

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



PAPERS LAID	
DATE	19/05/2020
TABLED BY	Chairperson
COMMITTEE	AGRICULTURE
CLERK AT THE TABLE	Jillson

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

FOURTH SESSION

THE SENATE

---

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND  
FISHERIES

REPORT ON THE STATEMENT ON LOCUST INVASION IN PARTS OF THE  
COUNTRY

---

Clerk's Chambers

Parliament Buildings,

NAIROBI

APRIL, 2020

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS.....	iii
PREFACE.....	iv
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	vii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Statement on the locust invasion in parts of the country.....	1
1.2 Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives.....	1
1.3 County Visits to Embu, Tharaka Nithi and Samburu Counties.....	3
1.3.1 Embu County.....	3
1.3.2 Tharaka Nithi County.....	5
1.3.3 Samburu County.....	7
1.4 Statement by the Chairperson pursuant to standing order 51 (1) (a).....	10
COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS.....	10
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.....	12
APPENDICES.....	14

## ABBREVIATIONS

---

CECM	-	County Executive Committee Member
DLCO-EA	-	Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Authority
KALRO	-	Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization

## PREFACE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

### **Establishment of the Committee**

The Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries was constituted on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 during the First Session of the Twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) Parliament pursuant to the provisions of standing order 218 (1) of the Senate Standing Orders which states:

*There shall be Select Committees to be designated Standing Committees which shall be nominated by the Senate Business Committee in consultation with parliamentary parties at the commencement of every Parliament.*

### **Mandate of the Committee**

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is mandated under the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders to *consider all matters relating to agriculture, irrigation, livestock, fisheries development and veterinary services.*

Standing order 218 (4) provides that Standing Committees may, in dealing with the matters assigned to them under the Second Schedule, scrutinize the resolutions of the Senate (including adopted Committee Reports), petitions and formal undertakings given by the National Executive and examine-

- a) *whether or not such resolutions and undertakings have been implemented and where implemented, the extent to which they have been implemented; and whether such implementation has taken place within a reasonable time;*



*b) whether or not legislation or subsidiary legislation passed by the Senate has been operationalized and, where operationalized, the extent to which such operationalization has taken place;*

---

## **Oversight**

In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the following Government Departments and agencies -

- i. The State Department of Agriculture;
- ii. The State Department of Livestock;
- iii. The State Department for Fisheries; and
- iv. The State Department of Irrigation.

## **Membership of the Committee**

The Committee is comprised of the following members-

1. Sen. Peter Njeru Ndwiga, EGH, MP - **Chairperson**
2. Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, MP - **Vice - Chairperson**
3. Sen. (Dr.) Ochilo Ayacko, EGH, MP
4. Sen. (Canon) Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP
5. Sen. (Dr.) Michael Malinga Mbito, MP
6. Sen. Wario Golich Juma, MP
7. Sen. Justice (Rtd.) Madzayo Stewart Mwachiru, MP
8. Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP
9. Sen. Moses Otieno Kajwang' MP

## Secretariat of the Committee

The Committee secretariat is comprised of –

---

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Carol Kirorei | - Clerk Assistant         |
| 2. Ms. Sombe Toona   | - Legal Counsel           |
| 3. Ms. Caroline Njue | - Research Officer        |
| 4. Ms. Njeri Manga   | - Media Relations Officer |
| 5. Mr. John Pere     | - Serjeant-At-Arms        |
| 6. Ms. Mary Nyawira  | - Audio Officer           |

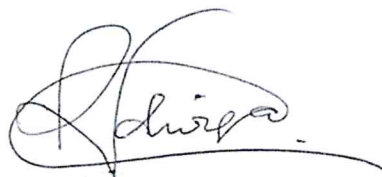
### Acknowledgement

The Committee wishes to thank the Office of the Speaker of the Senate and the Office of the Clerk of the Senate for the support extended to it in the consideration of the Statement on locust invasion in parts of the country.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

It is my pleasant duty, pursuant to standing order 213 (6), to present the Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the Statement on locust invasion in parts of the country.

Signed.....



... Date...30-04-2020.....

CHAIRPERSON

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At a Sitting of the Senate held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, Sen. Enoch Wambua, M.P. made a Statement on the locust invasion in parts of the country pursuant to standing order 47(1) of the Senate Standing Orders. Noting that the locust invasion was a matter of national importance threatening food security in the country, the Honourable Deputy Speaker directed that the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives be invited to a meeting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to which all Senators were invited.

The Committee met with the Cabinet Secretary on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 where he briefed Senators on the efforts made by the government to control the locust invasion. The Committee thereafter undertook county visits to Embu, Tharaka Nithi and Samburu counties and met with county officials and members of the public, and witnessed the destruction caused by the locust invasion. The Committee observations are contained in Chapter Three of this report while its recommendations are contained in Chapter Four of the Report.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Statement on the locust invasion in parts of the country**

---

Standing order 47 (1) of the Senate Standing Orders provides that a Senator may make a Statement on a matter of county-wide, inter-county, national, regional or international concern or on a matter of general topical concern.

Pursuant to this provision, at the Sitting of the Senate held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, Sen. Enoch Wambua, M.P. made a Statement on the locust invasion in parts of the country. Noting that the locust invasion is a matter of national importance threatening food security in the country, the Deputy Speaker directed that the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives be invited to a meeting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to which all Senators were invited, to address the matter.

### **1.2 Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives**

The Committee met with the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Peter Munya, MGH on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, where he admitted that the initial response to the locust invasion was indeed slow. He, however, assured the Committee that the Ministry was up to the task and briefed Senators on the Government efforts to control and contain the locust threat in the country as follows-

- a) That, five (5) aircrafts for spraying and four (4) for surveillance have been deployed and have over the last one and a half months undertaken aerial control of several locust swarms in the affected regions;
- b) That, a total of about 28,000 litres of control pesticides has been procured and distributed for use in the affected areas;



- c) That, control equipment has been distributed to the affected counties including three (3) Kenya army land rovers for ground control, three (3) vehicle mounted sprayers used by the army land rovers, thirty four (34) motorized sprayers, seventy (70) hand held Ultra Low Volume applicators (ULV sprayers) and two hundred and fifty (250) Personal protective equipment (PPEs);
- d) That, a team of experts has been deployed to the affected areas to train and mobilize the county extension teams to support the locusts control efforts. A total of two hundred and forty (240) extension officers from the affected counties have so far been trained in twenty one (21) counties and five hundred (500) National Youth Servicemen have been identified and mobilized for training in locust ground control;
- e) That, a locust disaster co-ordination center, supported by locust management and communication experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has been established at Kilimo House, to provide day to day information on the measures the Government is undertaking to eradicate the desert locust;
- f) That, six (6) control bases have been set up in all affected regions i.e. Wajir, Marsabit, Isiolo, Masinga, Garissa and Lodwar;
- g) That, the Ministry has deployed a team of experts to carry out an impact assessment of the devastation caused by the locusts, and the report of this assessment shall be used to retribute affected farmers; and
- h) That, the Ministry is in the process of launching a public campaign to sensitize the public on the handling of the locusts.

