Speaker
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8/6/2022

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**SECOND ASSEMBLY – SIXTH SESSION**

# THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, TOURISM AND COOPERATIVES

# REPORT ON THE BOMET COUNTY TOURISM POLICY, 2021

**SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 2 OF 2021**

**JUNE 2022**

Laid on the Table of the County Assembly on Wednesday 8th June, 2022 at 2:30p.m.

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## Annexures

1. The Bomet County Tourism Policy, 2022

   (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 2021)

**Adoption of the Report**

We the Committee on Trade, Tourism, Industry and Cooperatives do append our signatures against our names to this Report to affirm the correctness of the contents and support of the Report

| No. | Name | Designation | Signature |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Hon. David Maritim | Chairperson | |
| 2. | Hon. Marcella Chepkirui | Vice Chairperson | |
| 3. | Hon. Barchok Kipngetich | Member | |
| 4. | Hon. Cecilia Mutai | Member | |
| 5. | Hon. Winny Bore | Member | |
| 6. | Hon. Charles Langat | Member | |
| 7. | Hon. Samuel Keter | Member | |

**Dated June 2022**

## PREFACE

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

On behalf of the Committee on Trade, Tourism, Industry and Cooperatives and pursuant to Standing Order 193(5)(1)(b), it is my duty and pleasure to present to the Assembly, the Committee's report on the consideration of the Bomet County Tourism Policy, 2021(Sessional Paper No. 2 of 2021) laid on the Table of the County Assembly on 9th November, 2021.

The Committee on Trade, Tourism, Industry and Cooperatives is one of the Sectoral committees established under the Standing Order 193(1) of the County Assembly Standing Orders. It is therefore the relevant committee to consider the Bomet County Tourism Policy 2021.

### 1.1 Committee Membership

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

The Committee on Trade, Tourism, Industry and Cooperatives as currently constituted, comprises of the following members: -

1. Hon. David Maritim - Chairperson
2. Hon. Marcella Chepkirui - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Barchok Kipngetich - Member
4. Hon. Cecilia Mutai - Member
5. Hon. Winny Bore - Member
6. Hon. Charles Langat - Member
7. Hon. Samuel Keter - Member

## 1.2 Committee's Mandate

**Mr. Speaker,**

The Sectoral Committee on Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives derives its mandate from the provisions of Standing order 193(5) which defines the functions of the Committee as;

a) To investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
**b) To study the programs and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of their implementation;**
c) To study and review all legislation referred to it;
d) To study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
e) To investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as may be deemed necessary, and as may be referred to it by the County Assembly;
f) To make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation.

## 2.0 Outline of the Bomet County Tourism Policy 2021

**Mr. Speaker,**

The objective of this policy is to procedurally re-engineer the *modus operandi* of the tourism sector in Bomet County, to give the people of Bomet County and other stakeholders a platform to guide in sustainable tourism, to clarify and consolidate roles of various stakeholders and partners including the private sector. This will simplify the continued development of an economic and environmentally viable and

balanced tourism sector through understanding the internal and external needs and opportunities available in the sector.

The policy identifies objectives that need to be addressed, strategies and the relevant actors. It will provide the necessary direction to support a competitive and sustainable tourism sector and give clear direction to tourism stakeholders and partners for carrying out their operational programmes.

The Bomet County Integrated Development Plan (2018-2022), highlighted various potential tourism areas that has yet to be tapped into. These key areas of potential include nature-based tourism, agro tourism, sports tourism and cultural tourism. Opportunities exist to create demand led tourism by expanding the hospitality industry and undertaking aggressive marketing of the region to local and international markets.

Therefore, this policy espouses fundamental guiding principles that should inform its implementation and actions that enhance sustainable tourism in the County and especially in the key areas of promotion and marketing of tourism. It proposes innovative ways of making Bomet County a tourist destination.

Further, the policy highlights tourism products and services, information dissemination and management, infrastructure, safety and security. The policy provides for development of a legal and institutional framework for effective coordination and management of the sector to enhance cross and inter-sectoral linkages as well as building of public private partnerships.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade, Energy, Tourism and Industry forwarded to the County Assembly, the Bomet County Tourism Policy,

2021 on the 8th October, 2021 for its consideration and deliberation. The Policy was laid on the Table of the County Assembly on 9th November, 2021.

The Hon. Speaker committed it to the Committee on Trade, Tourism, Industry and Cooperatives and further directed it to deliberate and report to the Assembly as provided for under the County Assembly Standing Orders.

## 2.1 Committee Meetings

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

The Committee held three successive meetings to review the Policy. It also conducted site visits to the following areas to ascertain if the tourism niches meet the threshold to be tourist attraction sites;

i. Kaplelach Cultural Tourism Group
ii. Kipsigis Highlands
iii. Masese-Nyangores CFA
iv. Abosi Hill Tour Talent Centre
v. Chepalungu CFA
vi. Irai Maina Eco-Tourism Centre
vii. South Rift Tourism Association

## 2.2 Public Participation

The Committee held a public participation forum on 18th March, 2021 at the Assembly grounds.

