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TALKING POINTS FOR HON. CS MUTAHI KAGWE, THE CABINET SECRETARY (CS) FOR AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONWIDE LIVESTOCK VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN KISARGEI VILLAGE, SEGERA WARD, LAIKIPIA NORTH SUB-COUNTY, LAIKIPIA COUNTY.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

BACKGROUND:

- Kenya is home to around 22 M Cattle, 23 M sheep, 35 M goats and 4.3M camels
- Under the Kenya Kwanza Administration, and through the Bottom-up economic Transformation agenda (BETA), the Government has committed to increasing the contribution of the livestock sector to the GDP from the current 12% to 20%.
- Under the BETA Agriculture result Framework, the goal is to achieve food safety and food security, reduce food imports and increase exports.
- This goal cannot be achieved by doing business as usual. We must make farming profitable again, and put more money in farmers' pockets.
- Therefore, to achieve this goal, and for our agricultural and livestock sector value chains to be competitive in the very competitive global markets, we must take tough decisions, make sacrifices, adopt innovation and technology. embrace modern production best-practices, and rely on

science and empirical evidence to boost both our production volumes and quality throughout our value-chains.

- For the livestock value chain, for large bovines and the smaller ones, this then means increasing production and productivity of our animals through proper animal health measures, adequate feed and nutrition and appropriate breeds that are resilient and adoptable to our conditions.
- Hence the need for this nationwide livestock vaccination campaign.

What is the main goal of this National vaccination campaign?

- The main goal of this campaign is to reduce the prevalence and eventually achieve eliminate **Foot and Mouth Disease** (FMD) and **Peste des Petits Ruminants** (PPR) in the country by vaccinating cattle against FMD and; sheep and goats against PPR.
- These are transboundary animal diseases that affect cattle, sheep and goats causing significant loss in production and productivity of our livestock, threatening food security, food safety, **economic losses (up to KSH 62Billion in loss of revenue)** due to closure of **markets (locally and internationally), treatment costs, and losses through high mortality(up to 70%) of animals.**

Why the government is undertaking this campaign?

- The government is vaccinating our livestock in order to protect Kenyan livestock (cattle, goats, sheep and pigs) in accordance to globally-accepted and benchmarked national, regional and FMD & PPR control and eradication strategies
- FMD & PPR are the main causes of significant production losses through deaths, low productivity of animals due to sickness, negatively impacting on our food security, leading to livestock mass deaths during outbreaks, and from restrictions preventing us from accessing local, regional and international trade.
- The government is implementing the **National Strategy for The Control and Eradication of PPR (2017-2027) and the Risk-Based Strategic Plan for Control of FMD (2019)** which were developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders including County Governments.
- **However, the disease control measures have so far not been uniformly undertaken in the countries due to the lack of coordinated implementation, which has** resulted in failure to effectively control the diseases.

- FMD & PPR diseases are classified as **trade-sensitive** by the **World Organization for Animal Health** (WOAH), meaning, their control is essential for ensuring compliance with international standards and agreements, an example being the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures (WTO-SPS Agreement).

What are the Benefits of this Nationwide Vaccination?

- **Disease Prevention and Control**

Vaccination is the first line of defense against many serious diseases that affect livestock, such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (**FMD**), brucellosis and Peste des Petits Ruminants (**PPR**). These diseases can have devastating economic impacts, leading to significant losses in production, reduced trade, and, in severe cases, culling of animals. Vaccines help prevent these diseases from spreading, reducing the need for drastic measures.

- **Improved Animal Welfare**

Vaccinated animals are less likely to suffer from preventable diseases, which can cause pain, distress, and even death. Ensuring that livestock are properly vaccinated, is a great support to animal welfare and reduces the ethical concerns associated with disease outbreaks.

- **Increased Productivity and Efficiency**

Healthy animals are more productive. Vaccinated livestock have higher growth rates, better reproductive performance, and improved milk and egg production. This not only supports the livelihoods of farmers but also helps ensure a stable and affordable food supply for communities worldwide.

