock farmers and other value chain actors will spur livestock-based livelihoods and economic growth.

**HON. JONATHAN MUEKE, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

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