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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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***KENYA GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT***

**MERU COUNTY ACTS, 2020**

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# **THE MERU COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE ACT, 2020**

**No. 8 of 2020**

*Date of Assessment: 18th December, 2020*

*Date of Commencement: See Section 1 2020*

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**THE MERU COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE ACT, 2020**

**An Act of the Meru County Assembly to put in place the framework and mechanisms for mobilization and facilitation of the county government, communities and other stakeholders to respond effectively to climate change through appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures and actions and for connected purposes**

**ENACTED** by the Meru County assembly as follows—

**PART I—PRELIMINARY****Title and commencement**

1. This Act may be cited as the Meru County Climate Change Act, 2020 and shall come into force upon Publication in the *Kenya Gazette*.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires—

"adaptation" means adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities;

"adaptive capacity" means the ability of a system to adapt to the impacts, cope with the consequences, minimise potential damages, or take advantage of opportunities offered by climate change or climate variability;

"Authority" means the National Environment Management Authority established by the Environmental Management and Coordination Act, 1999 as amended by the Environmental Management and Coordination (Amendment) Act, 2015;

"climate change" means a change in the climate system which is caused by significant changes in the concentration of greenhouse gases as a consequence of human activities and which is in addition to natural climate change that has been observed during a considerable period of time;

"climate change unit" means the County Climate Unit established to support coordination of climate change matters in the County as envisaged by section 19(3) of the Climate Change Act, 2016;

"constitution" means the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;

"county" means Meru County;

"county assembly" means the County Assembly of Meru County;

"county government" means the County Government of Meru;



“directorate” means directorate on climate change established under Section 14 of this Act;

“environment” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act;

“executive committee member” means the County Executive Committee Member for the time being in charge of environmental matters in Meru County;

“fund” means the County Climate Change Fund established under section 47 of this Act;

“fund administrator” means the Administrator of the County Climate Change Fund established under section 48 of this Act;

“mitigation” means preventing, reducing or slowing down the increase of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations by limiting current or future emissions and enhancing potential sinks for greenhouse gases;

“planning committee” means the County Climate Change Planning Committee established under section 15 of this Act;

“private entity” means a body or person with functions of a private nature, and includes bodies registered under the Public Benefits Organisations Act, 2013;

“public entity” means a body or person with functions of a public nature;

“resilience” means the ability of a social, economic or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self organisation and the capacity to adapt to stress and change;

“steering committee” means the County Climate Change Steering Committee established under section 5 of this Act;

“vulnerability” means the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a system to the impact of hazards;

“ward planning committee” means the Ward Climate Change Planning Committee established under section 23 of this Act;

### **Objects and purposes**

3. (1) The object of this Act is to enhance climate resilience through development, management, implementation, regulation and monitoring of adaptation and mitigation measures and actions.



(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), this Act shall be applied by the county government in all sectors of the economy to—

- (a) mainstream climate change responses into development planning, decision making and implementation;
- (b) implement coordinated and integrated response to climate change and its impacts by all actors and stakeholders;
- (c) facilitate effective management of climate change impacts by enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change;
- (d) promote, support and facilitate community-based and community initiated adaptation and mitigation activities;
- (e) enforce duties and provide incentives for the private sector to contribute to achievement of low carbon climate resilient development;
- (f) facilitate public participation in climate change response through capacity development, awareness creation, consultation, representation and access to information;
- (g) establish frameworks and mechanisms for mobilization and transparent and accountable management of financial and other resources for climate change response;
- (h) establish and implement mechanisms to promote and facilitate climate change research and development, innovations, technology development, training and capacity building;
- (i) integrate climate change into the exercise of power and functions of all levels of the county government, including in decentralised units and enhance cooperative climate change governance between the county, neighbouring Counties and the National Government; and
- (j) contribute to national efforts to address the adverse impacts of climate change.

#### **Guiding values and principles**

4. The application and interpretation of this Act and the making or implementation by the county government of any policy on climate change shall be guided by the following values and principles—

- (a) community driven and bottom-up planning of response to climate change;

- (b) commitment to informed participation of communities in planning and implementation of climate change response interventions;
- (c) recognition, respect and integration of knowledge, perspectives and experiences of communities in climate change response;
- (d) planning and implementation of climate change response to be anchored in and supportive of devolution;
- (e) flexible learning approach to addressing challenges of climate change;
- (f) investments focused on achieving equitable benefits;
- (g) inclusion of all major actors in planning and implementation of climate change response;
- (h) protection of the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations;
- (i) ensuring a just transition for all towards an environmentally sustainable economy and society in the light of county circumstances and developmental goals;
- (j) national values and principles of governance spelt out in Article 10 of the Constitution;
- (k) values and principles of public service spelt out in Article 232 of the Constitution;
- (l) promotion and protection of the right to a clean and healthy environment in accordance with Article 42 of the Constitution;
- (m) commitment to fulfilment of the state obligations in respect of the environment as stipulated under Article 69 of the Constitution.

