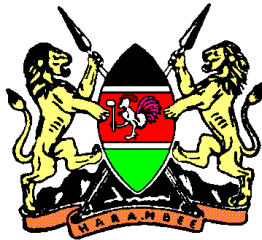


**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING**

**STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING**

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**FOURTH MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2023- 2027  
MERU 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 28<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 166 participants attended the Meru 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, State Department for Industrialization - Amb. Peter K. Kaberia, CBS**

The Principal Secretary reiterated that the Forum created a critical platform for the county residents and stakeholders to provide inputs for consideration during preparation of the MTP IV (2023 – 27). He therefore requested invited participants to actively participate during the forum and provide their best inputs. He further requested the invited participants to effectively represent those who did not make it to the Forum.

### **2.2 Remarks by the County Commissioner – Mr. Fredrick Ndunga**

The County Commissioner started by officially welcoming all participants to the forum and assured them of adequate security while at Meru. He emphasized that the participants who attended the Forum, were selected from different sections of the county population and represented the majority who were not able to attend and participate in the Forum. He also

underscored the importance of public participation during public policy making process, as envisaged by the Constitution of Kenya and therefore requested the participants to actively and effectively participate during the Forum.

### **2.3 Remarks by the County Secretary – Mr. Miriti J. M. Rufus**

In his remarks, the County Secretary started by noting that there were joint efforts and collaborations between the County Government and National Government in preparing for the MTP IV County Consultative Forum.

The County Secretary called upon all participants to actively participate during the forum and take this as a chance to air out their proposals that are focused on ensuring sustainable growth and social transformation deemed necessary for incorporation into the MTP IV to address emerging issues and challenges within the county and country as a whole.

### **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) Need to enhance Public Private Partnership in the agriculture sector and ensure farmers are involved and participate in decision making process;
- (ii) Need to operationalize Boda Boda Saccos; the response was that the process to form a union had already started, and Ksh 17 million has been proposed through a cabinet memo so as to enhance this, through a micro-finance Institution, that will develop a product for the *boda boda* sector, the remaining part was to have a framework of how the funds would be disbursed. It was also proposed that the Ministry of transport to be involved in the process, and provide capacity building as well in terms of training.
- (iii) Need for a platform from the County government on Public Private Partnership , on capacity building for *boda boda* associations – this was requested by Red Cross
- (iv) Need to attach cost to achievements pegged to the implementation of the County Integrated Development Plan; Response to this was, that the County annual reports were available on the county website and had all the information, therein on expenditure and allocation of funds to different projects, run by the county government , and all were welcome to access the information.
- (v) Highlights on achievements realized out of implementation of the CIDP should clearly indicate the farmers who were trained;
- (vi) Little attention has been given to milk production / dairy farming in Meru County;
- (vii) Was sensitization to *Boda Boda* riders done? Was the private sector involved to support the sensitization? What were the challenges faced during the sensitization?.

- (viii) Request to the County government to partner with the youth groups , to grow tree seedlings and sell back to the government – as an initiative on Youth empowerment

#### 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"> <li>• Poor road networks</li> <li>• Inadequate skills of road contractors</li> <li>• Vandalism of the already existing infrastructures leading to loss and high cost of maintaining projects</li> <li>• Accidents inn quarries where explosives are used</li> <li>• Encroachment of road reserves</li> <li>• People working in quarry do not have knowhow on how to deal with disasters</li> <li>• Cyber Crimes</li> <li>• Inadequacy of network connectivity</li> <li>• Destruction of ICT infrastructure</li> <li>• Poor workmanship</li> <li>• Long-term conflicts from boundary</li> <li>• Lack of titling, definition of boundaries and demarcation leading to increased land disputes</li> <li>• Political interference</li> <li>• Duplication of roles and underutilized workforce</li> <li>• Poor Succession management -Many people in top management as opposed to lower level management</li> <li>• Nepotism &amp; tribalism in opportunities in the Public Service</li> <li>• Increased unemployment</li> <li>• Corruption in public service -</li> <li>• Procurement procedures not followed</li> <li>• Lack of transparency</li> <li>• Insecurity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening up of county security roads and airstrips to enhance security</li> <li>• Opening up of county Utungati (Huduma) centers at sub-county level</li> <li>• Equip value addition industry</li> <li>• TVET to have driving schools to mitigate accidents</li> <li>• Security vehicles for our conflict areas and accommodation facilities for enforcement officers</li> <li>• Demarcation, marking territories and clear definition of boundaries</li> <li>• Establish peace building programmes in conflict prone areas</li> <li>• Improve solar fencing to prevent wildlife human conflict</li> <li>• Establishment of emergency operation center to coordinate emergencies in the county</li> <li>• Online community literacy centers</li> </ul>
ECONOMIC PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Boda boda</i> sector: formation, regulation , organization, legal frameworks and policies</li> <li>• Emergence of new diseases and pests</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Dynamic Technology: E commerce, mobile banking,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Special Economic Zones</li> <li>• Establishment of Meru Tourism Information Centre</li> <li>• Promotion of subsidized Agricultural inputs</li> <li>• Up scaling of livestock and crop insurance</li> <li>• Facilitating of market access for MSMEs</li> </ul>

