



MOMBASA
COUNTY

CITIZEN POLICY PRIORITIES
2022

We, the citizens of Mombasa, acknowledge our critical role in making our county government more transparent and accountable and instilling more efficiency and effectiveness in public investment. This document is aimed at ensuring active inclusion of citizens' views in the fiscal planning and implementation of Mombasa County functions. The sectors discussed in this document are aligned with the county functions as provided by the Constitution of Kenya.

We, the citizens of Mombasa, have conducted town hall meetings to discuss the priorities within the sectors and have developed main policy priorities that should form part of the Mombasa County projects in the next five years.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We, the citizens of Mombasa County, acknowledge the support provided by the Oslo Center and Muslims Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP) in developing these policy priorities that will go a long way in increasing our participation in governance process as well as improving service delivery through citizen responsive governance.

We are also highly indebted to the Royal Swedish Embassy in Nairobi through its Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency for providing the much-needed donation to conduct the activities that led up to the development of these policy priorities.

We acknowledge the contribution of Mombasa organizations.



Table Of Contents

Introduction	04
Background	06
Education	07
County Health Services	09
Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock & Cooperatives	10
Transport & Infrastructure	11
County Finances & Economic Empowerment	12
County Devolved Administration	14
Environment, Waste Mangement & Energy	15
Youth, Gender, Sports & Culture	16
County Planning, Development & Housing	18

INTRODUCTION

The constructive contribution of citizens in governance through policy engagement with state actors is critical in ensuring policy responsiveness of government's projects and programmes. Democratically, elected representatives exercise sovereign power on behalf of citizens as provided for in Article 1(2) of the Constitution of Kenya. This forms a social contract between the state actors and citizens hence the crucial role of citizens in governance through public participation in budget planning, policy development and social audits. The legitimacy of a government is pegged on the effectiveness of the social contract with the citizens. The government is answerable to citizens through policy accountability. This document lays out some of the contributions of the citizens of Mombasa to governance and specifically policy and budgetary planning.

We, the people of Mombasa County, have prepared this policy priorities document as a rallying point to speak in one voice and advocate for solutions to the challenges that we face as the citizens of the county.

It is our hope that these policy priorities will act as a social contract between the Mombasa County Government and the citizens of the Mombasa. Furthermore, we hope and believe that we will be at the heart of all development programmes that are undertaken in the sub-counties for the next five years.

We envision that the implementation of these policy priorities will lead to an inclusive, equitable and progressive society through better service delivery by the county government. We implore the county government to consign themselves to the support of the execution of our priorities in the development of county planning documents and the project that will be implemented in the period of CIDP 2023 – 2027 so that we move forward to the future in a sustainable manner.



Sectors Represented in This Portfolio



Education



**Agriculture
& Fisheries**



**Economic
Empowerment**



Health



**Transport &
Infrastructure**



**County Devolved
Administration**



**County Planning,
Development & Housing**



**Environment, Waste
Management & Energy**



**Water, Sanitation
& Natural Resources**

BACKGROUND

The Constitution of Kenya in the Fourth Schedule Part 2 provides for the functions of the county governments. These functions are:

- Agriculture;
- County health services;
- Control of air pollution, noise pollution, other public nuisances, and outdoor advertising;
- Cultural activities, public entertainment, and public amenities;
- County transport;
- Animal control and welfare;
- Trade development and regulation;
- County planning and development;
- Pre-primary education, village polytechnics, homecraft centres and childcare facilities;
- Implementation of specific national government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation;

