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**"IMPORTANCE OF THE CONSULTING ENGINEER'S INPUT IN THE  
FORMULATION OF POLICIES AND RELATED LEGISLATION  
FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA."**



- What is a Policy?
- Policy Formulation Process (Kenya Case)
- Salient features of a Policy Framework
- Role of Engineers in Policy/Law Making Process
- Engineers & Politics
- Engineers in Public and private sectors
- Global trends
- Conclusions



# What is a Policy?



## What is a policy?

**Policy is a course or a principle of action adopted or proposed by government, party, business or individual. It is defined by Black law dictionary as the “general principles by which a government is guided in its management of public affairs”**

## Who initiates Policy?

**Policy ideas may originate from the executive and the executive entities, political formations such as parties, business associations, organized groups or individual citizens.**

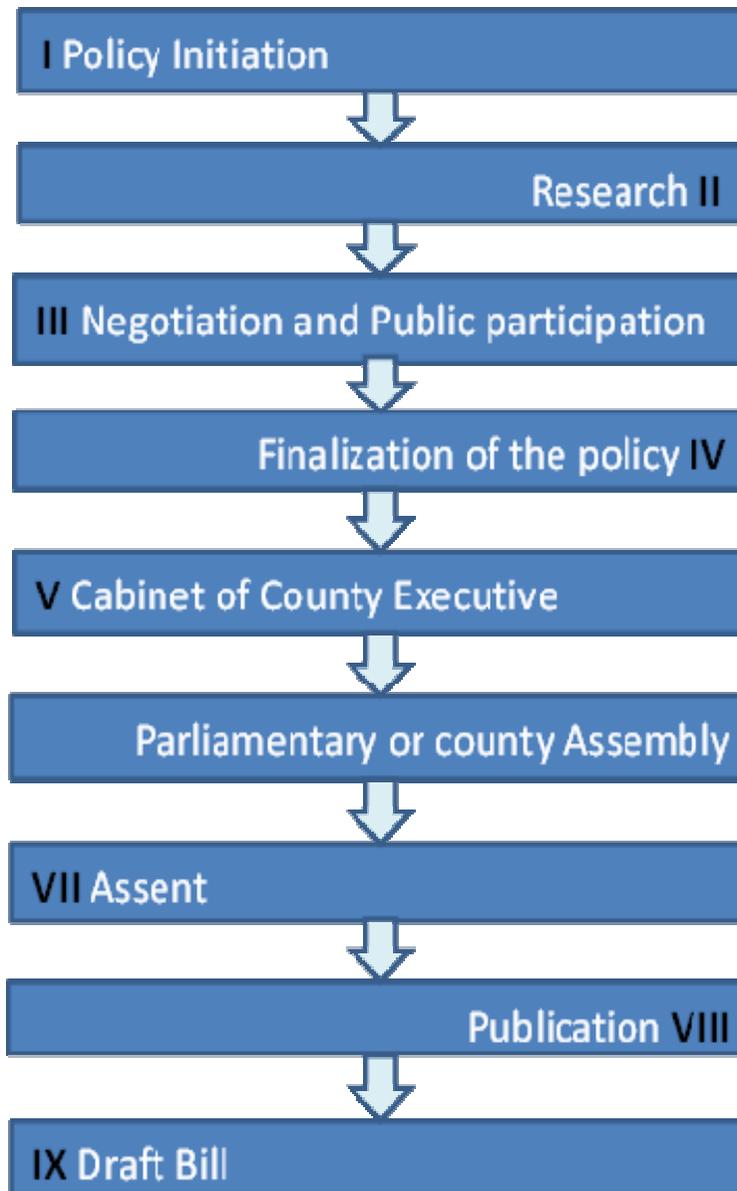
# Policy Formulation Process (Kenya Case):



**The Policy formulation process can be summarized as shown below:**

**Stages in the Formulation Process:**

# Policy Formulation Process (Kenya Case):



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# Policy Formulation Process (Kenya Case):



**Public participation in the policy making process is one of the most important features of the process is public participation in governance and other administrative activities.**

