

IGRTC Monthly Bulletin

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IGRTC Chairman Engages Senate on Strengthening Devolution



The Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) Chairman, CPA Kithinji Kiragu, participated as a panelist in the Senate Mid-Term Assessment and Planning Retreat for the 4th Session, underscoring the critical role of intergovernmental relations in deepening and consolidating devolution.

During the retreat, CPA Kiragu delivered a presentation to the Senate, outlining key issues in devolution and intergovernmental relations while highlighting priority areas for Senate intervention. His insights aimed to enhance collaboration between national and county governments for more effective service delivery.

Also in attendance were IGRTC Member Dr. Perminus Ndimitu and CEO Dr. Kipkurui Chepkwony, reinforcing the committee's commitment to fostering productive intergovernmental engagement. IGRTC remains dedicated to facilitating dialogue and policy guidance that strengthens devolution for the benefit of all Kenyans.

IGRTC Facilitates Dialogue to Resolve Housing Ownership Dispute in Machakos

The Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) convened a consultative meeting with the County Government of Machakos and the State Department for Housing and Urban Development to address a long-standing intergovernmental dispute over the ownership of housing units in St. Mary's Estate, Kangundo Hospital and Athi River.

Chaired by IGRTC member Ms. Angeline Hongo, the meeting emphasized the importance of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in fostering cooperation between the involved parties. Ms. Hongo



reaffirmed IGRTC's commitment to continued engagement, ensuring a resolution that is fair, equitable, and aligned with the principles of effective service delivery. Also in attendance was IGRTC member Mrs. Alice



Mayaka, along with a team of technical staff who provided insights and guidance on the dispute resolution process. The discussions underscored the need for intergovernmental collaboration in addressing complex governance issues, particularly those impacting public assets and service delivery. IGRTC remains dedicated to facilitating constructive dialogue and fostering consensus-driven solutions that benefit both levels of government and the citizens they serve.

OUR CORE VALUES



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Bachuma Dispute



The long-standing dispute over the Bachuma Livestock Quarantine Station between the County Government of Taita Taveta and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development is finally on the path to resolution. This significant development underscores the importance of cooperation between the two levels of government in enhancing service delivery for the benefit of both the nation and the people of Taita Taveta.

During a consultative meeting held at the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) offices, stakeholders from both parties expressed their commitment to resolving the matter amicably. Chaired by IGRTC Vice Chairperson Ms. Saadia Kontoma, the meeting focused on setting clear objectives to ensure an efficient and mutually beneficial agreement within the stipulated timeframe.

The dispute originated from a Tender Notice published on July 23, 2024, by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, which sought to lease land under the Bachuma Livestock Quarantine Station without prior consultation with the County Government of Taita Taveta. In response, the County Government filed Case No. ELCLPET/E008/2024 at the Voi Law Courts before Justice C.K. Kithinji, seeking to halt the lease process. On September 18, 2024, Hon. Justice E.K. Wabwota granted IGRTC a 60-day period to mediate and facilitate a resolution.

The consultative meeting brought together key representatives, including IGRTC Committee Members Mr. John Kimwela, Mrs. Alice Mayaka, and Mrs. Angeline Hongo. Representing the County Government of Taita Taveta were Deputy Governor H.E. Hon. Christine Kilalo and other county officials, while the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development delegation was led by Mr. Joseph Wairia, Director of Veterinary Services, and Mr. Benard Opa, Deputy Director of Natural Resources at the National Land Commission.

With all stakeholders demonstrating a strong commitment to dialogue and resolution, the settlement of this dispute is expected to foster improved collaboration in managing livestock resources and ensuring the efficient operation of the Bachuma Livestock Quarantine Station. This progress highlights the effectiveness of intergovernmental dialogue in addressing governance



challenges and strengthening unity in service delivery. The resolution of this matter sets a precedent for future engagements between national and county governments, reinforcing the need for consultations and consensus-building in handling shared resources. It is a testament to the power of dialogue and structured negotiations in achieving sustainable solutions for the benefit of all stakeholders involved.

Consultations with Kenya Film Classification Board



IGRTC team, led by Director Legal Ms. Sophie Amutavy, held a consultative meeting with the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) to discuss the unbundling of functions related to cultural activities, public entertainment, and public amenities.

This engagement aimed at clarifying functions delineated in the gazette notices No. 16472-16483 published on 16th December, 2024, which unbundled and delineated the Constitutionally assigned functions of National and County governments.