## **PART II—COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT**

### **Establishment of County Climate Change Steering Committee**

5. There is established the County Climate Change Steering Committee.

### **Functions of Steering Committee**

6. The Steering Committee shall coordinate and oversee climate change response in the county, and in this connection shall—

- (a) ensure mainstreaming of climate change into county planning and development processes;



- (b) coordinate formulation and monitor implementation of the County Climate Change Action Plan, County Climate Finance Framework and any other county climate change policies, plans and strategies;
- (c) mobilize funds into and administer the County Climate Change Fund established under this Act;
- (d) review, approve and monitor implementation of Regulations for administration and management of the Fund;
- (e) review and make recommendations on the biennial report on implementation of the County Climate Change Action Plan and any other reports on climate change response interventions in the county;
- (f) advise the county government on legislative, policy and other measures necessary for climate change response and attainment of low carbon climate resilient development;
- (g) approve and oversee the implementation in the county of a comprehensive programme of climate change education, awareness creation and capacity building;
- (h) provide policy direction on research, training and dissemination of information relating to climate change to the public and other stakeholders the county;
- (i) ensure positive linkages, interactions and synergy between the county, neighbouring counties and the national government in climate change response programming and action;
- (j) ensure a coordinated approach to climate change response programming and action within the county government, between the county government and national government, and among the different stakeholders in the county; and
- (k) coordinate the formulation of a climate change reporting framework, and the preparation and dissemination of an annual report on climate change response activities in the county;
- (l) perform any other functions that may further the foregoing objectives and/or may be assigned by the Governor.

#### **Composition of Steering Committee**

7. (1) The Steering Committee shall comprise of 13 members who shall be appointed to the Committee by the Governor.

(2) The members of the Steering Committee shall be—



- (a) Executive Committee Member as the Chairperson;
- (b) Chief Officer responsible for matters related to climate change as the Secretary;
- (c) Executive Committee Member in charge of the County Treasury;
- (d) Executive Committee Member in charge of agriculture, livestock and fisheries;
- (e) Executive Committee Member in charge of health;
- (f) Executive Committee Member in charge of water and irrigation;
- (g) County Drought Coordinator or the national government official for the time being responsible for coordination of drought response in the county;
- (h) County Director or his representative of the National Environment Management Authority;
- (i) County Director or his representative of the Kenya Meteorological Department;
- (j) one representative of a duly registered public benefit organizations working in the county nominated by the umbrella organization representing the largest number of public benefit organizations in the county;
- (k) one representative of the private sector in the county nominated by the umbrella organization representing the private sector in the county;
- (l) one representative of women in the county nominated by the umbrella organization representing the largest number of women's organizations in the county;
- (m) one representative of youth in the county nominated by the umbrella organization representing the largest number of youth organizations in the county;
- (n) Fund Administrator, as an ex-officio member with no voting rights.

(3) A person shall only qualify to be nominated for appointment under subsection (2)(j), (k), (l) and (m) if the person has demonstrable experience, expertise and interest in issues of climate change, natural resource management and/or environmental conservation and has actively and publicly engaged with these issues in the county.

(4) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (2) a person shall not qualify to be nominated for appointment under subsections (2)(j), (k), (l) and (m) unless such person is—



- (a) a citizen of Kenya;
- (b) fulfils the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Constitution; and
- (c) has at least five years' experience in the relevant field.

(5) The Governor shall ensure compliance with the two thirds gender principle in the appointment of members of the Steering Committee.

#### **Term of the Steering Committee**

8. Members of the Steering Committee appointed under section 7(2)(j), (k), (l) and (m) shall serve for a three (3) year term renewable only once.

#### **Removal of Member of the Steering Committee**

9. (1) A member of the Steering Committee may resign from the Committee by issuing one month's notice in writing to the Governor.

(2) A member of the Steering Committee may be removed from the Committee by the Governor on any one or a combination of the following grounds—

- (a) failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Steering Committee without reasonable cause duly communicated to the chairperson of the Committee;
- (b) serious violation of the Constitution or any other written law
- (c) gross misconduct;
- (d) physical or mental incapacity;
- (e) bankruptcy.

