

**SAMBURU COUNTY JASIRI CHAMPIONS**



**TO:**

**THE COUNTY SECRETARY**

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SAMBURU**

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

*Received*

**MEMORANDUM TO THE SAMBURU COUNTY GOVERNMENT REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT.**

We the undersigned are youths from Samburu County. As part of our obligation to participate in governance processes including and not limited to legislation, the county budget and planning cycle and pursuant to the Constitution of Kenya:

1. *Article 1 on sovereignty of the people.*
2. *Article 10 on national values.*
3. *Article 35 on access to information.*
4. *Article 37 on right to petition.*
5. *Article 55 on Youth*
6. *Article 56 on Minorities and Marginalized groups.*
7. *Article 174 on the objects of devolution.*
8. *Article 201 on the principles of public finance.*
9. *Article 232 on the values and principles of public service.*

We would like to urge the County Government of Samburu to make deliberate efforts and measures to the effect that there are increased public participation fora in Samburu County and more specifically in Samburu Central Subcounty where according to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, over half of the County's populace resides and while at it ensure there are youth friendly participation platforms in line with Article 55 Constitution

of Kenya which provides that: The state shall take measures including affirmative action programmes to ensure the youth – (b) have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life.

We reiterate that effective public participation framework is stipulated under the County Government Act, 2012, the Public financial Management Act, 2011, and the Urban Areas and Cities Act; with intentions of promoting participatory democracy, transparency and accountability; Community empowerment and support; enhance public awareness and understanding of government processes; reduce conflicts related public or government decisions and to enhance community ownership of public decisions.

We recognize that the County Government of Samburu publishes notices of Public Participation in national dailies but we wish to bring to the attention of the Office of Public Participation that the reach is minimal as not many of us as well as the larger population have access to these dailies. However, there are other platforms like social media, noticeboards and other localized methods of passing information that can be applied in disseminating this crucial information to the citizenry.

We take notice that the County Government of Samburu Facebook page and Website are regularly updated, but our concerns are on lack of

1. *Proper publicity.*
2. *Proper citizenry representation.*
3. *Adequate time by the public to read the subject matter, digest and make informed decision.*
4. *Good Citizen Participation Forums.*
5. *Adequate public participation methods.*

all contrary to Article 174 Constitution of Kenya on Objects of Devolution that among others provide for powers of self-governance to the people and enhance their participation in exercise of powers of the state in making decisions that affect them, Section 87 of the County Governments Act on the principles of citizen participation in counties that provide for timely access to information related to policy formulation and implementation,

reasonable access to the process of formulating and implementation of policies, laws and regulations including the approval of development proposals. Projects and budgets.

Section 91 of the County Government Act provides Establishment of modalities and platforms for citizen participation like (a) ICT based platforms and (d) Notice boards; which we humbly wish to urge the County Government of Samburu to embrace to reach out to more than those who are reached by the dailies. This will be in line with Section 95 of the same act that provides for a County communication framework that facilitates widest public outreach in the county.

We therefore through this memorandum, cognizant of Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya on National Values and principles of governance, Article 174 on objects of devolution, Section 105(d) of the county government act on meaningful engagement of citizens in the county planning process; propose the following to the County Government of Samburu,

1. That the County Government of Samburu Website be updated with all current budget and planning documents, Assented Acts, Policies and every other piece of information that the public ought to be aware. According to the law the County government should **provide necessary budget documents** and make them accessible to the public. This will ensure that Samburu County citizens are able to read through and interact with the documents in order to make their submissions.
2. Consider holding Public Participation forums at ward levels. We as youths recommend that the public participation be held at ward level to ensure that more residents are involved in the county process.
3. That in line with Section 98 of the County Government Act on principles of civic education, Section 99 on purpose and objectives of civic education and Section 100 on design and implementation of civic education, The County Government of Samburu to make deliberate efforts as provided for in Section 101 of the same act on Institutional framework for **continuous and sustained civic education**. The end result will be informed citizenry including the youth who can actively and objectively participate and engage in the county governance and development processes

4. That public participation forums have a youth friendly platform for easier engagement with the youths whose opinions are rarely tapped or factored in the county planning processes.
5. That the County Government of Samburu will do everything in its mandate, power and political goodwill to reach out to the **youths in all matters of planning and development** which includes and not limited to legislation, policies, institutional and legal frameworks that functionalize youth friendly public participation.

## **Conclusion**

The deliberations highlighted in this memorandum are purely the sentiments of the Samburu County Jasiri youths' champions with an objective of improving public participation, engagement and civilian oversight in all the governance processes in the County.

Should you require further information on this memorandum or contents therein, kindly contact the undersigned.

**CC**

**1. The CECM**

**Finance Economic Planning and ICT**

**County Government of Samburu**

**2. DIRECTOR**

**Budget formulation and coordination**

**County Government of Samburu**