



For people centred development

05 February 2015

Memorandum on the Nairobi City County Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2015

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Public participation plays a critical role in deepening democracy and promoting good governance. Citizens' involvement in governance processes ensures that citizen's perspectives inform government on their needs and how these needs can best be addressed. Public participation is not only about asking the public for its priorities for the 2015/16 budget, but in enabling them to make informed contributions.

The memoranda is divided into two; addressing the participatory and transparency concerns and citizen input on project activities on a study conducted by TISA in 4 sub-counties in Nairobi

Below are the participatory and transparency concerns raised in the Nairobi City County MTEF process of FY 2015/16

Update on progress of the 2014/15 budget

Before you can plan for your future, you need to ascertain whether the quality was actually improved by last year's budget allocation to determine whether to put money towards it again this year, or to put money into improving other aspects. As the MTEF process calls for citizen input in what project activities should be included in the framework, the citizens during the meetings, should have been facilitated with the progress of implementing the FY 2014/15 development projects and budget. In addition, this information could have been availed through the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper which was prepared in September, 2014. However, this document is not available to the public through the county website.

Recommendation:

Access to information must be improved.



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Public hearings publicity

The County Government advertised the public hearings on 23rd January 2014, two (2) days prior to the start of the forums through national newspapers. Borrowing from TISA's experiences at the ward level forums in preparation of MTEF FY 2014/15 and the now 2015/16 process, Majority of participants felt that the newspapers are not accessible to majority of the residents. The notice was given too close to the actual dates and this hindered effective participation. And given that the budget estimate documents are not easily accessible; the 2 day notification was insufficient time for adequate preparation.

Recommendation:

The County Government needs to employ approaches for publicizing the consultative meetings. The County Government needs to utilize low cost publicity methods such as putting up notices in religious places of worship, shopping centers, collaborating with civil society organizations and using such as local radio stations and ICT to pass the information for a wider population. The public should also be notified well in advance to allow for a more effective and informed citizenry. In addition, the timelines should be made available to the public should be made known atleast two weeks in advance.

Public awareness before public participation

In the Nairobi MTEF process, most of the residents had no idea what MTEF entailed and what they were expected to do. The public relied on officials of the County government explanation on the functions of the County governments during the hearings and to guide their contributions.

Recommendation:

The level of awareness needs to be raised by employing civic education especially on the planning and budgeting process.

Accessibility in participation

Several of the venues of these forums were not centrally located for easy access and were not also conducive for people with disabilities. Although county officials used both Kiswahili and English which made it very easy for participation of the people, there were no sign language interpreters for the deaf, nor Braille materials for the blind.

Recommendation:



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*Article 201 (a) of the Constitution envisions public participation for **all** in financial matters. There is need to institute regulations that provide for mechanisms, processes and procedures for the public including those of special needs of people who cannot read and write, people with disabilities, women and other disadvantaged group.*

From December 2014 to January 2015, The institute for social Accountability undertook community leaders meetings together with sub-County administrators and ward administrators in Kibra, Langata, Westland's and Dagoretti North sub-counties. The needs assessment revealed the following project activities that should be included in the MTEF 2015/16 framework

WARD	COMMUNITY PRIORITY NEEDS
Sarangombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establishment of pre-school/early childhood centres by the county government. They noted that there is no public pre-school and the private centres do not provide quality education. b) Roads- From Bombolulu to Raila. They noted that this road had received funding from CDF and had also been earmarked to be funded ward development fund. They noted there would be need to conduct an audit process to ensure all funds are properly utilised c) Drainage and sewer: In Katwekera, Gorrofani and Maranatha the drainage system needs fixing d) Health and sanitation: They noted that there is no health centre in the entire ward e) Resident recognized the need for a Social Hall in their ward.
LINDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The residents of Lindi Ward recognized the need for a resource centre b) Water scarcity was also an issue that needs to be addressed by the county government c) Accessibility and availability of public toilets was an issue. There is need to establish atleast one new public toilet in the ward d) Installation of new and repair and maintenance of street Lighting along corridors. With the high prevalence of insecurity, this is crucial.
MAKINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Drainage in Makina is terrible and there is need for the county to invest in more county workers and establish new sewers in the ward. b) County-supported primary schools c) There is need to establish/refurbish the resource centre (with gazette notices available) d) There is need to expand county health facilities (structures, services, equipment)

