

Public Input on the Finance Bill 2025

To the Honourable Members of the Finance and Planning Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose the Finance Bill 2025 in its current form. While I appreciate the effort to open up the public participation process through digital platforms, the content of the bill raises serious concerns for many ordinary Kenyans like myself.

Reasons for Rejection

- 1. Increased Cost of Living**

Many proposals in the Bill will make basic items more expensive. This includes new or increased taxes on essentials like food, fuel, and mobile transactions. At a time when many families are already struggling to afford basic needs, this is deeply unfair and harmful.

- 2. Burden on the Low-Income Population**

The Bill seems to place more pressure on ordinary citizens while offering little relief or incentive to small businesses and low-income earners. Instead of taxing wealth and luxury, the burden is falling on those who are least able to pay.

- 3. Lack of Transparency on Expenditure**

Before asking Kenyans to pay more, the government should show how previous taxes have been used. There is still poor accountability and visible wastage in many public offices. Increasing taxes without fixing corruption only deepens public mistrust.

- 4. Limited Consideration of Long-Term Impact**

By raising taxes on essential services and goods, we risk slowing down economic growth. This will hurt job creation and push more people into poverty.

Recommendations

- 1. Withdraw and Redraft the Bill with Real Public Input**

Begin the process afresh with real engagement of the people. Use town halls and community forums – not just digital tools – so more voices are heard, especially those without internet access.

- 2. Protect Basic Needs**

Remove new taxes on food, fuel, education, healthcare, and other essentials. These are not luxuries – they are survival needs for many households.

- 3. Tax the Wealthy Fairly**

Focus on high-income earners, luxury goods, and profit-making companies. These groups have greater capacity to contribute to national development.

- 4. Cut Government Waste First**

Before raising taxes, reduce unnecessary government spending, eliminate ghost workers, and stop misuse of public funds.

- 5. Support Small Businesses**

Instead of overtaxing them, offer incentives and reduce unnecessary licenses and fees that kill local entrepreneurship.

In conclusion, I urge you to listen carefully to the cries of the people. Kenyans are not just taxpayers – we are the backbone of the economy. We want a fair system that supports growth, not one that adds more suffering.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kitui County.