(3) A person who is a member of the Steering Committee by virtue of his or her office under section 7(2) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) (h) or (i) shall cease to be a member of the Committee upon being transferred from the county or ceasing to hold that office;

(4) A person who is a member of the Steering Committee under section 7(2)(j), (k), (l) or (m) shall cease to be a member of the Committee upon ceasing to be a member of the interest group or upon being recalled by the interest group for good cause and through a written communication from an authorized official of the interest group to the chairperson of the Committee;

(5) Whenever a member of the Steering Committee is removed or otherwise ceases to be a member of the Committee, the Executive Committee Member shall advise propose a replacement to the Governor within 30 days of the vacancy.

**Secretariat of the Steering Committee**

10. The Climate Change Directorate shall serve as the Secretariat of the Steering Committee.

**Meetings of the Steering Committee**

11. (1) Members of the Steering Committee shall at their first meeting elect a vice-chairperson from amongst the members appointed under section 7(2)(j), (k), (l) or (m) each financial year.

(2) The quorum for meetings of the Steering Committee shall be half of the membership.

(3) A resolution of the Steering Committee shall require an affirmative vote of at least one half of the members present at a meeting.

(4) The chairperson shall have a casting vote in case of a tie.

(5) In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall chair meetings of the Steering Committee, and in the absence of both the chairperson and the vice-chairperson members in attendance shall elect one of them to chair the meeting.

(6) The Steering Committee may invite to its meetings any technical staff of the national or county government who it considers will contribute to its deliberations, and the attendance and participation of such person shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Steering Committee.

**Allowances for members of the Steering Committee**

12. Members of the Steering Committee shall be paid such allowances as are stipulated by Guidelines from the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

**Delegation of powers by the Steering Committee**

13. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Steering Committee may in writing, either generally or in a particular case, delegate the exercise of any of its functions under this Act to any Subcommittee or to any member of the Steering Committee or officer or agent thereof

**PART III—INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PLANNING  
AND IMPLEMENTATION****A. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIRECTORATE ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE****Establishment of Directorate on Climate Change**

14. (1) There is established the Climate Change Directorate, as a Directorate in the Department for the time being responsible for matters related to climate change in the County.



(2) The Directorate shall, on behalf of the steering committee, perform the following functions and as may be specifically set out in this Act and in Regulations—

- (a) advising the Executive Committee Member on policy and strategic planning and all matters related to Climate Change in the County;
- (b) providing secretarial services to the County Climate Change Steering Committee;
- (c) providing secretarial services to the County climate change planning Committee;
- (d) implementing policies adopted by the Committees;
- (e) coordinating, mainstreaming and integrating climate change programs into the sectoral strategic plans;
- (f) establishing and maintaining a relationship with County, regional and international organizations, institutions and agencies as may be appropriate for the implementation of the climate change policy and recommendations of the committees; and
- (g) perform any other functions in furtherance of the objects of this Act.

## **B. COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **Establishment of Planning Committee**

15. There is established the County Climate Change Planning Committee, which shall comprise of 14 members appointed to the Committee by the Executive Committee Member for the time being in charge of climate change matters in the County.

### **Functions of Planning Committee**

16. The functions of the Planning Committee shall be—

- (a) to coordinate planning, and implementation of projects and activities for climate change response in the County;
- (b) to coordinate implementation of the County Climate Change Action Plan and the County Climate Finance Framework;
- (c) establish guidelines to be used by Ward Planning Committees in formulating climate response projects for funding by the County Climate Change Fund;



- (d) support Ward Planning Committees in development and implementation of climate response projects;
- (e) coordinate development and implementation of the County Climate Change Fund Regulations;
- (f) advise the Steering Committee on strategies, priority programmes, projects and activities for climate change response in the County;
- (g) formulate and implement strategic actions to foster climate change education, awareness creation and capacity development in the county;
- (h) to coordinate research and knowledge management on climate change, its impacts and strategies for responding thereto;
- (i) prepare and disseminate an annual report on climate change response activities in the County;
- (j) formulate and implement a county monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework for climate change response; and
- (k) perform any other functions assigned to it by the Steering Committee.

#### **Composition of Planning Committee**

**17.** (1) Members of the Planning Committee shall be—

- (a) Chief Officer in charge of climate change matters who shall be the chairperson;
- (b) Director in charge of the climate change Directorate, who shall be the Secretary;
- (c) County Director in charge of finance and planning;
- (d) County Director in charge of agriculture, livestock and fisheries;
- (e) County Director in charge of health;
- (f) County Director in charge of water and irrigation;
- (g) County representative of the National Environment Management Authority or a designated representative;
- (h) County Drought Coordinator or a designated representative;
- (i) County Director of Meteorology or a designated representative;
- (j) one representative of duly registered public benefit organizations working in the county nominated by the umbrella organization representing the largest number of public benefit organizations;



- (k) one representative of the private sector in the county nominated by the umbrella organization representing the largest number of private sector organizations in the County;
- (l) one representative of women in the county nominated by the umbrella organization representing the largest number of women's organizations in the County;
- (m) one representative of youth in the county nominated by the umbrella organization representing the largest number of youth organizations in the County; and
- (n) the Administrator of the Fund, who shall be an ex-officio member with no voting rights.

