

CONFIDENTIAL

BOARD PAPER NO:14

KENYA PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORATE SERVICES



**ICT AND INNOVATION ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE 1ST QUARTER FY
2024/2025**

January, 2024

BOARD PAPER

Agenda Item: ICT and Innovation Activity Report for the 2nd Quarter FY 2024/2025

Presenter: Secretary to the Board/ Managing Director

1.0 Purpose and Context

This Board Paper presents the status of various ongoing ICT projects/implementations.

2.0 Background

The core functions of KEPHIS are automated through ICT systems to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. Therefore, management is keen on continuous improvement of technologies and services through implementation of ICT infrastructure, solutions and systems.

During the quarter the Management achieved the following:

- a) **IEICS Review of negotiated rates:** Negotiated rates for inspection fees were successfully updated on the systems to 4 cents per kg, for wheat and maize commodities. This applies for weights above 1,000,000kgs.
- b) **IEICS Upgrade of database server:** The database server for IEICS system was successfully upgraded. This has improved the access speeds of the system resolving the slow speeds previously experienced by users when using the system.
- c) **Internet Links Upgrade:** Internet links in Kitale, Nakuru, Busia, Suam have since been changed from microwave to fiber connectivity for better internet link speeds.
- d) **Cloud hosting services:** Cloud hosting services for critical systems; IEICS & SCPVP, has been migrated to Konza Technopolis, who have been contracted to provide the services for 3 years period with room for renewal based on performance. The systems are stable after migration with not service interruptions experienced.

The following are the ongoing projects: -

1. **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system:** All pending items as per the user requirements for Finance, Human Capital, SCM, Risk, Transport, Meeting

and Accommodation were gathered and compiled. The status report as at November 2024 was shared in the last full board meeting, no further progress has been made, main challenge has been the service provider taking too long to work on outstanding issues, hence the set timelines have not been met.

2. **SC-PVP system enhancements and E-citizen integration:** seven areas for enhancements of the SC-PVP systems was completed successfully and 67 other issues relating to system user issues/challenges were resolved, tested, commissioned to production and signed off. This was after an intensive engagement with CSM technologies developers who availed their resource physically at KEPHIS for two weeks period from 11th-22nd November 2024. They also committed to continue resolving other system issues raised by users during the exercise, but also pointed out the need to have a support SLA with KEPHIS.
3. **LIMS system:** The user requirements for the ACL and molecular labs were reviewed and updated to identifying any gaps that had not been captured in the initial requirements gathering. System testing is ongoing, with an aggregate pass rate of 59.33% for the 14 modules. There were some delays with the service provider resolving the pending issues as per the UAT results/report shared.

3.0 Financial Implication

The financial implications as a result of the above mentioned ICT projects and initiatives were budgeted and approved for in the FY 2024/25 budget allocation.

4.0 Risk Analysis

The management is conscious of information security and rapid change of technology risks and has put in place plans to mitigate the risks.

Some of the risks identified are:

- a) Inadequate number of staff supporting systems and capacity building on ICT legal regulatory framework and skills for staff working in ICT department and sensitization of stakeholders. Several training exercises have been scheduled with various service providers for purposes of knowledge transfer.

- b) Inadequate budget allocation and therefore Management has looked for alternate donor funding through TMA.
- c) Lack of technical knowledge on the core mandate process workflows to offer sufficient ICT support. Engagement of ICT staff in core mandate activities to offer quality support to ICT systems.

5.0 Legal compliance

The proposed projects are aimed at complying with the Data Protection Act of 2019; ISO 27001 Information Security Management System (ISMS) standards and the Government ICT Standards.

6.0 Management Responsibility

The Management shall ensure that the proposals made will be executed as per the approval of the Board.

7.0 Submission:

That the Committee:

- a. Receive and consider the ICT and Innovation for the 1st Quarter FY 24/25; and
- b. Recommend the adoption of the Report by the full Board.

Secretary to the Board