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THE TANA RIVER COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BILL, 2016

A Bill for

AN ACT of the County Assembly of Tana River to establish the Tana River County Agriculture Development Authority, to provide for a framework to facilitate growth and the development of the Agriculture and for related purposes

ENACTED by the County Assembly of Tana River, as follows—

PART I — PRELIMINARY

1. This Act may be cited as the Tana River County Agriculture Development Act, 2016.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“agriculture” includes—

(a) fruit, vegetable, flower and seed farming;

(b) dairy farming, bee keeping, breeding and keeping of livestock;

(c) conservation and keeping of game animals, game birds, and aquatic animals;

(d) game ranching and game cropping;

(e) the use of the land for grazing, market gardening, or for nursery grounds;

(f) agro-forestry; and

(g) use of land for the production, transformation and trade of crop and livestock products;

“agricultural land” means land that is used for agricultural purposes, and includes any land which by any written law is zoned, registered or otherwise designated as agricultural land;

“Authority” means the Tana River Agriculture Development Authority established by section 4;
“Board” means the Agriculture and Livestock Development Board appointed under section 7;

“Board of Trustees” means the Board of the County Agricultural Development Fund Board of Trustees established under section 25;

“crops” means any plant that is grown in significant quantities to be harvested as food, as livestock fodder, fuel, or for any other economic purpose;

“County Executive Committee Member” means the County Executive Committee Member responsible for agriculture and livestock;

“Director” means the Director of the Authority appointed under section 18;

“Fund” means the County Agricultural Development Fund established under section 24;

“financial year” means a period of twelve consecutive months starting from 1st July and ends on 30th June;

“project” means an eligible agricultural development project that meets the objectives of section 37;

“prescribed” means prescribed under this Act;

“Regulations” means regulations made under this Act.

3. The object and purpose of this Act is to facilitate the growth and development of agriculture in the county, and in particular to—

(a) establish the Authority;

(b) promote the production, processing, marketing, and distribution of agricultural products in suitable areas of the county;

(c) promote competitiveness in the agricultural sector and to develop diversified crop and animal products and market outlets; and

(d) attract and promote private investment in agriculture.
PART II — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TANA RIVER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

4. (1) There is established an Authority to be known as the Tana River Agriculture Development Authority.

(2) The Authority is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and shall in its corporate name be capable of—

(a) suing and being sued;

(b) acquiring, holding, charging and disposing of movable and immovable property; and

(c) doing or performing all such other things or acts as may lawfully be done or performed by a body corporate.

5. The Authority shall—

(a) promote agricultural activities in the County;

(b) advise the County Executive Committee member on all matters relating to it functions under this Act;

(c) manage, coordinate and inform policy on agricultural activities;

(d) facilitate growth in the agricultural field;

(e) implement the policies of the county government on agricultural sector funding;

(f) promote production, processing, marketing and distribution of agricultural products;

(g) reduce and manage trade barrier within and outside the county on agricultural activities and products;

(h) undertake study to assist in the discharge of the functions under this Act in relation to agriculture;
(i) promote competitiveness in the agriculture sector;

(j) develop diversified crops and animal products;

(k) attract and promote private investment in the agriculture sector;

(l) promote county agricultural productivity and marketing through strengthening producer organizations, streamlining and facilitating bulk supply of inputs to farmers, pastoralists and fisher folks including fertilizer, seeds, agrochemicals, animal breeding, animal drugs and feeds, artificial insemination services and fishing gear among others;

(m) gather, package and disseminate agribusiness-related information pertaining to key elements of the value chain across various sector enterprises including but not limited to agronomic and market information;

(n) develop core and high impact irrigation infrastructure such as community boreholes, dams, shallow wells and water pans;

(o) develop appropriate storage, bulking and market facilities in strategic areas with potential for increased agricultural production and or marketing;

(p) promote core value-addition infrastructural development;

(q) provide occasional subsidization of key inputs such as seeds, agro-chemicals, fertilizers, artificial insemination services, animal drugs and vaccines whenever high and sudden price hikes are experienced;

(r) promote high value agricultural, livestock and fisheries products such as oil crops, newly emerging high value crops e.g. zero grazing, aquaculture and ornamental fish farming among others; and
(s) undertake any other function assigned under this Act or any other written law.

