



THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING

FOURTH MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2023- 2027
THARAKA NITHI 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 151 participants attended the Tharaka Nithi 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 a 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 CEC-Finance and Planning-Lawrence Muchini

The Governor was represented by CEC- Finance and Planning Mr. Lawrence Muchini. The CEC welcomed and thanked the participants for honoring the invitations for the important exercise. He emphasized that the forum was a rare opportunity for the residents of Tharaka Nithi County to engage and contribute to the development of Fourth MTP (IV). He further informed the forum participants that the County Consultations was meant to get the public needs, manage wishes / demands and give priority to the programmes and projects that the citizens feel are vital for development. He urged the participants to participate fully, he further noted that after the MTP (IV) forum there will be another forum organized by the county government to contribute to the CIDPs. He concluded by highlighting that the reason for successive Medium Term Plans (MTP) is to take care of emerging issues and how to handle them in the subsequent plans as well as looking at the achievements and challenges experienced in the previous Medium Term Plans.

2.2 Remarks by Clerk of County Assembly-Amos Kianguri

The Clerk of the County Assembly also made remarks. In his remarks he noted that the role of the County assembly is to fill in the gaps in terms of legislation. The County Assembly also supports the planning process by presenting an opportunity for representation. He emphasized the need for the two levels of government to work together; this he noted will avoid duplication of projects and programmes.

2.3 Remarks by County Commissioner-Beverly Oporwa

The County Commissioner in her remarks thanked the Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning and the MTP IV secretariat led by Madam Ann Mwangi for organizing the MTP IV County Consultations. She noted that the forum provides an opportunity to engage and also appreciate the projects and programmes being undertaken by the national government as stipulated in the Vision 2030 policy document. The CC noted that the County consultation is a forum to engage and make the Fourth Medium Term Plan MTP (IV) a representative of the people's will. Further, she informed the participants that in Tharaka Nithi County there are 17 national government Projects/Programmes that were complete and ready for use and gave an example of the Ciamuriga Banana Project.

Further, the County Commissioner informed the participants that it is imperative that we plan together to ensure that there is collaboration between the two levels of government in the projects and programmes. She emphasized that Tharaka Nithi County does not work in isolation and hence the need to consult and engage with other players in the preparation of the MTP (IV) noting that failing to plan was planning to fail.

Finally, the County Commissioner delivered the Statement by the Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury and Planning and officially opened the County consultation forum on behalf of the Mrs. Nancy Karingithu, CBS. State Department for Shipping and Maritime who sent her apologies.

3. PLENARY DISCUSSION

The following issues were raised during the plenary discussions;

- i. A concern that little has been done in the water sector despite many plans to alleviate the problem.
- ii. How both levels of government collaborate with the faith based organization to help residents of Tharaka Nithi to improve their lives on areas such as water access, value addition for fodder and pasture, and energy generation given that Tharaka Nithi County has a lot of available natural resources for exploitation.
- iii. Tharaka Nithi County has remained poor for a long time, there is need for National government to do more in the implementation of projects because there is a disconnect between the plans and the implementation.
- iv. Concerns of many stalled projects and when they will be completed.
- v. Inquiry on the spirit of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in the county especially in the tourism sector. How was the county government helping in boosting tourism in collaboration with private investors
- vi. Noted that People Living with Disability have missed their allocations and requested that they be given a forum where they could air their individual needs to enable them access the required accessories to access their rights such as voting.
- vii. Concern about the exploitation of macadamia farmers by middlemen and asked what both levels of government were doing to ensure that farmers get the markets
- viii. Need for tabulation of the projects done in Tharaka Nithi by the National government instead of having the countrywide achievements made by the National government.

The secretariat in collaboration with the county government responded as follows;

1. The National Government has done a lot as had been indicated in the presentation done on the achievements of the MTP III 2018-2022 and that the government is working to make sure development is realized in all sectors.
2. On the issue of Public Private Partnerships, the participants were asked to present their proposals on the collaborations in the group discussions to make PPP beneficial to all.
3. The presentation made on achievements made by the National Government countrywide was done so that the residents of Tharaka Nithi can understand and appreciate what the government is doing to all the citizens in the country because Tharaka Nithi County does not exist in isolation.