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Conflicts</li> <li>• High cost of Agricultural inputs</li> <li>• Poor/ inadequate dissemination of Agricultural information</li> <li>• Poor infrastructure at the coffee factories</li> <li>• Lack of proper documentation (Driving Licenses, Insurance, security issues)</li> <li>• Underdeveloped Tourism attraction sites</li> <li>• Lack of policy for the hospitality industry</li> <li>• Lack of County Tourism Information Centre</li> <li>• Inaccessibility of tourism sites- poor roads</li> <li>• Inaccessibility of tourism sites- most of them are on private land</li> <li>• Lack of Industrialization and Trade policy</li> <li>• Security issues at tourism sites i.e Igombe crater</li> <li>• Lack of sensitization and capacity building on value addition</li> <li>• Inadequate BtoC linkages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building on Entrepreneurial skills and financial literacy of MSMEs sector.</li> </ul>
SOCIAL PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate Staffing Capacity in schools</li> <li>• Inadequate preparation for CBC</li> <li>• Inadequate Special Needs sections in school Institutions ()</li> <li>• Children homes interventions (care)</li> <li>• Inadequate Public Day Care Centers</li> <li>• Poor accessibility of health Institutions and services</li> <li>• Inadequate equipping of health institutions</li> <li>• High cost of accessing health services</li> <li>• Lack of professionalism in health facilities</li> <li>• Limited NHIF Cover</li> <li>• Mental Health: Dilapidated infrastructures and inadequate/substandard services</li> <li>• Inadequate Mental health services</li> <li>• Lack of specialized doctors</li> <li>• Heavy metals in arrowroots/plants grown down stream</li> <li>• Effluents release to rivers uncontrollably</li> <li>• Use of excessive agrochemicals</li> <li>• Water Shortage</li> <li>• Poor Water harvesting techniques</li> <li>• Climate Change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitization among school leavers about TVETs</li> <li>• Employment of more tutors/trainers</li> <li>• Capacity building and resource allocation on CBC</li> <li>• Establishment of an Integrated school</li> <li>• Create more accessible infrastructure for special needs children</li> <li>• Establishment of County Run children homes</li> <li>• Establishment of public day care Centers</li> <li>• Set up of boundary walls in all institutions</li> <li>• Development of home craft centers</li> <li>• Partnerships with Institutions to mentor trainees</li> <li>• Partnership with TVET Centers and other training centers for access of working equipment</li> <li>• Capturing of orphaned children from young age to better address and plan for their needs</li> <li>• Startup kits for training graduates</li> <li>• Establishment of health facilities across the county</li> <li>• Equipping of all health facilities</li> <li>• Upgrading of existing health institutions</li> <li>• Subsidize medical costs</li> <li>• Enhance NHIF coverage</li> <li>• Enhance initiatives on Mental Health</li> </ul>