6. (1) The Authority shall have all the powers necessary for the effective execution of its functions under this Act.

(2) The Authority may in the exercise of its powers under this Act, request and receive such assistance as may be requested from the County Government or any other governmental or international body or person as may in its opinion be necessary in the exercise of its powers.

7. (1) The Authority shall be governed by a Board to be known as the Tana River County Agriculture Development Board.

(2) The Board shall have all the powers necessary for the proper performance of the functions and the exercise of the powers of the Authority under this Act or any other applicable law, and shall, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, have power to—

(a) control, supervise and administer the assets of the Authority in such manner as best promotes the objectives for which the Authority is established;

(b) determine provisions to be made for capital and recurrent expenditure of the Authority;

(c) receive any grants, gifts, donations or endowments and make legitimate disbursements therefrom;

(d) enter into association with such other bodies or organizations within or outside the County as it may consider desirable or appropriate and in furtherance of the objectives for which the Authority is established;

(e) open a banking account for the Authority; and

(f) exercise any other power provided for in this Act or any other applicable legislation.

8. (1) The Board shall consist of—
(a) a chairperson;

(b) four other persons appointed by virtue of their knowledge and at least ten years' experience in the fields of—

(i) agriculture;

(ii) veterinary;

(iii) law;

(iv) business administration; or

(v) any other relevant field.

(c) the Chief Officer responsible for Agriculture who shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Board.

(2) The members shall at the first meeting of the Board elect a vice-chairperson from among the members appointed under subsection (1)(b).

(3) The chairperson and the vice-chairperson shall be of the opposite gender.

(4) The Director shall be the secretary to the Board and shall not be entitled to vote.

9. (1) A person shall be eligible to be appointed as chairperson or a member of the Board if that person—

(a) holds a degree from a university recognized in Kenya;

(b) is fit and proper to serve as a member of the Board;

(c) is a Kenyan citizen;

(d) is not disqualified from serving in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2), and

(e) meets the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.
(2) No person may be appointed or serve as a member of the Board if that person—

(a) holds office in a political party;

(b) is a member of Parliament or a member of a county assembly or a

(c) Governor or Deputy Governor;

(d) has been convicted, whether in Kenya or elsewhere, of an offence involving dishonesty or of any other offence for which such person has been sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine; or

(e) is unable to perform the functions of office due to mental incapacity; or

(f) is an un discharged bankrupt.

(3) A member of the Board, including the chairperson, who at any time during his or her term of office becomes disqualified to hold office as a member of the Board under subsection (2) shall—

(a) immediately and in writing inform the County Executive Committee Member and the Chairperson of the Board of that disqualification, and the County Executive Committee shall forthwith remove that member from the Board; and

(b) not attend any meeting of the Board from the time the member has so become disqualified.

(4) A member of the Board who contravenes subsection (3) commits an offence.

10. The County Executive Committee Member shall, through the County Public Service Board, advertise for the positions of the chairperson and members of the Board.

(2) The County Executive Committee Member shall ensure that the process of appointing the chairperson and members of the Board is competitive, fair, open and transparent.
(3) In the recruitment and appointment of chairperson and members of the Board, the County Executive Committee Member and the County Public Service Board shall ensure that no more than two third of the membership is of the same gender.

(4) In the recruitment of chairperson and members of the Board, the values and principles of public service in the Constitution shall be respected and upheld.

11. Whenever there is a vacancy in the Board, the procedure provided for under section 10 shall apply.

12. The appointed members of the Board shall hold office for one term of four years.

13. (1) The chairperson or a member of the Board may be removed from office for—
   (a) serious violation of the Constitution or any other law;
   
   (b) gross misconduct, whether in the performance of their functions or otherwise;
   
   (c) physical or mental incapacity to perform the functions of office;
   
   (d) incompetence; or
   
   (e) bankruptcy.

