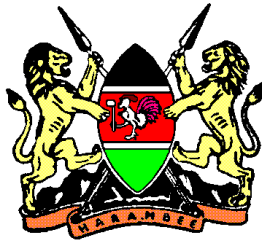


REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING

**FOURTH MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2023- 2027
EMBU COUNTY CONSULTATION FORUM REPORT**



MAY, 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Kenya Vision 2030 is the country's long term development blue-print that aims to transform Kenya into a newly-industrializing, middle income country providing high quality of life to its citizens. The Vision is being implemented through five-year successive Medium Term Plans. The National Treasury and planning through the State Department for planning is preparing the Fourth MTP 2023-2027 of Kenya Vision 2030. The Fourth MTP will succeed the Third MTP 2018-2022 and outlines policies, programmes and projects for implementation over the Plan period. The Fourth MTP will implement the fourth and second-last phase of Kenya Vision 2030 and will set the momentum for transition to the next long-term development agenda for the country. It will be guided by Kenya Vision 2030 and lessons learnt in implementation of previous MTPs (MTPI, MTPII and MTPIII). It will also be guided by the Constitution and will incorporate the priorities outlined in the Manifesto of the Political Party forming the Government after the next general election scheduled for August, 2022.

The Fourth MTP is being prepared through wide consultations in line with several Articles of the Constitution that calls for the involvement of the public in the formulation of public policies and plans. In line with the Constitution Article 10 2 (a), 2 (c), Article 174 (c) and the Fourth Schedule, the Fourth MTP consultations and consensus building will be undertaken through National Stakeholders Forum (NSF); MTP Sector Working Groups (MTPSWG's); County Consultation Forums; and National Stakeholders Validation Forum.

1.2 Fourth MTP County Consultation Forums

The National Treasury and Planning through the State Department for Planning held MTP County Consultation Forums in all counties between 28th March and 5th April, 2022. The Consultation Forums provided opportunity for stakeholders and the public to provide views that will form basis for the design of sector policies, programmes and projects in the Fourth MTP.

1.3 Objective County Consultation Forums

The objectives of the County Consultation Forums were:

- i. To appraise stakeholders and the public on progress made in implementation of MTP 2018-2022, and preparatory process of Fourth MTP;
- ii. To provide a forum for consultation with stakeholders and the public to propose priority programmes and projects for incorporation in the Fourth MTP; and
- iii. To provide a platform for consultation between the national government and county government on development and implementation of MTP and CIDPs.

1.4 Participants/Target Group

The County Consultation Forums targeted representatives from the National Government in the counties, County Governments, Non-Government Institutions and the public. The Participants from non-government institutions included representatives from Religious organizations, Private Sector, Development Partners, Civil society, Media, Academia, Persons with Disabilities, Youth and Women. A total of 150 participants were invited in each County Forum

with strict adherence to gender balance and sub-county representations. A total of 163 participants attended the Embu County Consultation Forum.

1.5 County Consultation Process

The Consultation Team was led by Ms. Ann Mwangi, Chief Economist, State Department for Planning. The Team made courtesy call to the County Commissioner and briefed him on the Fourth MTP preparatory process and the programme of activities and logistics for the forums. The Consultation Forums programme was as follows:

- i. Welcoming remarks by County Commissioners and County Executive Committee (CEC) in charge of Finance and Planning;
- ii. Remarks by the County Governor;
- iii. Statement by Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury and Planning read on his behalf by Principal Secretaries (Team Leader);
- iv. Presentations on:
 - a) Objective of the Consultation forums;
 - b) County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) Guidelines;
 - c) Achievements of Third MTP and preparatory process of Fourth MTP;
 - d) Key achievements on implementation of County Integrated Development Plans 2018-2022; and
- v. Group Discussions based on the three pillars & Enablers. Participants were divided into four groups to discuss Emerging Issues & Challenges, and proposed County sector priority programmes and projects.