In conducting the public participation, the committee made reference to *inter alia* the Constitution, the Tourism Act, 2011, County Governments Act, 2012, the Bomet County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013 – 2018. 2018 – 2022, County Strategic Development Plan (CSP) 2018 – 2028, National Tourism Blueprint and the

Vision 2030, County Assembly Standing Orders among other enabling provisions of the law.

### 2.3 Acknowledgment

**Mr. Speaker,**

The Committee wishes to thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support accorded to it during the exercise and execution of the committee's mandate.

As the Chairperson, I also take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Committee for their commitment towards making the production of this Report a success.

**Mr. Speaker, Sir,**

The Committee made several observations on the Policy during the public participation exercise. The Committee's final recommendations was based on the views by the Members of the public, the stakeholders among other participants. These observations guided the Committee in making its final recommendation.

The Committee's recommendation was agreed upon by the Committee Members during a Committee meeting to adopt the report held on 21st April, 2022.

**Mr. Speaker, Sir,**

On behalf of the Committee and pursuant to the Standing Order No. 193 (5) (1) (b), it is my humble pleasure to present the Committee's report on the consideration of the Bomet County Tourism Policy, 2021.

**SIGNED** ..... **DATE** 8/6/2022 .....

**HON. DAVID MARITIM**

**CHAIRPERSON**

## 3.0 Justification for the Bomet County Tourism Policy, 2021

The Constitution under Article 185 (4) provides that;

> *"A County Assembly may receive and approve plans and policies for the management and exploitation of the county's resources"*

Similarly, the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 confers among other roles of the County Governments the trade development and regulation including local tourism.

The County Assembly through its Committee on Trade, Tourism, Industry and Cooperatives is one of the Sectoral committees established under Standing Order No. 193(1) and deals with all matters relating to trade development and regulation, including markets, trade licenses, (excluding regulation of the profession), fair trading practices, local tourism, commerce, industry and liquor licensing.

## 3.1 Public Participation/Stakeholder Consultation

The Committee conducted a public participation forum on 18th March, 2021 at the county assembly's grounds in accordance with the Article 196 (1) (b) of the Constitution and section 110 of the County Governments Act, 2012.

## 3.1 Issues for consideration in conducting the public participation

In conducting the public participation, the committee made reference to *inter alia* the Constitution, the Tourism Act, 2011, County Governments Act, 2012, the Bomet County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013 – 2018. 2018 – 2022, County Strategic Development Plan (CSP) 2018 – 2028, National Tourism Blueprint and the

Vision 2030, County Assembly Standing Orders among other enabling provisions of the law.

### 3.2 Notification to the public

The Clerk of the Assembly, pursuant to Article 196 (1) (b) of the Constitution and section 110 of the County Governments Act, 2012 notified the general public on the time and venue for holding the public participation forum through a notice in the local dailies dated 9th March, 2021.

### 3.3 Submission of written statement on oath (Memoranda)

By close of business on Monday 17th March, 2021, the Committee had not received any written memoranda on the Bomet County Tourism Policy.

## 4.0 VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Guided by Article 118 of the Constitution the committee held a one-day public hearing on 18th March, 2021 and received the following views;

1. The participants proposed that the policy should address the establishment of a local tourism coordination committee to oversee the marketing of the various products available within Bomet County.
2. The participants stressed the significance of guaranteeing safety and security of the tourists and the investments within the region. In this regard, they proposed that the policy should intensely address the various means that guarantee the tourists of their safety.
3. The participants proposed that the policy ignored the issue of marketing of the various products available locally. They proposed that the policy should lay

the plan on the promotion of Bomet County as a tourism destination both locally and internationally.

4. The stakeholders already practicing in the industry informed the importance of good road network especially on those destinations in the forests and hilly areas. They proposed that the policy should address this vital factor to guarantee them of future investments.
5. To develop local tourist guiding skills, the participants proposed that the policy should include the establishment of a local tourism learning centre mainly to train the local youth on various tourists needs at the local level.

## 4.1 COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

After the public participation hearing, the committee made the following findings and observations regarding the Bomet Tourism Policy, 2021.

1. That the Policy should provide avenues to compliment other policies and legislative frameworks including but not limited to Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2013) that provides for the protection, conservation, sustainable use and management of wildlife in Kenya and for connected purposes, The National Climate Change Action Plan 2018-2022, the Lake Region Economic Bloc Blue Print among others.
2. The Committee observed that the policy did not provide expressly on the measures to ensure quality services are provided and quakes are not given room that deny the opportunity to those who are operating within the standards by giving them unfair competition. Therefore, there is need to develop guidelines and regulations to govern the industry.
3. The Committee observed that on tourism education, the policy should specifically provide for the support for the provision of basic skills training

and re-training for local school leavers and unemployed/underemployed persons wishing to join the tourism workforce.

4. That the Department of Trade, Energy, Tourism and Industry should incorporate the proposals in the approved Bomet County Spatial Plan (2022-2031) in order to utilize the available tools and technology to develop, manage and market the tourism product within the county.

## 4.2 RECOMMENDATION

After wide consultation and the consideration of the views from the members of the public and different stakeholders, the Committee established that there are convincing reasons justifying the need for the Bomet County Tourism Policy, 2021. The Committee therefore **approves** the Bomet County Tourism Policy with recommendations herein.