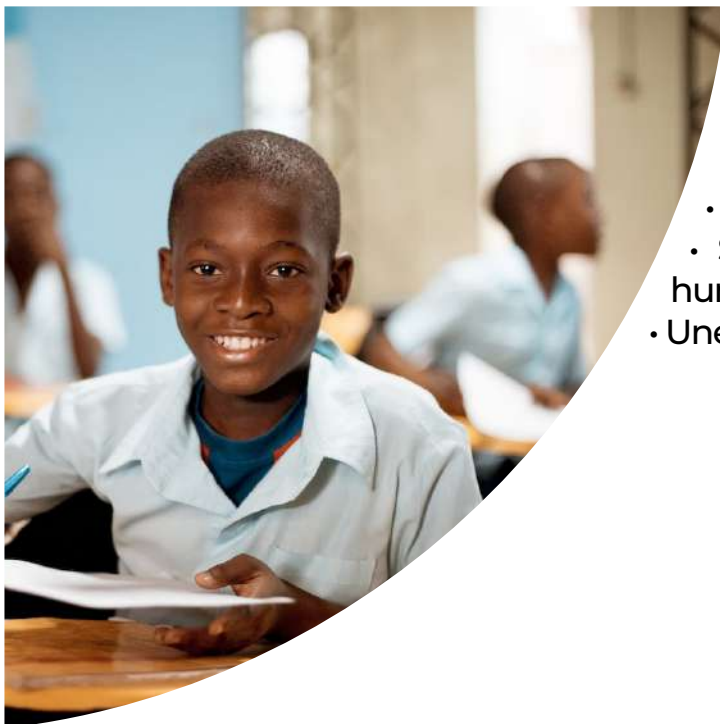
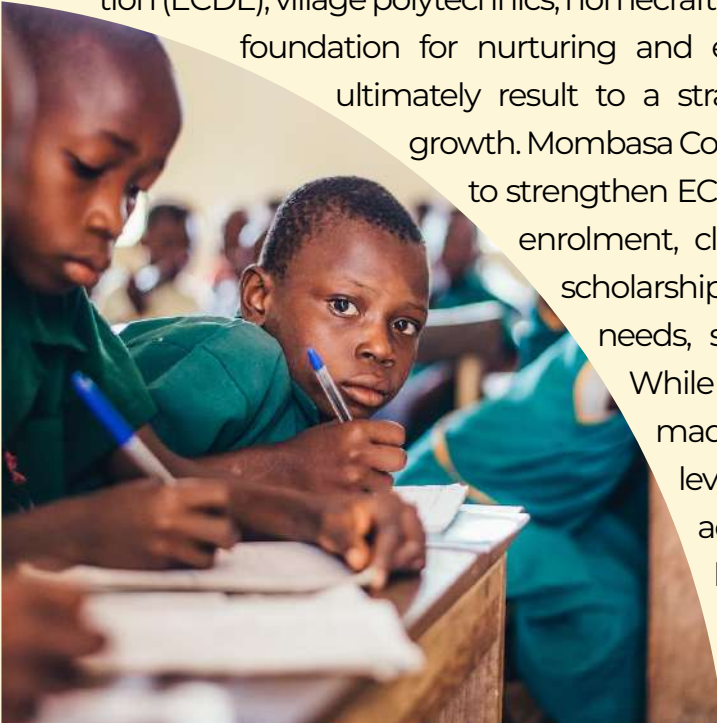


- County public works and services;
- Firefighting services and disaster management;
- Control of drugs and pornography and
- Ensuring and coordinating the participation of communities and locations in governance at the local level and assisting communities and locations to develop the administrative capacity for the effective exercise of the functions and powers and participation in governance at the local level



EDUCATION

The county government is mandated to deliver quality Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), village polytechnics, homecraft centres and childcare facilities. Education is the foundation for nurturing and empowering future generations that would ultimately result to a strategic investment for accelerated economic growth. Mombasa County Government has developed programmes to strengthen ECDE structures, milk programme to strengthen enrolment, class attendance and retention of pupils and scholarships and bursaries programmes targeting special needs, secondary, college and university education. While acknowledging the efforts that have been made, there are still challenges. In general, literacy levels in Mombasa remain low, poverty hindering access to education, drug abuse among youth, high school & college dropout cases and a new Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) that is facing implementation challenges.



Challenges

- Inadequate infrastructure
- Poor feeding programme
- Poor sanitation in schools
- Inadequate security
- Shortage of teachers and other school human resources
- Unemployment of educated youth

Proposed Solutions

- The county government should collaborate with the national government and other stakeholders to train teachers
- The county government should collaborate with the national government and other stakeholders to unearth the challenges of CBC in the county and provide local solutions specific to Mombasa County
- The county government should develop a programme for basic education to parents
- The county government should allocate more funds to the bursaries programme especially to the vocational training
- The county government should involve and consult religious leaders in decision making
- The county government should allocate more funds towards building more classrooms, provision of instructional materials and learning utilities and clean water and sanitation facilities
- The county government should allocate more funds to feeding programmes in ECDE and TVET
- The county government should employ well and timely paid education personnel
- The county government should implore attachment, internship and employment opportunities for youth.

Timeline: within 100 days after constitution of the executive arm of the government.



COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

We, the people of Mombasa, envision that the implementation of these policy priorities will lead to an inclusive, equitable and progressive society through better service delivery by the county government. We implore the county government to consign themselves to the support of the execution of our priorities in the development of county planning documents and the project that will be implemented in the period of CIDP 2023 – 2027 so that we move forward to the future in a sustainable manner.

On September 21, 2022 the Governor of Mombasa H. E. Abdullswamad Sheriff Nassir issued Executive Order No. 1 of 2022 to form a taskforce to analyse the state of health facilities in Mombasa and develop recommendations on how to improve them. The taskforce's report is not yet public.