- **Economic Stability**

The economic cost of an outbreak of infectious diseases can be staggering. Vaccination reduces the likelihood of outbreaks, lowering the costs of medical treatment, loss of animals, and trade restrictions. It also helps keep agricultural markets stable by maintaining the supply of livestock products.

- **Public Health Protection**

Some livestock diseases, such as zoonotic diseases (Anthrax, Brucellosis, Rift Valley Fever), can be transmitted to humans. Vaccinating animals reduces the risk of these diseases spilling over into the human population, thus protecting public

health. A strong vaccination program for livestock also supports global health efforts to combat emerging diseases.

In sum, the government of Kenya endeavors to control and eradicate FMD and PPR, as guided by global strategies, and our strategy is also based on a stepwise approach – ***the progressive control pathway. The ultimate aim is to get recognition of freedom from disease by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).***

Who is the manufacturer of the vaccines for this campaign?

- The vaccines used in this campaign are produced locally by the **Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI), a parastatal established in 1990** by Legal Notice No. 223 under Cap 446 of the laws of Kenya.
- KEVEVAPI and its predecessor, **Vaccine Production Laboratory (VPL) has been manufacturing FMD vaccines since 1964** and PPR vaccines since 2006, ensuring the availability of high-quality, safe and effective vaccines for national use and export.
- The name of vaccine is **Fotivax™** for Vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease and **Pestevax™** for vaccination against Peste des Petits ruminants (PPR).

Who will be responsible for administering the vaccine?

- The national government will coordinate the national livestock vaccination program in collaboration with the County Governments. The veterinary personnel in the county will coordinate the implementation of the program and administration of the vaccine to the animals in collaboration with private animal health service providers

Is livestock vaccination mandatory for all livestock farmers?

- **The national livestock vaccination program is Voluntary**, however considering that FMD is a highly contagious viral infection of livestock associated with heavy losses in milk production, reproduction, loss of body condition and deaths especially in young ones, while PPR affects sheep and goats, infecting up to 90% of the herd and can kill up to 70% of infected animals; **it is prudent that farmers present their animals for vaccination.**
- In addition, FMD and PPR are classified as “trade-sensitive” trans boundary animal diseases by The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), therefore, the level of Kenya’s prevention and control status of these

diseases determines if Kenya's livestock and livestock products can access international markets.

- **Currently Kenya has signed trade agreements with UAE and EU each with a GDP of USD 850B and 17 Trillion Euros respectively. These are lucrative markets which Kenya stands to lose due to the presence of these diseases which the vaccination program seeks to address.**

For instance, **Kakamega, West Pokot, and Trans Nzoia counties** have recently been placed under quarantine due to an FMD outbreak.

- **Trans Nzoia:** The outbreak was reported in **November 2024 in Cherangani, Kwanza, Kiminini, Saboti and Endebess sub counties**. Samples were taken and submitted to National FMD referral Laboratory for analysis where type O serotype was isolated.
- **West Pokot:** FMD outbreak caused by SAT 1 reported in **January 2025 in Chepareria**.
- **Kakamega:** FMD outbreak was reported in **Shinyalu and Malava Sub counties on 31st Dec 2024**. No samples were collected and thus the outbreak was diagnosed clinically awaiting laboratory confirmation

Therefore, the following disease control measures as stipulated in the Animal Diseases Control Act Cap 364 have been put in place:

Kakamega

- Quarantine - imposed on 2nd January 2025
- Ring vaccination has been carried out where 2500 cattle, 200 sheep and goats and 19 pigs were vaccinated
- Closure of Shinyalu and Lubao Livestock markets

West Pokot

- Quarantine imposed in Chepareria
- Closure of Chepareria livestock market

Trans Nzoia

- Quarantine imposed on 6th November 2024
- The county veterinary department has received 4000 doses of FMD vaccine and plan to carry out ring vaccination in due course
- Closure of Sikhendu and Sibanga livestock markets
- Private vaccinations by individual farmers ongoing

As can be evidenced from the foregoing, the closure of markets and restricted movement of cattle has had devastating effects on the incomes of the farmers in the affected counties.

How farmers can contribute to the success of the campaign?

