

KWS in efforts to save rare hyena species

Hyena cubs play at the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Animal Orphanage yesterday. KWS is partnering with the Born Free Foundation to move the rare striped hyenas to Meru National Park for rehabilitation. The 10-month-old animals, christened Victor and Victoria, were moved to the orphanage in April. The cubs whose species is listed as "near threatened" will be kept in an enclosure in the Meru park before they are gradually released into the wild. (PHOTO: COURTESY)



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Agency said it estimates 77,000 people could be in dire need of food aid in the next four months if it does not rain soon.

INCREASED FOOD PRICES

According to the Nyeri County Early Drought Warning Bulletin, fam-lies in semi-arid areas of Ki-omi Con-situency can no longer afford three meals a day.

"Food consumption has deterio-rated across all livelihoods as most households are now dependent on markets for food supply due to poor pasture and crop failure," says the re-port.

The prevailing drought conditions have been blamed for increase in food prices.

"A kilo of meat now retails at Sh175 while in August it was being sold at Sh138. The cost of maize flour has also increased from Sh40 a kilo to Sh44," says the report.

Rivers, which are the main source of water for the majority of residents in Ki-omi, continue to register reduced water levels, with others drying up al-together.

About 90 per cent of all water holding structures have dried up while the rest have low volumes of water," says the report.

Nyeri County Drought Response Officer John Maina also urged the na-tional government to put in place ur-gent intervention measures.