   (2) A person desiring the removal of the chairperson or a member on any ground specified in subsection (1) may present a petition to the County Public Service Board setting out the alleged facts constituting that ground.

   (3) The County Public Service Board shall consider the petition and, if it discloses a ground for removal under subsection (1), the Board shall recommend the removal from office of the chairperson or member to the County Executive Committee Member who shall within fourteen days remove such person from office.

14. The conduct and regulation of the business and
affairs of the Board shall be as provided in the Second Schedule and subject thereto, the Board may regulate its own procedure.

15. There shall be paid to the appointed members of the Board such remuneration as may be advised by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, in consultation with the County Executive Committee Member.

16. (1) The Board may, by resolution generally or in any particular case, in writing conditionally or unconditionally delegate to any Committee of the Board or any member, officer or agent of the Authority, the exercise of any of its powers or the performance of any of its functions under section 6 of this Act, but the Board may despite such delegation continue to perform the functions or exercise the powers referred to in that delegation.

(a) The Board shall remain accountable for anything done under a delegation contemplated in subsection (1).

17. (1) The Board may, either generally or as otherwise provided by the instrument of delegation, in writing, delegate to—

(a) any person; or

(b) an officer,

all or any of the powers and functions of the Authority under this Act other than this power of delegation.

(2) A power or function so delegated, when exercised or performed by the delegate, shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to have been exercised or performed by the Board.

(3) A delegation under this section does not prevent the exercise of a power or the performance of a function by the County Executive Committee Member or county revenue collector.

(4) The Executive Committee Member may make regulations in relation to the exercise of powers and the performance of functions, of the Authority under this Act by an officer of the County.
(5) The Board may revoke or amend a delegation under this Act.

(6) An arrangement or the variation or revocation of an arrangement, shall be in writing and a copy of each instrument by which an arrangement has been made, varied or revoked shall be published in the Gazette.

18. (1) The Board shall appoint a suitably qualified person to be the Director of the Authority.

(2) The Director shall be appointed through an open, transparent and competitive recruitment process, and shall serve on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine.

(3) A person shall be qualified for appointment as the Director of the Authority if the person—

(a) is a citizen of Kenya;

(b) holds a degree from a university recognized in Kenya;

(c) has had at least ten years' experience at management level;

(d) has proven relevant experience in any of the following fields—

   (i) government;

   (ii) law;

   (iii) management;

   (iv) finance;

   (v) security; or

   (vi) public administration; and

(e) meets the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.
(4) The Director shall be the chief executive officer of the Authority and responsible to the Board for the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Authority.

19. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Director, a new Director shall be appointed in accordance with section 18.

20. (1) The Director may be removed from office only for—

(a) serious violation of the Constitution, this Act or any other law;

(b) gross misconduct;

(c) physical or mental incapacity which renders the Director unable to perform the functions of office;

(d) incompetence; or

(e) bankruptcy.

(2) A person desiring the removal of the Director on any of the grounds specified in subsection (1) may present a petition to the Board setting out the alleged facts constituting that ground.

21. The Board shall appoint such staff as may be necessary for the proper discharge of its functions under this Act, upon such terms and conditions of service as the County Public Service Board may determine.

22. (1) The Board may request for a public officer, whether from the National Government or County Public Service, to be seconded to assist in the discharge of the functions of the Authority.

(2) Where any public officer has been seconded pursuant to subsection (1), that officer shall be under the direct control and command of the Board.
PART III — AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND

23. (1) The overriding objective object of this Part is to provide a comprehensive, harmonized, efficient and effective legal and regulatory framework for financing of agriculture in Tana River County for the purposes of—

(a) promoting agriculture in the county;

(b) providing access to agricultural services in the county;

(c) marketing and creation of awareness on agricultural services and products;

(d) cascading the use of public funds at the lowest level of governance where the most vulnerable exist;

(e) ensuring efficiency and transparency in the disbursement of funds; and

(f) ensuring local level participation in the provision of county government activities.

(2) All county government institutions, agencies, public servants and bodies charged with development of crop agriculture shall at all times have due regard to, and observe, the overriding objective of this Act as set out in subsection (1).

