

THE NATIONAL ADDRESSING BILL, 2023

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

PART I—PRELIMINARY

- 1—Short title
- 2—Interpretation.
- 3—Objects of the Act.
- 4—Application.
- 5—Guiding Principles.

PART II—ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL ADDRESSING SYSTEM

- 6—Overall Responsibility at national level.
- 7—Role of the Communications Authority.
- 8—Powers of the Authority.
- 9—Overall responsibility at the county level.
- 10—Establishment of County Addressing Unit
- 11 —Powers of the County Addressing Unit.

PART III—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL ADDRESSING SYSTEM

- 12—Components of National Addressing System.
- 13—Address attributes
- 14 —Address information database.
- 15—National addressing standards.
- 16—Postcodes

PART IV – ADDRESSING PROCEDURES

- 17—Principles on conduct of Addressing.
- 18—Procedure to assign an Address.

19—Input into the Address Information Database.

20 —Verification of addresses

21—Change of Address

22—Deregistration of an address.

PART IV – GENERAL PROVISIONS

23—General Offences

24—Regulations.

25—Dispute Resolution

26—Personal Data Protection.

27—Amendments of *No. 2 of 1998*.

SCHEDULE

THE NATIONAL ADDRESSING BILL, 2023

A Bill for

AN ACT of Parliament to establish a National Addressing System; to provide for the administrative framework for address assignment and management; and for connected purposes.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows—

PART I—PRELIMINARY

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the National Addressing Act, 2023.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“address” means structured information that allows the unambiguous determination of an addressable object for purposes of identification and location;

“addressing” means the process of naming and numbering of addressable objects for purposes of allocating addresses;

“address information” means any information relating to the identification and location of physical locations and properties, including land parcel numbers, road centre-lines, road names, buildings, building units, street names, geographical name or geo-codes;

“addressable object” means a physical location, building, road, street or property that may be assigned an address for the purposes of identification and location;

No. 2 of 1998.

“Authority” means the Communications Authority of Kenya established under section 3 of the Kenya and Information Communications and Act, 1998;

“Cabinet Secretary” means the Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters related to information, communication and technology;

“County Executive Committee member” means the county executive committee member responsible for physical planning in a respective county;

“Holder of address data” means any person who possesses address data;

“National Addressing System” means the National Addressing System established under section 12;

Cap 496.

“National Addressing Standards” means the standards relating to matters of addressing declared in accordance with the Standards Act;

No. 2 of 1998

“Tribunal” means the Communications and Multimedia Appeals Tribunal established under section 102 of the Kenya Information and Communications Act, 1998;

“postcode” means a unique set of characters assigned to a service delivery area or administrative locality, primarily used for the efficient routing and delivery of mail to addresses within that area.

Objects of the Act.

3. The objects of this Act are to—

- (a) ensure that all addressable objects in the country are identified by an address;
- (b) provide for the establishment of a comprehensive and reliable National Addressing System;
- (c) promote commerce and economic development through accurate and reliable addressing;
- (d) enhance the efficiency of public and private services dependent on address information; and
- (e) support emergency response and disaster management efforts.

Application of the Act.

4. This Act shall apply to all persons involved in the development, maintenance, use and dissemination of address information in Kenya.

Guiding principles.

5. The implementation of this Act shall adhere to the following guiding principles—

- (a) ensuring that addressing initiatives involve and engage all relevant stakeholders;
- (b) promoting cooperation between national and county governments, while respecting the functional and institutional integrity of each level of government;

- (c) ensuring that addressing processes are transparent, with clear lines of responsibility and mechanisms for holding stakeholders accountable;
- (d) promoting the development and maintenance of addressing systems that are environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable; and
- (e) fostering an addressing that respects privacy and data protection principles.

DRAFT

**PART II— ADMINISTRATION OF
THE NATIONAL ADDRESSING
SYSTEM**

Overall Responsibility
at national level.

6. The overall management of the National Addressing System is vested in the Authority.

Role of the
Communications
Authority.

7. (1) The Authority shall be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of addressing systems throughout Kenya.

(2) In particular, the Authority shall—

- (a) establish, maintain and administer the National Addressing System;
- (b) ensure effective and efficient use of shared national addressing infrastructure;
- (c) monitor the implementation of the national addressing standards;
- (d) establish procedures for verifying and validating addresses;
- (e) promote international cooperation in matters relating to addressing;
- (f) provide technical assistance to county governments and other stakeholders on matters relating to the addressing;
- (g) ensure the seamless integration of the national addressing system with various operations of holders of address data;
- (h) facilitate alternative dispute resolution mechanisms on disputes arising under this Act; and
- (i) perform such other related functions as may be assigned by any other law or as may be necessary to achieve the objects of this Act.

Powers of the Authority.