1.6 County Consultation Forums Output

The Consultation Team prepared county specific Consultation Forum reports. The report contains highlights of the remarks made during the opening sessions, emerging issues and challenges, and proposed priority programmes and projects for Fourth MTP.

2. Highlights of Remarks Made During Opening Session

2.1 Remarks by the Principal Secretary, Representative - Mr. Amos Mwati Senior Deputy Secretary, State Department for Lands

The SDS in his remarks noted that the MTP IV County consultation provides an opportunity for the Embu citizens to provide their inputs and priorities in the next medium-term plan. He also noted that it offered a strategic moment of reflection to evaluate how well the MTP III was implemented and the lessons learnt that will inform the development of MTP IV. He called upon all the participants to engage in focused discussions and bring about pertinent issues affecting the Embu People. The SDS also challenged the participants to make suggestion on solutions and projects and programmes to address the challenges and emerging issues.

Finally, the Senior Deputy Secretary delivered the Statement by the Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury and Planning and officially opened the County consultation forum on behalf of the Dr. Nicholas Muraguri, CBS. State Department for Lands

2.2 Remarks by the County Commissioner

The County Commissioner thanked the Director for hosting and accepting to have a such a vital forum in the school. He then congratulated the participants in taking the opportunity given to them to contribute to the MTP IV forum. He further urged the participants to be open minded and be actively involved through the session. He noted that the issue raised will inform the MTP IV, and the implementation of the last phase of Kenya Vision 2030.

2.3 Remarks by the County Secretary

The County Secretary started by stating that he was very encouraged by the participation of the Embu County citizens. He assured the participants that more will be done to address issues raised in the next CIDP. He urged the participants to engage in focused deliberations and give solutions to the challenges that will be tabled during the group discussions session.

2.4 Remarks by the County Director of Finance, Economic and Planning Mr. Lawrence Nzioka

The Director expressed his excitement and thanked the National Government for embarking on this MTP IV County Consultations as it has been the norm in the past years, on the previous Medium-Term Plans. He informed the team that the County government was ready, to start on the drafting of their fourth County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), explaining that the County of Embu, CIDP was more oriented on Programme based initiatives other than project based, this is to ensure continuity of programmes. The MTP secretariat was assured that the County government follow the CIDP guidelines provided by the National Government.

3. Plenary Discussion

The following plenary issues arose from the presentations on: achievements of MTP III and the preparatory process of MTP IV; and the highlights on achievements of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018 – 2022:

- (i) A concern was raised on the water projects that stalled, and shortage of water, what was the county government doing about it?** The response from the county government was, that they were aware that the Southern part of the county is experiencing the water shortage, however a project under KENGEN was about 60% complete by the end of September 2022, and the county is still on course, on other project to curb the following issue.
- (ii) Over exploitation on water distribution causing water shortage, in some arid area in the county** - Participants were concerned about the regulation of water and the licensing given to institutions from the water conservation. They expressed that there's need for control of the Kirinyaga outlets. There were was also an issue on the encroaching of the water catchment areas due to what has been mentioned above, Mbere and Embu areas were experience water shortage.
- (iii) A matter was raised on the forest coverage statistics that had been indicated under the MTP III achievement. A participant differed with the statistics, which was a forest coverage of 1.7 %.** The response on forest cover was that the both County and National Government, had initiatives under Kenya Forestry and Ministry of Educations

as well as the most common, which was tree planting project in all the government institutions. The participants were also advised that all the data and information was available from the reports to also confirm on the true statistics under the Kenya Vision 2030 secretariat portal/ website or the MTP reports that were readily available at the State Department of Planning website.

(iv) Poor road and narrow bridges construction of at the Manyatta sub-county, Mbere South and Mwea. Response from the County official was that tarmacking of roads for example the ring roads especially, the projects are on-going, they participants were assured that the Mwea road is a priority, the road from Kategi to Machana, the Magoi road, around MT. Kenya region.

