



CITIZENS' LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: "AMKA - STAY WOKE"

ANALYZING THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE (NADCO) BILLS AND THE 2024 FINANCE BILL

(PUBLIC DISCOURSE)



VENUE: UFUNGAMANO HOUSE

DATE: 30TH MAY 2024

TIME: 2:00 PM- 4:00PM

PAZA SAUTI! AMKA!

CALL 020-440-41-40

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REPORT ON THE CITIZENS' LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



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INTRODUCTION

The County Governance Watch (CGW) Kenya hosted the first Citizens' Legislative Conference on May 30th at Ufungamano House. This pivotal event focused on the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) report bills and the Finance Bill 2024. The conference aimed to engage citizens on significant national concerns, particularly those outlined in the NADCO report and the implications of the Finance Bill 2024.

CGW endeavors to promote transparent, accountable, and effective service delivery, as well as more responsive governance in Kenya's devolved governance units. Through its efforts, CGW has strengthened the pillars of good governance in Kenya by enhancing public participation processes in the counties. The organization focuses on various critical areas, including climate governance (mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation), elections, peace and security (prevention of violent extremism), gender, and inclusion of marginalized community groups.

Since the beginning of the National Dialogue Committee process, CGW has been engaging with various citizen groups through the **Kenya Electoral Conflicts Mitigation and Civic/Voter Education Support (ECCES) Program**. This program, under initiatives like **Kiongozi Bora, Jukumu Langu, Elimu Mashinani, and Amani Endelevu**, aims to ensure citizens effectively participate in democratic governance and constitutional processes. It emphasizes the inclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in decision-making processes and seeks to make electoral and governance institutions more accessible, accountable, and effective.

CGW's "**AMKA - Stay Woke: Citizen Voices for Action**" dialogues, supported by USAID through Act Change Transform (Act!), are part of the ECCES program. These dialogues aim to sensitize Kenyans on major national topics and themes, encouraging them to exercise their sovereign power and rights through activities such as submitting memoranda, writing letters, or organizing networks to address community concerns. The NADCO report, with its several recommendations on issues of concern to Kenyans, is a critical focus requiring citizen action and participation, particularly in the ongoing parliamentary processes.

The 10-member NADCO was established to facilitate dialogue and consensus building, and to recommend appropriate constitutional, legal, and policy reforms on issues of concern to the people of Kenya. The report and recommendations of NADCO focused on five key areas:

1. **Electoral Justice and Related Matters:**

- **Restructuring and Reconstitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC):** The Committee recommended the reconstitution of the IEBC selection panel to comprise nine members.
- **Boundaries Delimitation:** Recommended setting intervals for boundary reviews with parliamentary resolution, investigating claims of marginalization, and fast-tracking a legislative framework for county boundary reviews as per Article 188 of the Constitution.
- **Audit of the 2022 Presidential Elections:** Suggested appointing a panel of experts to evaluate the 2022 electoral process and to establish a mechanism for evaluating future elections.

2. **Outstanding Constitutional Matters:**



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- **Cost of Living and Related Issues:** Addressing the high cost of living and promoting economic stability.
 - **Implementation of the Two-thirds Gender Rule:** Ensuring gender equity in governance.
 - **Governance Issues:** Promoting national unity and inclusivity in public appointments.
- 3. Fidelity to Political Parties or Coalitions and Multiparty Democracy:**
- Exploring ways to prevent interference with political parties or coalitions to uphold democratic integrity.
- 4. Entrenching Funds into the Constitution:**
- Examining the National Government Constituency Fund, the National Government Affirmative Action Fund, and the Senate Oversight Fund to ensure their constitutional entrenchment.
- 5. Establishment and Entrenchment of State Offices:**
- **Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition:** Recommending its establishment and constitutional entrenchment to recognize opposition parties' value and legitimacy.
 - **Office of the Prime Minister:** Proposing its establishment and constitutional entrenchment to coordinate the functions of the Executive arm of Government.



OPENING REMARKS

Kevin Osido- Executive Director- County Governance Watch

Executive Director of CGW, opened the conference by warmly welcoming all participants. In his address, Mr. Osido emphasized the significance of the conference in the context of Kenya's ongoing democratic and legislative reforms. He highlighted CGW's commitment to fostering transparent, accountable, and responsive governance in the country.



Mr. Osido elaborated on the primary objective of the conference, which was to engage citizens on pressing national concerns related to the NADCO report bills and the Finance Bill 2024. He underlined the importance of public participation in the democratic process, noting that citizens' voices are crucial in shaping effective and inclusive policies.

Revolutionizing Electronic Voting: Mr. Osido stressed the need to address legal, policy, and institutional concerns to ensure a more transparent and efficient electoral process.

Composition of the IEBC: He discussed the importance of a well-structured IEBC capable of conducting boundary reviews and by-elections effectively, ensuring all constituencies and wards are adequately represented.

Delimitation of Boundaries: Mr. Osido highlighted the urgency of completing the boundary review process by March 2024, expressing concerns about the current lack of direction and the necessary parliamentary processes.

Mr. Osido also shared insights from the NADCO recommendations, emphasizing the need for constitutional, legal, and policy reforms in various critical areas. He spoke about CGW's role in promoting good governance and enhancing public participation, citing their work in climate governance, elections, peace and security, and gender inclusivity. He mentioned the ongoing engagement with citizen groups through the ECCES Program, which aims to empower citizens to participate effectively in democratic governance.

Mr. Osido concluded his remarks by reiterating the importance of the conference as a platform for dialogue and consensus-building. He urged all participants to actively engage in the discussions and contribute to shaping a better future for Kenya.



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Silvia Nyaga, Chief of Party-Act Change Transform, ECCES Programme



Silvia Nyaga emphasized the importance of dialogue and conferences as platforms for promoting constructive engagement and finding common ground on critical issues facing the nation. These forums provide opportunities for stakeholders from various sectors of society to exchange ideas, share perspectives, and explore innovative solutions to complex challenges. By fostering dialogue and

collaboration, she believes that Kenya can harness its collective wisdom and creativity to address pressing issues such as governance, economic development, and social cohesion.

Through her advocacy for dialogue and conferences, Silvia Nyaga seeks to build bridges across diverse communities and foster greater understanding and empathy among Kenyans. By creating spaces for open and honest communication, she aims to break down barriers, dispel misconceptions, and promote reconciliation and healing in society.

Silvia Nyaga's advocacy for dialogue and conferences is driven by a deep conviction that political engagement and collaboration are essential catalysts for positive change in Kenya. By bringing together stakeholders from government, civil society, the private sector, and grassroots communities, ACT! seeks to mobilize collective action and leverage resources and expertise to address systemic challenges and drive sustainable development. Through dialogue and conferences,



KEY SPEAKERS AND DISCUSSIONS

H.E DR. STEPHEN KALONZO MUSYOKA, SC, EGH-NADCO CO CHAIR



He started by extending his gratitude to the Board and Secretariat of County Governance Watch (CGW) for inviting him to attend the conference at Ufungamano House. “Since its inception in 1966, this centre has served as the epicentre of significant political conversations and movements by Kenya’s opposition, civil society, religious groups, and the student community advocating for constitutional reforms. I also appreciate the

symbolism as today I join the ranks of Kenyan patriots who have stood at this podium to advocate for Kenyans’ rights.

The work of CGW, led by Executive Director Kevin Osido, is genuinely commendable. One of your six thematic areas i.e., “Devolution and County Participation” have put CGW front and centre in addressing socio-economic and political development issues at the national and county levels in Kenya.

Specifically, the platforms CGW has provided for public participation have helped strengthen county government structures, giving citizens a greater say in how their resources are managed and decisions are made. In my opinion, CGW has had and continues to have a distinctive and important voice BECAUSE of your dedication to improving our society via citizen capacity-building.

It is also not lost on me that this keynote address takes place on the eve of our 61st anniversary of Madaraka – Self Internal Independence. Nor that the theme is AMKA – Stay Woke: Citizen Voices of Action.

61 years ago, Kenya held its first genuinely democratic elections – Lower House and Senate as well as Regional Assemblies – as part of the constitutional transitional process agreed upon in Lancaster House, London, Britain. This can be considered the FIRST REAL Public Participation Act by Kenyans – our FIRST WOKE MOMENT if you will – where the Call for Citizens Action was exercised by Kenyans at the ballot.

The allusion to the history of *Madaraka* is both essential and significant. As is the reminder here of the national values and ideals our Founding Fathers championed when fighting for our right to Independence so that ALL Kenyans would be free from ignorance, poverty, and disease.



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On August 27, 2010, we promulgated The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 following a referendum on August 4. Before its promulgation, Kenyans reviewed the Proposed New Constitution, made recommendations and proposals, and forwarded their views to their respective Members of Parliament. That Kenyans from all walks of life were allotted 30 days to engage in the document that would become the supreme law of the land – was a WATERSHED WOKE MOMENT in our history. Some here may even consider this

our FIRST GENUINE CITIZEN-DRIVEN LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

Significantly, Article 1 (2) of the Constitution empowers citizens to *exercise their sovereign power directly*. Article 10 (2) (a) includes national values, ‘...Participation of the people.’ Article 33 (1) provides that *every person has the right to freedom of expression*, which includes (a) *freedom to seek, receive, or impart information or ideas*. Further, Article 35 grants citizens *the right to access information held by the State*.

Moreover, although Article 94 gives Parliament sole authority to enact laws, Articles 118, 119, 124, 201, 221, and 232 define public participation in legislative proceedings. Article 232 (1) (d) makes it quite evident that “the involvement of the people in the process of policy-making” is a necessary public service value and principle.”

He took a moment to address the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) Bills and the Finance Bill, 2024, and reminded the participants that these NADCO bi-partisan talks were a result of the sacrifices of more than 72 Kenyans who lost their lives during the Maandamano protests.

As co-chair of NADCO, they spent months at the Bomas of Kenya, Nairobi, listening to inputs from the public, the Executive, County Governments, civil society and religious organizations, and the business community.

From your submitted proposals, they presented to Rt Hon. Raila Odinga and President William Ruto, what I truly believe was and continues to be the people’s Call to Action. It



then was incumbent on our representatives at the National Assembly and the Senate to honour their voices by passing the Bills without amendments.

While the National Assembly adhered to the will of the people, the four bills that the Senate’s Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs, and Human Rights (JLAC) considered in early May had significant alterations. He was glad that our Minority Leader, Kilifi County Senator Stewart Madzayo, raised the red flag with the

Senate Business Committee (SBC), and that Speaker Amason Kingi stopped the process



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so that the said Bills could be corrected with what was agreed in the NADCO report, and republished for introduction in the Senate.

To be clear, this machination demonstrated a lack of good faith on the part of a sector of the Kenya Kwanza administration. Without our lawmakers’ sharp eye for detail, the four Bills may have passed, which would have been a travesty of immense proportion.

As regards the Finance Bill, 2024, it was his view at Ufungamano House that these new rafts of taxes – from bread to M-PESA transactions and motor vehicle levies – would shackle Kenyans to prolonged poverty and disease.

“We can no longer claim ignorance, ladies and gentlemen, and we must take all necessary actions to safeguard public participation as one of our democracy’s core foundations and uphold the promise.

We must do now, tomorrow, and always in the spirit of Self-Independence, reject the apparent tokenism of public participation in favour of true and of true and effective public discourse and engagement that leads to a legislative agenda that reflects the desire of the Kenyan people.

You and I, I feel, must have the bravery and voice to tell this administration that we have the capacity, dignity, and right to make decisions and shape our destiny.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is our Self-Governance Moment; our AMKA – STAY WOKE MOMENT.” He concluded.

Hon. Opiyo Wandayi-Minority Leader, National Assembly



Hon. Opiyo Wandayi's advocacy for tax reform and zero-rating of essential commodities reflects his commitment to promoting economic welfare and social equity in Kenya. By addressing over-taxation on motor vehicles and raising concerns about the housing levy, he seeks to alleviate the financial burden on ordinary citizens and stimulate economic growth. His policy initiatives underscore the

importance of striking a balance between revenue generation for the government and ensuring affordability for consumers, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and prosperous society.

Zero-Rating Essential Commodities: One of Hon. Wandayi's key policy proposals is the zero-rating of certain essential food commodities, such as bread. He argues that these



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items are fundamental for basic nutrition and should not be subjected to value-added tax (VAT) or other forms of taxation that could increase their cost to consumers. By zero-rating essential commodities, Hon. Wandayi aims to make them more affordable and accessible to all Kenyans, especially those living in poverty or struggling to make ends meet.

Impact on Consumers: The zero-rating of essential commodities like bread would have a direct and positive impact on consumers, particularly low-income households. It would lower the cost of living, reduce food insecurity, and improve overall nutrition levels. Families would be able to allocate their limited resources more efficiently, potentially lifting many out of poverty and improving their quality of life.

Over-Taxation on Motor Vehicles: In addition to advocating for zero-rating of essential commodities, Hon. Wandayi raised concerns about over-taxation on motor



vehicles. He highlights the importance of striking a balance between revenue generation for the government and ensuring affordability for consumers. Excessive taxation on vehicles not only hampers economic growth by stifling consumption but also disproportionately affects middle and lower-income individuals who rely on vehicles for transportation.

Impact on Economic Growth: Addressing over-taxation on motor vehicles could stimulate economic growth by boosting consumer spending and facilitating mobility. Lower taxes on vehicles would make them more accessible to a wider segment of the population, leading to increased sales and production within the automotive industry. Moreover, improved mobility would enhance productivity and efficiency in various sectors of the economy, ultimately contributing to overall development.

Concerns about the Housing Levy: Another area of concern for Hon. Wandayi is the housing levy, which he believes imposes an additional financial burden on already-strained households. While acknowledging the importance of initiatives to address housing challenges in Kenya, he emphasizes the need for a more equitable and sustainable approach to funding such projects. Hon. Wandayi advocates for thorough consultations with stakeholders and careful consideration of alternative financing mechanisms to ensure that the housing levy does not unduly burden taxpayers.



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Esther Passaris- Nairobi City County Woman Representative



Hon. Passaris has been a vocal proponent of the two-thirds gender rule, which seeks to ensure that no gender occupies more than two-thirds of elective or appointive positions in government and other decision-making bodies. She recognizes the importance of gender balance in governance as a fundamental principle of democracy and social justice. Her advocacy aims to

dismantle entrenched gender stereotypes and create opportunities for women to participate fully in political and public life.

Her advocacy for the two-thirds gender rule, the establishment of pad banks, and the reconsideration of fund allocation for Women Representatives reflects her unwavering commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in Kenya. By addressing systemic barriers to women's participation in governance and addressing the practical challenges faced by girls, she is working towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society where all individuals can thrive. Hon. Passaris's initiatives serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the advancement of gender equality and women's rights not only in Kenya but globally.

Establishment of Pad Banks: In addition to promoting gender parity in governance, Hon. Passaris has championed initiatives to address menstrual health challenges faced by girls, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. She has proposed the establishment of pad banks in all constituencies to provide free sanitary pads to girls, enabling them to attend school without interruption during their menstrual periods. By tackling the stigma and practical barriers associated with menstruation, Hon. Passaris seeks to empower girls to realize their full potential and access educational opportunities.

Reconsideration of Fund Allocation for Women Representatives: Hon. Passaris has also highlighted the need to reconsider the allocation of funds to Women Representatives, particularly in alignment with their roles at the county level. She argues that Women Representatives play a crucial role in advocating for the interests of women and girls at the grassroots level and should be adequately resourced to fulfill their mandates effectively. Her advocacy underscores the importance of recognizing and supporting the unique contributions of women leaders in advancing gender equality and inclusive development.



MS. DIANA GICHENGO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - TISA KENYA

Ms. Diana Gichengo, representing Tisa Kenya, delivered an insightful presentation on the implications of the Finance Bill 2024. She emphasized the significant impact of the proposed budget cuts on essential sectors, including education, health, food production, and social protection. Ms. Gichengo's analysis shed light on how these budget reductions could hinder the country's development and well-being.



She raised concerns about the potential adverse effects of the Finance Bill on vulnerable populations who rely on government support in these critical areas. Ms. Gichengo stressed that cuts in funding for education could lead to reduced access to

quality education, negatively impacting the country's future workforce. Similarly, cuts in health funding could jeopardize public health initiatives, leading to poorer health outcomes.

In terms of food production, Ms. Gichengo pointed out that reduced financial support for agricultural programs could undermine efforts to achieve food security, affecting both rural and urban populations. Social protection programs, which are vital for supporting the most disadvantaged citizens, could also suffer, exacerbating poverty and inequality.

Key Recommendations:

1. Implementing Fiscal Discipline:

- Ms. Gichengo called for the government to adopt strict fiscal discipline to ensure efficient and effective use of public funds. She emphasized the importance of prioritizing essential services and avoiding wasteful expenditure.

2. Rejecting Taxation Policies that Hinder Production:

- She advocated for rejecting taxation policies that could stifle production and economic growth. Ms. Gichengo argued that excessive taxation on production inputs and activities would discourage investment and reduce overall productivity, ultimately harming the economy.



3. Establishing Borrowing and Expenditure Limits:

- To maintain fiscal stability, Ms. Gichengo recommended establishing clear borrowing and expenditure limits. She stressed that responsible borrowing practices and prudent expenditure management are crucial for sustainable economic development.



FREDRICK OKANGO- Secretary Political Affairs KANU

Fredrick Okango provided an in-depth analysis of the legislative instruments outlined in the NADCO report. His presentation focused on the proposed amendments to key pieces of legislation that are critical to Kenya's governance and electoral integrity. Mr. Okango underscored the importance of these amendments in ensuring a robust and transparent legislative framework.



Key Areas of Focus:

1. **The Constitution of Kenya:**
 - o Mr. Okango emphasized the necessity of amending the Constitution to address emerging governance and electoral challenges. He highlighted specific areas where constitutional reforms are needed to enhance democratic processes and accountability.
2. **The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC):**
 - o He discussed proposed changes to the IEBC, aimed at restructuring and strengthening the commission to better execute its mandate. This includes reforms to improve the commission's efficiency in conducting elections, boundary reviews, and ensuring fair representation.
3. **Elections and Election Offences:**
 - o Mr. Okango outlined amendments aimed at tightening regulations around elections and addressing election offences. These changes are intended to enhance the integrity of the electoral process, prevent malpractice, and ensure free and fair elections.
4. **Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC):**
 - o He highlighted the proposed reforms to the EACC to bolster its effectiveness in combating corruption. Strengthening this commission is crucial for promoting ethical conduct and accountability within public institutions.
5. **Statutory Instruments:**
 - o Mr. Okango discussed the need for clear and effective statutory instruments to support the implementation of various legislative reforms. He stressed the importance of having well-defined regulations that provide guidance and clarity on legislative matters.
6. **Political Parties:**
 - o The proposed amendments include reforms to the Political Parties Act to ensure political parties operate within a transparent and democratic framework. Mr. Okango emphasized the need for regulations that promote internal democracy, accountability, and the effective functioning of political parties.
7. **National Government Coordination:**
 - o He addressed the importance of amendments to enhance the coordination between different levels of government. These changes are aimed at improving service delivery, fostering cooperation, and ensuring efficient governance.
8. **Leader of the Opposition:**
 - o Mr. Okango discussed the proposal to entrench the Office of the Leader of the Opposition in the Constitution. This move is intended to recognize the value and legitimacy of opposition parties and provide them with a formal role in the country's political system.



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Ms. Anne Nderitu - Registrar of Political Parties



Ms. Nderitu's advocacy for transparent elections and institutional reforms reflected her unwavering commitment to democratic principles and electoral integrity in Kenya. By developing a legislative framework, proposing the establishment of a Political Parties Commission/Authority, and promoting non-partisanship in electoral governance, she is working to strengthen democratic institutions, safeguard the rights of citizens, and enhance the credibility of the electoral process. Ms.

Nderitu's initiatives serve as a catalyst for positive change and progress towards a more transparent, inclusive, and democratic society in Kenya.

Ms. Nderitu's office has been actively engaged in the development of a comprehensive legislative framework to ensure transparent elections in Kenya. This framework encompasses various aspects of electoral governance, including voter registration, campaign finance, election administration, and dispute resolution. By establishing clear rules and procedures, Ms. Nderitu aims to enhance the credibility and legitimacy of electoral outcomes, thereby fostering public trust and confidence in the democratic process.

Establishment of a Political Parties Commission/Authority: One of Ms. Nderitu's key proposals is the establishment of a Political Parties Commission/Authority tasked with overseeing the regulation and monitoring of political parties. She advocates for the appointment of non-political party members to this commission/authority to ensure its independence and impartiality. By depoliticizing the oversight of political parties, Ms. Nderitu aims to promote transparency, accountability, and fairness in the conduct of political activities, including party primaries and candidate nominations.

Promotion of Non-Partisanship: Ms. Nderitu emphasized the importance of maintaining non-partisanship in electoral governance to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. She advocates for the appointment of individuals with proven integrity, competence, and independence to key electoral institutions and bodies. By depoliticizing the appointment process and ensuring the neutrality of electoral officials, Ms. Nderitu seeks to prevent partisan interference and manipulation in electoral processes, thereby safeguarding the rights of voters and political contestants.



