



INFORMATION ON TRANSITION TO THE PBO ACT FRAMEWORK FOR EXISTING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

About the Authority

The Public Benefit Organizations Regulatory Authority is a State corporation established by the Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Act, 2013. Section 42 of the Act provides for the mandate of the Authority as:

- To register and deregister public benefit organizations in accordance with the Act;
- Maintain a register of PBOs registered under the Act with the precise sectors, affiliations and locations of their activities;
- Interpret the national policy on PBOs so as to assist in its smooth implementation and observance by Government ministries, department and agencies at various levels;
- Receive and review annual reports as well as monitor operations of PBOs
- Issue forms, instructions, and model documents;
- Facilitate information sharing and networking between PBOs and the Government;
- Institute inquiries to determine if the activities of PBOs do not comply with this Act or any other law;
- Provide advice and training to PBOs;
- Oversight and monitor PBOs that are at risk of terrorism financing;
- Do anything incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

Background

Following the operationalization of the PBO Act, 2013 effective May 14, 2024, the Authority under the guidance of the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration, and in consultation with stakeholders embarked on the process of developing PBO Regulations. This was aimed at providing a framework for the management and oversight of PBOs.

The Cabinet Secretary published the PBO Regulations, 2026 on March 18, 2026 and transmitted them to the National Assembly for consideration. The Parliamentary Committee on Delegated Legislation approved and acceded to the Regulations on April 9, 2026. This marked the start of the implementation of the PBO regulatory framework.

Automatic Transition

Organizations registered under the NGOs Co-ordination Act No.19 of 1990 (now repealed) are **NOT** required to apply for re-registration, as their transition to the PBO Act framework is automatic as provided under Paragraph 5(1) of the Fifth Schedule.

It is important to note that Sections 7, 8, 11 and 42(1)(b) of the PBO Act obligates the Authority to maintain a Register of all PBOs operating in Kenya, including the area of activities of the organization, registered officials, detailed asset inventory and any other information that the Authority may deem necessary or as provided in the Regulations.

In view of the foregoing and as expressly provided for in the PBO Regulations, 2026, the Authority hereby unreservedly calls upon all PBOs to update their records in line with Regulation 43.

National and International PBOs.

The PBOs are required to provide the following information and documents to the Authority for purposes of being entered into the Register of PBOs as a National or International PBO:

1. Particulars of the organization and the governing body
2. Revised constitution in accordance with the Act
3. Minutes containing two resolutions:
 - i. Entry into the PBO Register as a PBO in accordance with the PBO Act, 2013 and Regulation 43.
 - ii. Amendment of the Constitution to align with the PBO Act requirements.
4. Copy of Certificate of Registration as a Non-Governmental Organization under the repealed Act.

Important Notes

1. This advisory does not apply to automatic transition of international organizations to Exempt status.
2. Information and documentation to be submitted through the eCitizen platform through a link to be provided in due course.
3. The Authority does not charge for this service.

4. The Authority upon receipt of your information and documentation shall issue a certificate in accordance with the PBO Act.
5. The certificate will bear a new registration number reflecting the PBO status and in line with the updated register of PBOs.
6. The certificate will also bear the organization's initial date of registration and registration number under the repealed Act to facilitate seamless transition with donors, partners, service providers and other government entities.
7. In case of clarification or enquiries, please contact:

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