(2) Members of the Planning Committee shall at their first meeting elect a vice-chairperson from among the members nominated for appointment under subsection (1)(j), (k), (l) and (m).

#### **Appointment and Term of Planning Committee**

18. (1) Members of the Planning Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee Member for the time being in charge of climate change matters.

(2) Members of the Planning Committee appointed under section 17(1)(j), (k), (l) and (m) shall serve for one non-renewable term of five years.

#### **Removal of member of Planning Committee**

19. (1) A member of the Planning Committee may at any time resign from the Committee by giving one month's notice to the Executive Member.

(2) A member of the Planning Committee may be removed from the Committee by the Executive Member for the time being in charge of Finance on any one or a combination of the following grounds—

- (a) failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Planning Committee without reasonable cause duly communicated to the chairperson of the Committee;
- (b) serious violation of the Constitution or any other written law;
- (c) gross misconduct;
- (d) physical or mental incapacity;
- (e) bankruptcy.



(3) A person who is a member of the Planning Committee by virtue of his or her office under section 17(1)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) or (i) shall cease to be a member of the Committee upon being transferred from the county or ceasing to hold that office.

(4) A person who is a member of the Planning Committee under section 17(1)(j), (k), (l) or (m) shall cease to be a member of the Committee upon ceasing to be a member of the interest group or upon being recalled by the interest group for good cause and through a written communication from an authorized official of the interest group to the Executive Committee Member.

(5) Whenever a member of the Planning Committee is removed or otherwise ceases to be a member of the Committee, the Executive Committee Member shall ensure that a replacement is appointed within 30 days of the vacancy.

#### **Secretariat of Planning Committee**

20. The County Climate Change Directorate shall serve as the Secretariat of the Planning Committee.

#### **Meetings of Planning Committee**

21. (1) The Planning Committee shall meet at least once every quarter in each financial year.

(2) The Planning Committee may choose to rotate the location of its regular meetings to different wards in the county for purposes of engaging directly with communities and familiarizing itself with their climate change related challenges.

(3) The quorum for meetings of the Planning Committee shall be half of the members.

(4) A resolution of the Planning Committee shall require an affirmative vote of more than one half of the membership present at a meeting.

(5) The chairperson shall have a casting vote in case of a tie.

(6) In the absence of the chairperson, the vice chairperson shall preside over a meeting, and in the absence of both the chairperson and the vice-chairperson, the members in attendance shall elect one of them to chair the meeting; provided that no two consecutive meetings shall be held without either the chairperson or the vice-chairperson being present

(7) The Planning Committee may invite to its meetings any technical staff of the national or county government who it considers will



contribute to its deliberations, and the attendance and participation of such person shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Planning Committee.

### **Allowances for members of Planning Committee**

22. Members of the Planning Committee shall be paid such allowances as are stipulated by Guidelines from the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

## **WARD CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **Establishment of Ward Planning Committees**

23. There shall be established a Ward Climate Change Planning Committee in each ward.

### **Functions of Ward Planning Committee**

24. The functions of the Ward Planning Committee shall be—

- (a) to coordinate and mobilize communities and other stakeholders in the ward to design and implement climate change response activities;
- (b) to facilitate research and knowledge management at the ward level on climate change, its impacts and strategies for responding thereto;
- (c) facilitate public education, awareness creation, and capacity building at the ward level on climate change, its impacts and strategies for responding thereto;
- (d) to coordinate, facilitate and manage community consultations on priority climate change response activities;
- (e) participate in county planning and budgeting processes with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming of climate change and prioritization of climate change response in county development plans;
- (f) facilitate public participation in climate change governance, implementation of agreed climate change response activities, and monitoring of those activities;
- (g) coordinate and facilitate provision of technical support to communities in the ward in developing proposals on climate change response projects for funding by the County Climate Change Fund;
- (h) oversee implementation of climate change response projects funded by the County Climate Change Fund and report thereon to the Planning Committee; and

- (i) perform any other functions that may be assigned to it by the Planning Committee.