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CITIZENS LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE FEEDBACK ON THE FINANCE BILL 2024.

On May 30, 2024, a survey was conducted during the Citizens' Legislative Conference to gather public views on the Finance Bill 2024. This survey, conducted through questionnaires, received feedback from 428 respondents. The Citizens' Legislative Conference is organized by County Governance Watch (CGW), an organization dedicated to promoting transparent, accountable, and effective service delivery and more responsive governance in Kenya's devolved governance units.

This document presents an analysis of the survey results, highlighting the level of public familiarity with the bill, their support or opposition, liked and disliked aspects, perceived impact on personal finances and businesses, and the importance of public participation in the legislative process. The following sections detail the insights and recommendations based on the feedback received

QUESTION	RESPONSE	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>FAMILIARITY WITH THE FINANCE BILL 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Majority of respondents are somewhat familiar with the Finance Bill 2024. ✚ Most respondents are aware of the contentious issues but lack detailed knowledge of the entire bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Conduct widespread informational campaigns to educate the public on the entire bill, not just the contentious parts. Utilize various media platforms (social media, TV, radio, community meetings) to disseminate information. ✚ Simplified Summaries: Provide easy-to-understand summaries and infographics that highlight all aspects of the bill. ✚ Engagement Forums: Organize town hall meetings and online webinars to explain the bill in detail and answer public queries.
<p>PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE FINANCE BILL 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Respondents strongly oppose the Finance Bill 2024 as it is currently proposed. ✚ Key reasons for opposition include negative impacts on personal finances and businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Revision of Controversial Elements: Reevaluate and potentially revise the most contentious aspects of the bill to address public concerns. ✚ Transparency: Clearly communicate the rationale behind each proposed change and how it benefits the public in the long run.
<p>POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE FINANCE BILL 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Fuel Price, Food, and Hospital Bills ✚ Tax on Plastics ✚ CDF and NGAAF Recommendations ✚ Taxation of Wealthier Individuals ✚ Widening the Tax Bracket ✚ Public Debt Management ✚ Electricity Reform ✚ Social Justice Initiatives ✚ VAT Registration Timeline Adjustments ✚ Removal of Penalties in Export Processing Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Establish a feedback mechanism where positive aspects are reviewed and refined based on public input to maximize their effectiveness.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + No Tax on Shift Workers + IEBC Amendment Bill + Increase of VAT Registration Threshold + Removal of Wifer Employment Income Definition 	
<p>NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE FINANCE BILL 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Removal of Linda Mama Program + Introduction of Motor Vehicle Tax + Taxes on Bread Price + Reduction in Education Sector Funding + VAT on Food Commodities + Increase in Bank Transaction Costs + Excise Duty on Money Transfers + Digital Tax + Eco Levy + PIN Requirement for Remote Workers + Taxing Bond Interest + Housing Levy + Mortgage Interest Deduction Removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Policy Reevaluation: Reassess the necessity and impact of controversial measures, such as the introduction of new taxes on essential goods and the removal of beneficial programs. + Alternative Solutions: Explore alternative revenue-generating measures that do not disproportionately affect low-income households.
<p>IMPACT ON PERSONAL FINANCES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Majority of respondents feel the proposed changes will negatively impact their personal finances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Introduce financial relief measures, such as tax credits or subsidies, to help mitigate the negative impact on household finances.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Increased cost of living and reduced disposable income are major concerns. 	
IMPACT ON BUSINESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Majority of respondents believe the proposed tax changes will negatively impact businesses. ✦ Increased operational costs and reduced profitability are primary issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Business Consultation: Engage directly with business communities to understand their concerns and gather suggestions. ✦ Support Programs: Develop support programs for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them adapt to new tax regulations. ✦ Tax Incentives: Offer tax incentives or rebates for businesses that are particularly burdened by new taxes to encourage compliance and growth.
IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	<p>Essential for Effective Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Respondents overwhelmingly believe public participation is crucial for tax-related bills. ✦ Ensures that the views and considerations of the public are included. <p>Perceived Ineffectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Some respondents feel their views are not taken into consideration despite participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Ensure that public participation is not just a formality but a genuine process where feedback is valued and considered. ✦ Clearly show how public input has been integrated into the final bill. Provide detailed reports on the consultation process and outcomes. ✦ Regular Updates: Keep the public informed about the progress and changes made to the bill based on their feedback. Regular updates and transparency can build trust and encourage more participation.



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