

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING

FOURTH MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2023- 2027

LAIKIPIA COUNTY CONSULTATION FORUM REPORT



MAY, 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Kenya Vision 2030 is the country's long term development blueprint that aims to transform Kenya into a newly-industrializing, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to its citizens. The Vision is being implemented through five-year successive Medium Term Plans.

The National Treasury through the State Department 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 the transition to the next long-term development agenda for the country. It will be guided by Kenya Vision 2030 and lessons learnt in the 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 call 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 (MTPSWGs); 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 the opportunity for stakeholders and the public to provide views that will form the 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 the implementation of MTP 2018-2022, and the preparatory process of the 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 the 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, the Private Sector, Development Partners, Civil society, Media, Academia, Persons with Disabilities, Youth and Women. A total of 150 participants were invited to each County Forum with strict adherence to gender balance and sub-county representations. A total of 123 participants attended the Laikipia County Consultation Forum.

1.5 County Consultation Process

The Consultation Team was led by Amb. John Weru, Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade. The Consultation Teams made courtesy calls to the County Commissioner and the County Secretary and briefed them 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) The 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 THE OPENING SESSION

2.1 County Secretary

The County Secretary welcomed the participants to the forum, encouraging them to contribute actively to the identification of priorities for inclusion in the MTP IV. He noted

that some of the identified challenges will be admitted in the third generation CIDP whose process of preparation is about to begin.

2.2 County Commissioner

The County Commissioner expressed his pleasure with the turn out of the public, noting that the representation of each group of stakeholders was perfect (professionals; Non-Governmental Organizations, development partners & civil society; county and national government; youths and special groups). He expressed confidence that the views will represent the larger aspirations of the public in Laikipia County.

2.3 Principal Secretary

The PS started by bringing to the attention of the participants the fact that development practice in Kenya changed from a top-bottom to a bottom-up approach starting with the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation and Vision 2030 (with successive medium-term plans). The public's contribution is highly sought under the later practice to ensure that public investments are responsive to the needs of the people.

Given these provisions, the PS encouraged the participants to actively contribute to the structured identification of priorities for the next MTP. He also encouraged potential and sitting political aspirants to attend such forums, for purposes of better comprehending the transformative development ideas of the participants. Specifically, participants must endeavour to choose political representatives who understand the problems of the County. One strategy involves actively engaging aspirants on provisions of their respective manifestos.

The PS then advised the participants to prioritize the resolution of bottlenecks as a precedent for the expansion of the private sector and employment creation. A specific emphasis was made on the importance of joining and sustaining regional economic blocs like the Central Region Economic Block (CEREB) which maximizes economic opportunities and resources. The leaders at the county level should have a vision for larger inter-county collaboration, and sustain a focus on improving relations between counties and the national government.

Some of the priorities that the succeeding administration must resolve include unexploited natural resources in the county (such as iron prospects) whose prospecting must be considered in the next phase of planning; availing a steady supply of power and distribution coverage for industrial activity; investment in water harvesting systems.

Lastly, he reiterated the importance of political administration in the successful implementation of development plans, urging the participants to actively engage political aspirants on their knowledge of development priorities in the County.

3. PLENARY DISCUSSION

A participant noted that although there are achievements cited in CIDP II on extension service. The model the current service is using is not impactful since the officers do not follow up with the farmers.

He also decried the deterioration of past mainstays of Kenya's economy (agriculture) like the coffee industry. Farmers earning capacity is still very constrained making it hard to attract more people (especially the young ones) to the activity. The participant urged that CIDPs emphasize the revival of agriculture-based value addition industries. One strategy is to dedicate more resources to the agriculture sector than has been put in MTP IV and CIDP III.

Another participant indicated that the CIDP achievements did not reflect the achievements the county has made in social support services, away from physical infrastructure development. The civil society organizations are the ones left to battle huge gender and psychosocial support services and are overwhelmed.

There are also increasing mental health issues and the MTP III or CIDP II achievements do not reflect what the gains have been in this particular social issue. Hospitals cannot handle mental health issues, and the strategy of Makueni County (mainstreaming mental health issues in the general health sector) should be adopted in both sets of plans.

A participant cautioned that although the Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) has improved under MTP III, the social crises are going to reverse this gain in Laikipia County. This is due to prolonged cattle rustling and economic instabilities. The emphasis on girl child affirmative action also needs to be extended to the boy child.

A social audit was suggested by a participant, to ensure that the impressive performance of social welfare programmes in MTP III is indeed impactful. This is because of isolated cases of a rise in the number of vulnerable persons in society.

4. GROUP DISCUSSION

The participants were split into four groups and they were advised to be free to contribute in any groups they felt could be of interest to them. It was explained to the participants that for them to choose Programmes/projects that will serve them well, they needed to identify the challenges/problems and emerging issues that impact on their lives then propose solutions for them.

