

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAKAMEGA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COUNTY SECRETARY AND HEAD OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Telephone: 056-31850/31852/31853

Website: www.kakamega.go.ke

E-mail: countysecretary@kakamega.go.ke

When replying please Quote

Ref No: **CGK/OCS/GEN.CRR./04/VOL.4/99**

County Government of Kakamega

P.O. Box 36-50100

KAKAMEGA

Date: **26th January, 2024**

Open Government Partnership (OGP)-Local Team
1110 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 500
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

**RE: COMMITMENT TO TAKE PART IN THE OPEN GOVERNMENT
PARTNERSHIP (OGP) LOCAL PROGRAM**

The above subject matter refers.

We hereby express our willingness and commitment to take part in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local Program. As a County we have made a deliberate commitment to the citizens of Kakamega to focus on health, food security, wealth creation, education, good governance and social development to transform the lives of the residents.

So far we have continued to develop an automated one stop payment system for all service delivery needs ranging from parking fees, land rates, business permits and market fee payment. This system has amplified accountability, transparency and budgeting process. The system enables almost real time monitoring, evaluation and reporting generation. This has sealed revenue leakages and has made it easy to perform audit function within a short period of time as well increased revenue collection thus guaranteeing revenue for development projects.

More steps have been taken to automate our work processes in line with modern technology by initiating process to identify the best vendor to provide the service. One of the key benefits of automation is its ability to improve productivity and efficiency. By automating repetitive and time-consuming tasks, businesses can free up their employees to focus on more strategic and value-added activities.

Automation can also help reduce costs, improve accuracy, and enhance overall operational performance.

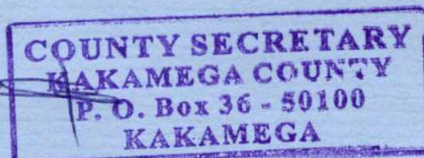

Despite the results, there is need to develop comprehensive feedback mechanism on service delivery to ensure there is feedback by the citizens. This therefore calls for creation of robust feedback mechanism that would see the people of Kakamega participate in the ongoing development agenda of the county. Indeed, transparency and public participation are two fundamental principles of the Kenya constitution.

In order to promote Open Government Partnership, the County Government of Kakamega is committed to work with the Kakamega County Assembly which is composed of the representatives of the residents who play oversight role to the County Executive. As a county we have made steps to improve citizen's engagement and participation by establishing a Directorate to manage activities of Public Participation and Civic Education. It is on this background that we see the OGP-Local program as an avenue for increasing public participation in the development of programs and feedback mechanism. While working with the County Assembly, and the Oslo Centre under the Open Government Partnership program, The County Government of Kakamega seeks to achieve four actions plans that will be submitted to OGP-Local after consultation with citizens of Kakamega and the County Assembly.

To come up with the actions plans, the County Government of Kakamega will form a Steering Committee and Technical Committee to ensure the priorities are achieved within two years (Year 2024 and 2025). These committees shall provide policy guideline, develop and monitor implementation of the said priorities in collaboration with the County Assembly and the Oslo Centre.

Finally joining OGP-Local would increase the role of citizens in local governance, improve and strengthen service delivery offered by the County Government of Kakamega. We extend our gratitude in considering us to be part of the Open Government Partnership Local Program and look forward to having fruitful working relationship for the benefit of our citizens.

Thank you.



Dr. Lawrence Omuhaka, CBS
County Secretary & Head of Public Service

Copy to: H.E the Governor
H.E the Deputy Governor



Date: 14th December, 2023

To The Open Government Partnership Local

**RE:ENDORSEMENT FOR THE KAKAMEGA COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO BE
ACCEPTED INTO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP LOCAL**

Kakamega Community Centre is a registered civil society organization operating in Kakamega County across various thematic area with the cross cutting theme being the championing of meaningful public participation of citizens in their governance so as to attain an inclusive, fair, just, dignified and sustainable life for all the residents of Kakamega County. We are a member of the Kakamega County Community of Practice [COP], Kakamega CSOs Transparency and Accountability Network as well as the convener of the Coalition of Youth Serving Organizations in Kakamega [CYSOK].

Kakamega County is the fourth most populous county in Kenya and the most populous rural county in the country. It has the second highest number of wards at 60 after Nairobi City County that has 85 wards. The high population and the expansive rural area makes it very essential for the meaningful engagement of the public in decision making so as to ensure the constitutional promise of affordable, accessible and quality services from the county government.

The county government of Kakamega has shown a consistent focus in ensuring that citizens are at the center of service delivery and decision-making processes. The Governor in his six points agenda for the county has Good Governance as one of the six pillars. The commitment to having meaningful public participation which is at the core of the OGP, in the county was highlighted by the Governor initiating a programme of public participation on service delivery by hosting open public consultation meetings in all the 12 sub counties of Kakamega with his entire executive to get fast hand feedback and suggestions on the state of service delivery by the executive through engaging with the public.

Joining the Open Government Partnership Local in our belief will have a great and positive impact on the Kakamega County Government, other than providing an opportunity for peer learning for the government, it will also help the county develop concrete commitments on ensuring that it is more accessible, more responsive and more accountable which will greatly improve the relationship between the people and their government which will in turn have a long term, exponential benefit for all

Regards,



Odari Murabwa - Executive Director