4. The County government reassured the participants that there are proposals to build dams to store water so as to alleviate the recurrent problem of water scarcity in Tharaka Nithi County.
5. The National government together with the County Government are prioritizing the completion of the stalled projects in the fourth MTP before embarking on new projects.

4. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

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"> Natural resource-based conflict across the ASAL counties of Tharaka and Isiolo borders as headers from Isiolo come to heard in Tharaka Nithi Organized criminal gangs: attacks and burglary of residential areas during the day in within Townships Inadequate Constituency Innovations Hub in the County Inadequate internet connectivity for Kathwana Prison to link with Chuka Law Courts Little or no support on innovations by both national and county government Non-conducive working environment for the laborers Landslides in quarries and other mining sites, drought, fires, and accidents Slow implementation thus delays by contractors in delivering projects; and Power shortages and slow response to power breakdowns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction/renovation and equipping of the new sub county headquarters of Igambang'ombe at Kajuki, Chiakariga at Chiakariga and Muthambi at Kieganguru Optimizing investment on climate-proof roads infrastructure for sustainable development by scaling up funding for phased out grading of strategic roads to bitumen standards at aforementioned constituencies Completion of all identified/proposed and ongoing inter- and intra-county roads/trunks priority by county and national governments for upgrading to motorable and/or bitumen standards. This roads are Marimanti-Mukuuni road (14Km), Kibugua-Itugururu-Kamaindiroad, Makutano-Gaciongo-Manyanga-Kathangachini-Ucweni road, and Completion of Tunyai-Kanyaga-Nthaara road among other roads in the county Completion and extension of irrigation projects in the county such as Kithino Dam to provide a 90day water storage capacity for irrigation and water supply

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Dams on Thanantu, Thingithu and Thiiti rivers to provide a 90day water storage capacity for irrigation and water supply • Construction of Thingithu-Tonya-Mpuku-WaKarong'a/City-Kariini-Kiaruni/Racha Irrigation and Water Supply lines • Completion of Muringa Banana Irrigation Project; The Critical Phase III is Ongoing and to be supported by Maara Dam • Rollout programs on development of energy from solar, wind and biogas as part of cottage industries by SMEs • Scale up electricity connection by provision of transformers and associated connectivity equipment supplies to cover every rural village and trading centers thus fostering growth of middle scale and small-scale industries • Last mile connectivity to be enhanced in the county • Construction of one primary school and one secondary school as centers of excellence per constituency • Construction of strategic mega dams to optimize on 90day water storage at Kithino, Thingithu and Mutonga to serve residents within the downstream communities with domestic water supply, irrigation water and river discharge control • Invest in partnerships, fellowships, scholarships and bursaries for student in tertiary and universities. Adapt sister-county/town/university exchange programs and partnerships under foundations to enable youths and other county citizens benefit from learning and job opportunities • Invest in tertiary and institutions of higher learning • Construction and equipping of modern markets in support of SMEs • Installation of power, lighting and water infrastructure in markets and cess points

