MIGORI COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COUNTY SECRETARY
P. O. Box 195 - 40400

ZUNAPMIGORI

MEMORANDUM ON LEGISLATION OF MIGORI COUNTY NUTRITION POLICY AS PRIORITY IN COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF MIGORI COUNTY NUTRITION ACTION PLAN OF 2022.

SUBM ITTED TO: ASSEMBLY CLERK

MIGORI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

PO BOX 985 - 40400

MIGORI

Email: info@migoriassembly.go.ke

COPIED TO:

• OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COUNTY SECRETARY

Email: info@Migori .go.ke

REPUBLIC OF KENYA MIGORI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

13 AUG 2024

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SUBMITTED ON: AUGUST 2024

ASSEMBLY CLERK
MIGORI COUNTY ASSEMBLY
PO BOX 985 - 40400
MIGORI

Email: info@Migori assembly.go.ke

Date: August 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam

RE: MEMORANDUM ON LEGISLATION OF MIGORI COUNTY NUTRITION POLICY AS PRIORITY IN COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF MIGORI COUNTY NUTRITION ACTION PLAN OF 2022.

The humble memorandum of Migori community members; the memorandum presenters herein whose address for purposes of this memorandum shall be as stated here within the Republic of Kenya RESPECTFULLY state as follows:

- 1. THAT, we are community members of Migori County;
- 2. THAT, we are adult taxpayers of sound mind, and registered voters in Migori County;
- 3. THAT, we are interested parties in this matter, and have the right to present this memorandum.

FACTS GIVING RISE TO THE MEMORANDUM

Developing a nutrition policy in Migori County is critical for a multitude of reasons. Proper nutrition is foundational to human development and has far-reaching implications for health, educational outcomes, economic productivity, and overall quality of life. Below are outlines of the main justifications for developing and implementing a comprehensive nutrition policy in the county:

- I. **Public Health**: **THAT**, malnutrition, in all its forms, including under nutrition, vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and overweight/obesity, contributes to a wide range of health complications. A nutrition policy would aim to reduce the incidence of these conditions, thereby improving the general health of the population;
- 2. **Child Development**: **THAT**, proper nutrition is especially important for children, as it affects their physical and cognitive development. Policies that ensure children receive adequate nutrition can lead to better educational outcomes and set the stage for a healthier adult population;
- 3. **Economic Productivity**: **THAT**, malnutrition has significant economic implications. It impacts an individual's ability to work effectively and can lead to higher healthcare costs. A nutrition policy could improve workforce productivity and, potentially, the overall economic standing of Migori County;
- 4. **Poverty Reduction**: **THAT**, addressing nutrition effectively contributes to poverty reduction strategies. Poor nutrition is both a cause and an effect of poverty, and a policy targeted at improving nutrition can help break this cycle;

- 5. Food Security: THAT, Migori County, with its agricultural potential, stands to benefit greatly from policies that solidify food security while promoting nutritional diversity. This can protect against climate-related food scarcity and economic fluctuations;
- 6. **Sustainable Agriculture: THAT,** a nutrition policy can support sustainable agricultural practices that not only provide sufficient food but also ensure that the food is nutritious. This means promoting crop diversity, conservation agriculture, and other sustainable approaches;
- 7. **Gender Equity**: **THAT**, Migori women and girls often suffer disproportionately from malnutrition. A nutrition policy that includes a focus on gender can help to address these disparities, contributing to more equitable health outcomes;
- 8. Culture and Lifestyle: THAT, Kuria community of Migori County has unique dietary habits and lifestyles. A nutrition policy that respects and incorporates local customs while promoting healthy choices can foster better health outcomes without disrupting cultural practices;
- 9. **Legal Obligation**: **THAT**, as per Article 43(1)(c) of the Constitution of Kenya, there's a legal mandate for the government to ensure that all Kenyans are free from hunger and have access to adequate food of acceptable quality.