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of effective waste management</li> <li>• Unemployment in urban centers</li> <li>• Unplanned informal settlements</li> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Limited Pedestrians walk ways</li> <li>• Inadequate Housing</li> <li>• Kimeru Language at verge of distortion/extinction</li> <li>• Low cultural Tourism</li> <li>• Low commercialization of performing and Visual arts</li> <li>• Minimal support to sport teams</li> <li>• Lack of Incubation Centers</li> <li>• Inadequate recreation/playing fields</li> <li>• Lack of sporting events</li> <li>• Inadequate sporting venues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Mental health doctors even at sub county Level</li> <li>• Enhanced food quality control systems</li> <li>• Sensitization of farmers on use of chemicals</li> <li>• More water sources regulations and enforcement</li> <li>• Adherences to pollution control methods e.g. impact assessments</li> <li>• Policy formulation to ensure that regulations are adhered to</li> <li>• Integrated training to farmers in use of agrochemicals</li> <li>• Integrated pests' control</li> <li>• Integrated policy to encourage synergies</li> <li>• Conservation of the County's water sources</li> <li>• Check dams' constructions to add water sources</li> <li>• Water friendly trees on riparian lands</li> <li>• Policy on taming unregulated water abstraction</li> <li>• More sensitization of beneficiaries to better manage boreholes</li> <li>• Prioritization of urban centers: waste management, security, improving housing for urban poor</li> <li>• Accelerate regulation of <i>boda boda</i> as National Government</li> <li>• Rolling back of government housing projects</li> <li>• Employment of phycologists across offices</li> <li>• Development of Youth Empowerment Centers.</li> <li>• Increase rehabilitation centers for Youth</li> <li>• Reorganize funding to youth</li> <li>• Establish financial literacy programmes for the youth</li> <li>• Establish Youth Friendly centers</li> <li>• Cash transfers to social marginalized groups</li> <li>• County Government initiatives to cater for street children</li> <li>• Develop County Specific Youth Policy</li> <li>• Create Incentives to learn Kimeru Language</li> <li>• Incorporate literacy programme in ECDEs</li> <li>• Create Animation of Cultural Stories</li> <li>• Establish Kimeru Dictionary</li> <li>• Partnering with Kenya Tourism Board and Tourism Department</li> </ul>

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create Annual Cultural Festivals</li> <li>• Develop Policy on management and collection of Kimeru Artifact's</li> <li>• Create a commercial hub for showcasing</li> <li>• Establish Annual Culture Expo</li> <li>• Increased funding in Meru Sporting activities</li> <li>• Establishment of "Meru Teams" to make better use of Kinoru Stadium</li> <li>• Tapping of Local talent</li> <li>• Establishment of diverse sporting teams</li> <li>• High altitude training programmes</li> <li>• Development of a local sport policy</li> <li>• Upgrading of sporting fields across the county including in public institutions</li> <li>• Completion of incomplete playing fields being upgraded</li> <li>• Development of sporting events to encourage sporting activities</li> <li>• Establishment of talent identification measures in schools starting from ECDE</li> <li>• PPP to enhance sporting culture and involvement</li> <li>• Set aside land/sporting grounds for molding sporting Culture e.g skating grounds</li> <li>• Employment of youths in the county's sporting center</li> </ul>
POLITICAL PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low public participation for projects due to low budget allocation</li> <li>• Lack of independence between the executive and legislative bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance public participation.</li> <li>• Government should enhance facilitation of public participation; public awareness, reflection of their proposals in the development plans, participation to be done administratively through various nominated stakeholders.</li> <li>• Separation of power between legislative and executive</li> <li>• Citizens should be engaged in the understanding of money allocated in various county government projects and appoint project management committees (PMC)</li> <li>• Courts to be increased in sub counties specifically in Mikinduri that will cover for Tigania east and central</li> <li>• Expedite case matters</li> </ul>



EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the identification of the vulnerable and increment of the kitty</li> <li>• Move legal aid services to county level for vulnerable persons, widows and widowers</li> <li>• Enhance and give power to (CACCOC) County Anti-Corruption Oversight Committee to provide awareness and reporting corruption cases to the relevant authorities through national anti-corruption steering committee.</li> <li>• Encouraging government and individuals to participate in Peer Review Mechanism</li> </ul>

## 5. Conclusion

Meru County Consultation forum was very successful with citizens airing the views on their proposed projects in the MTP (IV). The County Commissioner thanked the members for their fruitful discussions and engagements during the group discussions and plenary sessions. He reiterated the importance of public participation in the County events to boost inclusive planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects.