

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NANDI

TELEPHONE 0535252355
Email: info@nandi.go.ke
Website: www.nandi.go.ke



P.O. BOX 802-30300
KAPSABET.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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21st SEPTEMBER, 2020

Co-Chairs
Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Dear Sirs,

RE: NANDI COUNTY APPLICATION TO JOIN OGP LOCAL: CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Above matter refers.

On behalf of the County Government of Nandi, a sub national government in Kenya and with a population of approximately 1 Million people, I write to express our interest to join OGP local and to fully commit myself and my Government to the values of Open Governance. As a government, we have put measures and mechanisms to ensure we travel this road. As a demonstration of our will and commitment, I undertake to steer my executive to ensure the partnership we have established with the National Taxpayers Association (NTA) will go a long way in ensuring our County achieves and celebrates the fruits of an Open, Inclusive and Transparent Government. Therefore, to demonstrate this, I have enumerated seven points that highlights and illuminate our quest to this application as follows:

- 1. Our Value Proposition:** One of the key drivers for us to joining OGP is our quest to Deepen and mainstream Public Participation in all County Processes by passing the Public Participation bill and ensuring its implementation and to further push the use of technology platforms as mechanisms to fully engage our Citizens. The opportunity accorded to us through access to Peer Learning from jurisdiction already in OGP will give us rich knowledgebase on best practices especially both locally and internationally.
- 2. Our Approach to Citizen Engagement:** We have been cognizant of this fact and has continuously sought new and innovative ways of engaging with our Citizens. As the world changes, especially in the technology front, we are committed to always find new ways of citizen engagement that aligns with future directions of open government and specifically on the priority thematic areas we have chosen to commit to its implementation. Through a deliberate initiative, I will lead the County executive to ensure prompt implementation of programmes whose outcomes are driven with an active and engaged citizenry.
- 3. Our Capacity and Resources for co-creation and Implementation:** Already we have setup a unit on Public Participation with a budget to ensure public participation initiatives across the County are carried out and all departments entrench this spirit of ensuring the public gets to participate on all County Processes. We continuously train our staff and provide tools they need to carry out this mandate. Therefore, we will see to it that Financial, Human and Technological Resources are available for co-creation and especially with our partner in the non-state actors.

4. **Our Track Record:** The County Government of Nandi has been on the path towards achieving some of the Open Government initiatives. Together with NTA, we have created an environment for non-state actors to assess performance of government in project implementation and to provide recommendation for strengthening transparency and accountability. National Taxpayers Association (NTA) through partnerships with Ford Foundation and Council of Governors (COG), initiated Social Audit¹ of Projects in Nandi County in 2018.

Already, the County, again through the Department of Finance and Economic Planning in an effort to enhance Budget making process, Projects Management and Open Contracting processes, are currently implementing CIMES platform www.projects.nandicounty.go.ke. This platform integrates all facets of operations, including budgeting, planning (CIDP, ADP, MTEFA), Communication Management, Schedule Management, Public Participation, Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation. This is one big attempt to have a stronger link with the public to participate online. It is through this platform that Open Contracting data, data on development and data on projects will be published. At present, data for FY 2017/2018, FY 2018/2019, FY 2019/2020 and FY 2020/2021 just got populated on the system and any time it will be made public for the citizens to access and get a chance to comment.

Also, of importance to note, we were the first County in Kenya to introduce a new way of citizen engagement through a Call Centre. My Government with a partnership with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), a public University rolled out a Call Centre project. This Toll-Free Call centre has so far handled over 15,000 Calls since its launch in September 2019. This approach has opened up government to the people and made services available and closer. This project already being listed² as a best practise by Maarifa Centre at Council of Governors (COG) for other Counties to learn from. It has been dubbed as a good tool for Open Government.

5. **Our Chosen Thematic Policy Areas:** As we seek to join this prestigious organization, we do this in the full realization that our government will enrich its processes and functions across departments by cultivating and promoting specifically the following Thematic Policy Areas:
- Public Participation
 - Budget Making Process, Open Project and Open Development Data
 - Citizen Oversight and Youth Engagement
 - Open Contracting and Open Procurement
 - Open HealthCare Data for effective Public service delivery
 - Open Geospatial Data- Spatial planning and development
6. **Our Willingness to Peer Learning and Shared Experiences:** One of the main reasons why our government is proactively seeking to join OGP, is the promise that by doing so, we open ourselves to learn and partake in new experiences, tap into the knowledgebase of best practises and ensure that we participate actively in various activities that promote Open Governance both locally and internationally.

¹<https://cog.go.ke/downloads/category/108-ford-foundation?download=385:nandi-county-community-score-card>



²<https://maarifa.cog.go.ke/147/county-grievance-redress-mechanisms-nandi/>,
<https://maarifa.cog.go.ke/resource/nandi-county-24-hour-toll-free-call-centre-as-a-grievance-redress-mechanism-and-tool-for-social-accountability-and-open-governance>,
<https://maarifa.cog.go.ke/139/learning-inter-county-exchange-program-for-women-youth-in-nandi-county/>

7. **Our Strategic Location to influence Open Governance Values:** One key aspect that we bring to the table as concerns spreading these values of OGP is the strategic location of our County and membership to two Economic Blocks. We are situated at the intersection of two Economic blocks, North Rift Economic Block (NOREB) with a membership of 8 Counties and Lake Region Economic Block (LREB) with a membership of 14 Counties. We are the only County having membership of both blocks and we will use these platforms to spread values of OGP once we are a member.

Finally, we are a youthful County, in terms of leadership. As the Youngest Governor in Kenya, I was recently recognised by the Global Youth Parliament³ especially on mentoring our youth and specifically on our inclusive approach to governing, where Youth play a critical role. It is in this spirit that even on matters OGP, we want to continue trailblazing and setting the standards since the future requires that the Young people play a critical role in shaping it. And I believe, the best way to shape this future is by joining OGP and committing and implementing fully its values, not only to the latter, but to the spirit.

I therefore appreciate the selection for us to submit this full application and hope that you will find favour to our submissions and allow us to officially join OGP local. For any further information or questions, don't hesitate to contact our lead contact person Mr. Jonathan Misoi, Phone +254 729 809 247 email: misoijnr@nandi.go.ke

Kind regards.



Hon. Stephen K. Araap Sang
GOVERNOR, NANDI

³ <https://www.northriftnews.com/2020/09/governor-sang-honored-with-the-global-youth-leadership-award/>