The stalled road will be given priority in the next CIDP planning of 2023 -2027, which they will be called upon to contribute. The participants were informed the national stalled projects on roads, are now under the delivery unit e.g. the Mau road. There was resource mobilization to have continuity of these roads, under the Public Private Partnership Act 2021, which is focused on infrastructure projects.

(v) A concern was raised on the involvement of persons with disability in consultative forums especially the impaired in hearing, it was suggested that the next consultative forums for the public to have an interpreter, for inclusivity.

(vi) Another matter was on the low macadamia prices, which the farmers felt frustrated and demoralized, as much as this is attributed to the pandemic crisis. The representative of the farmers urged that more need to be done, in order to stabilize the prices.

(vii) A Participant inquired on the percentage progress that had been achieved under the MTP III so far-The participants were informed that they information would be easily acquired from the MTP III reports. It was to be noted that, there was a positive trajectory in all the pillars in the last five years. It was emphasized that MTP III annual progress reports – these are very detailed in the website, the end of plan evaluation report are also sufficient in giving an overall view of the implementation of the MTP III report.

(viii) Monitoring of the TVET universities to ensure quality and improved education- Participants were informed that the quality at the TVET universities had greatly improved and a good example; Technology University – Dedan Kimathi University, which is the first University in Africa to partner with the aviation sector to have a semiconductor technologies factory.

(ix) A concern was also raised on the slow pace in development -infrastructure due to regulations and contractual issues: A suggestion was tabled that to enforce strong regulations should be enforced to make the engineers accountable.

(x) Under-utilized market sheds: The participants felt that there was no proper prioritizing of projects, or even proper research done to establish the need of the citizens

(xi) Participants urged that Climate change to be a top priority project – Participants were assured that the Climate change is factored as part of the emerging issues, as the focus is on sustainability. MTP IV will be very keen on innovation of climate issues.

(xii) Youth unemployment was a great concern as most were now engaging in illegal activities, the participants requested that the government can create more initiatives to occupy the youths. They were assured that Youth innovations – were the central theme of the vision 2030.

(xiii) **It was noted by the participants that there were no industries in Embu County-** The response was that in order for Industrialization to take place the County Government needs to submit land that can be allocated to Industrialization, therefore the citizens of Embu need to propose on the industrial parks to the government in their development plans.

(xiv) **A concern was raised on the prevalent high cost of living in the country:** Participants were informed that the Cost of living is due to a lot of factors, prices of oil as well as other internal and external factors like the global world prices, power ,political stability. Therefore they should propose what can be done to increase production, cut on the cost of food the cost of building materials, universal health care. The government under the big four agenda has tried to address this, but the citizens can contribute in submitting proposal in this forum.

4. Group Discussions

Emerging Issues and Challenges in the county and proposed County Priority Programmes and Projects for Fourth MTP 2023-2027 were presented as follows:

| EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES | PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS |
|---|--|
| ENABLERS/FOUNDATIONS | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed road projects • Poor workmanship • Skewed allocation of resources • Vandalism of critical infrastructure of energy • Uncontrolled water harvesting • Inadequate network coverage • Growing Vandalism of ICT facilities • No proper phase between G2, G3, and G4 networks • Disruption of ICT facilities by road constructors • Rapidly growing ICT users beyond the support of bandwidth • Land Adjudication Issues • Irregular Subdivision Of Public Land • Uncontrolled Land Fragmentation • Historical Land Injustice • Growing Population • Uncontrolled Development • Unresolved Land Disputes Issue • Mistrust between security agencies and local communities • Poor service delivery e.g. health sector • Conflict of interest health facility workers • Increasing corruption in public sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have projects to Strengthen Multispectral approach in Monitoring of project and contractor • Establish ICT centre within each ward • Fast track Digitalization of land registry • Multi-Agency in resolution • Enhance community policing e.g. strengthen partnership in Nyumba Kumi • Establish health commission. • Revert health sector to national Government • Involve SRC in labour matters |

| EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES | PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative attitude in public sector • Sabotage among agencies • Disparity in terms and conditions of payment. No harmonization of salaries by the county public service Board. • Disregard to labors laws • Growing regard to change • Perceived marginalization • A trend of increasing risks and disaster • Drug and substance abuse • Increasing suicidal incidences • Protracted land matters | |
| ECONOMIC PILLAR | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of climbing route to Mt. Kenya from Embu • Poor infrastructure • Inadequate marketing • lack of centralization of financial services • Multiple licensing • Poor roads in the market areas • High prices for inputs due to; issue of middle men in the sector; issue of extension officers; issues of agricultural inputs and cartels • Lack of value addition for agricultural products • Lack of industries in the County. Products are being manufactured elsewhere | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing for the development of climbing route to Mt Kenya from Embu • Improvement of accessibility to tourism cites • Marketing for the tourism cites in the county and provide incentives to investors • Set up agro - processing plants • More dams for irrigation • Set up manufacturing industries in the county • Implementation of fishing sector in the county |
| SOCIAL PILLAR | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage pregnancies and Drugs addiction • Lack of ECDE to CBC transition training • Inadequate professional teachers at the Tertiary Universities and TVET upgrade on infrastructure • Lack of a proper system to books distribution in public schools • Low turnout of patients in public facilities compared to private facilities • Poor Infrastructure for health facilities and the county and sub county level. • High NHIF contribution • Understaffing and inadequate medical supplies at the county hospitals • Emergence and re-emergence of diseases • Inadequate Capacity for Disaster management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create programmes on preventive measures on re-emerging and chronic diseases • Prioritization of dams • Establish projects on afforestation and reafforestation of degraded areas like njukiri • Infrastructure of Sports - Centres and talent academy management • National funding for advocacy in FGM and prevention programmes -Teenage pregnancy • National funding -Research and improvement of herbal medicine • Establish rehabilitation centres for the County with creative programmes for the street children and families |

| EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES | PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate capacity for Sanitation and solid waste management • Heavy disease burden vs treatment e.g. Cancer treatment • Low Funding for the health sector • High mortality rate • Mental health: High suicide rates • Female Genital Mutilation • Teenage pregnancy • Climate change • Water shortages • Lack of sanitation and solid waste management along the rivers • Rapid population growth and open borders • Poor Urban planning • Inadequate funding for the vulnerable • Increased number of Street children • High rate of Unemployment • Lack of accessibility to AGPO- access to Government Procurement Opportunities • Drugs and substance abuse by the youth • Poor market infrastructure for khat • irregular payments on the allocated funds for the elderly • Lack of free medication for senior citizens • Inadequate talent academies • Inadequate stadiums / recreation centres and facilities for sports • Diminishing Culture and indigenous knowledge among the youth • Disregard of herbal medicine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a platform for private public partnership on waste management in the county |
| POLITICAL PILLAR | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear county organizational structures; hence the “mwananchi” does not understand who to hold account for various issues and services, this has also lead to duplication of duties leading to blame games and lack of accountability. • Inadequate civic education; People still don’t know the roles of various leaders. e.g. MCA Governor, Ward admins, county commissioner. • Poor coordination at the county level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and implementation of ward fund. • Proper civic education programmes |

| EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES | PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | |

5. Conclusion

The County Secretary in his closing remarks thanked everyone for a very productive consultation forum, and reminded the participants that they will be required very soon to participate in the preparation of the county CIDP. Thus, the MTP IV would be a platform to borrow what has been discussed by the various groups. He expressed that he was looking forward to having projects and programmes that will be incorporated in the MTPIV that are sustainable in future.

The County Secretary appreciated KSG for hosting the meeting and assured the participants, as much as the County is going through a transition, the project and programmes that will be in the CIDP will be continued by the next government, since the government does not take a break, it is always working towards improving the citizens lives.