



PRESS STATEMENT

EXTENSION OF THE MORATORIUM ON LOGGING ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY FORESTS

1. The Country experienced a prolonged dry season towards the end of 2017 leading to an acute shortage of water flows resulting to low water levels and drying up of rivers, streams and wells. This situation has been occurring over the years and has been attributed to deforestation; degradation and encroachment of water towers; catchment and riparian areas. In addition, expansion of agricultural and settlement activities into forested areas; unsustainable land-use practices; and overharvesting of forest resources in the farm lands have aggravated the problem. The situation seriously undermined the Country's capability to ensure food security and has posed major threats to achievements of the Big Four agenda.
2. It is against this background and following intense public outcry on the wanton destruction of forests and water catchment and unregulated charcoal production and trade that the Government imposed a Moratorium on logging and timber harvesting in all public and community forests on **24th February, 2018**. The purpose of the Moratorium was among others, to allow for reassessment and rationalization of the entire forest sector in the Country. The Moratorium was initially for **Ninety (90) days** and was later extended for **six (6) months** period which is due to end on the **24th November, 2018**.
3. Consequently, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry appointed a Task Force on Forest Resources Management and Logging activities vide **Gazette Notice No. 28** dated **26th February, 2018**. The broad objective of the Task Force was to Inquire into Forest

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