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of adaptable sanitation in markets and urban centers • Upgrade one High Volume Health Centre per Sub County into a level 4 hospital i.e., Muthambi, Mpukoni, Chiakariga, Nkondi and Kathangachi Health Centers into Level 4 Hospitals • Upgrade Chuka General, Marimanti and Magutuni Hospitals to a Level 5 Facility • Set up a Hospital at Kathwana, the County Headquarters by Kathwana High Volume Dispensary into Level 4 Hospital • Tarmacking of C362A, PolePole-Kiairugu-Kanoro road 17.8KMs (Was Advertised as RWC 258 but not awarded). The road was allocated KES. 20 Million FY 2018/2019 out of the required budget of KES.700 Million. Needs at least KES 70 Million down payment to allow contract award and work commencement • Tarmacking of C380-Old Marima-Makutano road (20Km) • Murraming of Old B6 Road (15km) • Magutuni-Kanini-Kaare-Kithino/Materi Girls-Kabauni road • Kithino Dam to provide a 90day water storage capacity for irrigation and water supply • Small Dams on Thanantu, Thingithu and Thiiti rivers to provide a 90day water storage capacity for irrigation and water supply • Construction of Thingithu-Tonya-Mpuku-WaKarong'a/City-Kariini-Kiaruni/Racha Irrigation and Water Supply lines. • Construction Kibuka 44 Water Project, Chiakariga-Kamanyaki-Kamarandi and Ntugi Irrigation & Water Project • Identify and construct Water Pans, Earth,Check Dams/Sand Damsand/or Spring Protect Water Supply at strategic sites along intermittent rivers within the constituency including KaurogaMpuria

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
	<p>Water Pan, Kamagaiju Earth Dam, Kathanje-Ruriini Check Dam and Gakuyuni Spring Water Supply Check Dam through National Drought Management Authority under KCEP CRAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast track ADB funding for Chogoria Town Water and Sewerage Construction. • Completion of Kamwene Water Project. • Completion of Muthambi-Gitije Irrigation Project • Subsidize or zero rate water and irrigation equipment for last mile connection to improve access by low income generating citizens at affordable rates. • Rollout programs on development of use of improved cooking stoves and charcoal kilns as part of cottage industries by SMEs. • Rollout programs on re-afforestation of water towers as part of cottage industries where SMEs are a source of seedlings and labour for sustaining the program. • Scale up electricity connection by provision of transformers and associated connectivity equipment supplies to cover every rural village and trading centers thus fostering growth of middle scale and small-scale industries • Establish Maternity Wings in all the 17 Health Centers. • Ensure adequate drugs and equipment in the Health Facilities. • Establishment of Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) at Magutuni Hospital. • Chuka University, Chogoria Campus to be elevated to Constituent University College or be converted into a National Polytechnic. • Establishing of Kenya Medical Training College in Maara constituency. • Floodlights at Barriers, Makandara, Kariani, Kandigi, Kamatanka, Kabururu, Kiaritha and

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
	<p>Kathoge markets in Igambang’ombe Ward and all Cess Points in the constituency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidies or zero rate solar equipment and tools to improve access by low income generating citizens at affordable rates. • Invest in partnerships, fellowships, scholarships and bursaries for student in tertiary and universities. Adapt sister-county/town/university exchange programs and partnerships under foundations to enable youths and other county citizens benefit from learning and job opportunities. • Construction of adaptable sanitation in markets and urban centers. • Establish a People’s Park/Recreation Center at Chuka, Chogoria, Marimanti and Kathwana. • Establishment of Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) at Magutuni Hospital
ECONOMIC PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmapped tourist attraction sites and therefore the community is unaware of the sites to promote them • Locust invasion affecting Agricultural production; • Mutating livestock diseases • Increase in cases of non-Communicable diseases • High cost of production due to rising prices of fertilizers • Inadequate markets for farm produce; • Insufficient knowledge about agricultural production; • Overlapping Administrative Unit at some of the border areas; • Inadequate market for products hence encouraging middlemen who exploit the farmers; • Inadequate market linkages for the farmers and farmers are prone to exploitation because they have no bargaining power; • High cost of production in the manufacturing sector making farmers sell their products in unfinished form fetching low prices; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure development at Mt. Kenya lodge, Ura gate cultural centre and hotel coupled with mapping and marketing of the tourist attraction sites in the county • Capacity building on Artificial Insemination programme for farmers • Subsidies for farm inputs and animal feeds • Disease surveillance • Formation of Aggregation Centers • Establishment of industries for value addition • Sensitization on fish farming and nutritional value of fish (promotion of healthy lifestyles) • Investment in aerial geological mineral exploration within the county