Developing a nutrition policy in Migori County would require a multi-sectoral approach that considers the unique environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic factors present in the county. It would also necessitate collaboration among government officials, healthcare providers, agricultural experts, and community members to implement strategies in the most effective manner.

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATION OF THE MEMORANDUM

The legal and constitutional framework in Kenya that would guarantee nutrition policy development, including for particular counties such as Migori, primarily originates from the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and various other national legislations that align with the constitutional mandates and they include:

1. Constitution of Kenya 2010:

- Article 43(1) (c): THAT, this guarantees every person "the right to be free from hunger, and to have adequate food of acceptable quality." This underlines the state's responsibility to ensure access to adequate nutrition for all its citizens;
- Fourth Schedule: THAT, these sets out the distribution of functions between the national government and the county governments. Matters relating to health services, including county health facilities and pharmacies, as well as agriculture, which is closely linked to food production and hence nutrition, are among the functions devolved to the county governments;
- 2. The County Governments Act, 2012: THAT, it provides for the organization and administration of counties and defines the roles and responsibilities of county governments which

include, among other aspects, health services and agriculture, both of which have a direct impact on nutrition;

- 3. The Public Health Act (Cap 242): THAT, it governs the maintenance of public health and provides the government with the authority to oversee and implement programs to enhance the public health, which would involve nutritional policies;
- 4. The Food Security and Nutrition Policy (2011): THAT, although a policy and not a statute, it reflects Kenya's commitment at the national level to address issues of food security and nutrition by realizing the rights provided under Article 43(1)(c) of the Constitution;
- 5. Kenya Vision 2030 and The Medium-Term Plan (MTP): THAT, these are national policy documents that guide Kenya's development efforts, including matters of agricultural productivity and nutrition;

REASONS WHEREFORE our humble prayers are as follows:

- 1. Assessment and Research Prayer: THAT, we request for comprehensive nutritional assessments and research initiatives to identify the dietary needs and challenges of the population in Migori;
- Stakeholder Involvement Prayer: THAT, we call for collaboration between government departments, NGOs, community leaders, health practitioners, and agricultural experts for the formulation of the nutrition policy;
- 3. **Funding Prayer**: **THAT**, we request for appropriate budget allocation and financial support from both the county government and potential donors to fund the policy development and subsequent implementation;
- 4. Legislative Framework Prayer: THAT, we seek the establishment of a legal framework to solidify the policy's provisions and ensure consistency with national laws, such as the Food, Drugs, and Chemical Substances Act and the Kenyan Constitution;
- 5. **Policy Objectives Prayer: THAT**, the County Government of Migori defines clear objectives for the policy which should include the reduction of malnutrition, food insecurity, and diet-related illnesses;
- 6. Implementation Strategies Prayer: THAT, we call for the creation of specific, actionoriented strategies for policy rollout, including nutrition education, food fortification programs, maternal and child health initiatives, and support for sustainable agriculture;

- 7. **Monitoring and Evaluation Prayer: THAT**, we request for the development of a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track policy progress and make necessary amendments over time:
- 8. **Rights-Based Approach Prayer: THAT**, the County Government of Migori ensures that the policy adopts a rights-based approach, in line with Article 43(1)(c) of the Constitution of Kenya, which guarantees the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality;
- 9. Gender and Cultural Consideration Prayer: THAT, we demand that the policy takes into account the unique gender-based nutritional requirements and respects cultural food practices;
- 10. **Education and Awareness Prayer**: **THAT**, the County Government of Migori includes provisions for ongoing public education and awareness campaigns about the importance of nutrition and healthy dietary practices;
- II. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Alignment Prayer: THAT, the County Government of Migori ensures that the policy aligns with relevant Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 2: Zero Hunger.
- 12. **Incentives Prayer**: **THAT**, we request for the creation of incentives to promote and support local food production and consumption that is nutrition-sensitive;
- 13. Emergency Response Prayer: THAT, the County Government of Migori incorporates strategies for nutritional support during emergencies and food crises for designated hardship areas.

SIGNED at MIGORI this AUGUST 2024.

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