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
ENABLERS/FOUNDATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor road network (few km with tarmac) and low coverage;• Inadequate connectivity and the vastness of the county(electricity);• Low adoption of alternative power connectivity;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tarmac Nanyuki, Mutara, Rumuruti Nyahururu, Doldol, Matanya roads• Up-grading earth roads to bitumen standards• Open up more roads to ease connectivity and movement within the county

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor infrastructure planning; • Revival of the railway line; • Under-utilization of existing infrastructure; • Cybercrime; • Poor connectivity; • Inadequate innovation hubs • Costly land acquisition process. • Illegal settlements. • Inadequate access to water and pastures • Delay in access and services • High unemployment rate • The proliferation of illegal firearms • Risky and harmful cultural practices – cattle rustling • Increased vulnerability to violent extremism • Presence of National Police Reservists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of alternative sources of electricity e.g., solar energy • Invest in sewerage system • Provide incentives to the investors and public awareness of investment opportunities • Enhance cyber security • Upgrade the Information Communication Technology (ICT) hubs • Support innovative ideas among the youth • Adjudicate the legally acquired settlement. • Reclaiming stock routes, holding grounds in the private ranches • Sensitize the public and the youth about the opportunities in the vocational training centres • Youth internship • Civic education and campaigns (change mindset) • Construct water pans • Regular disarmament • Awareness-raising, tagging of animals, as an alternative source of livelihood • Address the drivers of violent extremism
ECONOMIC PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfavourable weather (Drought) • Inadequate extension services: e.g. provision of certified seeds and training especially within farms, measurement of soil acidity • Taxation from both national and county governments. • Issuance of licenses. • Insufficient certification process by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KeBS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies to enable tourism proceeds to benefit the community at large. • Innovative farming methods should be introduced and made available to the farmers e.g. hydroponics farming. • Strengthening of cooperatives- giving them jurisdiction around counties. • Contract farming with the county governments. • Human-wildlife conflict on the farms. • Improvement in the certification process by KEBS. • Introduction of industries that can help bring more revenue e.g. with livestock having the hides used to make belts. • Rehabilitation of the run-down markets. • Credit terms to be favourable. • Harmonization of tax especially when moving from one county to another. • Introduction of industries e.g. leather, meat, textile industries.

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have technical institutions that will train the locals so that they can venture into different sectors. • Have innovative ways to help the youth venture into Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) • Loans/ grants to boost businesses.
SOCIAL PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate Infrastructure • Expensive Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) • Inadequate deployment of mental health personnel/lack of mental health facilities. • Inadequate information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence • Poor sanitation • Few facilities for cancer screening • Shortage of water resources brings conflicts • Human-Wildlife conflict • Rural-urban migration • Inadequate and unaffordable housing [Laikipia North] • Inadequate social amenities • Lack of rescue centres for the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors • Retrogressive cultural practices eg; GBV, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Early marriages • Inadequate youth empowerment centres • Extremism among youth • High level of unemployment • Violation of Children with Disabilities • Inadequate funds to facilitate sports activities at the county level • Embezzling of Sports funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction (Putting up) of the infrastructure and electrification • Training and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes to be inclusive of children with disability • Introduce/offer courses that are market/industry-oriented. • Deploy more training for personnel on matters of mental illness • Invest in additional mental health clinics in every sub-county and also human resource • Avail mobility and hearing aids (hearing aids, artificial arms) • Increase personnel deployed to address issues of sexual reproductive health, GBV and FGM • Create awareness campaigns on matters SRHR, SGBV AND FGM • Improve emergency preparedness for emergencies and pandemics (COVID) • Avail cancer screening facilities • Additional and Facilitation of the Community health workers (CHW) • County Anti-FGM county policy • Enactment and implementation of County Action Plan (CAP) on prevention and counter violent extremism and integration into the CIDP (2023-2027) • Expanding the capacity of the Amaya Triangle Initiative in the affected areas e.g.establishing county-specific programmes to address the insecurity issues. • Increase ICT hubs • Develop a family-strengthening policy • Strengthen Psychosocial support • Have a sustainable POLICARE centre in every sub-

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
	<p>county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritization of sports activities at the county level and proper utilization of sports funds. • Establish talent academies • Establish cultural centres to bring the different communities together • Initiate and sustain an annual youth festival that brings together all talents in the county
POLITICAL PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate coordination in National Government and County Government functions • Inadequate resource allocation for functions of devolved units • Perception of marginalization and exclusion among certain communities and sections of community e.g. Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), pastoralists • Poor Quality of Leadership for oversight of the delivery of services by County Government • Low prioritization of National values (Leaders do not keep their promises given to wananchi in their manifestoes and service delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a legal framework to integrate National Government policies and County Plans through legislation by the County Assembly of Laikipia • Improve efficiency in Bursary fund allocation by developing a coordinated mechanism and common basket • Continuous civic education program • Enhance the inclusion of PWDs in all sectors.

5. CONCLUSION

The Director expressed pleasure with the conduct of the forum, noting that the session has amassed considerable input for the CIDP. The inputs will form a critical reference point in the preparation of the CIDP and the State Department for Planning (SDP) should share the report on time.

The Director also informed the Forum that the County is entrenching evidence-based decision-making, through continuous collection and updating of statistical abstracts. He appealed to the participants to engage with the statistics as they can shape the priorities they present as part of CIDP. Lastly, he emphasized that any issue that has not been dispensed with shall be submitted at the location-level CIDP, which aims at capturing the local-level development issues and priorities.

The representative of the County Commissioner (CC) appreciated the county and SDP team for facilitating the forum. She also appreciated the active participation of the participants and promised them to check with respective documents (CIDP and MTP IV), and ensure their inputs are reflected. Finally, she wished the participants well in future engagements with the MTP IV and CIDP II processes and declared the Forum officially closed.

