



Republic of Kenya

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & FISHERIES
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY

PRESS RELEASE
ON SUSPECTED OUTBREAK OF RINDERPEST

In the past few days, reports by some local media houses attributed to me have alluded to an outbreak of rinderpest in neighboring Tanzania. This is a misinterpretation of comments I made in Mombasa during the Agricultural Sector Intergovernmental Forum earlier this week.

I want to clarify from the onset that rinderpest, a devastating contagious animal disease also known as cattle plague which affects cloven hooved animals mainly cattle and buffaloes, was successfully eradicated the world over in 2011. Kenya had earlier eradicated the disease in 2009 and a certificate issued to that effect by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

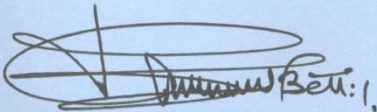
The media reports are unfortunately a misunderstanding of my comments at the forum which were intended to give the Kenyan Livestock farmers and the livestock industry confidence in our animal disease surveillance and control systems against events of trans-boundary animal disease incursion.

An outbreak of anthrax in wild animals in the Republic of Tanzania has elicited rumors to the effect that it's an outbreak of rinderpest. The rumor has attracted a lot of media attention in Kenya.

We however, have official confirmation from the Veterinary authorities in Tanzania that the outbreak was indeed Anthrax (Kimeta in Kiswahili) and **NOT** rinderpest (Sotoka in Kiswahili).

I want to reiterate that Kenya has an active & passive surveillance programme that ensures there is no re-emergence of rinderpest in the country, while keeping a high level of alertness. This surveillance programme also ensures that other important trans-boundary animal diseases are controlled to safeguard our livestock herds and trade. Kenya also regularly reports the disease status, for rinderpest and other diseases to the OIE.

This statement is therefore meant to allay fears of re-emergence of the disease in the country or any threat from the neighboring country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willy Bett', with a large, stylized flourish above it.

Willy Bett
CABINET SECRETARY

Nairobi, November 24, 2016.