REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE PLANNING, ENGINEERING, HEALTH, INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE PRESENTED ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2024

Item 1: Farmer Input Support Program (FISP)

The district is implementing an e-voucher system in the 2024/2025 farming season, targeting 10,000 farmers. As of November 20, 2024, 9,802 farmers were issued with Authority to Deposit (ATDs). Out of these, 9,573 farmers made deposits, and 9,400 have successfully redeemed their vouchers.

However, challenges remain, including delays in loading vouchers on the ZIAMIS platform after deposits and occasional slow internet connectivity. Some agro-dealers have run out of stock, causing panic among farmers. Additionally, some farmers faced delays in ATD processing due to their failure to supply maize to the Food Reserve Agency (FRA).

(FOR INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE)

Item 2: Sustainable Agriculture Financing Facility (SAFF)

I wish to report to the committee that the district has commenced receiving and processing application forms for the 2024/2025 season. I wish to confirm that the credit window

for maize production has been activated offering an interest rate of 12 percent. NATSAVE has started accepting applications from farmers, and the response has been overwhelming, with a total of 94 farmers applying for these loans.

(FOR INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE)

Item 3: 360 Mechanization Program

Lastly, I wish to report to the committee that the ministry, through the Farmers Training Centre, commenced hiring out tractors to farmers at a fee of K1,200 per ha. So far, a total of 19.15 ha of farmers have been cultivated

Overall, these initiatives aim to enhance agricultural productivity and provide vital support to farmers in the district

(FOR INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE)

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