In addition to the above mentioned efforts, the Cabinet Secretary informed the Committee that there were plans to increase the number of spray aircrafts to twenty (20)

in collaboration with development partners including FAO (10 for spraying and 10 for surveillance) and to acquire and deploy twenty (20) vehicles equipped with suitable sprayers for ground control of mainly the hatching hoppers.

---

### **1.3 County Visits to Embu, Tharaka Nithi and Samburu Counties**

At its 71<sup>st</sup> Sitting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, the Committee resolved to visit Samburu, Tharaka Nithi and Embu Counties on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. The purpose of the visit was to establish the extent of damage caused by the locust invasion and to establish measures taken to mitigate the effects of the invasion.

#### **1.3.1 Embu County**

The Committee met with the CEC Member for Agriculture, Dr. Jamleck Muturi and Mr. Stanley Kipkoech, representing the national government, who briefed the Members on the status of the locust invasion in Embu County as follows-

1. The locust invasion was first reported on the evening of Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at Isako Market, Kiambere Ward. The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) was informed of the invasion and aerial spraying was done the next day within a radius of 10 kilometers from the coordinates of the sighting;
2. There have been several other swarms (approximately 100 swarms) that have invaded the County on different dates within the month of February. However, aerial spraying was done to control the locusts;
3. On 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives and a representative of the FAO visited Karambari Location, Muminje Ward and sensitized the public on locust control. The Cabinet Secretary assured the public that the government would step up control measures including supply of trained personnel and spraying equipment;



4. The damage caused by the locust was minimal as most crops had been harvested prior to the invasion. The affected crops include cowpeas, green grams, sorghum and napier grass where an estimated loss of 50 Ha, 25 Ha, 20 Ha and 6 Ha respectively occurred. Damage was also caused to acacia shrubs and miraa;
5. In Isako, a woman was affected by the pesticides and was rushed to hospital. However, so far, there has been no effect on livestock. A notice to evacuate for four (4) to five (5) days is given to the public prior to spraying;
6. A number of locals and officials of the county government have been trained on spraying techniques and are assisting in the control measures by the county government;
7. The county has received sixty (60) NYS officers who are assisting in the control of newly hatched nymphs on the ground;
8. The county government anticipated that a second generation swarm shall invade the county from Somalia and is therefore taking steps to adequately control the new swarms;
9. The control measures employed by the county government include aerial spraying, alternative methods by the communities including smoking and shouting, and ground spraying;
10. The County Government of Embu is planning to commit funds to adequately facilitate efforts for the locust control.

The Committee proceeded on a field visit to Itabua, Manyatta Sub County. The Committee observed swarms of mature locusts perched on trees and crops in the field.



**Locusts perched on trees in Itabua, Manyatta Sub County**

### **1.3.2 Tharaka Nithi County**

The Committee met with Mr. Stephen Mworira, the Agriculture Officer at Kamaguna, Tharaka North. He briefed the Committee as follows:

1. The first swarm of locusts invaded Tharaka Nithi County on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020 followed by a second swarm from Kitui the next day;
2. Through the support of the national government, aerial spraying was conducted in the affected areas on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020;
3. On 11<sup>th</sup> February, the swarms left the area but left behind eggs which have since hatched. The county government in conjunction with the national government is currently working towards controlling the nymphs;
4. The county government has received two hundred and thirty (230) litres of pesticides for ground spraying, six (6) motorized pumps, ten (10) battery operated pumps and fifteen (15) pairs of protective kits;



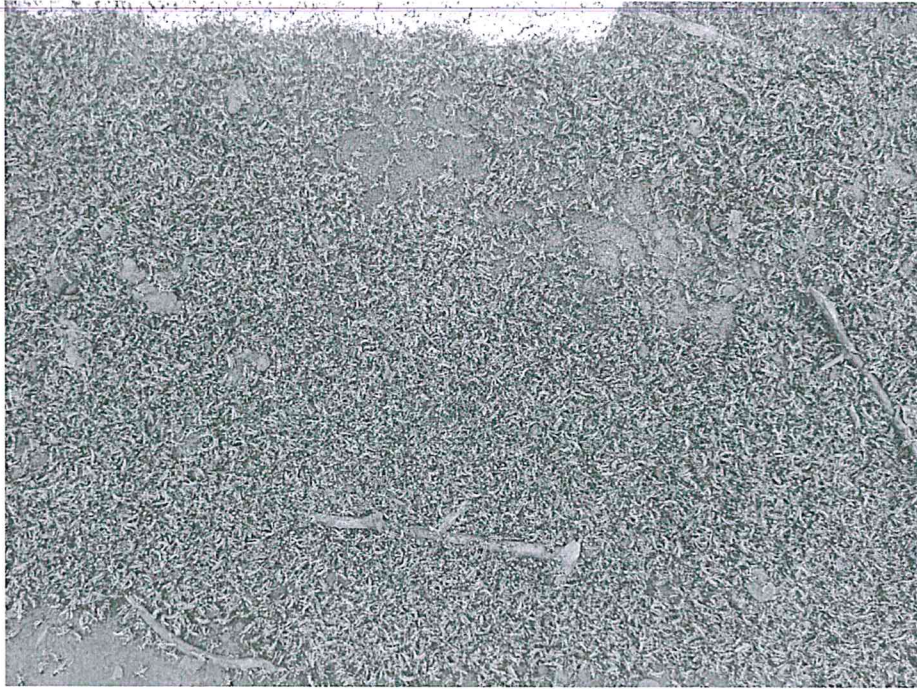
5. The county government has supported control measures through provision of fuel for vehicles and five hundred (500) litres of pesticides to control nymphs;
6. The county government has mobilized farmers to undergo training in order to support efforts to mitigate the effects of the invasion;
7. Surveillance of the locust swarms and their movement is done on a daily basis and finding reported to relevant county and national government offices;
8. The county government has received support from other stakeholders such as Plan International;
9. The county has not received any NYS officers to assist in the ground spraying efforts;
10. The current acreage affected by the destruction caused by the locusts is 8,500 Ha within Tharaka North Sub County;

Members of the public raised concern of the lack of protective gear for spraying and on the criteria to be used in compensation for loss as a result of destruction of crops in the fields. The Committee informed the public that the Ministry was in the process of carrying out an impact assessment of the invasion and would thereafter, decide on the criteria to be used in the restitution of farmers. The Committee then visited farms within Kamaguna, Tharaka North Sub County where it witnessed nymphs in their billions and the destruction caused by nymphs on crops.