# Salient features of a Policy Framework



**Be forward looking (Long term view of the problem and offer a long term solution)**

**Benefit from experience of others who have resolved similar situations**

**Seek new solutions to old problems by being clear on objectives and outcomes**

**Be based on a study or current analysis of the problem at hand**

**Offer an inclusive solution to all the segments of the community in which it is implemented**

**Fit into the current policies being implemented by other agencies**

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# Salient features of a Policy Framework



**Borrow from best practices and learn from implementation mistakes and successes elsewhere.**

**Must have an in-built communication strategy for dissemination to the public and all stakeholders**

**Should have evaluation and review mechanisms as one of its features**

**Provide a pre – legislation impact assessment statement**

# Role of Engineers in the Policy/Law making Process



**Like other professions, engineers have an indispensable role in law making in any society. Indeed, the principle of self-governance requires the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the state and in making decisions affecting them. Law making is the ultimate decision making process in government.**

**The Role of an engineer in national development must not end at the application of the knowledge of the mathematical and natural sciences, gained by study, experience, and practice in the provision of social amenities like good education, infrastructure, medical care and social services, it must influence the regulatory environment and setting of standards for the actual engineering works.**

# Role of Engineers in the Policy/Law making Process(Contd’')



**Whereas policy and law making is a state function, the engineer must play a critical role in influencing not only the nature laws governing his profession but also the content of legislation regulating the development of technological projects.**

# Role of Engineers in the Policy/Law making Process(Contd’')



**These are many specific aspects of Policy/law making in which engineers must play a fundamental responsibility. These include the following: -**

**All the economic, social and political development in most if not all African countries is anchored on the foundations of macroeconomic stability: Infrastructural development; Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); Land Reforms; Human Resources Development: Security and Public Sector Reforms.**

# Role of Engineers in the Policy/Law making Process Contd''



**Evidently therefore, legislative agenda, in the world, is increasingly getting dominated by issues involving science and technology. Specifically, this affects legislation on infrastructure, industrialization, irrigation, mining, health, transport, water and sanitation.**

**Very few lawmakers or their staffs have engineering or scientific background. This therefore calls the critical input of engineering profession especially when preparing technology and infrastructure related policies and bills. Policy and law makers require technical assistance in order to respond effectively to complex technological issues that impact the work of professional engineers and more so impact the public at large.**

# Role of Engineers in the Policy/Law making Process Contd”



**For our elected officials and some public servants to understand and appreciate scientific and technological endeavors, it is crucial that engineers make an effort to understand the legislative process and work with them at the policy formulation forums as well make their input to the legislative process. As well informed legislator will be in a better position to legislate on matters involving technical aspects like infrastructure, medical care. IT services, good education, and other social services.**

**Decision making for law making is made at the highest level of Government. Involvement of Engineers in politics affords them the opportunity to be at these policy/decision making bodies.**

**Engineers at these levels, use their professional knowledge to attract and defend important engineering infrastructural development projects. Similarly, engineers in politics contribute to the enhancement of the welfare of other Engineers thereby motivating them to higher productivity for national development.**

# Engineers in Public and Private Sector



**Most of the Engineering Development Projects are being conceptualized, designed, supervised, evaluated and certified by the Engineers in the Public Service and also private sector. These Engineers also ensure that these projects are executed according to standards and specifications. The engineer from public service also make necessary input towards the procurement of government led engineering Projects. These engineers stand in a special place in contributing to the government legislative process and even giving advice to policy formulators where necessary.**

**The world is changing with some of the trends being:**

- **The importance of the need to address Climate change concerns**
- **Sustainability**
- **Over the last few decades the provision of infrastructure has undergone profound changes. The public sector was often responsible for provision, but over time given the combination of privatization, technological change and the development of new contracting techniques compelled with the establishment of independent regulatory authorities, private provision accounts for increasing large share of total investment.**

- **Unbundling and market structure (e.g. utilities). To name a few**

**The engineer is well placed to understand these trends and give inputs that address the trends all geared towards long term cost effective solutions.**

# Conclusion



**Unless engineers secure their right of place in a country's legal system, the profession's fate shall remain in the hands of people who know little about engineering and the type of work they do. Further, the infrastructure policies and solutions arising therefrom as unlikely to be the best suited and will most likely add to the financial burdens being shouldered by African countries for poor performance of infrastructure.**

**Engineers must firmly take their seat at the table of opportunity where the fate of infrastructure of our countries is decided.**

Thank you for attending.