Through such consultations, IGRTC continue to streamline devolution, fostering better coordination between the two levels of government, with a view to attaining the objectives and principles of the devolved system of governance.

Our Strategic Goals

IGRTC's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 outlines the following Strategic Goals:

- 1. Harmonious intergovernmental relations between the two levels of government and amongst county governments
- 2. Transfer of functions, powers/competencies and attendant resources in line with the Constitution
- 3. Harmonised national and county development plans for sustainable socio-economic development
- 4. Policies and legislation aligned to the Constitution
- 5. Strengthened Organisational effectiveness and efficiency



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IGRTC Conducts a Two-Day Sensitization Exercise on Delineation of Functions

The Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) successfully conducted a two-day sensitization exercise following the publication of Gazette Notices No. 16472 to 16483.

The engagement brought together stakeholders from both the National and County Governments to deliberate on the delineation of functions between the two levels of government.

The first day of the sensitization exercise focused on informing participants about the progress made in transferring functions and providing insights into the components of the gazette notices. The session covered the following key areas:

- Gazette Notice No. 16472 – Trade Development and Regulation
- Gazette Notice No. 16473 – Firefighting Services and Disaster Management
- Gazette Notice No. 16474 – County Health Services
- Gazette Notice No. 16475 – Public Works and Services
- Gazette Notice No. 16476 – County Transport
- Gazette Notice No. 16477 – Implementation of Specific National Government Policies on Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

These discussions were crucial in enhancing intergovernmental relations and ensuring a streamlined governance framework across both levels of government.



The second day of the exercise provided further insights into Gazette Notices No. 16478 to 16483, emphasizing the distinct responsibilities of the National and County Governments. Stakeholders engaged in discussions aimed at clarifying roles, addressing concerns, and identifying potential legislative amendments.

Way Forward

As the sensitization exercise concluded, IGRTC outlined the next steps in the function delineation process. These include:

- Finalizing contentious issues related to function



transfer.

- Facilitating the transfer of resources necessary for effective service delivery.
- Submitting proposed legislative amendments to Parliament for consideration and action.

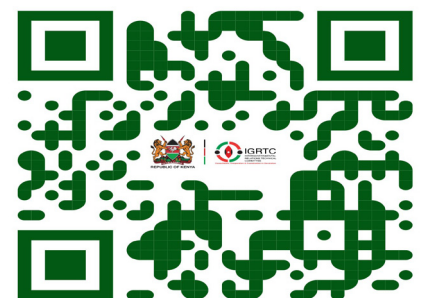
The sensitization exercise reaffirmed IGRTC's commitment to fostering a collaborative and coordinated approach to governance.

By ensuring clarity in the delineation of functions, the initiative will enhance service delivery and promote seamless intergovernmental relations.

Sensitization Pictorial



Scan this code to access the gazette notice on delineation of functions.



Stakeholder Engagement on Performance Assessment of Devolved functions

Performance assessment is a key driver of service delivery in the implementation of functions by both national and county governments in ensuring accountability, efficiency, and continuous improvement. This is essential in measuring progress, identifying challenges, and fostering data-driven decision-making.



In line with the IGRTC 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, the IGRTC team, led by Chairman CPA Kinthinji Kiragu, convened a consultative meeting with key stakeholders on performance assessment on uptake and implementation of functions by both levels of governments in a devolved system of governance. This engagement aims to support a coordinated and sustainable socio-economic planning framework that aligns with the objectives and principles of devolution.

The meeting brought together stakeholders from key government institutions, including the State Department for Economic Planning, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Office of the Controller of Budget (OCOB), Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat (VDS), Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC), Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Council of Governors (COG), Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), and the State Department for Devolution.



IGRTC remains committed to supporting the devolved system of governance through monitoring the implementation of development plans and recommending strategic actions to the Summit enhancement of service delivery.

Through effective coordination, monitoring, and reporting, IGRTC strives to drive continuous improvement in governance and ensure that devolution delivers its intended benefits to the people of Kenya.

IGRTC Engages Murang'a County and WASREB in Resolving Intergovernmental Dispute



The Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) intensified efforts to mediate a dispute between Murang'a County and the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB). In a high-level consultative meeting at the WASREB offices, IGRTC Vice Chair, Madam Saadia Kontoma, and Member Angeline Hongo met with Murang'a County Governor, H.E. Dr. Francis Irungu Kang'ata, alongside WASREB's Acting CEO, Eng. Richard Cheruiyot, to assess progress and foster resolution.