## **Spraying of hoppers in Kamaguna, Tharaka Nithi County.**

**Locals are not dressed in protective kits.**



**Newly hatched nymphs in Kamaguna, Tharaka North Sub County**

### **1.3.3 Samburu County**

The Committee met with the CEC Member for Agriculture, Mr. Victor Laraman, county officials including the County Officer for Disaster Management Mr. Lesorgol and Members of the counterpart Committee of the County Assembly of Samburu. The following emerged at the meeting-

1. The first locust swarm arrived in Samburu County on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. So far the locusts have been confirmed in three sub counties, however, Samburu East has been most affected by the invasion particularly in Wamba West and Waso Wards;
2. Thirty four (34) roosting sites were recorded by 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020;
3. Ninety thousand (90,000) acres of pasture and browse have been devastated by the locust invasion and an estimated twenty five (25) households have been impacted by the invasion in terms of accessibility to pasture and browse;



4. There is one aircraft in use for surveillance and spraying of the locusts which is under the Isiolo hub. The county has also received twenty five (25) knapsack sprayers both motorized and non-motorized and two (2) motor vehicle mounted sprayers serving the Isiolo hub;
5. There has been continuous surveillance and monitoring of sprayed swarms and hatching hoppers. Twenty four (24) swarms have been sprayed including splitter swarms and hoppers;
6. The local community has been instrumental in surveillance and reporting of the locusts;
7. Eleven (11) swarms were successfully decimated in Samburu County covering approximately thirty nine (39) acres in Remot, Lengusaka, Nakwamoru, Reteti, Sarara, Ndonyo Wasin, Nkoteya-Kirimon, Ndonyo wasin Ndume, Lempuaute and West gate;
8. Approximately thirty seven thousand (37,000) acres have been aerially sprayed and one hundred and nineteen (119) acres have been ground sprayed;
9. Eighty five (85) NYS servicemen reported to Isiolo regional hub to assist in the control of the locusts in Samburu, Meru, Isiolo and Laikipia Counties;
10. An operation centre has been established at Lewa down to process data and information in conjunction with the DLCO-EA, 51 degrees and Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO);
11. There are reports that second generation swarms are scheduled to arrive soon from Somalia;
12. The County has however, experienced the following challenges-
  - a) Lack of adequate and consistent supply of pesticides;
  - b) Structures in the regional hub are not fully operational;
  - c) Fatigue due to the migratory nature of the locust swarms and the vast area of coverage in the county;
  - d) Some areas in the North of the county are inaccessible due to insecurity, locust control in these area has been impossible;

- e) Limited equipment such as vehicles, aircraft, GPS equipment and spraying equipment. Some spraying equipment has also been faulty;
- f) NYS officers were not fully equipped on arrival at the county;
- g) Procurement procedures have significantly delayed control efforts, whereas the locusts continue to reproduce and mature within a few weeks to active swarms;



**Hoppers in Waso Ward, Samburu East Constituency**



**Spraying of hoppers in Waso Ward, Samburu East Constituency**



#### **1.4 Statement by the Chairperson pursuant to standing order 51 (1) (a)**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020, the Chairperson made a Statement in regard to the locust invasion in parts of the country pursuant to standing order 51 (1) (a) of the Senate Standing Orders which provides that a Committee Chairperson may make a Statement relating to a matter for which the Committee is responsible. In the Statement, the Chairperson briefed the Senate on the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives and the county visits undertaken by the Committee.

The Statement generated debate by Senators on the handling of the locust invasion and the serious threat to food security posed by it. The Honourable Speaker directed the Chairperson to present a Motion to the House to declare the locust invasion a national disaster.

The Notice of Motion was read in the Senate on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 (*see Appendix IV*) and is awaiting debate by the House.

#### **COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee made the following observations:

1. The level of devastation in the counties was of grave concern and a serious threat to the food security of the nation. Noting the recent floods experienced in various parts of the country and the current locust invasion, a looming famine is a reality;
2. Whereas there has been some success in the control of the locusts by the county governments with the help of the national government, several challenges are evident. Among the challenges, the Committee noted that-
  - a) Some counties were yet to receive NYS officers to assist in the control of hoppers;

- b) There is a shortage of pesticides and protective gear in the counties. There is need for urgent and consistent supply of the pesticides to the counties for the control measures to be successful;
- 
- c) In insecure areas of Samburu North, no measures have been taken to control the locusts, whereas the locusts continue to reproduce;
- d) Serious danger is posed by the second generation of locusts that have hatched in various counties and neighboring countries such as Somalia; and
- e) There has been inconsistent support by the Government to the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the observations, the Committee recommends that-

1. The affected county governments should urgently establish emergency committees for the coordinated monitoring and control of locusts within their respective jurisdictions and set aside funds for their functioning;
2. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives should urgently come up with and implement a plan for the control of locusts in affected counties including insecure areas, some of which are breeding sites in Samburu, Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, West Pokot, Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Machakos, Kitui, Embu, Makueni, Kirinyaga, Laikipia, Baringo and Tana River Counties;
3. An appropriate action plan be developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, and agreements be established with neighbouring countries to encourage, organize, facilitate and implement joint cross-border operations, moreso in the wake of the threat of the second generation locust invasion;
4. Adequate and consistent support be given by the Government to the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa going forward for coordinated control of locust invasions in the future.
5. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives should support the counties with urgent and consistent resources such as pesticides, sprayers and motor vehicles in order to control the reproduction and further spread of the locusts;
6. Urgent deployment of NYS servicemen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives to counties affected by the locust invasion to assist in control of hoppers;

7. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives to undertake training of local youths in affected counties to assist in the control of hoppers;

---

8. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives should fast track the impact assessment of the locust invasion and ensure adequate restitution initiatives are in place for farmers who suffered loss as a result of destruction caused by the locusts;

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX I	Statement by Sen. Enoch Kii Wambua, MP on the locust invasion in parts of the country
APPENDIX II	Response from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives on the Statement on Locust Invasion in parts of the country
APPENDIX III	Minutes of the Committee Deliberations
APPENDIX IV	Notice of Motion addressing the catastrophe of the desert locust invasion in the country

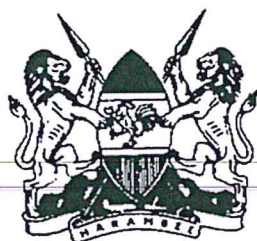
---

---

# APPENDIX I

Statement on the locust invasion in parts of the Country – Sen. Enoch Wambua, MP





**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**TWELFTH PARLIAMENT – (FOURTH SESSION)**  
**THE SENATE**

**STATEMENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 47(1)**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

Pursuant to standing order 47 (1) I rise to make a statement on locusts invasion in parts of the country, in particular the lower Eastern region of Kitui, Makueni and Machakos counties, the upper Eastern region including Embu County and the North Easter region in particular Wajir and Garissa counties.