### **Composition of Ward Planning Committee**

25. (1) A Ward Planning Committee shall be composed of 9 members representing the diverse interests in the community, namely—

- (a) one male elder;
- (b) one female elder;
- (c) one male youth;
- (d) one female youth;
- (e) one male person living with disability;
- (f) one female person living with disability;
- (g) the Sub-County Environment officer or his designate representative to be an ex-officio member;
- (h) one person representing Community-Based Organizations in the Ward and actively engaged in climate change response activities who shall be nominated by an umbrella organization representing the largest number of such organizations in the Ward;
- (i) the Ward Administrator who shall be the Secretary, and an ex-officio member with no voting rights.

(2) Nomination of members falling under subsections (1)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) shall be conducted by representatives of the respective groups at a meeting convened by the Ward Administrator at the Ward headquarters for that purpose and presided over by the Subcounty Environment Officer or a representative thereof.

(3) The committee shall elect a chairperson in the first sitting.

(4) The Ward Administrator shall ensure that all interest groups are equitably represented by location at the nominations meeting, and the list of persons attending the meeting disaggregated by interest group and location shall constitute part of the record of the meeting.

(5) The notice convening the meeting under subsection (2) shall be issued not less than 14 days prior the date thereof, and shall be widely publicized through public barazas, community radio stations, and other all forms of media available in the ward

(6) Nomination of the representative of Community-Based Organizations shall be done through a meeting convened by the relevant



network for that specific purpose, and communicated to the Ward Administrator in writing with a certified copy of the resolution.

(7) Where there is no officially recognised ward level network of Community-Based Organizations, the Ward Administrator will consult with the relevant stakeholders in the ward to agree on the appropriate representative under subsection (1)(g).

(8) Within 30 days of the conclusion of the nominations, the Ward Administrator shall present the list of nominees to the Subcounty Administrator who shall formally appoint the members, publicize the list as widely as possible within the ward, and share it with the County Planning Committee for information.

### **Officers of the Ward Planning Committee**

26. (1) The first activity of the Ward Planning Committee at its first sitting shall be the election of a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among the members

(2) The chairperson and the vice-chairperson shall not be members of the same gender

### **Qualifications for appointment to Ward Planning Committees**

27. (1) A person shall not qualify for appointment to serve on the Ward Planning Committee, unless he or she—

- (a) is a resident of the ward;
- (b) fulfils the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution on leadership and integrity;
- (c) demonstrates basic knowledge of climate change and environmental issues and has engaged in activities aimed at addressing the said challenges in the county;
- (d) indicates willingness to serve the community.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1), persons nominated under section 25(1)(c), (d), and (g) shall have a minimum of form four level of education, provided that where this requirement may impose inordinate constraints, the Executive Committee Member shall determine the appropriate educational qualification.

### **Term of Ward Planning Committees**

28. Save for the Ward Administrator, members of the Ward Planning Committee shall serve for a three (3) year period renewable only once.



2020

**Removal of Member of Ward Planning Committee**

29. (1) A member of the Ward Planning Committee may at any time resign from the Committee by giving one month's notice to the Subcounty Administrator.

(2) A member of the Ward Planning Committee may be removed from the Committee by the Subcounty Administrator on the recommendation of the Ward Administrator on any one or a combination of the following grounds—

- (a) failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Ward Planning Committee without reasonable cause duly communicated to the chairperson of the Committee;
- (b) serious violation of the Constitution or any other written law;
- (c) gross misconduct;
- (d) physical or mental incapacity;
- (e) bankruptcy.

(3) A person who is a member of the Ward Planning Committee by virtue of his or her office under section 25(1)(g) shall cease to be a member of the Committee upon being transferred from the county or ceasing to hold that office.

(4) A person who is a member of the Ward Planning Committee under section 25(1)(h) shall cease to be a member of the Committee upon ceasing to be a member of the Community-Based Organization or upon being recalled by the umbrella organization for good cause and through a written communication from an authorized official of the umbrella organization the Subcounty Administrator.

(5) Whenever a member of the Ward Planning Committee is removed or otherwise ceases to be a member of the Committee, the Subcounty Administrator shall ensure that a replacement is appointed within 30 days of the vacancy.

**Meetings of Ward Planning Committee**

30. (1) The Ward Planning Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter.

(2) Save for the inaugural and emergency meetings, which shall be held at the ward headquarters, regular meetings of the Ward Planning Committee shall be convened and held in the different locations of the ward on a rotational basis.



(3) The quorum for meetings of the Ward Planning Committee shall be half of the members.

(4) A resolution of the Ward Planning Committee shall require an affirmative vote of more than one half of the membership present at a meeting.

(5) The chairperson shall have a casting vote in case of a tie.

