



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

PRIME MINISTER



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STATEMENT OF

RT. HON. DR. RUHAKANA RUGUNDA

PRIME MINISTER

**AT THE LAUNCH OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT
REPORT**

SERENA HOTEL

28th February 2017

Hon. Ministers
Hon. Members of Parliament
UN Resident Coordinator
Diplomats
Regional Representative of the World Bank
Colleagues

- 1) For the past five Months, Ugandans in many districts across the country have been facing severe shortage of food, scarcity of water and pasture as a result of a prolonged dry spell.
- 2) The first season rains for the year 2016, which normally begins during the month of March, came late; it was erratic, below average and it was short lived.
- 3) The People who had planted crops according to the usual first season calendar of March never witnessed germination. Much of the crops planted later after the rains arrived were also scotched by the sun due to below average rainfall.
- 4) The second season rains (August – October 2016) also came late at what is supposed to be harvest time in most parts of the country.
- 5) There was also a dry spell during the period May-June 2016 which heavily damaged crops in many parts of the country.
- 6) This all happened after a very long period of drought in the previous year 2015 in most parts of the country.
- 7) Government of Uganda is responding to this natural challenge. In November 2016, Government sent a team Ministers and technical staff to carry out countrywide community food security sensitization of the deteriorating food security situation and to guide our people on wise use of the available stocks.
- 8) The National Food Security Assessment Report which I am due to launch, is a product of that fact finding mission by the political leaders and an inter-agency technical assessment and data analysis by a joint team of experts; from the relevant Government Ministries, the World Bank, FAO, WFP, UNICEF and 85 District Local Governments (DLGs) representing all sub regions of the country.
- 9) The assessment report reveals the most food insecure populations are in the sub regions of Teso, Karamoja, Bukedi, the Cattle Corridor, parts of Busoga, Lango, Acholi, West Nile and parts of Central Uganda.

- 10) Government has committed shs 25 billion for relief food and it is in the process of procurement of 60,000 bags of 100kgs of maize flour (i.e 6,000 metric tons), 15,000 bags of 100kgs of beans (i.e 1,400 metric tons).
- 11) Deliveries of relief food to populations severely affected in Karamoja, Teso, Bukedi and the Cattle Corridor is on-going.
- 12) In addition, Government has also worked out a five year (2017-2021) Food Insecurity Eradication Action Plan scaling up irrigation, construction of more valley tanks and large dams.
- 13) I would like to thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for the donation of 119,660 bags of 50kgs of rice (i.e 5,983 MTs worth Uganda shs 22.0 billion) which has already arrived in the country to support Uganda Government's efforts
- 14) I equally thank The World Bank which has availed to Karamoja shs 14,000,000,000/= (fourteen billion shillings) through NUSAF 3 under the cash-for-work programme commonly referred to as Disaster Risk Financing (DRF).
- 15) I am informed DFID and the Government of Japan have given support through the World Food Programme and USAID is supporting Government of Uganda through World Vision International and a number of NGOs, we are grateful to you all.
- 16) I welcome more development Partners to support Government of Uganda in implementing recommendations contained in the National Food Security Assessment Report.
- 17) **Ladies and Gentlemen**, I now take the honour and pleasure to officially launch the **National Food Security Assessment Report**. This document provides short, medium and long term recommendations for eradication of food security in Uganda.
- 18) I urge all Ministries, Departments, Agencies of Government and you Development Partners to work together in implementation of the recommendations of this assessment report.

Thank you