**Mr Speaker Sir,**

Migratory locust swarms have been identified as a serious threat to agricultural communities since biblical times. The Horn of Africa is facing a locust invasion of on unprecedented scale; and Kenya is right at the centre of this calamity. Late December last year, after an absence of more than 70 years, locust swarms returned to Kenya. The world watched scenes of residents of Wajir County and other parts of North Eastern region desperately trying to chase away the insects with sticks and others banging metal sheets. The swarms have since moved to invade wider areas and continue to cause significant crop, pasture and forest cover losses in Kitui, Makueni and Machakos counties.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

The desert locust is considered one of the most dangerous of the flying pests by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The current invasion remains extremely serious because the locusts seem to be invading more areas each passing day. The devastation visited on vegetation by these insects is so intense that it is estimated a small swarm covering one square kilometer can eat the same amount of food in one day as 35,000 people. This is a great risk to food security and social stability both at the national level and in particular the areas under invasion.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

Agriculture is a key sector in Kenya accounting for 26% of the GDP in 2019. It continues to be the bedrock of the development of our people in this region. It creates jobs for our people besides satisfying their nutritional needs. Overall, the locusts have devoured crops and pastures across Kitui, Makueni and Machakos counties and beyond. Besides human beings, livestock, health and productivity have been negatively impacted.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

Kenya has experienced a major drought followed by several floods in the last two years, which have weakened its resilience, and now locust invasion. Urgent control measures are required to manage the situation and protect the livelihood of human populations in this region. A critical issue will be properly structured coordination because swarms don't obey international, national or county boundaries. The government must therefore urgently coordinate with other governments in the region as well as county governments to find and roll out a sustainable solution.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

Our fields are being wiped out of crops and pasture. Depending on the extent of the damage to the crops and pastures, and the resultant impact on the farmers' livelihoods and coping capacities, immediate support for the rehabilitation of the affected households must be considered by the government. The government must consider compensating the people in the affected regions for the losses they have suffered and the losses they continue to suffer. This is important to sustain lives, livelihoods and to maintain social stability. I recall during the drought that affected North Eastern region of the country a few years ago, the government came with a policy framework to mitigate the effects of the drought for the people in that region. The same should be considered by the government for the people of the regions affected by the locust invasion.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

I urge the government to act fast and mobilize the required resources to scale up control and preventive measures. This may include, but not limited to, formation of a National Task Force to control and manage the situation. The use of sticks, beating of drums and shouting at the locusts to chase them away

from the farms and pastures point to a level of desperation by people who feel abandoned by both the national and county governments at their hour of need. This Statement Mr. Speaker, must be appreciated for what it is, a call to action by government to alleviate the suffering of millions of its own citizens.

---

I thank you.



---

**SEN. ENOCH KIO WAMBUA, MP**  
**SENATOR FOR KITUI COUNTY**  
**13.02.2020**

---

---

# APPENDIX II

Response from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives to the  
Statement on the locust invasion in various parts of the country





**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND COOPERATIVES**

---

**RESPONSE TO THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES ON THE STATEMENT ON  
LOCUST INVASION IN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY**

---

**BY  
HON. PETER MUNYA, EGH, MGH**

**CABINET SECRETARY**

---

***FEBRUARY , 2020***

# **STATUS OF DESERT LOCUST AND CONTROL IN KENYA**

**26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020**

---

## **Introduction**

Kenya is currently facing the worst Desert Locust invasion in 70 years. The locust swarms started crossing the border into Kenya on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 from Ethiopia and Somalia. The pest rapidly spread and has so far been reported in some parts of 18 counties, namely; Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit, Garissa, Isiolo, Meru, Samburu, Baringo, Kitui, Embu, Kirinyaga, Laikipia, Machakos, Turkana, Tana River Tharaka Nthi, Murang'a and Nyeri. The last desert locust invasion in Kenya occurred in 2007 but on a much smaller scale.

## **Threat of the Desert Locust to food security and livelihoods**

The invasion, multiplication and spread of the Desert Locust are a great threat to food security and community livelihoods. A swarm of half a million locusts weighing about 1Metric ton can consume about 1Metric ton of food in a day, enough to feed 2,500 people. The invasion in northern Kenya is particularly of great concern since region was recovering from a prolonged drought. The problem is exacerbated by the rapid multiplication to form dense swarms that move long distances feeding on large quantities of fresh materials along their path.

## **Effect on the Environment**

Green plants are the primary producers in an ecosystem that create food, from inorganic materials, making it available to all the other organisms. Destruction of the green vegetation by the desert locusts can thus cause an ecological catastrophe.



## **Government effort to contain the pest**

The ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, in collaboration with partners and other stakeholders, has instituted several management interventions to control and contain the locust threat in the country.

### **1. Deployment of aircrafts**

The Ministry, in collaboration with other stakeholders, has so far deployed 5 aircrafts for spraying and 4 for surveillance. The aircrafts have for the last one and a half months undertaken aerial control of several locust swarms in the affected regions

Currently seven (7) aircrafts are stationed in four (4) bases as follows:

- i. Wajir base – 1 from Kenya Defense Forces, 1 from Desert Locust Control Organization –East Africa and 1 surveillance helicopter from International Red Locust Control Organization (IRLCO)
- ii. Isiolo base – 1 from Farmland Aviation
- iii. Masinga base – 1 from Desert Locust Control Organization –East Africa
- iv. Turkana base- 1 from Farmland Aviation , currently spraying in Elgeyo marakwet and Baringo areas; another aircraft from Kenya Air force has been deployed to the base today( 26<sup>th</sup> Feb ) to start spraying in Turkana county

### **2. Distribution of control pesticides**

A total of about 28,000 litres of control pesticides have been procured and distributed for use in the affected areas.

### **3. Other support to the counties**

The following control equipment have been distributed to the affected counties:

- i) 3 Kenya army land rovers for ground control
- ii) 3 vehicle mounted sprayers used by the army land rovers
- iii) 34 motorized sprayers
- iv) 70 hand held Ultra Low Volume applicators ( ULV sprayers)
- v) 250 Personal protective equipment (PPEs)

### **4. Empowerment and capacity building**

- i) A team of experts has been deployed to the affected area to train and mobilize the county extension teams to support the locusts control efforts.
- ii) A total of 240 extension officers from the affected counties have so far been trained.
- iii) 500 National Youth Servicemen have been identified and mobilized for training in locust ground control
  - a) 250 were trained at Gilgil NYS station from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.
    - i. Another 250 are undergoing the training at Yatta NYS station this week (from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020)
    - ii. 85 of the trained NYS servicemen have already been deployed to undertake the control in Isiolo and Samburu counties.
    - iii. The NYS ground spraying program was launched in Samburu by the Cabinet Secretary on 16th February, 2020 and ground control of the hatching hoppers in Kipsing, Isiolo and in West gate conservancy in Isiolo and Samburu Counties respectively has started. Others will be deployed

after completing the ongoing training at Yatta from 19th February, 2020.

---

## **5. Harnessing of technical expertise**

A Multi-Institutional Technical Team (MITT) drawn from:

- i) Plant Protection services,
- ii) Kenya Agricultural Research Organization (KALRO),
- iii) Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS),
- iv) Pest Control products Board (PCPB),
- v) Desert Locust control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA),
- vi) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),  
University of Nairobi (UoN),
- vii) International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE),
- viii) Centre for Agricultural and Biosciences International (CABI),
- ix) Joint Agriculture Secretariat (JAS) and
- x) Council of Governors (CoG)

## **6. Establishment of Locust Disaster Co-ordination Centre**

The ministry has established a locust disaster co-ordination center at Kilimo house 7th floor. The Centre is expected to provide day to day information on the measures the Government is undertaking to eradicate the desert locust. The Centre will be supported by locust management and communication experts from the FAO.