(6) In the absence of the chairperson, the vice chairperson shall preside over a meeting, and in the absence of both the chairperson and the vice-chairperson, the members in attendance shall elect one of them to chair the meeting.

(6) Regular meetings of the Ward Planning Committee shall be scheduled in such a manner as to ensure that resolutions thereof are available in time for the next regular meeting of the Planning Committee.

(7) A Ward Planning Committee may invite to its meetings any technical staff whose expertise and skills may be needed for purposes of a matter before the Committee, and the Ward Administrator shall ensure that technical staff in the ward are available to advise the Committee as and when necessary.

#### **Reimbursement of members of Ward Planning Committees**

31. Members of the Ward Planning Committee shall serve on a voluntary basis, but may be reimbursed reasonable transport costs at a rate to be determined by the County Treasury and the Fund Administrator.

### **PART IV—MEASURES AND ACTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### **County Climate Change Action Plan**

32. (1) The Executive Committee Member shall in consultation with the Steering Committee and relevant sectors and through a participatory process involving relevant stakeholders, formulate a County Climate Change Action Plan.

(2) The County Climate Change Action Plan shall be for a period of five years and shall run concurrently with the current National Climate Change Action Plan and County Integrated Development Plan.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1), the Executive Committee Member shall within one year of the coming into force of this Act coordinate development of an interim County Climate Change Action Plan for the remainder of the period of the current National Climate Change Action Plan.



(4) The County Climate Change Action Plan shall be reviewed and updated every five years through the same participatory process as the one followed in its formulation.

### **Contents of County Climate Change Action Plan**

**33. The County Climate Change Action Plan shall—**

- (a) be aligned to the current National Climate Change Action Plan and respond to the specific needs and circumstances of the county;
- (b) contain a climate change needs and response assessment for the county;
- (c) articulate a climate change response implementation plan informed by the climate change needs and response assessment, and specifying measures and mechanisms for—
  - (i) guiding the county toward the achievement of low carbon climate resilient sustainable development;
  - (ii) mainstreaming climate change into county development plans, programmes, strategies and projects;
  - (iii) adaptation to and mitigation of climate change;
  - (iv) enhancing research, capacity building and knowledge management on climate change and climate change response;
  - (v) enhancing public awareness for effective participation in climate change response;
  - (vi) monitoring, evaluation and periodic review to integrate learning and best practice in the implementation of the County Climate Change Action Plan.

### **Approval of County Climate Change Action Plan**

**34. The County Climate Change Action Plan shall be approved by the Steering Committee and laid before the County Assembly for adoption.**



**Biennial review of County Climate Change Action Plan**

35. The Planning Committee shall undertake a biennial review of the implementation of the County Climate Change Action Plan and report to the Steering Committee.

**PART V—DUTIES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE****Climate change duties of public entities**

36. (1) The Steering Committee may, on recommendation of the Executive Committee Member and in consultation with relevant Executive Committee Members, impose duties relating to climate change on any public entity operating within the county.

(2) The imposition of climate change duties under subsection (1) shall be effected through regulations and preceded by public sensitization and consultations.

(3) Any public entity on which a climate change duty has been imposed shall in performing the said duty act in a manner best suited to the successful implementation of this Act and the County Climate Change Action Plan.

(4) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1), every public entity operating in the county shall have the duty to—

- (a) mainstream climate change into sectoral strategies, plans and other frameworks for implementing its statutory functions;
- (b) perform its statutory functions in a manner that contributes to the implementation of the County Climate Change Action Plan;
- (c) support the Steering Committee and the County Government in its planning, programming, implementation and monitoring of climate change response in the county; and
- (d) report annually to the Steering Committee on the status and progress of performance and implementation of all assigned climate change duties and functions.

**Climate change duties of private entities**

37. (1) The Steering Committee may, on recommendation of the Executive Committee Member for the time being in charge of climate change matters and in consultation with relevant Executive Committee Members, impose duties relating to climate change on any private entity operating within the county.



(2) The Steering Committee shall make regulations governing the nature and procedure for reporting on performance of climate change duties by private entities, including monitoring and evaluation of compliance.

### **Monitoring and reporting on compliance**

38. (1) The County Director on climate Change shall with the assistance of the representative of the National Environment Management Authority and on behalf of the Steering Committee, monitor, investigate and report on whether public and private entities are in compliance with the assigned climate change duties, and in performance of this function she or he shall —

- (a) have all powers necessary for purposes of monitoring and investigation including the power to enter premises of any private entity and make an enquiry; and
- (b) at a reasonable hour, for the purposes of monitoring and investigation, enter any private land or premises to make an inspection or other task related to this function.

