

Thursday, February 22, 2018
For Immediate Release

Contact
Laikipia Farmers' Association
Elodie Sampere, +254 / 727341612 or
elodiesampere@yahoo.com

OLE NAISHU SUFFERS ANOTHER CATTLE RUSTLING INCIDENT Insecurities Continue in Laikipia

The Laikipia Farmers' Association (LFA) deeply regrets last month's incident on Ole Naishu Ranch in which over 800 cattle were stolen on the night of 31 January by nearly 200 men, many of them armed, in a carefully strategised attack.

This is the second such attack on Ole Naishu during January 2018. During the first attack approximately 40 assailants attacked a cattle enclosure on 08 January and opened up around 719 head of cattle. All but 56 of these cattle were returned by police and NPR following a heavy exchange of gunfire with the raiders. Two unarmed herders in their huts close to the enclosure were shot, though thankfully they survived and are recovering.

Efforts by the Kenya police and NPR have thus far lead to the recovery of 296 head of cattle since the raid. 579 head of cattle are still missing as a result of the second raid.

The Mukogodo Forest, which borders Ole Naishu, provided cover for the thieves to make away with the livestock, in some cases aided by neighbouring communities. There is no way a criminal operation on this scale could have been successful without collaboration from within the community.

Illegal activity across the county has been in decline since the end of last year's elections; the presence of NPRs on a landscape level has certainly restored more respect for law and order. Nevertheless, LFA members are concerned by the apparent impunity some administrators and community members seem to enjoy in the wake of the Ole Naishu attack. It discredits the sense of unity and goodwill that followed the devastating losses of 2017, and bodes ill for the future of the county as a whole.

The LFA remains committed to working with the government on all levels to ensure that violence and lawlessness such as this are permanently eradicated in Laikipia. Promoting and supporting education, entrepreneurship and development programmes will help to reduce the number of unemployed, easily-manipulated youths willing to be swayed towards crime.

"LFA members are devoted to rebuilding Laikipia in collaboration with officials and communities alike. Many of our members have the available skills and experience in the fields of livestock, horticulture, agriculture and tourism that can take Laikipia forward given a secure environment for investment" Martin Evans, LFA Chairman.

The LFA appreciates the assistance offered by the authorities so far, and looks forward to working together with them to find other successful solutions – both in the short and long

term. Laikipia is a highly productive, progressive county and an incident like this is simply an embarrassment for all citizens and stakeholders.

ENDS

For more details, including interviews with the LFA chair or specific members, please email elodiesampere@yahoo.com

The Laikipia Farmers' Association is authorised to talk on behalf of all of its members and can quickly find information for reporters directly from the parties concerned. We encourage journalists to approach us with any requests for information they may have, rather than trying to contact our members individually.