## **7. Way forward**

While the control operation has proceeded fairly well some locusts matured and laid eggs that have started to hatch into hoppers. There is therefore



need to enhance the control operations, as we focus on the new generation of locusts in the country. The hoppers must be controlled before they develop wings and start flying and active feeding.

---

For effective coordination, equity in use of resources and flow of information the following are ongoing;

- i) six (6) control bases have been set up in all affected regions, as follows:

<b>Base Location</b>	<b>Counties served by the base</b>
Wajir	Wajir, Mandera,
Isiolo	Isiolo, Meru, Samburu, Laikipia
Marsabit	Marsabit
Masinga	Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Kitui, Makueni, Machakos, Murang'a
Garissa	Garissa, Tana River, Kajiado
Lodwar -Turkana	Turkana, Baringo, West Pokot

- ii) Equipping and deployment of the 500 trained NYS servicemen in the bases for control of the respective.
- iii) Sourcing of 100,000ltr of pesticides required for both aerial and ground spraying.
- iv) Increase the spray aircrafts to 20, in collaboration with development partners including FAO (10 for spraying and 10 for surveillance).
- v) Acquire and deploy 20 vehicles equipped with suitable sprayers for ground control of mainly the hatching hoppers
- vi) Other necessary equipment include: GPSs, ground to air radios, drum crushers, protective gear, blood testing kits, and camping kits.



- vii) Personnel to manager the bases - Base manager, radio operators, security, medical personnel, store keeper:
- viii) 500 NYS personnel to be deployed in the six bases for ground spraying.
- ix) Monitoring of the split swarms of mature locusts that are invading new counties such as Bungoma, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Muranga, Kirinyaga and Nyeri.

## **8. Challenges in the control operations**

- i) Unavailability Fenitrothion 96% ULV, a control pesticide, for aerial control in the country and the slow process of importation.
- ii) Logistical challenges in distribution of chemicals and aircraft fuel to the vast affected areas.
- iii) Limited technical capacity among extension service providers and other stakeholders.
- iv) High rate of spread of the pest to many Counties
- v) Inadequate aircrafts for aerial control and equipment for ground control.
- vi) Inadequate personnel and equipment for ground control.
- vii) Inadequate funding for the increasing demand for control operations
- viii) Funds for the upkeep (feeding) and field stipend for the trained NYS servicemen during the control activity

**Signature..... Date.....**

**HON. PETER MUNYA, MGH**

---

---

# APPENDIX III

Minutes of the Committee Deliberations – 73<sup>rd</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Sitings

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES HELD WEDNESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020 IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, RED CROSS BUILDING AT 11.30 A.M.**

---

**PRESENT**

1. Sen. Peter Njeru Ndwiga, EGH, MP - Chairperson
2. Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, MP - Vice Chairperson
3. Sen. (Canon) Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP
4. Sen. (Dr.) Michael Malinga Mbito, MP
5. Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP
6. Sen. Moses Kajwang', MP

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGY**

1. Sen. (Dr.) Ochilo Ayacko, EGH, MP
2. Sen. Golich Juma Wario, MP
3. Sen. Justice (Rtd.) Stewart Madzayo, MP

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**THE SENATE**

1. Sen. James Orengo, EGH, SC, MP
2. Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr, MP
3. Sen. Samuel Poghisi, EGH, MP
4. Sen. (Dr.) Sam Onger, MP
5. Sen. Falhada Iman, MP
6. Sen. Dr. Alice Milgo, MP
7. Sen. Beatrice Kwamboka, MP
8. Sen. John Kinyua, MP
9. Sen. Petronilla Were, MP
10. Sen. Rose Nyamunga, MP
11. Sen. Philip Mpaayei, MP
12. Sen. Mercy Chebeni, MP
13. Sen. Victor Prengei, MP

14. Sen. (Dr.) Musuruve Gertrude, MP

15. Sen. Petronilla Were, MP

16. Sen. John Kinyua, MP

17. Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, MP

18. Sen. Rose Nyamunga, MP

**IN ATTENDANCE**

1. Hon. Peter Munya, EGH
2. Mr. David Mwangi
3. Mr. David Kithale
4. David Mwangi

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,  
LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES &  
COOPERATIVES**

- Cabinet Secretary
- Director, Plant Protection
- Director, Agriculture
- Intern

**IN ATTENDANCE**

1. Ms. Carol Kirorei
2. Ms. Caroline Njue
3. Ms. Njeri Manga
4. Ms. Mary Nyawira
5. Mr. Boniface Kataa

**SENATE**

- Clerk Assistant
- Research Officer
- Media Relations Officer
- Audio Services
- Intern, Committee Services

**MIN. NO. 17/2020      PRELIMINARIES**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11.55 a.m. followed by a word of prayer. He then led in a self-introductory session of Members present.

**MIN. NO. 18/2020      ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Members adopted the agenda of the meeting as presented after being proposed by Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, MP and seconded by Sen. (Canon) Naomi Waqo, MP.

**MIN. NO. 19/2020      MEETING WITH THE CABINET SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK &  
FISHERIES ON THE STATEMENT CONCERNING**



**THE LOCUST INVASION IN PARTS OF THE  
COUNTRY**

The Chairperson informed the meeting that at a Sitting of the Senate held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, Sen. Enoch Wambua, M.P. made a Statement on the locust invasion in parts of the country pursuant to standing order 47(1) of the Senate Standing Orders. Noting that the locust invasion was a matter of national importance threatening food security in the country, the Honourable Deputy Speaker directed that the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives be invited to a meeting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to which all Senators were invited.

The Cabinet Secretary briefed the Committee as follows-

1. Kenya was facing the worst Desert Locust invasion in 70 years. The locust swarms started crossing the border into Kenya on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 from Ethiopia and Somalia.
2. The pest rapidly spread and has so far been reported in some parts of 18 counties, namely; Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit, Garissa, Isiolo, Meru, Samburu, Baringo, Kitui, Embu, Kirinyaga, Laikipia, Machakos, Turkana, Tana River Tharaka Nthi, Murang'a and Nyeri. The last desert locust invasion in Kenya occurred in 2007 but on a much smaller scale.
3. The invasion, multiplication and spread of the Desert Locust are a great threat to food security and community livelihoods. A swarm of half a million locusts weighing about 1Metric ton can consume about 1Metric ton of food in a day, enough to feed 2,500 people. The invasion in northern Kenya is particularly of great concern since region was recovering from a prolonged drought. The problem is exacerbated by the rapid multiplication to form dense swarms that move long distances feeding on large quantities of fresh materials along their path.

4. Green plants are the primary producers in an ecosystem that create food, from inorganic materials, making it available to all the other organisms. Destruction of the green vegetation by the desert locusts can thus cause an ecological catastrophe.

---

5. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, in collaboration with partners and other stakeholders, has instituted several management interventions to control and contain the locust threat in the country.