We, the citizens of Mombasa, have identified the following challenges and proposed solutions for consideration by the government of Mombasa.

Challenges

- Poor infrastructure and services at subcounty level
- Inadequate human resources and medicine
- Hospitals' infrastructure is not disability friendly
- Lack of rescue, mental health and rehabilitation centres
- Inadequate medicine specific to the rehabilitation of those recuperating from drug abuse
- Lack of recognition and motivation to the community health volunteers

Proposed Solutions

- Make public the findings of the taskforce and the way forward on the implementation of the findings
- Allocate adequate funds in each fiscal year for the improvement of the health infrastructure and human resources down to the ward level
- Ensure that all health centres have disability friendly accessibility structures
- Build specific and adequately resourced mental health and rehabilitation centres
- Develop a programme to include and motivate health volunteers

Timeline: Every fiscal year



AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, LIVESTOCK AND COOPERATIVES

Though Mombasa County is perceived to be majorly an economy with a tourism and maritime business foundation, agriculture is also important for socioeconomic development. Mombasa County Government has laid down programs for mechanization of arable farming and provision of high-quality seeds to farmers. The development of the fisheries industries is very crucial to the people of Mombasa.

We, as Mombasa residents, are keen on the improvement of fisheries and have identified the following challenges and potential solutions.

Challenges

- Lack of modern and adequate fishing equipment
- Lack of modern fishing skills and techniques
- Lack of storage facilities
- Polluted fishing environment
- Ungazetted fish landing sites that facilitate illegal activities.

Proposed Solutions

County Government should:

- Provide relevant fishing training to fishermen
- Build conducive fish storage facilities
- Have a regular beach clean-up strategy
- Provide grants and loans to fishermen
- Provide safety measures facilities to fishermen
- Provide NHIF services to Beach Management Units (BMUs)



TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

A proper transport network is a precursor to socioeconomic growth. An effective transport infrastructure is critical to economic production and wealth generation. It is also critical to social cohesion of the society to enable contribution of citizens to the socioeconomic development of the county. Mombasa County government has a responsibility in ensuring the development and maintenance of roads infrastructure including drainage, foot paths street lighting, and traffic lights. Mombasa County government has over the last 10 years reported to have constructed over 100km of roads, installed streetlights and improved the drainage system. We, the citizens, have identified several areas of improvement and proposed solutions

Challenges

- Poor road network and infrastructure
- Harassment of motorists by county officers
- High cost of parking monthly stickers especially for Tuk-Tuks
- Poor streets lighting leading to insecurity
- Poor housing development planning interfering with road reserves

Proposed Solutions

County Government should:

- Install streetlights along all roads
- Build roads that have provision for cycling lanes and pedestrian walkways
- Allocate more funds for roads construction
- Coordinate organization of Tuk-Tuk operators.

Timeline: In the next two fiscal years



COUNTY FINANCES & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

There is a global recession resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mombasa County in November 2022 drafted the County Fiscal Strategy Paper which guides the financial intervention of the government to the issues affecting the citizens of Mombasa. The Fiscal Strategy Paper has emphasized the value of the Blue Economy, opportunities for women and people with disabilities, and the economic empowerment of youth. This is a really solid piece of strategy. However, it faces a financial environment that is fraught with difficulties. Mombasa County owes Kes 46 billion in debt. The government will have to make some budgetary adjustments in order to accommodate the political demands of the people of Mombasa. After consultations as the citizens of Mombasa, we believe that there is more to be done to reduce the poverty margin within the county with the implementation of the following proposals:

Challenges

- Access to information as stipulated under article 35 of the Constitution of Kenya has not been fully implemented
- Public Participation Act is available but not fully implemented
- High taxes for operating businesses in Mombasa
- There is confusion on how revenues are collected
- Allocation for development is lower than wage bill which is detrimental for economic growth
- Prevalence of ghost workers



Proposed Solutions

The County Government Should:

- Adhere to the Public Finance Management Act, policies and by laws
- Put in place an effective County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF)
- Appointments to be made on merit, not favoritism
- Put in place a proper transparent and accountable revenue collection system
- Have a debt payment plan
- Perform a human resource audit of all county government staff.



Timeline: With immediate effect



The Fiscal Strategy Paper has emphasized the value of the Blue Economy, opportunities for women and people with disabilities, and the economic empowerment of youth.

COUNTY DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATION

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 established a devolved system of governance and has been in existence for three elections. There have been great expectations from citizens and challenges in the implementation of the functions of the devolved government. Mombasa County is functional as a devolved government. Some gains have been made in health with Coast Provincial General Hospital (CPGH) having major improvements, improvement of the road network, water provision, school feeding programme, fishing infrastructure and several other projects. Nevertheless, there are some challenges that we as citizens of Mombasa have identified.