8. The Authority shall have all the powers necessary for the performance of its functions under this Act, and in particular, shall have the power to—

- (a) request and obtain information from any relevant persons to fulfill its functions;
- (b) issue administrative guidelines and directives to ensure compliance with this Act;
- (c) inspect and monitor the implementation and adherence to the National Addressing System; and
- (d) establish and maintain partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

Overall Responsibility at the County Level

9. A County Executive Committee Member responsible for physical planning in a county shall, in coordination with the Authority, be responsible for the efficient implementation of this Act within their respective county.

Establishment of County Addressing Unit

10. (1) Each county shall establish a County Addressing Unit within the respective county public service to conduct addressing under this Act.

(2) The functions of the Unit shall be to—

- (a) assign an address to every addressable object in a county;
- (b) enter every assigned address into the address database operated by the Authority;
- (c) ensure compliance with this Act in addressing addressable objects in the county;
- (d) supervise the installation of signage containing addresses allocated under this Act for an addressable object;
- (e) prepare and submit annual implementation reports of addressing function in a county to the respective county assembly;
- (f) periodically verify addresses assigned and registered with the National Address System to ensure accuracy and currency;
- (g) raise public awareness about the requirements of this Act within their respective county;

- (h) promote effective coordination and integration of county addressing; and
- (i) advise on the mobilization of adequate resources for the preparation and implementation of addressing strategies.

Powers of the County Addressing Unit.

11. To ensure compliance with this Act, the County Addressing Unit shall have the power to—

- (a) conduct inspections of addressable objects within the county to ensure compliance with the Act;
- (b) provide guidance and support to property owners and occupiers on addressing matters, including address allocation and display requirements;
- (c) impose fines or penalties for non-compliance with the Act;
- (d) direct any person to display their assigned address in a conspicuous manner in accordance with the Act;
- (e) require any person, property owner, or occupier to adopt an address within the county; and
- (f) access any information or records necessary to carry out its functions.

PART III — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL ADDRESSING SYSTEM OF KENYA

Components of National Addressing System of Kenya.

12. (1) There is established the National Addressing System of Kenya.

(2) The National Addressing System shall consist of the following components—

- (a) an assigned address;
- (b) address information database;
- (c) national Addressing Standards;
- (d) postcodes; and
- (e) addressing procedures.

Address attributes.

13. (1) Every addressable object in Kenya shall be assigned an address under this Act.

(2) The Authority shall—

- (a) ensure that the format and structure of an address are consistent throughout the country;
- (b) take measures to prevent the assignment of duplicate or conflicting addresses

(3) The address assigned may include –

- (a) name of the recipient or addressee;
- (b) name of the addressable object;
- (c) street name or number, or other identifier for the location of the addressable object;
- (d) name of the county, locality, town or city; or
- (e) postcode or other identifier.

(4) A property owner shall display the assigned address on the property in a visible and legible manner.

Address information
database

14. (1) The Authority shall develop and maintain an Address Information Database for the purpose of recording and storing all addresses assigned under this Act.

(2) The Address Information Database shall be the primary reference point for all assigned addresses in Kenya and shall be used for the purposes of verifying, updating, and maintaining address data.

(3) The County Addressing Unit shall be responsible for entering all assigned addresses into the Address Information Database in a timely and accurate manner.

(4) The Authority shall ensure Address Information Database is—

- (a) interoperable with other relevant government systems to enable efficient and effective exchange of address information; and
- (b) secure, reliable, and accessible to authorized users in accordance with data protection principles.

National addressing standards

15. (1) The Authority, in consultation with a relevant standards body, shall develop National Addressing Standards.

(2) The matters that the National Addressing Standards shall—

- (a) provide a uniform and consistent approach for assigning and using addresses;
- (b) ensure that addresses are precise, up-to-date, and correctly associated with their respective addressable objects;
- (c) establish a common format and structure for addresses that can be easily integrated with and understood by various systems, databases, and stakeholders;
- (d) establish protocols for the design and installation of signage and numbering systems;
- (e) define procedures and best practices for collecting, managing, and sharing address data, ensuring high-quality and reliable information;
- (f) accommodate the diverse and evolving needs of communities, businesses, and public services in different geographical areas and sectors;
- (g) enable addressing systems to adapt to changes in technology, urban development, and social and economic factor; and
- (h) any other matter that may be contained in a standard.

(3) The National Addressing Standards shall be used by the Authority and County Addressing Units to ensure consistency and accuracy in the assignment and validation of addresses.

(4) The National Addressing Standards shall be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the evolving needs of addressing in Kenya.

Postcodes.

16. (1) The Authority shall develop and maintain a system of postcodes for use in the addressing system.

(2) A postcode shall be a unique alphanumeric code assigned to a specific area for the purpose of facilitating the efficient sorting, processing, and delivery of mail and parcels.

