

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING

**STATEMENT BY MR. JAMES MUHATI, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE
DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING DURING THE
COMMENCEMENT OF DISSEMINATION OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNANCE
REPORT IN KAJIADO COUNTY ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

**Your Excellency the Governor,
The County Commissioner,
Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD/APRM KENYA Secretariat
Non-State Actors, especially the Civil Society, Academia and the
Business Community,
All State and Public officers,**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be here in Kajiado County today on this occasion of kicking off/commencement of the dissemination exercise of the inaugural National Governance Report (NGR) of 2022. The African Union launched this initiative in

2017, when it decided to expand the mandate of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to comprise of monitoring and reporting on all key aspects of governance, including tracking implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Consequently, the APRM developed the inaugural continental governance report, Africa Governance Report 2019 which was launched in February 2019. APRM then encouraged individual member states to produce their own national governance reports, whose findings would be aggregated into a continental report.

The national governance reports, therefore would serve as a national barometer of governance status in all AU Member States, based primarily on national realities, country innovation, and homegrown solutions. The absence of objectivity and real data by external institutions which have been assessing governance on the African Continent has arguably been a major challenge in evaluating the state of governance for many African countries. Yet, Africa has the capacity and means to perform her own assessment by utilizing locally generated data and information.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya was, therefore, honoured to have been selected to pilot the implementation of the NGR framework. This selection reflects the Continent's confidence in Kenya's governance reforms and practices, as well as the appreciation of Kenya's continued commitment to implementing the Agenda 2063 in the area of governance.

The National Governance Report for Kenya, was launched in September, 2023 at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies providing a comprehensive assessment of the country's governance landscape. The Kenyan NGR employs four data sources, which includes:

1. Review of the governance literature;
2. Secondary data based on the NIMES- National Reporting Indicator Handbook;
3. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs); and
4. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

The overall Kenyan NGR index is based on the six APRM-recommended Pillars:

1. Rule of Law;
2. Transparency and Accountability;
3. Participation and Human Rights;
4. Democracy, Elections and Freedoms;

5. Peace and Security; and
6. Socio-economic Governance.

The overall NGR index score for the National Government's self-assessment for Year 1 (2021) was 108.6% while that for Year 2 (2022) was 175.3%. Performance was better during the second review year compared to the first. The key findings encompass various sectors, reflecting both positive developments and areas that require attention.

For example, the Participation and Human Rights pillar which assesses: Citizen Participation in Decision Making; Gender Equality in Leadership; Service Delivery;

Non-State Actors in Policy Formulation; and Decentralization, was exceptional, rising from a commendable 138.4% score against targets in Year 1, to a 411.1% score against targets in Year 2.

Conversely, the Rule of Law pillar, which was evaluated based on: Separation of Power; Performance of the Judiciary; Performance of the Prosecution; Performance of the Legislature; and Access to Justice, reflected not only weak delivery of targets in general, but a decline in attainment from 76.8% in Year 1 to 59.6% in Year 2.

At the county level, **ladies and gentlemen**, the same six APRM NGR pillars were used to review county-level perceptions on the service delivery performances of the National Government and County Governments. Data was collected in 43 of Kenya's 47 counties.

The county residents' perceptions of the combined National and County governments' performances at the county level, was an overall performance index of 52.5%. On disaggregation, the National Government in the county scored 56.4%, outperforming the County Government which scored 48.6%.

The best aggregate National Government plus County Government performance was in the Democracy, Election and Freedoms pillar with a score of 569 points out of a potential 860 points, which is a 66.2% score. The weakest pillar was the Transparency and Accountability with 318 points (36.9%).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In general, the report acknowledges the successful democratic elections and the peaceful transition of power while highlights concern about political polarization and emphasizes the importance of inclusivity. It commends sustained economic growth and efforts to diversify the economy and also identifies challenges such as uneven resource distribution that need to be addressed.

In addition, it recognizes progress in education and healthcare and points out persistent challenges like poverty, inequality, and disparities in accessing basic services. It appreciates improvements in judicial independence and also expresses concerns about delays in the legal system within the judiciary among other issues important to the policy makers.

The Objectives of this dissemination, therefore, is to provide a platform for:

- i. The County stakeholders to be sensitized on the contents of the National Governance Report; and

- ii. Grant stakeholders an opportunity to access the outcome of their public participation contributions to the national governance reporting process and to understand their roles in the implementation of the recommendations.

This dissemination exercise is expected to cover the following counties: Kajiado, Makueni, Mombasa, Garissa, Murang'a, Embu, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Transzoia, Vihiga, Kakamega and Kisumu.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, allow me to also draw your attention to another governance initiative. Continentally, Kenya is the first country to cascade the peer reviews governance approach to the sub-national level, the County Peer Review Mechanism (CPRM). This is an initiative that allows the county Governors to peer review each other while sharing best practices and also providing solutions to the identified challenges.

This only happens after the Counties have undergone an objective and credible review under the guidance of a panel of eminent persons within Kenya. So far 12 counties are participating in the CPRM and have promised that they will continue

lending the necessary support to the Secretariat and the State Department for Economic Planning to expedite the completion of the review process. It is my sincere hope, that my good friend and Governor of Kajiado will reach out to the Secretariat to be part of the CPRM process.

Evidently, Ladies and Gentlemen, Kenya is walking the talk and it is no surprise that the APRM fraternity naturally considers the country a valued partner in the promotion of good governance not just at the domestic level but also in the Eastern Africa region and the continent in general.

Going forward, the National Governance Reporting and the CPRM will be critical enablers of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). Against the pillar on governance and public administration, these twin governance initiatives will assist in consistently and objectively tracking performance against core governance indicators critical to the economic transformation agenda.

It is now my humble pleasure to officially kickoff the dissemination exercise of the inaugural National Governance Report

Thank You.