(3) Whenever there is a conflict between this Act and any county law, having a bearing on achievement of the overriding objective of this Act, the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

(4) In the exercise of the powers or the performance of functions under this Act, the County Executive Committee Member and the Board of Trustees shall be guided by the following principles—

(a) public participation and financial inclusiveness;

(b) protection of the interests of the marginalized, persons living with disabilities, women and
youth; and
(c) local ownership and sustainability.

24. (1) There is established a fund known as the Agricultural Development Fund.

(2) The objectives of the Fund are to—

(a) provide funding for eligible intervention to cover the mainstream agricultural sector; and

(b) to facilitate the execution of the functions of the Authority under this Act.

25. There is established the County Agricultural Development Fund Board of Trustees which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and common seal, capable of—

(a) holding and disposing of any kind of property;

(b) suing and being sued in its corporate name; and

(c) doing all such other things as may be incidental or conducive to the exercise of performance of its functions under this Act.

26. (1) The County Agricultural Development Fund Board of Trustees shall comprise—

(a) the county chief officer in the county department for the time being responsible for agriculture or his or her representative appointed in writing;

(b) the county chief officer in the county department for the time being responsible for finance or his representative appointed in writing;

(c) the head of legal services in the county or a representative appointed in writing; and
(d) The Director, who shall also be the Secretary of the Board; and

(e) three persons, one of whom shall be the chairperson of the Board of Trustees, not being public officers, who shall be appointed by the County Executive Committee Member through a competitive and transparent recruitment process.

(2) The persons appointed under subsection (1) (e) shall hold office for a term of five years renewable for one further term.

(3) A person shall be qualified for appointment under subsection (1) (e) if that person—

(a) holds a degree from a university recognized in Kenya;

(b) has at least five years professional experience in the relevant field; and

(c) meets the requirements of leadership and integrity as provided for in Chapter Six of the Constitution and relevant national legislation.

27. Members of the Board of Trustees shall be paid such allowances as the County Executive Committee Member shall determine in consultation with the County Public Service Board.

28. (1) The office of a member of the Committee appointed under section 26 (1) (e) shall become vacant if the member—

(a) is adjudged bankrupt;

(b) is convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than six months;

(c) is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty;
(d) is absent, without reasonable cause, from three consecutive meetings of the Board;

(e) resigns in writing addressed to the County Executive Committee Member;

(f) dies;

(g) is removed from office by the County Executive Committee Member for—

(i) being unable to perform the functions of his office by reason of mental or physical infirmity; or

(ii) failing to declare his interest in any matter being considered or to be considered by the Committee; or

(iii) any other sufficient reason as may be prescribed.

29. (1) The functions of the Board shall be to—

(a) provide the strategic guidance and oversight to the Fund;

(b) ensure that all projects funded under this Act are consistent with the counties priorities specified in the relevant policy documents on county agricultural development and financing;

(c) authorise allocations from the Fund;

(d) formulate and approve standards, guidelines and procedures for funding under this Act;

(e) approve the organizational structure of the Fund;

(f) provide oversight in the utilisation of the Fund; and
(g) perform any other function as may be conferred on it by this Act or any other written law

(h) approve annual work-plans and budgets of the Fund;

(i) advise the county government on any of the matters contained in this Act; and

(j) perform any other function as may be conferred on it by this Act or any other written law.

30. (1) In the discharge of its functions, the Board of Trustees shall have all powers necessary or incidental to achievement of the overriding objective of this Act.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the Board of Trustee shall have powers to—

(a) ensure or enforce compliance with policies, rules, regulations or orders prescribed under this Act;

(b) employ on such terms and conditions as it considers fit such persons as may from time to time be necessary for discharging its functions and, with the approval of the County Executive Committee Member, to pay such remuneration, allowances and other benefits to such employees as may be approved in the circumstances; and

(c) establish such committees or departments for the better carrying out of its functions under this Act as it may deem fit.

31. (1) The Board of Trustees may establish such sub-committees as it may consider necessary for the better performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers under this Act.

