

Middle Belt Development Authority Bill, 2017

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MIDDLE BELT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACT, 2017

AN ACT to establish the Middle Belt Development Authority to provide a framework for the accelerated economic and social development of the Middle Belt Development Zone and for related matters.

Passed by Parliament and assented to by the President:

Establishment of the Middle Belt Development Authority

Establishment of the Authority

1. (1) There is established by this Act a body corporate with perpetual succession to be known as the Middle Belt Development Authority.

(2) The Authority may, for the performance of its functions, acquire and hold movable and immovable property, dispose of property and enter into any contract or any other transaction relating to the object of the Authority.

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(3) Where there is hindrance to the acquisition of property, the property may be acquired for the Authority under the State Lands Act, 1962 (Act 125) and the cost shall be borne by the Authority.

Objects of the Authority

2. The objects of the Authority are to

- (a) accelerate economic and social development in the Middle Belt Development Zone through strategic direction in the planning and prioritisation of development projects;
- (b) mobilise public resources including financial resources and private and public investments for the accelerated economic and social development of the Middle Belt Development Zone;
- (c) co-ordinate development activities in the Middle Belt Development Zone with the aim of ensuring that
 - (i) public resources are effectively utilised; and
 - (ii) private investments achieve maximum development impacts to reduce poverty and deprivation in each constituency; and
- (d) formulate and implement initiatives towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of vulnerable groups in the Middle Belt Development Zone.

Functions of the Authority

3. For the realisation of the short term and long term plans, the Authority shall

- (a) design a comprehensive development strategy;
- (b) oversee the application of the annual allocation by the Central Government to each constituency in the Middle Belt Development Zone;
- (c) establish structures and institutions for the effective implementation of the comprehensive development strategy;
- (d) facilitate processes for consensus building among relevant stakeholders;
- (e) establish a co-ordinated system of resource mobilisation for the Middle Belt Development Zone;
- (f) establish venture capital or other risk finance instruments or institutions to mobilise finance for investments;

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- (g) implement programmes to maximise the economic and social development potential of the Middle Belt Development Zone;
- (h) execute identified relevant projects in a community in the Middle Belt Development Zone that will stimulate the modernisation of agricultural development and competitiveness of small scale farmers through irrigation, improved technology and promote efficiency for the domestic and export market;
- (i) facilitate private sector development initiatives;
- (j) stimulate investments and business developments to create jobs and increase income;
- (k) invest in economic and social infrastructure including roads, energy, water resources and communication to create the pre-conditions for accelerated economic and social development;
- (l) facilitate programmes on improved access to food, sustainable livelihoods and safety-net investments for low income areas;
- (m) co-operate with key statutory institutions including the National Development Planning Commission, Ministries, Departments, Agencies, District Assemblies and other entities to ensure conformity with the national development plan to avoid duplication of functions;
- (n) implement programmes to support mainstreaming of gender and other issues of vulnerability through co-operation with the Ministry responsible for Gender, Children and Social Protection, other relevant Ministries and civil society organisations;
- (o) serve as an agent of the Government in public private partnership initiatives in the Middle Belt Development Zone and initiate public private partnerships directly in the Middle Belt Development Zone;
- (p) establish a system of monitoring and evaluation to ensure that strategic targets and results are met in a timely and appropriate manner;
- (q) co-ordinate the planning and implementation of integrated development activities for the realisation of the short term and long term plans for the Middle Belt Development Zone;