(2) The County Director on Climate Change shall report to the Steering Committee on the performance of functions under subsection (1) on annual basis, and such report shall form part of the report by the Steering Committee to the County Assembly.

### **Steering Committee may require private entity to report on performance**

39. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 37, the Steering Committee may —

- (a) by notice in the Gazette, require a private entity that is subject to climate change obligations to prepare reports on the status of its performance thereof and prescribe the period for reporting; and;
- (b) require any private entity that fails to perform its climate change duties to prepare a report within a specified time, on the actions it has taken, is taking or intends to take to ensure future performance of those duties.

### **Annual County Climate Change Response Report**

40. (1) The Steering Committee shall, within three months after the end of every financial year, publish publicly and submit a report on implementation of the County Climate Change Action Plan and other



climate change response actions and impacts to the County Assembly for review, discussion and debate.

(2) The County Assembly shall, within three months of receiving the report, provide recommendations and proposed actions to the Steering Committee.

(3) A copy of the report issued under subsection (1) shall be forwarded to the Directorate for information purposes.

### **Regulations to be approved by the County Assembly**

41. Any regulations that may be made by the executive committee member in furtherance of any of the provisions under this part in regard to imposition of duties on climate change shall be subject to the approval of the County Assembly.

## **PART VI—PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

### **Values and principles to apply to planning and implementation**

42. The planning and implementation of climate response in the county shall be informed by the values and principles specified in section 4 of this Act;

### **County strategy for climate change education and public awareness**

43. (1) Within one year of this Act coming into force, the Planning Committee shall develop a comprehensive county strategy for public education and awareness creation on climate change.

(2) The strategy shall be developed through a participatory process involving all stakeholders in the county, and validated at public meetings organised by Ward Planning Committees in every ward.

(3) The strategy shall be approved by the Steering Committee and its implementation mainstreamed into the County Climate Change Action Plan.

### **Public sensitization to precede formulation of climate change response plans**

44. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 43(3) the Planning Committee and Ward Planning Committees shall ensure that the development of any climate change response programme, plan, project or activity in the county is preceded by comprehensive campaign of public sensitization and awareness creation to facilitate informed public participation.



(2) The Planning Committee and the Ward Planning Committees shall report to the Steering Committee on public sensitization campaigns undertaken with reference to every climate change response programme, plan, project or activity in the county and demonstrate how the sensitization has made impact on the threshold of decision making.

(3) The report on public sensitization and awareness creation on climate change programmes, plans, projects and activities shall be included in the reports of the Steering Committee under sections 39 and 40 of this Act.

### **Capacity building for effective public participation**

45. (1) The Steering Committee shall ensure that the Planning Committee and Ward Planning Committees implement comprehensive programmes of capacity building to equip individual citizens and communities in the county for effective participation in climate change governance and response.

(2) The Planning Committee and Ward Planning Committees shall support and facilitate communities to establish Community-Based Organizations and other frameworks for mobilization and engagement with climate governance and response issues in the County

### **Access to information**

46. The Steering Committee, the Planning Committee, the Ward Planning Committee shall publish, publicise and ensure access to all important climate change information in their possession.

## **PART VII—ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE FUND**

### **Establishment of County Climate Change Fund**

47. (1) There is established a fund to be known as the County Climate Change Fund.

The Fund shall consist of—

- (a) such monies as may be appropriated by the County Assembly and at least two percent of the county development budget in a financial year;
- (b) such grants and loans from the National Climate Fund;
- (c) such climate financing from the national and international agencies;
- (d) sums received, including contributions, gifts or grants from or by way of testamentary bequest by any person;



- (e) such licence and other fees as may be payable under this Act;
- (f) moneys earned or arising from any investment of the Fund; and
- (g) all other sums which may in any manner become payable to, or vested in the Fund.

(3) The Fund shall be used for meeting the capital and recurrent expenditure relating to—

- (a) carrying out the functions of the Steering Committee stipulated under section 6 and the strategies, plans and programmes developed by the Committees established by the Act;
- (b) assisting in the operations of the Committees; and
- (c) any other matter related to the implementation of this Act.

(4) The receipts, earnings or accruals of the Fund and its balances at the close of each financial year shall be retained in the Fund for the purposes of the Fund.

#### **Administration of the Fund**

48. (1) The fund shall be administered by a Fund Administrator working within the department responsible for matters related to climate change who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee Member for Finance.

(2) The Executive Committee Member of finance shall issue guidelines on the banking arrangements for the Fund under the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act.

(3) The bank account for the Fund shall be managed by the Fund Administrator under regulations developed by the Executive member finance in consultation with the Steering Committee.

