

RELEASE OF RESEARCH REPORT - PROMOTING GREATER COMMUNITY BENEFIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LARGE SCALE LAND ACQUISITIONS IN KENYA

A report on the **RELEASE OF RESEARCH REPORT - PROMOTING GREATER COMMUNITY BENEFIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LARGE SCALE LAND ACQUISITIONS IN KENYA** forum at Norfolk Hotel. The research was undertaken in Lamu, Isiolo and Siaya Counties. The main focus of this research was to interrogate the existing policy options and criteria for acquisition of land investments in Kenya in the three counties. The research in brief came up with the below major findings:

- 1) **Informal Land administration systems**-There is a general lack of formal land holding and weak land registration across the three counties. This is despite the enactment of new land laws in 2012 to give effect to constitutional provisions to protect land rights. The situation has thus contributed to the emergence of informal land administration and conveyance systems and non-adjudication and registration of community lands.
- 2) **Community land not adjudicated**-The community land in these three counties is largely not adjudicated. This has caused huge anxiety in the communities largely due to the expected land acquisition by the government to pave way for LAPSET infrastructure.
- 3) **Lack of resettlement Safeguards Principles and Practice in Kenyan Law of Compulsory Acquisition of Land**-The current legal framework in Kenya concerning compulsory acquisition of land provides no safeguards governing interaction with the host community. Neither do we have provisions governing involuntary resettlement in the event of displacement by land acquisition. This is in spite of the enactment of the IDP Act 2012.
- 4) **Lack of Policy Linking Investment Flowing from Land Acquisitions to Secure Community Benefit through Contracts and Business Models**-It was noted that the Investment promotion Act was not being aggressively applied. A practical example being the Dominion Contracts in Siaya County where the socio-economic safeguards of the host community were not included.

The above only briefly give an insight of what is on the ground. I carried an original copy of the report to be included in the KPDA library. Kindly find time to go through it.