(3) The County Addressing Unit shall ensure that all assigned addresses assigned incorporate appropriate postcode and provide public awareness on the use and significance of postcodes in the addressing system.

(4) The Authority may periodically review and modify the structure and allocation of postcodes to accommodate changes in population, administrative boundaries, or other relevant factors.

PART IV – ADDRESSING PROCEDURES

Principles on conduct of Addressing.

17. The conduct of addressing shall aim to—

- (a) assign accurate and precise addresses that reflect the actual location and characteristics of the addressable object;
- (b) ensure that addresses are easily accessible and usable by all stakeholders;
- (c) encourage collaboration among stakeholders; and
- (d) ensure addressing is operated in a manner that benefits all the people and contributes to the development of the country.

Procedure to assign an address

18. (1) A person who owns or occupies an addressable object within a county shall register with the County Addressing Unit to be assigned an address.

(2) The County Addressing Unit may request from a person seeking to register an address any necessary information required for registration of an address.

(3) The information required under subsection (2) may include the particulars of the addressable object, the physical address, postcode, or other identifier.

(4) The County Addressing Unit shall assign an address to an applicant who satisfies the requirement of this section.

(5) No fee shall be charged for the registration of an address.

(6) Despite this section, to ensure universal addressing in a county, the County Addressing Unit may assign an address where the owner or occupier fails or is unable to register.

Input into the Information System

19. (1) The County Addressing Unit shall enter all assigned addresses into the Address Information Database as soon as practicable after they are assigned.

(2) The Authority may assign addresses to geographical locations or other features listed in the National Gazetteer of geographical names into the Information System.

Verification of addresses

20. The County Addressing Unit shall periodically verify addresses assigned and registered to ensure adherence to the national addressing standards and accuracy of the address data.

Changes of an Address

21. (1) In the event of any changes to a component of an address, the owner or occupier of an addressable object shall notify the County Addressing Unit.

(2) Upon verification of the change, the County Addressing Unit shall update the address information database to ensure that the address remains accurate and up-to-date.

Deregistration of an address

22. (1) The County Addressing Unit may deregister an address under the following conditions—

- (a) if the address is inaccurate or duplicated;
- (b) if the character of the addressable object has changed;
- (c) where the addressable object has been merged or subdivided and a new address has been assigned; or
- (d) or any other justifiable condition.

(2) A person seeking to deregister an address shall provide sufficient justification to support the request.

(3) The County Addressing Unit shall consider the request for deregistration and either—

- (a) approve the request and update the information system accordingly; or

- (b) decline the request.

PART V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

General Offences.

23. Any person who commits any of the following offences under this Act shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both such fine and imprisonment—

- (a) fails to provide the Authority or the County Addressing Unit with address data under the Act;
- (b) carries out addressing within the Republic contrary to this Act;
- (c) holds himself out as having authority to perform any function or exercise any authority under the Act when he does not hold that authority;
- (d) abets or introduces any data into the national addressing system without approval;
- (e) vandalizes any infrastructure developed under this Act;
- (f) obstructs, covers, paints over any signage made under this Act;
- (g) fails to comply with any direction, including administrative directions given by the Authority or County Addressing Unit under this Act;
- (h) furnishes the Authority or County Addressing Unit with any information or produces any document which is false or misleading;
- (i) knowingly and willingly obstructs the Authority or County Addressing Unit in the performance of any functions under this Act.

Regulations.

24. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may make regulations for the better carrying out of the provisions and purposes of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Regulations may provide for—

No. 23 of 2013.

(Cap. 2)

- (a) procedure and criteria for addressing of addressable objects;
- (b) fees applicable under the Act;
- (c) criteria for change of names and address;
- (d) dispute resolution and complaints handling procedure for matters of addressing; or
- (e) any other matter that the Cabinet Secretary may deem necessary.

Dispute Resolution.

25. (1) Where a dispute arises between the national and county government or amongst county governments in relation to any matter under this Act, the parties shall resolve the dispute in accordance with the mechanisms provided for under the Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2012.

No. 2 of 2012.

26. (2) Where any person is aggrieved by a decision of the County Addressing Unit the person shall appeal to the Tribunal.

Personal Data Protection.

No. 24 of 2019.

27. The provisions of the Data Protection Act, 2019 shall apply on any processing of personal data under this Act.

Amendments of *No. 2 of 1998*

28. The Kenya Information and Communications Act, 1998 is amended in the manner specified under the Schedule.

		SCHEDULE CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS (s. 27)
	The Kenya Information and Communications Act, 1998 is amended as follows;	
	Provision	Amendment
	s. 2	Insert the following new definition in the proper alphabetical sequence—

		“Addressing” has the meaning assigned to it under the National Addressing Act;
	s. 102(1)(b)	Insert the word “national addressing” immediately after the words “and experience in”.
	s. 102A(1)(c)	Insert the words “or the National Addressing Act” immediately after the words “under this Act”.
	s. 102C (3)	Insert the words “or the National Addressing Act” immediately after the words “Media Council Act”.
	s. 102C (6)	Insert the words “or the National Addressing Act” immediately after the words “Media Council Act”.
	s. 102D(1)(a)	Insert the words “or the National Addressing Act” immediately after the words “Media Council Act”.
	s. 102F (1)	Delete subsection (1) and substitute therefor the following new subsection— (1) Unless otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the Media Council Act, the National Addressing Act or any other law, where this Act, the Media Council Act or the National Addressing Act, empowers the Media Council, the Communications Authority of Kenya to make decisions, such decisions may be subject to an appeal to the Tribunal in accordance with such procedures as may be established by the Tribunal for that purpose.

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The primary object of the Addressing Bill in Kenya is to establish a comprehensive and efficient national addressing system that facilitates the assignment, validation, and use of addresses across the country. The Bill seeks to achieve this by outlining the framework for the development, implementation, and management of addressing initiatives at both the national and county levels, as well as by defining the roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders.

The key reasons and objectives for the Addressing Bill are as follows:

Improve Service Delivery: A well-structured addressing system is essential for the effective delivery of various public and private services, including mail and parcel delivery, emergency response, utility services, and location-based services.

Enhance Public Safety and Security: Accurate and reliable addresses are crucial for emergency services, such as police, fire, and ambulance services, to quickly locate and respond to incidents, thereby saving lives and property.

Support Economic Development: A robust addressing system facilitates trade, commerce, and investment by enabling businesses to efficiently locate and communicate with customers, suppliers, and partners, and by improving access to services and resources.

Promote Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Development: Addressing information is vital for urban and regional planning, infrastructure development, and the allocation of public resources, as it enables authorities to identify and analyze spatial patterns and trends.

Strengthen Governance and Accountability: Addressing systems enable governments to effectively administer and monitor public services and resources, track and manage assets, and implement and enforce regulations and policies.

Facilitate Data Collection and Analysis: Accurate and standardized addresses are essential for the collection, management, and analysis of spatial and demographic data, which in turn inform evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation.

Foster Digital Inclusion and Innovation: Addressing systems are a prerequisite for the widespread adoption of digital technologies and services, such as e-commerce, e-government, and the Internet of Things, as well as for the development of innovative location-based applications and solutions.

The Addressing Bill provides the necessary legislative framework to achieve these objectives by:

- (a) establishing the National Addressing System of Kenya and defining its components, including assigned addresses, address information databases, national addressing standards, postcodes, and addressing procedures;

- (b) setting out the guiding principles for the implementation of the addressing system, such as stakeholder engagement, inter-governmental cooperation, transparency, sustainability, and data protection;
- (c) defining the roles, responsibilities, and functions of the relevant authorities and stakeholders, including the national authority, county addressing units, and the standards body;
- (d) establishing provisions for the registration, assignment, and validation of addresses, as well as the development and maintenance of the address information database and postcode system;
- (e) laying down the national addressing standards and requirements for addressing-related activities, including data collection, management, sharing, and dispute resolution;
- (f) setting out penalties for non-compliance with the provisions of the Act.

The Bill seeks to assist the county governments, in consultation with the national government, to coordinate, implement and manage the National Addressing System.

The Bill has also provided for a mechanism for resolving disputes arising from the implementation of the Act by establishing a Tribunal.

The specific provisions are as specified herein:

PART I (Clause 1- 5) of the Bill contains the preliminary provisions.

PART II (Clause 6) of the Bill contains administrative provisions in relation to addressing.

PART III (Clause 7 – 13) of the Bill contains provisions on establishment of the National Addressing System.

PART IV (Clause 14-16) of the Bill contains Addressing procedures

PART V (Clause 7) provides for general provisions.

PART VI (Clause 20) provides for power to make Regulations to give effect to the provisions of the Act.

PART VII—(Clause 21) provides for general matters such as dispute Resolution and the requirement for protection of personal data.

By enacting the Addressing Bill, Kenya aims to create a robust, accurate, and efficient national addressing system that will contribute to the country's social, economic, and environmental development, as well as enhance public safety, governance, and digital inclusion.

Statement on delegation of legislative powers and limitation of fundamental rights and freedoms

The Bill delegates legislative power to the Cabinet Secretary to make regulations. The Bill does not limit any fundamental rights or freedoms.

Statement as to whether the Bill is a money Bill within the meaning of Article 114 of the Constitution

The enactment of this Bill may occasion additional expenditure of public funds.

Statement as to whether the Bill Concerns County Governments

This Bill is a Bill concerning county governments within the meaning of Article 110 and the Fourth schedule to the Constitution.

Dated the....., 2023.

ELIUD OWALO

Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy.