

THE KENYA SPACE BILL 2024

VIFFA CONSULT COMMENTS TO DRAFT BILL

Point of contact:

Victor Otieno, Managing Director, Viffa Consult Limited

victor@viffaconsult.co.ke / +254723982528

Submitted by:



The Director General
Kenya Space Agency

P.O.Box 7046-00200

Nairobi

Dear Sir,

Re: SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS TO THE KENYA SPACE BILL 2024 BY VIFFA CONSULT LIMITED

S/No	Section of regulation	Proposal/Comments	Justification
1	Functions of the Agency 6 6. (1) The Agency shall have the responsibility to (f) promote capacity building in space science and technology and its applications;	(f) Support establishment of market driven space curriculum in coordination with state corporations under ministry of education and in partnership with private sector and other international government agencies	Talent development is a key factor in enabling Kenya to harness the full potential of space innovation and is captured in the Science Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA) together with infrastructure, enabling policy and stakeholder collaboration among others. There is need for systematic nurturing and continuous pipeline development of talent through <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improving quality of education and link to industry2. Unlocking potential of TVET and

			<p>linking with industry</p> <p>3. Capacity building programs in form of knowledge exchange, secondment and apprenticeship /fellowship programs in partnership with private sector and other international government agencies in mature markets</p>
2	<p>Functions of the Agency 6 6. (1) The Agency shall have the responsibility to (g) establish space centres;</p>	<p>(g) establish space innovation centres through either; government funding, public private partnership or international collaboration.</p>	<p>Cognizant of limited resources and continued shrinking fiscal headroom; there is need for innovative partnership that will allow sustainable establishment and running of a space innovation center that support and nurture space startups, fostering innovation and technology commercialization, develop mechanisms to transfer space technologies developed at the</p>

			center to other sectors, stimulating economic growth and job creation
3	<p>Functions of the Agency 6 6. (1) The Agency shall have the responsibility to</p> <p>(k) promote and support acquisition for effective management and utilisation of space-derived data;</p>	<p>(k) Promote and support acquisition for effective management and utilisation of space-derived data in coordination with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner established under Data protection act 2019</p>	<p>There is need for national coordination of data that is non military under the body established under the constitution with the mandate</p>
4	<p>Functions of the Agency 6 6. (1) The Agency shall have the responsibility to</p> <p>(o) provide leadership in coordinating and supporting research in space science and technology;</p>	<p>(o) Provide leadership in coordination with Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA), National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and National Research Fund (NRF) established under the science, technology and innovation act 2013 to support the advancement of research and development in space technology in Kenya</p>	<p>The Science, Technology and Innovation Act of 2013 provides the legal framework to facilitate the promotion, coordination and regulation of the process of ST&I; assign priority to the development of ST&I and entrench the same in the national planning and production systems. Further, the Act establishes three institutions; Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA), National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and National Research Fund (NRF) to support the advancement of</p>

			ST&I in Kenya. There is need for coordinated research and development from across government
5	<p>Powers of the Agency</p> <p>7. In the performance of its functions, the Agency shall have powers</p> <p>(b) to establish advisory space committees from time to time to assist in any specified duties in carrying out its function;</p>	<p>(b) to establish an advisory space committee composed of government, private sector and international multilateral space agencies with expertise in space science research, Aerospace engineering and technology, space policy and law, space entrepreneurship and education and outreach Specialists to assist in any specified duties in carrying out its function;</p>	<p>An indicative guidance on such committee composition is critical to help create awareness and attract relevant stakeholders to enable agency achieve its mandate</p>

About Viffa Consult

Viffa Consult is a Kenyan based SME and Startup research and policy think tank whose core mandate is conducting in-depth research on issues affecting Kenyan SMEs and Startups, analyzing existing policies and propose evidence-based recommendations to improve the business environment for SMEs and Startups, engage with government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders to advocate for policy reforms and initiatives that support SME and Startup growth and disseminating research findings, policy recommendations, and best practices through publications, mainstream media and online platforms among others.

Viffa is a member of the Association of Start-ups and SMEs Enablers of Kenya (ASSEK) and Association of countrywide innovation hubs and a very active knowledge partner in the Kenyan SME and start-up ecosystem.