

Thursday August 10, 2023

PRESS STATEMENT BY WESTERN REGION LEGISLATORS IN SUPPORT OF INTENDED GOVERNMENT REFORMS OF THE SUGAR SECTOR

We, Members of Parliament from the western region, have taken cognisance of the Cabinet Dispatch of Tuesday August 8, 2023.

Members have particularly noted the wise decision by Cabinet to solve the longstanding plight of sugarcane farmers, and the industry as a whole, in this country.

The issue that has stalled re-generation of the sugar industry in the country has been the controversy over land ownership rights between communities and factories under the privatisation model.

Communities have been adamant that privatisation of factories should not include sell of land because communities owned the land on which factories were built and farmed in perpetuity, while factories were only granted user rights at inception.

We unequivocally, therefore, support the Cabinet approved new programme for the revival and commercialization of State-owned Sugar Companies of Nzoia Sugar Company, Chemelil Sugar Company, Miwani Sugar Company (In Receivership), Muhoroni Sugar Company (In Receivership), South Nyanza Sugar Company, and Mumias Sugar Company (In Receivership).

We applaud the decision to vacate the earlier decision by government to privatize State-owned entities to one where the State-owned entities would be operated under a lease and operate framework.

The Executive has heard and intervened on the concerns of our people. As Parliamentarians, we owe it to the people we represent to support this lease and operate framework decision, to allow fast-tracking the revival of the sugar industry.

We therefore call upon our colleagues in Parliament to seize this opportunity and support revival the sugar industry when amendments are brought before Parliament. An alternative view will be subversion against the benefit of our people. Let no political lens cloud our judgment as representatives of the people on this matter.

Signed.....(MPs from Western Region)