Farmers play a vital role in ensuring the campaign's success by:

- Availing their animals for vaccination as scheduled.
- Cooperating and collaborating with veterinary officers during the campaign by sharing accurate information.
- Adhering to farm biosecurity measures and ensuring good animal husbandry practices.
- Reporting any sick animal to the veterinary officer for treatment and not present sick animals for vaccination.
- Active participation and cooperation by farmers is essential for achieving the desired vaccination coverage and establishing herd immunity.

What is the Vaccination process and how is this being coordinated?

- The Ministry through the Directorate of Veterinary Services in the State Department for Livestock Development is coordinating this program in collaboration with the counties.
- The approach towards the Vaccination program will be based on risk categorization levels.
- The High Dairy producing counties are targeted for Vaccination against FMD while the ASAL counties are targeted for PPR.
- The National government through the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) will oversee the campaign's coordination and ensuring that the standards applied are, systematic and aligned with the respective disease control strategies.
- County governments will implement the vaccination, with support from private veterinarians and other stakeholders.
- The campaign will follow a risk-based approach, targeting regions with high disease prevalence, border areas and hotspots identified through epidemiological assessments.
- Pre- and post-vaccination surveys will also be conducted to monitor progress and effectiveness.

Why the choice of Laikipia County for the launch, and has this exercise been undertaken before?

- The launch of the vaccination program in Laikipia is to signify the beginning of Kenya's journey towards recognition of freedom from FMD and PPR by the world organization for animal health.
- This will enable greater access of our livestock and livestock products to the international markets thereby increasing farmers' incomes and improving livelihood of our livestock keepers.
- **Last year over 3million sheep and goats and over 570,000 cattle were vaccinated against PPR and FMD respectively in Kitui, Embu, Tharaka Nithi and Wajir counties.**
- Laikipia county was chosen as the site for the launch since it is centrally located, has a high population of cattle sheep and goats and encompasses both the dairy herd and the pastoral system.
- It is expected that a total of about **345,000 cattle and 936,000 sheep and goats will be vaccinated against FMD and PPR in Laikipia County.**

What are the costs associated with vaccination campaign?

- Vaccination is a costly exercise involving the cost of vaccines, vaccine delivery to the animals and monitoring performance and success of the campaign.
- Various actors will be mobilized in meeting the various costs of the exercise including the national and county governments, development partners and the livestock sector players such as livestock keepers, industry and farmer organizations.

What are the national livestock campaign timelines and what is the coverage?

- The campaign will begin in **January 2025 and conducted over three years**, with repeat vaccinations scheduled biannually for FMD and annually for PPR, as per the national control strategies.
- The aim is to achieve at least 70% vaccination coverage within one year to significantly reduce the prevalence of the two diseases.
- The vaccination campaign will be phased, gradual, sequential and risk based.

Which areas will be covered and which will be exempted?

- The campaign will cover all regions in Kenya, with particular emphasis on high-risk areas such as **border regions and disease hotspots** as per the strategies and surveillance reports.
- For FMD, the priority will be the dairy production areas though ring vaccinations will be carried out whenever there are outbreaks in the beef production area and for the PPR, the priority will be pastoral zones.
- This targeted approach ensures efficient use of resources while maximizing the impact of the vaccination.

Who are the key stakeholders involved, and partnerships leveraged in the campaign?

Key stakeholders include:

- Veterinary Services - both National and County:
- National Government Agencies: Directorate of Livestock Production, National Government Administration Officers, Kenya Wildlife Services,
- Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI)
- Kenya Veterinary Board
- Private Veterinary Service providers
- Livestock owners / keepers
- Farmers' organizations and Community-Based Organizations
- Livestock traders, middlemen, transporters and Livestock marketing associations
- Processors of animal and animal products
- Opinion leaders, Village Elders and Religious leaders.
- Professional Associations.
- Development Partners.

The Ministry appreciates the cooperation and collaboration that has been demonstrated by the County Government in ensuring that this exercise is undertaken successfully. The Ministry also appreciates the National Government Administration officers for their support in spreading awareness on this program and mobilizing all farmers to present their animals for vaccination.