Challenges

- The county has not devolved its offices and structures to the village level
- Some of the existing ward and sub-counties administration units lack physical offices
- Public participation has not been implemented to the village level and time given to citizens for understanding the policy issues in question is limited



Proposed Solutions

The County Government should:

- Fully devolve its structures to the village level
- Establish village administration offices
- Devolve service delivery to the grass-roots
- Have a clear mechanism for public information sharing and create awareness of the issues that citizens need to know
- Conduct public participation at ward level

Timeline: Two years

ENVIRONMENT, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENERGY

Mombasa County generates approximately 1000 tons of solid waste per day. Environmental conservation is key to existence of generations and sustainability of natural resources. While there has been garbage collection from private and public buildings, there has been a challenge of proper disposal of solid waste. Several challenges still remain:

Challenges

- There are no proper designated solid waste disposal sites in the county
- Irresponsible dumping and solid waste disposal habits by people
- Outbreak of diseases due to consumption of contaminated water
- Scarcity of fish due to pollution of the ocean
- Contamination of water sources due to their proximity with sewage
- Air pollution
- Poor drainage system



Proposed Solutions

The County Government Should :

- Designate and gazette disposal sites for solid waste
 - Have an organized garbage collection for every location with a specific vehicle and specific time
 - Install garbage bins at every business location and residential areas
- Have proper building construction plans, inspection and borehole drilling
 - Proper inspection prior to building and drilling
 - Have a strategy for water treatment and fumigation services
- County cleaning day by all citizens
 - Awareness creation on dumping and waste disposal rules and regulations
 - Enforcement of laws and policies
 - Fines for non-compliance to laws
 - Religious leaders and other stakeholders to be ambassadors of a clean environment
- Invest in renewable energy
 - Separation of waste (biodegradable and non- biodegradable)
 - Encourage innovation and hiring of qualified human resources to technically transform waste into energy
 - Work with interested investors in waste recycling
- Proper planning
 - Recruitment of qualified human resources in waste management
 - Frequent fumigation

Timeline: to start immediately

YOUTH, GENDER, SPORTS, AND CULTURE

The generational and gender-based empowerment are key in ensuring that none of the members of community is left behind in socioeconomic development. The Mombasa county government of Mombasa through the department of infrastructure and sports constructed three 7-aside football pitches and 2 mini stadia in Majengo, Kizingo, Kisauni, Kongowea and Bomu. The 2022 Mombasa County Fiscal Strategy Paper has highlighted economic empowerment of the youth and opportunities for women and persons with disabilities. The exploitation of the Blue Economy would also assist society and youth in specific. Nevertheless, there are several challenges and areas of improvement.

Challenges

- Lack of access to information from the ministry and stakeholders
- Embezzlement of funds
- Unclear information of management roles to the common '*mwananchi*'
- Minimal promotion of native culture
- Lack of community youth empowerment centers
- Implementation gap of the two-thirds gender rule





Proposed Solutions

- Develop youth sports and recreational facilities
- Initiate sports activities by the ministry
- Design and implement youth empowerment programmes
- Foster social economic development through the promotion of social and cultural diversity
- Ensure gender mainstreaming in the county government governance process
- Implement advanced public participation
- Involve NGOs as stakeholders in county development projects

Timeline: Three months

COUNTY PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

In a city, urban development should be controlled and in conformity with laid down government guidelines. Uncontrolled development is an enhancer of insecurity and socioeconomic underdevelopment. The Department of Land, Housing and Physical Planning has a mandate to oversee land administration, urban housing and ensuring that buildings development plans conform to the laid down procedures and guidelines for urban development.

Challenges

- Lack of supporting land documents
- Exorbitant prices on the affordable housing schemes
- Insufficient county legislation on evictions
- Failure in the implementation of Mombasa Vision 2035 Masterplan

Proposed Solutions

- Ensure adoption of the county land management and administration bill
- Empower citizens through capacity building on land laws
- Guarantee subsidization of housing rates according to the current economic status
- Provide affordable housing for citizens
- Implement the Mombasa Vision 2035 Masterplan

Timeline: In the next fiscal year



Conclusion

This policy priorities document is a prayer to the Government of Mombasa County. It acknowledges the status of the different sectors in the implementation of government's policies, programs and projects. It highlights the challenges in each sector and proposes solutions for the County Government of Mombasa to act. We the citizens of Mombasa put forth these policy priorities with the hope that the County Government will highly regard and include them in the fiscal plans and documents. We anticipate a more policy responsive devolved governance in the County with these policy priorities actioned upon. We commit our support to our Government in their policy considerations and implementation of programs and projects.



The
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 **MUSLIMS WOMEN
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