

## **GOVERNOR SAMUEL TUNAI COMMISSIONING OF THE LOLGORIAN LIVESTOCK MARKET**

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 16th September 2020

Hon. County Executive Committee Members

Hon. Members of County Assembly

Chief Officers

County Directors

County Technical staff

Stakeholders

Members of public

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join with all of you here in Lolgorian, as we make yet another milestone in developing our livestock sector through structural development. Seven months ago, on 6th March, 2020 we were here to lay the foundation stone. In seven months, what was an aspiration to have a good market place is now a reality.

Almost immediately thereafter on 12th March 2020, the index case of COVID-19 was declared in Kenya which ultimately led to institution of several containment measures which greatly affected the way we did things including imposition of a curfew and cessation of movements. This however did not stop the construction work from progressing and the market infrastructure is now complete.

Today, we are here to commission the newly constructed Lolgorian Livestock market. Covid-19 stopped many things and brought with it many worries, but we are happy that it could not step this great initiative.

This project is a collaboration between Narok County Government and the State Department for Livestock through the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP). It has a capacity to hold 1,000 large stock (cattle and donkeys) and 2,500 small stock (sheep and goats) and boasts of excellent design and sustainably build infrastructure. In addition to the trading yard, the market has sorting yards

where traders can keep their animals in readiness to loading onto transportation means, where a standard designed loading ramp has been built.

The market also has standard offices (4) for use by the traders, livestock marketing association, county revenue/ security and veterinary/ livestock departments. Available too are marketing stalls block for auxiliary businesses, water harvesting and storage facilities and three latrines. This market has been secured with a fortified fence with a main gate for control of livestock purposes and general security enhancement.

This market is a significant feeder market to other markets such as, Aitong, Kapsinendet and Chebunyo markets. Catchment of livestock for the market include Kilgoris, Kehancha and areas of Tanzania bordering Transmara West Sub-county.

It is important to note that this area has a large catchment of livestock which characterize the main economic prospect for communities residing in the area. It is strategic for livestock marketing where breeders from other areas frequently visit for breeding stock (especially Sahiwal, boran and red Maasai sheep) and finished stock for meat market. The market attracts traders from the larger Narok, Samburu and Laikipia for the breeding stock while Naivasha, Mai Mahiu, Kiambu and Nairobi for finished stock. Small stock attracts traders majorly from Nakuru and Gilgil areas especially Kikopey.

Livestock keeping is a major economic mainstay for Narok county citizenry. It is important to note that livestock marketing is a very vibrant industry. The County has 26 active livestock markets and sale yards. The Livestock markets have become an important source of livelihood for our people. The rapid growth of our livestock markets has influenced rapid growth of our rural urban centres thus creating opportunities for investment.

My administration has recognized the vital role played by the livestock sector in the County and Country at large. This is why we have continued to support the livestock sector through provision of pedigree breeding bulls and construction of supportive infrastructure.

My administration in collaboration with the national government has also started the construction of Suswa, Ngoswani and Kapsinendent livestock markets. We have already commissioned the operations of Olololunga market.

To increase resilience of our livestock keepers against frequent droughts, my government in partnership with the national government has supported the development of water infrastructures such as Nturumentu water pan in Mosiro ward, Endoinyo Erinka borehole in Mara ward, Elangata Enterit and Empura water pan in Naroosura Majimoto ward.

In addition, my administration has gone an extra mile in supporting farmers in the provision of pasture seeds which have made our county to become a major producer of pasture in the country. To this end, I encourage our farmers to construct pasture conservation facilities to ensure they have adequate stocks for their animals especially during the dry spells. We have also continued to support farmers with concentrates, mineral blocks and mass treatment of weak animals by provision of dewormers, and acaricides, especially during the drought season. Over 2 million heads of livestock have been vaccinated against notifiable diseases such as Foot and Mouth, PPR, CBPP and Blue tongue, in the last two years. This has improved the production and productivity of livestock and market access of our livestock thus increasing incomes to our livestock keepers.

To expand growth of the dairy industry my administration in partnership with the national government, has procured and commissioned 32 milk coolers each with a capacity of three thousand liters and above. The milk coolers were donated to functional dairy cooperatives. The coolers have reduced milk spoilage occasioned by lack of cold storage facilities thus increasing incomes realized by our dairy farmers.

On improvement of our dairy cattle breeds my administration has supported provision of Artificial Insemination (A.I) services by purchasing of 40 artificial insemination kits. These have been distributed to staff who were sponsored by the County government for one-month training to acquire the skills in A.I service provision. My Administration has further availed adequate stocks of semen from Kenya Animal Genetic Resource Centre (KAGRC) and has embarked on extensive education of the farmers on breeds improvement. Through exposure tours to other counties our farmers are also purchasing dairy animals from our neighboring counties where the dairy industry is well established.

We are also collaborating with the National Government to promote leather production, value addition and trade through the construction of Export Class Tannery at Ewaso Ngiro Market Centre. As a consequence of this development, my administration is currently training farmers through extension on good animal husbandry as well as training and equipping of flayers to guarantee high quality hides and skins for processing. Through these interventions, we envisage that Narok County will become a leather exporting county.

I thank the National Government for the partnership in the implementation of this project.

Lastly, I would like to ask all of us, especially those who will be regularly using this market, to ensure that its good condition is maintained. We are building Narok County step by step. My commitment is to

ensure that we have such major markets in all sub-counties, and ensure that livestock trading takes place in good environments such as this.

Thank you all and may God bless you all