(2) The Board of Trustees may co-opt into the membership of a committee established under subsection (1), such persons whose knowledge and skills are found
necessary for the performance of the functions of the sub-committee.

(3) The Board of Trustees may, by resolution either generally or in any particular case, delegate to any committee or to any member, officer, employee or agent of the Committee, the exercise of any of the powers or the performance of any of the functions of the Board of Trustees under this Act or under any other written law.

32. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the business and affairs of the Board of Trustees shall be conducted in accordance with the Schedule.

(2) Except as provided in the Schedule, the Board of Trustees may regulate its own procedure.

33. The Director shall subject to the direction of the Board of Trustees, supervise and manage the Authority’s staff, activities, funds and property, and shall be responsible for the day to day management of the programmes and activities of the Board of Trustees.

PART IV — FUNDING AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

34. (1) The Fund shall comprise—

(a) sums of money which may from time to time be allocated by the County Assembly for that purpose;

(b) income from any investment made by the Fund;

(c) any sums of money borrowed by the Fund with the approval of the County Assembly; and

(d) any gifts, donations, grants and endowments made to the Fund.

(2) There shall be paid out of the Fund any expenditure approved by the County Executive Committee Member and incurred in connection with the administration of the Fund.
35. (1) The Board of Trustees shall approve all disbursements from the Fund.

(2) All disbursements from the Fund shall be for specific projects as approved by the Board of Trustees.

(3) All disbursements shall be made directly to the bank account opened for this purpose by each beneficiary and in accordance with the agreement/contract between the Fund and the Beneficiary.

(4) The Board of Trustees shall set out conditions and requirements for release of funds.

36. All receipts, savings and accruals to the Fund and the balance of the Fund at the end of each financial year shall be retained for the purposes for which the Fund is established.

PART V—PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

37. (1) At the beginning of a financial year, the Board and the County Executive Committee Member may prioritise projects that the Fund may fund.

(2) The Board shall cause to be undertaken a proper impact assessment and proposal for every project to be funded under this Act.

38. (1) Projects under this Act shall be community-based in order to ensure that the prospective benefits are available to a widespread cross-section of the inhabitants.

(2) Any funding under this Act shall be for a complete project or a defined phase, of a project and may include the acquisition of land and buildings.

(3) All projects shall be projects as defined under this Act and may include costs related to studies, planning and design or other technical input for the project but shall not include recurrent costs of a facility.

(4) Funds provided under this Act shall not be used for the purpose of supporting political bodies or political activities or for supporting religious bodies or religious activities.
39. (1) All project proposals that seek to benefit from the Fund shall be submitted by a potential beneficiary to the Director in such form and details as shall be prescribed.

(2) The types of projects submitted for funding under this Act shall comply with the provisions of this Act and in particular, meet the objectives stipulated in this Act.

40. (1) Agricultural officers at the Sub-County, Ward and Village level shall ensure the implementation of all projects funded under this Act as shall be prescribed.

(2) Where a particular project covers several sectors, the Director shall order the formation of an inter-departmental team at the Sub-County, Ward or village level to co-ordinate the optimal and efficient implementation of the project as may be prescribed.

(3) The Director shall monitor the implementation of projects under this Act to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act.

41. (1) All payments for projects to be funded under this Act shall be made, processed and effected in accordance with national government regulations for the time being in force.

(2) All fixed and movable assets, including equipment bought under this Act shall be the property of the Fund to be insured in the name of the Fund.

(3) No asset or equipment acquired under this section shall be disposed of without the prior approval of the Board of Trustees.

(4) Any proceeds that may accrue from the disposal of any asset acquired pursuant to subsection (3) shall be credited to the account of the Fund.

42. (1) This Act does not apply to projects funded wholly by donor institutions.

(2) Board shall apply donor funding requirements and regulations for the implementation of all projects under subsection (1).
43. (1) The Board shall, not later than three months after the end of each financial year, prepare an annual report in respect of that financial year, containing—

(a) the audited financial statements;
(b) the report on the operations of the Fund; and
(c) any other information the County Executive Committee Member may require.