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish producers have little knowledge on fish farming exposing them to losses; • Poor handling of fish making the fish go bad; • There is a lot of uncontrolled sand harvesting; • Citizens have little financial knowledge. They fear borrowing and those that do squander the borrowed money; • Border and land disputes at Gakurungu, Karocho, Turima, Kwang'ombe, Gatithini, Kaare/Igambang'ombe; 	
SOCIAL PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignorance/lack of health education on health risk factors • High levels of malnutrition among the population • Inadequate human resources for health • Inadequate medical supplies in the facilities e.g. medical drugs and snake anti-venom • Lack of medical cover for People with disabilities – implement UHC • Inadequate health infrastructure—buildings and medical equipment • Poor Management of Surface Water • High rate of deforestation • Encroachment into Riparian Areas • Illegal Obstruction Upstream • Water pollution due to use pesticides and chemical • Unemployment leading to idleness and increase in crime • Rural- urban migration • Noise pollution e.g. By Advertisement vehicles • Air pollution • Poor waste management • Rampant drug abuse • Poor town and urban planning • Urban sprawl – converting farm areas into urban areas • Inadequate empowerment for the boychild 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of comprehensive feeding programs in ECDEs • Adequate staffing in schools • Introduce capitation from the national government to support ECDEs • Introduce policies to ring-fence fund meant for ECDE • Sensitization on attitude change towards Technical and Vocational Training • Create awareness among the population on NCDs • Equipping of all health facilities with relevant medical equipment • Recruit more health care workers • Conservation of water sources • Construct Water Pans to store surface water • Construct mega dams in the main rivers • Sinking of boreholes for underground water • proper town planning and law enforcement • Introduce youth empowerment centers • Introduce County affirmative fund to empower the youth • Regular and continuous sporting activities • Scouting for talents • Re-invigorate cultural activities

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate opportunities for training • Inadequate youth friendly centers in the County • Inadequate Rehabilitation Center for Drug addicts • High rate of teenage pregnancies • Untapped potential/ talents among the youth - establishment of talent academies • Inadequate sports facilities – establish sports facilities and increase funding • Inadequate Human Resources in the learning facilities • Poor attitude among learners towards Technical and Vocational Training • Teething problems facing the newly introduced CBC including lack of qualified teachers • Early/Under Age Pregnancies among school-going children • Limiting Cultural and Religious Beliefs Towards Uptake of Education • Inadequate Infrastructure in Schools; Power, No Disability Friendly Class; and Rooms • Limited Accessibility of Schools – Poor Road Network, Muddy Classrooms. 	
POLITICAL PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite having a high court and a magistrate’s court at Chuka, citizens have difficulty accessing the judgments and reports • The doctrine of ‘guilty until proven innocent’ hinders the process of accessing justice as the process becomes lengthy; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% to 50% of resources to be devolved to counties since most functions are devolved. • Separation of powers and independence between MCAs and the county executive through establishing of ward development funds • Continuous and effective civic education and public participation programs, not restricted to budget cycle deadlines. These initiatives will educate the local leaders and public on devolution and build their capacity. • Security of tenure to ensure continuity of development within the county government., specifically for employees. Therefore, human resource functions should be stabilized. MCAs can work as oversight bodies. The public service

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
	<p>commission to develop policies that will protect employees supporting devolution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To serve public interests and save time, establish magistrates' courts • The public procurement and disposal act needs amendment to address conflict of interest in public processes. • A legal framework to expeditiously address contractor's concerns and pending bills for all regimes. • Expedite the publication of reports for public consumption and discourage the election of leaders found to have charges due to corruption. • Enforce and implement laws that discourage corruption and limit the mandates of those charged and recommend that they step aside. • Expedite the termination of cases in record time of six months to one year and bar those found guilty from holding public office.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Tharaka Nithi County Consultation forum was very successful with citizens airing the views on their proposed projects in the MTP (IV). The CEC Finance and Economic Planning closed the forum and thanked the participants for giving their opinions in the MTP (IV) drafting process.