The discussions centered on resolving the governance and regulatory challenges affecting water service delivery in Murang'a County. Both parties expressed optimism that a consensus would soon be reached, ensuring better access to clean water for residents.

"We are committed to fostering collaboration between different levels of government to ensure an amicable resolution that strengthens service delivery in the county," stated Madam Saadia, emphasizing IGRTC's role as a mediator in intergovernmental disputes.

Governor Kang'ata reiterated the county's willingness to cooperate in resolving the impasse. "We believe that through open dialogue and mutual understanding, we can find the best solution for our people," he said.

Eng. Richard Cheruiyot affirmed WASREB's dedication to ensuring proper regulation and efficiency in water service delivery. "This partnership is a step in the right direction. Our primary goal is to enhance service provision while ensuring compliance with regulations," he remarked.

Following the initial meeting, IGRTC convened a follow-up session with Governor Kang'ata and WASREB officials, led by Eng. Cheruiyot, to finalize the dispute and chart a way forward. The meeting marked significant progress, with stakeholders reaching a mutual agreement on key steps to resolve the dispute.

"The renewed collaboration will significantly improve water service delivery in Murang'a County," said Madam Saadia, signaling a breakthrough in the negotiations.

With the dispute nearing resolution, residents of Murang'a County can expect affordable and improved access to reliable water services, thanks to the concerted efforts of IGRTC, the county government, and WASREB.

IGRTC Assessed Infrastructure Damage in Mombasa to Resolve Intergovernmental Dispute

The Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) stepped up efforts to mediate a dispute between the Coast Water Works Development Agency (CWWDA) and the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) over infrastructure damage in Mombasa County.

During a site visit to the Bamburi-Mwakirunge-Kaloleni road, IGRTC Members Mr. John Kimwela, Mrs. Linet Mavu, and Mrs. Angeline Hongo assessed the damaged 84-meter section of the Nguu Tatu Water Reservoir perimeter wall and an exposed pipeline.

The visit aimed to foster dialogue between the involved agencies and facilitate a resolution that would ensure the restoration of critical infrastructure. “We are committed to utilizing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to address such disputes and ensure seamless service delivery to the public,” stated Mr. Kimwela.

Mrs. Mavu emphasized the importance of cooperation in resolving intergovernmental conflicts. “Engaging all stakeholders in constructive dialogue is key to finding lasting solutions that benefit communities,” she noted.

The IGRTC delegation remained in Mombasa for two days, engaging with relevant stakeholders to explore practical solutions for restoring the damaged infrastructure. Also present during the visit were Eng. J.K. Mwangi from KeRRA, Eng. Samwel Soda from CWWDA, and officers from IGRTC, KeRRA, and CWWDA. Their participation underscored the collaborative approach needed to resolve the dispute effectively.

Eng. Soda reiterated CWWDA’s commitment to ensuring water infrastructure remained protected while balancing road construction efforts. “We have to work together to prevent future occurrences and establish a clear framework for coordination,” he said.

As discussions concluded, IGRTC remained optimistic that the mediation had yielded an amicable solution, ensuring both water and road infrastructure were safeguarded for the benefit of Mombasa residents.



2025 Budget Policy Statement



The IGRTC team, led by Chairman CPA Kithinji Kiragu, appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations to discuss key policies, programs,

and expenditure ceilings for the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee, as outlined in the 2025 Budget Policy Statement.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman briefed the Committee on priority programs for the 2025/2026 financial year, aimed at strengthening devolution and fostering effective intergovernmental relations within Kenya’s devolved

governance system.

He also updated senators on the next steps in budget rationalisation of gazetted functions and transferring attendant resources, following the unbundling and delineation of devolved functions, as gazetted on December 16, 2024 (Kenya Gazette Notices No. 16472 to 16483). This process is expected to enhance service delivery between the two levels of government.

The Chair of the Senate Standing Committee,

Hon. Sheikh Mohamed Abass, underscored the need for increased resources to enable the Committee to effectively discharge its mandate in supporting devolution. IGRTC team appeared alongside representatives from the State Department for Devolution and the Council of Governors.

Senators in attendance included Hon. Catherine Muyeka, Hon. Richard Momoima Onyonka, Hon. Peris Tobiko, and Hon. Hezema Lemaletian.

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