(2) The annual report shall be presented to the County Executive Committee Member who shall cause the report to be tabled before the County Assembly within three months after receiving the Report.

44. The Fund shall be audited and reported upon by the Auditor-General in accordance with the provisions of the Public Audit Act 2013.

45. The Fund shall be managed and administered in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

PART VI—MISCELLANEOUS

46. Any person, who contravenes the provisions of this Act, commits an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings.

47. (1) The County Executive Member may make rules or regulations generally for the better carrying out of the provisions and purposes of this Act.

(2) The Member of the Executive Committee shall in consultation with the Board of Trustees make regulations generally for the better carrying out of the functions related to the Fund under this Act, and without prejudice to the foregoing, may make regulations in respect of the following—

(a) the receipt, processing and approval of project proposals and the granting of loans to applicants;
SECONDO SCHEDULE
S. 14

PROVISIONS AS TO THE CONDUCT OF
BUSINESS AND AFFAIRS OF THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES

1. (1) The Board of Trustees shall meet at such place
as the chairperson may determine and the meetings shall
be convened by the chairperson.

(2) The Board of Trustees shall have at least six
meetings in every financial year and not more than three
months shall elapse between one meeting and the next
meeting.

(3) Unless three quarters of the members otherwise
agree, at least seven days' notice in writing of a meeting
shall be given to every member by the Director.

(4) The chairperson may, at his discretion or at the
written request made by at least half of the members of the
Board of Trustees and within seven days of the request,
convene an extraordinary meeting at such time and place
and he may appoint.

(5) Meetings shall be presided over by the
chairperson or in his or her absence by the vice-
chairperson.

(6) The members of the Board of Trustees shall elect
a vice-chairperson from among themselves—
(a) at the first sitting of the Committee; and
(b) whenever it is necessary to fill the vacancy in the
office of the vice-chairperson.

(7) Where the chairperson or vice-chairperson is
absent, the members shall appoint from among themselves,
a person to chair the meeting of the Committee.
(8) The Board of Trustees may invite any person to attend any of its meetings and to participate in its deliberations, but such person shall not have a vote in any decision of the Committee.

2. (1) If any person has a personal or fiduciary interest in a project, proposed contract or any matter before the Committee, and is present at a meeting of the Board of Trustees at which any matter is the subject of consideration, that person shall as soon as is practicable after the commencement of the meeting, declare such interest and shall not take part in any consideration or discussion of, or vote on any question touching such matter.

(2) A disclosure of interest made under subparagraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is made.

3. (1) Subject to subparagraph (2), the quorum of the Qu'... meeting shall not be less than half of the appointed members of the Committee.

(2) Where the persons present at a meeting of the Board of Trustees do not constitute the quorum necessary to hold a meeting under this Act or where by reason of exclusion of a member from a meeting, the number of members present falls below the quorum necessary to hold a meeting, the Board of Trustees shall postpone the consideration of the matter in question until there is a quorum.

4. A question before the Board of Trustees shall be decided by simple majority of the members present and voting and the chairperson shall, in the case of an equality of votes, have a casting vote.

5. The Board of Trustees shall—

(a) determine rules of procedure for the conduct of its business; and

(b) keep minutes of its proceedings and decisions.
MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Bill seeks to provide for a framework for promotion of agriculture and agricultural activities in the County. It establishes the Agriculture Development Authority, a body corporate charged with the implementation of the Act.

The Bill establishes the Agriculture Development Fund, which shall draw its funds from the moneys allocated to it by the Assembly. The purpose of the fund is to fund prioritized projects on agricultural activities.

The Bill respects the separation of powers of national and county governments and recognizes the critical role assigned to the County with regard to agriculture.

This Bill does not limit any fundamental rights and freedoms.

This Bill concerns the county government.

The operationalization of certain provisions of the proposed law shall entail an additional expenditure of public funds. The funds will be provided for in the estimates.

Dated the 4th November, 2015

HON. MASHA BORU DELA,
Leader of Majority Party, County Assembly of Tana River.