**a. Deployment of aircrafts**

6. The Ministry, in collaboration with other stakeholders, has so far deployed 5 aircrafts for spraying and 4 for surveillance. The aircrafts have for the last one and a half months undertaken aerial control of several locust swarms in the affected regions

7. Currently seven (7) aircrafts are stationed in four (4) bases as follows:

- i. Wajir base – 1 from Kenya Defense Forces, 1 from Desert Locust Control Organization –East Africa and 1 surveillance helicopter from International Red Locust Control Organization (IRLCO)
- ii. Isiolo base – 1 from Farmland Aviation
- iii. Masinga base – 1 from Desert Locust Control Organization –East Africa
- iv. Turkana base- 1 from Farmland Aviation , currently spraying in Elgeyo marakwet and Baringo areas; another aircraft from Kenya Air force has been deployed to the base today( 26<sup>th</sup> Feb ) to start spraying in Turkana county

**b. Distribution of control pesticides**

8. A total of about 28,000 litres of control pesticides have been procured and distributed for use in the affected areas.

---

9. Containing any pest is a shared mandate between the national and county governments. Largely pest control is a county function, but the national government had to come in to support the counties

**c. Other support to the counties**

10. The following control equipment have been distributed to the affected counties:

- i) 3 Kenya army land rovers for ground control
- ii) 3 vehicle mounted sprayers used by the army land rovers
- iii) 34 motorized sprayers
- iv) 70 hand held Ultra Low Volume applicators ( ULV sprayers)
- v) 250 Personal protective equipment (PPEs)

**d. Empowerment and capacity building**

11. A team of experts has been deployed to the affected area to train and mobilize the county extension teams to support the locusts control efforts.

12. A total of 240 extension officers from the affected counties have so far been trained in 21 counties

13. 500 National Youth Servicemen have been identified and mobilized for training in locust ground control

- i. 250 were trained at Gilgil NYS station from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.



- ii. Another 250 underwent training at Yatta NYS station during the week of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020;

---

- iii. 85 of the trained NYS servicemen have already been deployed to undertake the control in Isiolo and Samburu counties.
- iv. The NYS ground spraying program was launched in Samburu by the Cabinet Secretary on 16th February, 2020 and ground control of the hatching hoppers in Kipsing, Isiolo and in West gate conservancy in Isiolo and Samburu Counties respectively has started. Others will be deployed after completing the ongoing training at Yatta from 19th February, 2020.
- v. Team stationed in Masinga, Kitui Embu and Tharaka Nithi. Hoppers are in Kitui and Tharaka Nithi, spray them as they hatch. Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit have hoppers and have deployed control teams when they get word that hoppers have hatched. Spray to quickly contain in North Horr, Laisamis and in Turkana. Samburu and Isiolo- ground spraying.

**e. Harnessing of technical expertise**

14. A Multi-Institutional Technical Team (MITT) drawn from:

- i) Plant Protection Services,
- ii) Kenya Agricultural Research Organization (KALRO),
- iii) Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS),
- iv) Pest Control products Board (PCPB),
- v) Desert Locust control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA),
- vi) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),
- vii) University of Nairobi (UoN),



viii) International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE),

ix) Centre for Agricultural and Biosciences International (CABI),

ix) Joint Agriculture Secretariat (JAS) and

x) Council of Governors (CoG)

#### **f. Establishment of Locust Disaster Co-ordination Centre**

15. The Ministry has established a locust disaster co-ordination center at Kilimo House, 7th floor which is expected to provide day to day information on the measures the Government is undertaking to eradicate the desert locust. The Centre will be supported by locust management and communication experts from the FAO.

16. For effective coordination, equity in use of resources and flow of information the following are ongoing;

i) six (6) control bases have been set up in all affected regions, as follows:

<b>Base Location</b>	<b>Counties served by the base</b>
Wajir	Wajir, Mandera,
Isiolo	Isiolo, Meru, Samburu, Laikipia
Marsabit	Marsabit
Masinga	Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Kitui, Makueni, Machakos, Murang'a
Garissa	Garissa, Tana River, Kajiado
Lodwar -Turkana	Turkana, Baringo, West Pokot

- ii) Equipping and deployment of the 500 trained NYS servicemen in the bases for control of the respective.
- iii) Sourcing of 100,000ltr of pesticides required for both aerial and ground spraying.
- iv) Increase the spray aircrafts to 20, in collaboration with development partners including FAO (10 for spraying and 10 for surveillance).
- v) Acquire and deploy 20 vehicles equipped with suitable sprayers for ground control of mainly the hatching hoppers. Acquiring vehicles with sprayers 20 of which have arrived (sprayers) at the airport. The 20 vehicles shall be shared with neighboring vehicles. 10 vehicles shall be retained in Kenya while the rest shall be shared with Uganda, South Sudan, Tanzania.
- vi) Other necessary equipment include: GPSs, ground to air radios, drum crushers, protective gear, blood testing kits, and camping kits.
- vii) Personnel to manager the bases - Base manager, radio operators, security, medical personnel, store keeper:
- viii) 500 NYS personnel to be deployed in the six bases for ground spraying.
- ix) Monitoring of the split swarms of mature locusts that are invading new counties such as Bungoma, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Muranga, Kirinyaga and Nyeri.

### **Challenges in the control operations**

- i) Unavailability Fenitrothion 96% ULV, a control pesticide, for aerial control in the country and the slow process of importation.

---

- ii) Logistical challenges in distribution of chemicals and aircraft fuel to the vast affected areas.
- iii) Limited technical capacity among extension service providers and other stakeholders.
- iv) High rate of spread of the pest to many Counties
- v) Inadequate aircrafts for aerial control and equipment for ground control.
- vi) Inadequate personnel and equipment for ground control.
- vii) Inadequate funding for the increasing demand for control operations
- viii) Funds for the upkeep (feeding) and field stipend for the trained NYS servicemen during the control activity

Further, the Cabinet Secretary stated that-

1. There are currently plans to increase the number of spray aircrafts to twenty (20) with the support and collaboration with development partners including FAO (10 for spraying and 10 for surveillance) and to acquire and deploy twenty (20) vehicles equipped with suitable sprayers for ground control of mainly the hatching hoppers.
2. It was agreed at the summit that the counties should mobilize at least 50 youth to assist the NYS. He urged the counties not to wait for action by the national government but should also train youth and communicate with the Ministry if any challenges are faced.

3. The Ministry has deployed a team of experts to carry out an impact assessment of the devastation caused by the locusts, and the report of this assessment shall be used to retribute affected farmers;

---

4. Fenitrothion is the most effective pesticide largely available in Japan and Australia. However, getting the chemical here has posed a challenge due to private sector providers;

### **Queries raised by Senators**

Senators raised the following queries-

1. What mechanisms were in place for early detection of future locust invasions?
2. What was being done for the farmers who have been suffered losses as a result of the invasion?
3. Whether the Ministry initiated a push for contingency fund to set aside funds at the earliest possible for the imminent famine;
4. Whether the Ministry was collaborating with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa;
5. Whether Kenya can manufacture its own pesticides instead of importing the same?
6. Whether the equipment procured such as aircrafts and vehicles be managed after the locust invasion is contained?
7. What was the approximate cost of decimation of one swarm?
8. Whether locusts are safe for consumption and animal feeds after spraying;
9. What plans were in place to sensitize the citizens on the locust invasion;
10. What measures were being taken to control locusts in insecure areas such as Samburu North which were also breeding sites;
11. Whether the pesticides kill bees as well;
12. What were the side effects of the pesticides?
13. Why was the Ministry slow to react to the locust invasion?



