

Abstract – NEC 2024 Conference in China

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

Presenter's full name (title, name, surname)	Awuor PONGE, PhD
Nationality	KENYAN
Gender	MALE
Country of residence	KENYA
Institutional affiliation	African Policy Centre (APC) and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science & Technology (JOUUST)
Contact information including email and telephone	awuorponge@gmail.com +254 721 962 660
Title of the abstract	One Step Forward, Three Steps Backwards – The Elimination of Funding for Supporting Monitoring and Evaluation Function and the likely Impacts for Kenya.
Conference session	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Stream B. Inclusive National Evaluation Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Stream C. Future Driven Systems and Approaches
Name(s), title(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of all other authors / contributors (if applicable)	None
Preferred format:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal presentation (maximum 10 minutes) <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in a panel discussion where the experience can be shared <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in an interactive session where the example can be shared, without a formal presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____
I will need to apply for bursary support, if selected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Language to be used for presentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese

Abstract Text (Max. 500 words)

Kenya has made significant progress in developing its national evaluation capacity since the early 2000s. In 2004, Kenya launched its National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) with the establishment of the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (MED) in the Ministry of Planning and National Development. This system is used to track implementation progress of the Kenya Vision 2030 and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). A national M&E Policy was approved in 2012, and a revised version was tabled and approved in 2022. The United Nations agencies, particularly UNDP and UNICEF, played an important role in the

development of Kenya's national evaluation systems alongside other development partners. On the backdrop of the recently rejected Financial Bill in Kenya, in July 2024, following weeks of protests against over-taxation, the Government has decided to cut all funding for the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) function in the recent budget cuts and instructed accounting officers to eliminate the budget allocations for Monitoring and Evaluation. This move is likely to have significant negative impacts. M&E is critical for tracking the implementation and impact of development programs and policies, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Without dedicated resources for M&E, the government will lack the data and evidence needed to make informed decisions and ensure accountability. This could undermine Kenya's progress in building a robust national evaluation capacity, which has been supported by UN agencies and other partners over the past two decades. Cutting M&E funding risks weakening the country's ability to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of its development efforts, ultimately hindering progress towards its national development goals. Against this backdrop, this presentation will discuss the following aspects of this emerging scenario:

- Why specifically, has the Kenyan government targeted the monitoring and evaluation function for funding cut?
- How will the elimination of M&E funding impact Kenya's ability to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development plans?
- What steps can the Kenyan government take to rebuild a robust national evaluation capacity in light of these budget cuts, with support from development partners and civil society?
- What role can the Academia and Civil Society Organization play in the Kenyan context in this emerging environment?