Your Right And Responsibility As A Citizen In Your County Affairs

Kenyan citizens have a constitutional right and responsibility to be involved in running of their County Affairs. It is the duty of your County Executive (led by the Governor) and County Assembly (Led by the Speaker) to create spaces for public participation, inform citizens about the opportunities and how to participate.

What Spaces Do You Have For Participation In County Affairs?

1. Making laws, policies and budgets.
2. Hiring and removal of County Officers e.g. Governor, Waziris, Chief Officers, MCAs and Directors.
3. Implementation of polices, laws, plans and budgets.
4. Overseeing how the County delivers public services and use of money.

How Do I Get Involved? By

- Voting your preferred candidate during elections
- Writing complaint(s) to Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to stop a candidate in an election or for recall.
- Writing complaint or petition(s) against a planned appointment or to end employment to:
  » County Assembly.
  » County Assembly Service Board.
  » County Public Service Board.
  » Governor against a planned appointment.
  » Ombudsman (Commission on Administrative Justice).
- Physically attending public participation forums and giving views verbally.
- Making contributions online and social media e.g. email, website, SMS and social media on county affairs.
- Presenting a memorandum or a letter to the County Government on County affairs
- Presentation through a representative.
- Participating in the appointment of the Project Management Committee.
- Continuous engagement with and questioning implementers of projects.
- Peaceful demonstrations.
- Lobby MCAs, Governor and other County Officers.
- Following or tracking of the budgets and expenditures.
- Carrying out social audits and community score cards.
- Writing and submitting written complaints to oversight bodies e.g. County Assembly, Controller of Budget, Auditor General, National Police Service.
The following are key planning and budgeting opportunities for your participation before the indicated end dates. These are dates specified in law and you must participate as a citizen of your County. These provisions are always captured in the County Budget Circular released by the County Treasury latest by August 30th every year. A County Budget Circular provides guidelines for preparation and submission of Annual Budgets for a Financial Year including the dates for public participation.

### Key Public Participation Events In Your County Planning And Budgeting Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Dates</th>
<th>Your County Planning and Budgeting Process</th>
<th>Your participation is mandatory?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Annual Development Plan tabled by County Executive sets program priorities for the coming year</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Annual Development Plan approved by County Assembly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>County Fiscal Strategy Paper tabled by County Executive (allocate funds to each county department or sector) submitted in the County Assembly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>County Fiscal Strategy Paper approved by County Assembly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>County Budget estimates (allocate funds to county programs and projects) submitted to the County Assembly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May - June 30</td>
<td>County Assembly discusses, amends and/ or approves the budget estimates</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>By June 30</td>
<td>County Budget estimates approved by the County Assembly.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finance Bill (proposal on how county plans to tax businesses and people) tabled by the County Executive in the County Assembly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>County Finance bill approved by the County Assembly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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**Does It Matter If You Participate?**

Yes. Your participation will inform how the County plans and public money is used in providing services.

For the past five years, Siaya County Government has received Kshs. 26 Billion (As per the County Allocation and Revenue Acts) for services in your County.

**REMEMBER:** It is only by participating that your County will listen to you, know your problems and spend the money in solving them by allocating money to your needs. If you don’t participate, your priorities, needs and problems will remain unknown and will not be solved by your County. It will be assumed that you don’t have any problems and your needs will not be included in County plans and budgets yet you pay taxes.

**Benefits of Public Participation In County Planning & Budgeting**

- Helps government to allocate more money to the needs of the poor
- Reduces corruption, wastage and loss of money
- Increases ownership of public projects by citizens
- Encourages citizens to pay taxes

**Financial year**

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<tr>
<td>Amount in Kshs.</td>
<td>3.97 Billion</td>
<td>5.01 Billion</td>
<td>5.42 Billion</td>
<td>5.71 Billion</td>
<td>6.05 Billion</td>
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</table>

**Did you know that your County is going to receive Kshs. 6.73 Billion in financial year 2018/2019?**

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**Key Public Participation Events In Your County Planning And Budgeting Calendar**

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