14. How much money was being put in to strengthen and support the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa?
15. How much money had been spent in the control of the locust invasion?

---

16. Whether the Ministry had developed an ecological, economic, social impact report of desert locust scourge.

**Response from the Ministry**

1. The Cabinet Secretary admitted that the initial response to the invasion was indeed slow;
2. Agriculture is largely devolved national government is concerned with coordination, national policy and capacity building. Counties are directly involved in implementation and are expected to implement national policy;
3. Each county has a unit headed by the CECM for the county that is doing day to day monitoring taking their own action and reporting to the national government;
4. Noted there indeed existed a gap in the flow of information between the Ministry and the Legislature and endeavored to ensure there was better information flow going forward;
5. Equipment would remain in the country after the control of the locusts and would be maintained for future use;
6. Aircrafts were hired from government agencies including specialized air force aircraft, and two hired from farmland using the Kshs. 230M from the National Treasury which had largely been depleted. However, other development partners had offered support including EU, USAID channeled through FAO. More aircraft would be procured by FAO which would also assist in training, public sensitization and rolling out of a communication plan.
7. The Ministry had deployed a team of experts to carry out an impact assessment of the devastation caused by the locusts, and the report of this assessment would be used to retribute affected farmers;

8. The Ministry was in the process of launching a public campaign to sensitize the public on the handling of the locusts, and would invite the Committee to participate in due course;

9. Chemicals used were approved internationally and tested to kill the targeted organisms. The effect of the pesticides were short term and locals are advised not to graze for a day. Currently, the information received shows that the effect on human and animal health was minimal;

10. Desert Locust Control Organization had given a lot of support to the country. Two aircrafts were provided by the organization. However, the organization had been struggling because Member states fail to fund it. Subsequent to the invasion Member states began to pay however, going forward the Ministry shall ensure that the organization is well supported;

11. Sprayed locusts are not safe for human and animal consumption;

12. At least 30 litres of pesticide were required to decimate a single swarm. A litre of pesticide costs Kshs. 10,000 therefore Kshs. 300,000 is needed to decimate a swarm;

13. Effective chemicals were not available in Kenya and couldn't be manufactured in locally. Those manufactured locally were ineffective;

The Cabinet Secretary assured Members that the Ministry was up to the task and was on the right track towards addressing the problem. There was no quick fix, however, by June, the Ministry would be shifting its strategy to the control of hoppers to ensure they don't mature into swarms.

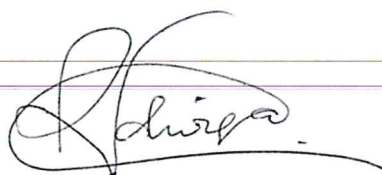
The Chairperson thanked the Cabinet Secretary for appearing before the Committee.

**MIN. NO. 20/2020**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.

**MIN. NO. 21/2020**      **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business the Sitting was adjourned at 1.30 p.m.



SIGNED:.....

(CHAIRPERSON)

DATE:.....30-04-2020.....

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES HELD WEDNESDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL, 2020 AT 12.00 NOON ON THE ZOOM ONLINE MEETING PLATFORM.**

---

**PRESENT**

- |                                      |   |                  |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Sen. Peter Njeru Ndwiga, EGH, MP  | - | Chairperson      |
| 2. Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, MP   | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Sen. (Dr.) Ochilo Ayacko, EGH, MP |   |                  |
| 4. Sen. (Canon) Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP |   |                  |
| 5. Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP           |   |                  |
| 6. Sen. Moses Kajwang', MP           |   |                  |

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGY**

4. Sen. (Dr.) Michael Malinga Mbito, MP
5. Sen. Golich Juma Wario, MP
6. Sen. Justice (Rtd.) Stewart Madzayo, MP

**IN ATTENDANCE**

1. Ms. Carol Kirorei
2. Ms. Sombe Toona
3. Ms. Caroline Njue

**SENATE**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| - | Clerk Assistant  |
| - | Legal Counsel    |
| - | Research Officer |



- |                     |   |                         |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 4. Ms. Mary Nyawira | - | Audio Services          |
| 5. Ms. Njeri Manga  | - | Media Relations Officer |

---

**MIN. NO. 22/2020**      **PRELIMINARIES**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12.00 p.m. followed by a word of prayer.

**MIN. NO. 23/2020**      **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Members adopted the agenda of the meeting as presented after being proposed by Sen. (Canon) Naomi Waqo, MP and seconded by Sen. (Dr.) Ochilo Ayacko, EGH, MP.

**MIN. NO. 24/2020**      **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT  
ON THE STATEMENT ON THE LOCUST INVASION  
IN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY**

Members considered the draft Report on the Statement on the locust invasion in parts of the country. The Committee made the following additional recommendations-

1. That the county governments should set up and set aside funds for an emergency team on locust control;
2. That all insecure counties be mentioned in the recommendation to the Ministry for control of locusts including Marsabit and Tana River Counties;
3. That the Ministry should initiate elaborate plans to mitigate the locust invasion in all counties; and
4. That collaboration measures be initiated with neighbouring counties to deal with the second generation locust invasion.

The Committee deferred adoption of the Report to the next Sitting.

**MIN. NO. 25/2020**      **CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND GENERATION  
LOCUST INVASION**



The Committee deliberated on the imminent second generation locust invasion projected to be twenty (20) times worse than the January, 2020 invasion. Noting the serious threat to food security in the country, moreso in light of the COVID – 19 situation, the Committee resolved to invite Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives to appear before it in a week’s time to address among others the preparedness measures in place to control the imminent second generation locust invasion and the status of the impact assessment of the locust invasion and plans for restitution initiatives for farmers who suffered loss as a result of destruction caused by the locusts.

**MIN. NO. 26/2020**      **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019**

The Committee considered the Report on the Fisheries Management and Development (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Committee thereafter adopted the Report as presented after being proposed by Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP and seconded by Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, MP.

**MIN. NO. 27/2020**      **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Emerging issues affecting the agriculture sector**

The Committee deliberated on emerging issues including the following-

- a) The status of coffee and tea sub sector reforms;
- b) The draft Crops (Tea Industry) Regulations, 2020 currently undergoing public participation by the Ministry;
- c) The implementation of the Kshs. 1.5 Billion coffee revitalization program supported by the World Bank;
- d) The exclusion of live animals in Rule 4(1) of the Public Health (COVID-19 Restriction of Movement of Persons and Related Measures) Rules, 2020 on the restriction of movement of persons;

e) The impact of curfew directives and restrictions of movement on distribution of perishable harvest across the country;

f) The implementation of the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029, and incorporation of the county governments in the strategy;

The Committee resolved to invite the Cabinet Secretary to appear before the Committee to address the above listed issues.