KILIMANI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lack of market as one of the serious issues affecting the area as an elaboration to the same they gave an example of hawkers who had constantly been displaced without any alternative area to transact business in. The hawkers had collectively aired there concerns to the county government and requested for an intervention, but so far nothing has been done about it. As a solution to this they suggested that the county government erect modern kiosks in specific areas to accommodate the hawkers and settle the matter. b) Lack of public toilets was also an issue raised. c) Insecurity; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The participants indicated that Kilimani had attracted a lot of business people but there lacked a way in which all the businesspeople could be registered for identification. This was a problem in that people could stream in and out of Kilimani and transact any business be it legal or illegal without having the county government monitoring them. As a result of this the business people have formed a group which they register all the existing businesses and the lead people, any new person cannot transact business in the area without having registered with the group and giving out a copy of their identification cards and passport photos for follow up in case of any incidence. ii. The residents have also taken lead on community policing and they equally act as watchdogs for the area by reporting to the police on any suspicious activities or suspicious people in the area. They gave an example of a drug case where the culprit was later arrested and thrown out of the then residential house. They acknowledged that the ward administrator is in support of the community policing and even assisted in the inception of the program.
LAINI SABA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Access roads to slums need to be maintained. Not only to improve accessibility but to improve security in the ward b) The residents required civic education on dealing with fire incidents. In addition due to the high prevalence of fire incidences, construction of one fire station in the ward that will service surrounding wards as well. Further, there is need to integrate mechanisms of how to deal with it c) Water scarcity and accessibility for the residents of the ward was a high priority d) Education-it was noted that the ward has only 4 primary government schools and given the population, this was very limited. Although primary schools is a national function, there is need for an integrated system with the national government that caters for such ward needs
KARURA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Access roads to slums b) Construction of motor bike operator areas/ shades would reduce the congestion in the ward and also streamline transportation. c) Upgrading of the city park markets

KABIRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Construction of motor bike operator areas/ shades would reduce the congestion in the ward and also streamline transportation b) Education-lack of education facilities, only 2 public schools exist in the ward and many children attend informal schools, it was also noted that there is no public ECD school in the area. A polytechnic in the ward was also noted as a need c) Street lighting and Security-this were seen as issues that are tied together, and low rate of implementation of the street lighting was seen as a contributing factor to insecurity in the area d) Health and Sanitation-it was noted that there is no public health facility at the ward. Poor drainage which results to accumulation of large water masses especially during the rainy season, especially near the Muslim community resulted to sicknesses such as diarrhoea for the children
KANGEMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support for garbage collection initiatives in the ward, in terms of equipment b) Rehabilitation centre for drug users who are mainly young people c) Drainage and sewer: There are broken sewer lines in most residential areas in the ward d) Sports equipment for the community sports initiatives in the ward e) Foot paths for pedestrians to reduce incidents of accidents in the ward f) Feeder roads into the ward
MOUNTAIN VIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A multi-purpose hall b) Health facilities/clinic: There is no health facility in the ward, residents use facilities in Kangemi Ward. c) Technical college to absorb students from high-school who are not able to go to university.
KILELESHWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Security: this was noted as not enough to cater for the growing population in the ward b) Sewerage/Drainage: the links are not working well enough as some areas are not fully connected to the sewer lines. c) Water scarcity: there is inconsistent water supply, and the well-off are resorting to buying water tanks for their homes, leaving the poor in misery d) Street lighting vandalism: a few street lights were erected but these are constantly being destroyed by errant drivers knocking them down. e) Frequent Power blackouts: the power lines and transformers appear to be stretched by demand stemming from the dense population in Kileleshwa f) Slow response by government officials and service providers: e.g. the community around Waruku has been asking for better roads but since 2004 they still have a dirt road. g) Inaccessible elected leaders: after the elections, the elected leaders did not bother to go back to the communities to consult on progress, but rather some have their phones switched off, and cannot be reached in any other way. h) Cleanliness: the residents wished the ward to be cleaner than it currently is, as



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	some areas have their litter dumped outside residential blocks.
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Conclusion

Being the capital of the country, Nairobi is on everybody's tunnel view. The County's successful delivery services to its 30 million residents through the planning and budgeting process will be one of its measuring sticks. A review of last year's budget indicated that a majority of the projects proposed in the MTEF were not covered in the CIDP or the Budget FY 2014/15. As the County commences its 2015/16 budget, Public Participation in the MTEF process should inform government spending