(4) The fund administrator may, with the approval of the Executive Member for the time being responsible for finance, invest or place on a deposit account any of the moneys of the Fund and any interest earned on moneys so invested or deposited shall be placed to the credit of the Fund.

(5) The fund administrator shall in consultation with the Steering Committee—

- (a) supervise and control the administration of the Fund;
- (b) impose conditions on the use of any expenditure personally authorized and may impose any restriction or other requirement concerning use of expenditure;



- (c) prepare quarterly reports of the operations of the fund and submit to the Executive Committee member;
- (d) cause to be kept proper books of account and other books and records in relation to the Fund as well as to all the various activities and undertakings of the Fund;
- (e) prepare, sign and transmit to the Auditor-General in respect of each financial year and within three (3) months after the end thereof, a statement of accounts relating to the Fund in accordance with the Public Audit Act, 2003 and in such details as the county treasury may from time to time direct;
- (f) furnish such additional information as may be required for examination and audit by the Auditor-General or under any law; and
- (g) designate such staff as may be necessary to assist in the management of the Fund provided that such staff shall work in the Board.

### **Accounts**

**49.** The fund administrator shall cause to be kept proper books and records of accounts and assets of the Fund.

### **Financial reports and Audit**

**50.** (1) Within a period of three months after the end of each financial year, the fund administrator shall submit to the Auditor-General, the accounts of the fund administrator together with—

- (a) a statement of financial position as at the thirtieth day of June;
- (b) a statement of comprehensive revenue and receipts of the Steering Committee;
- (c) a statement of cash flow for the year ended;
- (d) a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information;
- (e) other financial statements applicable to similar institutions.

(2) The accounts of the Fund shall be audited and reported upon in accordance with the provisions of the Public Audit Act.

### **County Climate Change Fund Regulations**

**51.** (1) The Executive Committee Member shall, in consultation with the Executive Committee Member for the time being in charge of



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Treasury, develop Regulations for administration and management of the Fund.

(2) The Regulations made under subsection (1) shall provide for the following, among other matters—

- (a) formulation of the County Climate Finance Framework;
- (b) appointment and removal of the Fund Administrator;
- (c) allocation of funds to the Wards;
- (d) operation of the Fund;
- (e) eligibility criteria;
- (f) development of project proposals, application for and disbursement of money from the Fund;
- (g) procurement of services and goods;
- (h) development of project proposals;
- (i) disbursement of funds for projects;
- (j) complaints mechanism; and
- (k) monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning.

## **PART VIII—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

### **Funding operations of Steering and Planning Committees**

52. (1) Functions of the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee and Ward Planning Committees and the secretariats thereof shall be financed through a vote in the estimates of revenue and expenditure of the relevant Department of the Executive Committee.

(2) Participation of representatives of State and County Executive Departments in the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee and Ward Planning Committees shall be financed by the Fund in accordance with Guidelines from the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

(3) Finances and accounts of the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee and Ward Planning Committees shall be administered and managed in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act and the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations.

### **Annual estimates for Steering and Planning Committees**

53. At least three months prior to the commencement of each financial year, the Executive Member shall cause to be prepared the estimates of revenue and expenditure of the programmes and projects developed and approved by the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee and the Ward Planning Committees for the year.



**Financial year of Steering and Planning Committees**

54. The financial year of the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee and the Ward Planning Committees shall be the period of twelve months ending the thirtieth June in each year.

**PART IX—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS****Protection from personal liability**

55. (1) No action taken or thing done by a member, officer or agent of the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee or the Ward Planning Committee in good faith and in performance of functions or execution of powers vested in the said committees by this Act, shall render the member, officer or agent or any person acting on their directions personally liable for any action, claim or demand whatsoever.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) shall not relieve the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee or Ward Planning Committees of liability to pay compensation or damages to any person for any injury to him, his property or any of his interests caused by negligence in the exercise of any power conferred by this Act or any other written law or by failure wholly or partially of any works.

**Offences and penalties**

56. Any person who—

- (a) without lawful excuse ignores or fails to obey any instructions issued by any member or officer or agent of the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee or Ward Planning Committee in exercise of the powers or performance of the functions of the Committees under this Act; or
- (b) wilfully obstructs any member or officer or agent of the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee or Ward Planning Committee in the discharge of their lawful duties; or
- (c) misrepresents, knowingly submits false or misleading information to any member or officer or agent of the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee or Ward Planning Committee in exercise of powers or the performance of the functions of the said Committees under this Act commits an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to the punishment provided for under section 33(1) of the Climate Change Act, 2016.

**Regulations**

57. The Executive Committee Member shall make Regulations for the proper administration of this Act.