The Committee further noted that in light of the fact that the Sessional Committee on Delegated Legislation is yet to be formed, the draft Crops (Tea Industry) Regulations, 2020 should be considered by the Committee as they fall within its mandate. It was resolved that the Chairperson makes the request to the Honourable Speaker.

**2. Committee meetings**

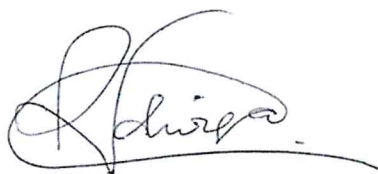
The Committee resolved to hold at least two online meetings every week on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10.00 a.m.

**MIN. NO. 28/2020      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

**MIN. NO. 29/2020      ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business the Sitting was adjourned at 1.10 p.m.



**SIGNED:**.....

.....

**(CHAIRPERSON)**

**DATE:**.....30-04-2020.....



**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES HELD THURSDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2020 AT 10.00 A.M. ON THE ZOOM ONLINE MEETING PLATFORM.**

---

**PRESENT**

1. Sen. Peter Njeru Ndwiga, EGH, MP - Chairperson
2. Sen. (Dr.) Ochilo Ayacko, EGH, MP - Ag. Chairperson
3. Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP
4. Sen. (Dr.) Michael Malinga Mbito, MP
5. Sen. (Canon) Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGY**

1. Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, MP - Vice Chairperson
2. Sen. Golich Juma Wario, MP
3. Sen. Moses Kajwang', MP
4. Sen. Justice (Rtd.) Stewart Madzayo, MP

**IN ATTENDANCE**

1. Ms. Carol Kirorei
2. Ms. Sombe Toona
3. Ms. Njeri Manga
4. Ms. Mary Nyawira

**SENATE**

- Clerk Assistant
- Legal Counsel
- Media Relations Officer
- Audio Services

**MIN. NO. 30/2020      PRELIMINARIES**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10.20 a.m. followed by a word of prayer.

**MIN. NO. 31/2020      ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Members adopted the agenda of the meeting as presented after being proposed by Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP and seconded by Sen. (Dr.) Ochilo Ayacko, EGH, MP.

**MIN. NO. 32/2020      CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**



1. The Minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> Sitting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairperson after being proposed by Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP and seconded by Sen. Njeru Ndwiga, EGH, MP.
2. The Minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> Sitting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairperson after being proposed by Sen. (Dr.) Michael Mbito, MP and seconded by Sen. Njeru Ndwiga, EGH, MP.
3. The Minutes of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Sitting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairperson after being proposed by Sen. Njeru Ndwiga, MP and seconded by Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP.
4. The Minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Sitting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairperson after being proposed by Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP and seconded by Sen. Njeru Ndwiga, EGH, MP.
5. The Minutes of the 74<sup>th</sup> Sitting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2020 were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairperson after being proposed by Sen. Njeru Ndwiga, EGH, MP and seconded by Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP.

**MIN. NO. 33/2020      MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Fisheries Management and Development (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was ready for tabling on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

***1. Ex. Min 03/2020 – Consideration of the Budget Policy Statement, 2020***

The Committee was informed that the Committee Report on the Budget Policy Statement was tabled before the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget. The matter was therefore concluded.

***2. Ex. Min 25/2020 – Consideration of the second generation locust invasion***

The Committee was informed that a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary was scheduled to be held on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 to address the second generation locust invasion.

**3. Ex. Min 26/2020 – Consideration and adoption of the Report on the Fisheries Management and Development (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

The meeting was informed that the Report had been approved for tabling by the Honourable Speaker and was slotted for tabling on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

**4. Ex. Min 07/2020 – Any Other Business**

The meeting was informed that the Sessional Committee on Delegated Legislation had been established on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. It was therefore agreed that a request be made for the joint consideration of the draft Crops (Tea Industry) Regulations, 2020.

**MIN. NO. 34/2020      CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE STATEMENT ON THE LOCUST INVASION IN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY**

The Committee considered the Report on the Statement on the Locust invasion in parts of the country. The Committee adopted the Report as presented after being proposed by Sen. Naomi Shiyonga, MP and seconded by Sen. (Dr.) Ochilo Ayacko, EGH, MP.

**MIN. NO. 35/2020      ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives**

The Committee was reminded of the scheduled meeting Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 at 10.00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting shall be to address the Statement on the criteria for allocation of World Bank funds for improved coffee production and the second generation locust invasion among other emerging issues affecting the agriculture sector.

It was resolved that Senators from affected counties be invited to the meeting and that the secretariat prepare briefs for Members for adequate preparation prior to the meeting.

---

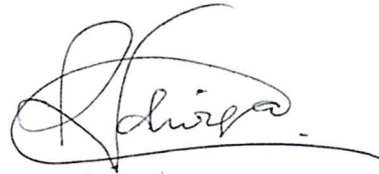
The Chairperson urged Members to attend this very important meeting.

**MIN. NO. 36/2020**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

**MIN. NO. 37/2020**      **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business the Sitting was adjourned at 11.05 a.m.



**SIGNED:**.....

.....

**(CHAIRPERSON)**

**DATE:**.....30-04-2020.....

---

---

# APPENDIX IV

Notice of Motion addressing the catastrophe of the desert locust invasion in the country





**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**TWELFTH PARLIAMENT – (FOURTH SESSION)**  
**THE SENATE**

**MOTION: ADDRESSING THE CATASTROPHE OF THE DESERT LOCUST INVASION  
IN THE COUNTRY**

**AWARE THAT**, for the first time in seventy years, Kenya is experiencing a humanitarian and conservation catastrophe in the wake of the desert locust invasion affecting more than a quarter of the entire country;

**FURTHER AWARE THAT**, the swarms now invading Kenya arrived from Somalia and Ethiopia, where they have already caused widespread devastation of crops and grazing land before moving south and then west;


**COGNIZANT THAT**, locusts are highly mobile and destructive, and according to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), each square kilometre of locusts in a swarm can eat as much in a day as 35,000 people;

**CONCERNED THAT**, localized aerial spraying using chemicals that are purportedly safe for humans and other insects has failed to contain the invasion, causing farmers to take matters into their own hands, and use more harmful pesticides that could have a serious environmental impact;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Senate urges the National Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, in partnership with the County Governments to:

1. declare the locust invasion a national disaster;
2. develop methods for sharing information and best practices to coordinate and build the necessary capacity in combating the locust menace to predict, monitor and control the spread of new swarms;
3. establish modalities for enhancing the requisite financial, technical and logistical capacity of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa;
4. support the counties with urgent and consistent resources such as pesticides, sprayers and motor vehicles in order to control the reproduction and further spread of the locusts;

5. fast track the impact assessment of the locust invasion and ensure adequate restitution initiatives are in place for farmers who suffered loss as a result of destruction caused by the locusts; and,
  6. establish mechanisms to safeguard the strategic grain reserves with a view to mitigate against famine and food shortages across the country.
- 



**Sen. Njeru Ndwiga, EGH, MP**  
**Senator, Embu County**

**March 4, 2020**