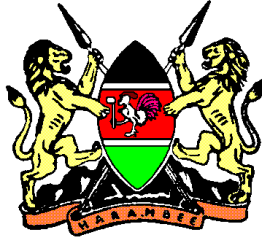


REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING

FOURTH MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2023- 2027

VIHIGA 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 (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 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 Objectives of the County Consultation Forums

The objectives of the County Consultation Forums were:

- i. To apprise 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 Vihiga County Consultation Forum.

1.5 County Consultation Process

The Consultation Team was led by Mr. Wanyama Musiambo, Deputy Head of Public Service. The Team made courtesy calls 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 REMARKS

2.1 Remarks by the County Secretary

The County Secretary welcomed all the participants to the forum and thanked them for turning up in large numbers to contribute to the planning for the County. He indicated that he

was looking forward to fruitful engagements during the deliberations and then invited the Deputy County Commissioner to lead the introduction of participants.

2.2 Remarks by the County Commissioner

The County Commissioner started his remarks by reminding the participants the importance of the County Consultation Forum. He indicated that the overall objective was to steer economic development and recovery for the benefit of the people of Vihiga County. The County Commissioner acknowledged that a lot of progress has been made since the initiation of MTP I but there is still more to be done to achieve the goals of Vision 2030. He urged the participants to give their views freely during the deliberations on issues of development and then welcomed the County Governor to give his remarks.

2.3 Remarks by the Governor

The Governor welcomed all to the forum. He thanked the Cabinet Secretary for The National Treasury and Planning for the good preparations made to ensure all the 47 counties have a consultative forum on MTP IV. He indicated that this process will ensure public participation which is a constitutional requirement and that MTP IV will give a picture of the national planning and inform the CIDP III.

The Governor called upon the participants to give their proposals into the development of MTP IV indicating that the County has prepared various CIDPs and achievements would be highlighted during the Forum. He mentioned that Vihiga aims to create wealth and jobs for the people, create an enabling environment for economic growth, promote diversification of youth's capabilities through establishment of technical institutions, focus more on agribusiness and SMEs, establishment of supermarkets and a granite factory and undertake gold mining.

The Governor emphasized on the need to give priority to the service industry given the County is strategically located near Kisumu Airport and fast growing towns like Kakamega, Busia and Eldoret. This will create more jobs and markets for the agricultural produce.

The County Governor informed the participants that construction of a granite factory has been planned, land has been acquired, feasibility study has been conducted and there is an investor on the ground awaiting the National Treasury to give a go-ahead. He also indicated that there is a gold refinery being established in Kakamega and the participants should have plans to capitalize on it once the construction is complete.

2.4 Remarks by the Deputy Head of Public Service

The Deputy Head of Public Service, Mr. Wanyama Musiambo welcomed all stakeholders to the Forum. He informed the participants that Principal Secretaries have gone to all the 47 Counties to take lead in the MTP IV Consultation Forums. He called upon the participants to own their process and actively participate by giving their input on development projects and programmes required in the Country and the County.

The Deputy Head of Public Service urged the participants not to just complain about the Government but also to contribute in setting priorities and the direction of the development process. He highlighted that development in Vihiga County will lead to development in other counties and the nation at large.

He also reminded the participants that Kenya will still be there after the general election and therefore the need to maintain peace at all times, he urged the security team to maintain law and order to ensure that everybody is safe.

3. PLENARY DISCUSSION

Two presentations were made. The first was on the achievements of the Third Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018 - 2022 and the preparatory process of the Fourth MTP 2023 - 2027 and the second one was on the Highlights of Achievements on Implementation of County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018-2022. A plenary discussion was conducted after the presentations and the following issues were raised:

- University students from the County should also be considered when the Governor's bursaries are being allocated to students. This will provide support to those who are struggling to pay the required fees;
- There is need for diversification in agricultural production; over-reliance on one line of agricultural production is not effective in ensuring food security in the County;
- It was noted that Persons With Disabilities require writing materials and machines to aid in learning in institutions, this can be achieved through partnerships with donors to support the same;
- The participants emphasized that there should be a rehabilitation centre established in the County to support people suffering from drug and alcohol abuse;
- There should be proper planning to ensure available public land is optimized, the participants were urged to be ready to sell land for development projects when called upon by the Government or development partners;
- The stakeholders emphasized on the need to not only look at economic growth but also development of Human Development Index to gauge achievements of both the National and County plans;
- It is necessary to offer equal support to other talent areas like drama, comedy, music etc. It was noted with concern that in the past, more emphasis has been placed on football;
- It was noted that there should be good preparation at the Universities in readiness for the implementation of Competency Based Curriculum. This will ensure a seamless transition of students and teachers;
- It was suggested that politicians should be invited to County Consultation forums in future to enable them understand the priorities of the public;

- It was noted that the issue of Pending Bills and high Wage Bill is affecting the implementation of projects in the County since part of the budget goes to salaries and payment of pending bills;

4. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS
ECONOMIC PILLAR	
Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inadequate hotels in the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction of a modern recreation centre ● Promote and invest more in the hotel industry
Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low soil fertility ● Adverse climate change ● High cost of agricultural inputs ● Emerging pests and diseases ● Inadequate value addition and market for agricultural products ● Weak agro based corporations ● Small land size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction of a fruit processing factory ● Promote practice of organic farming ● Capacity building in soil conservation ● Climate smart agricultural technology ● Farm input subsidy ● Training farmers on good foods to grow according to their land ● Promote solar drying ● Support value addition ● Construction of an agro processing plant ● Agro ecology ● Register more cooperatives ● Promote small scale irrigation
Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cumbersome clearance of land use and farm land tenure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce taxes ● Reduce bureaucracy in starting business
Manufacturing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low investment in manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction of a granite factory ● Provision of low interest funds ● Invest in lifelong skills
SOCIAL PILLAR	
Education and Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inadequate modern technological equipment like laptops in schools ● Low allocation of resources per child ● Poor infrastructure of schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Government to procure modern equipment for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centers and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutes ● Sensitization of teachers and students in use of modern equipment ● Increase in allocation of resources per child ● Increase of funds for school infrastructures
Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shortage of medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of a level 6 Hospital in Vihiga County ● County government to prioritize on equipping health

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of enough staff ● Poor service delivery ● Poor quick response to emergency services ● National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) clients denied some services unless they are paid ● Insufficient drugs at rehabilitation centre 	<p>facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employ and replace retired staff with more qualified staff ● Thorough monitoring of staff ● Strict measures to be put in place to fight corruption ● Construction of a modern rehabilitations centre for drug addicts
<p>Environment, Water and Sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient piped water in public Institutions such as schools, hospitals ● Inadequate toilets in schools ● Poor drainage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proper maintenance of drainages ● Construction of more municipal toilets in the markets ● Ensure each and every home has a toilet ● Protection of water sources ● Creation of a good dumping site
<p>Population, Urbanization and Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poor urbanization plan of the County ● Many people are homeless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purchase of land for construction of more houses ● Social homes to be constructed for the elderly ● Family Planning should be encouraged
<p>Gender, Youth and Vulnerable Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children living with HIV/AIDS are highly stigmatized ● The intersex groups among the minority groups are not well recognized ● Facilities in the County are not favorable for use by Persons With Disabilities ● Gender biasness in the employment ● There is no 3% tendering of youths, women and Persons with Disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provision of Braille facilities in schools ● Strict rules and regulations to protect people with HIV/AIDS ● Identify leaders for intersex community ● During construction, lifts and ramps should be considered in every building ● Construction of a safe house to foster Gender Based Violence victims ● Men to be empowered since they are marginalized
<p>Sports, Culture and Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overconcentration on football by the County leaving behind other talents like music, drama and films ● Vihiga County is a cosmopolitan county with minorities luos and teriks who are still struggling for their space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction of talent centres and stadiums ● Identification and support of other talents ● Ethnic balance in the Government positions ● Recognition of heroes like Joe Kadenge by naming roads after them ● Construction of heritage cultural sites
POLITICAL PILLAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Devolution ● Delay in disbursement of funds ● Leaders accept bills that only benefit them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revitalization of intergovernmental programmes in security and health ● Establishment of Ward Development Coordination

EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate access to information hence curbing corruption becomes difficult • County to expand revenue base/streams • Link between the National Government and County Government to be strengthened 	<p>Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of decentralized structures to the grassroots • Enhanced allocation of resources to follow functions
<p>Governance and Rule of Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backlog of cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of new courts in Emuhaya, Luanda and Sabatia • Expansion of Mbale prison • Construction of offices for probation officers • Deployment of staff at Vihiga High Court to fully operationalize the court • Fast-track construction of Kenya School of Government in Vihiga
FOUNDATIONS/ENABLERS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads are narrow because of encroachment • Inadequate funds for road maintenance • Capacity challenges by the contractors • Lack of footbridges on highways • Insufficient market sheds • Unstable power supply • Inadequate supply of power lines • Delays by Kenya Power in supplying electricity to new consumers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor connectivity of network to rural areas • Limited access to fiber connectivity • Adaptation to solar power • Establishment of a granite plant • Tarmacking of roads in each sub county • Construction of a modern market and bus park at Mbale and Luanda • Expand last mile connectivity
<p>Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle rustling, • Petty thieving especially in Mbale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Nyumba Kumi initiative • Provision of CCTV cameras in major towns • Acquisition of patrol vehicles
<p>Information Communication and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of enough knowledge and skills in relation to ICT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of an ICT hub in every sub county • Use of ICT in public service delivery • E-learning in TVETs • Creation of more online jobs
<p>Labour and Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are not engaged in development activities • Most households are employed in the informal sector e.g. boda, jua kali, SMEs, brick making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of employment for the youth and women

5. CONCLUSION

The EPS thanked the stakeholders for good participation. She appreciated the Governor, the Deputy head of Public Service, County Commissioner and the Deputy County Commissioner for their contribution in the County Consultation Forum. She assured the stakeholders that their inputs will go a long way into informing the MTP IV and all the County Consultation Forum's Reports would share with all the MTP Sector Working Groups to inform formulation of Sector policies, programmes and projects. She finally appreciated the technical team for the good work done and invited the Deputy County Commissioner to give closing remarks on behalf of the County Commissioner.

The Deputy County Commissioner noted that the Government is implementing a number of projects in the County and explained that priorities of a County keep changing with time and called for participants to be fully involved in the development agenda. She also encouraged the civil society groups and human rights groups to take responsibility and participate in the development of the County.

She highlighted that girl empowerment has significantly improved in the County and urged men to take up more responsibility in assisting to take care of the family.