

# **SOUND POLICYMAKING:**

**Perspectives from Government of Kenya**

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# Presentation Outline

1. Introduction to Eleven principles of effective governance (CEPA)
2. Sound policy making and why it matters
3. Foundations for sound policy making in Kenya
4. Institutional framework and instruments
5. Lessons learned and recommendations that may be considered for guidance notes.

# Introduction to Eleven Principles of effective governance (CEPA)

- **Effectiveness** ( Competence, Sound policy making, collaboration)
- **Accountability** ( Integrity, transparency, independent oversight)
- **Inclusiveness** (Leave no one behind, non discrimination, participation, subsidiarity, intergenerational equity)

# What is sound policy making and why it matters

- Public policies are detailed government statements of how the problems citizen face are identified and designing the right responses.
- Sound policies matter as they provide intended government results in provision of goods and services such as infrastructure, health, education, social protection to name a few.

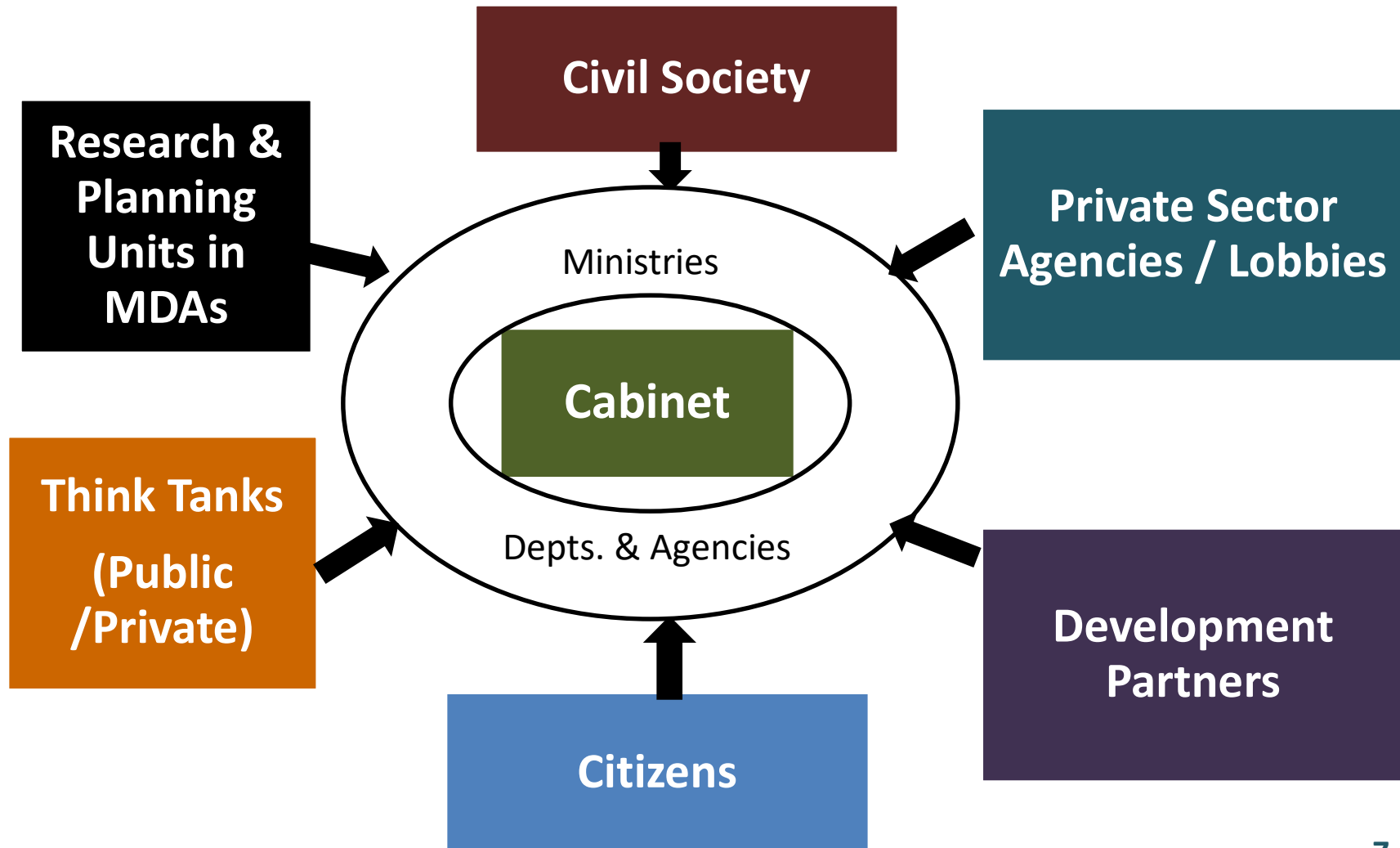
# 3. Why Sound Policy Making ?

- Basing public policy on facts, evidence, data – Not guesswork, intuition or whims.
- Standardizing regulation/oversight
- Predictability, measurability of results and outcomes
- Efficient and economic use of limited resources
- Public sector reform effectiveness and sustainability
- Development sustainability
- People participation – preventing policy capture by elite
- Foundations for policy coherence

# Foundations and strategies for sound policy making in Kenya

- **Vision 2030** aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrialized, middle income country providing a high quality of life to all.
- The Kenya vision is aligned with Constitution 2010, Agenda 2063, **SDGs 17 goals**
- Strategic planning based on **five year cycle (MTP)** is the tool for implementation of the vision and SDGs.
- Policy formulation and implementation process considers coherence informed by data/evidence, sectoral engagements, public participation, monitoring and evaluation. Checks and balance by Commissions.

# Institutional Framework For Public Policy Formulation in Kenya

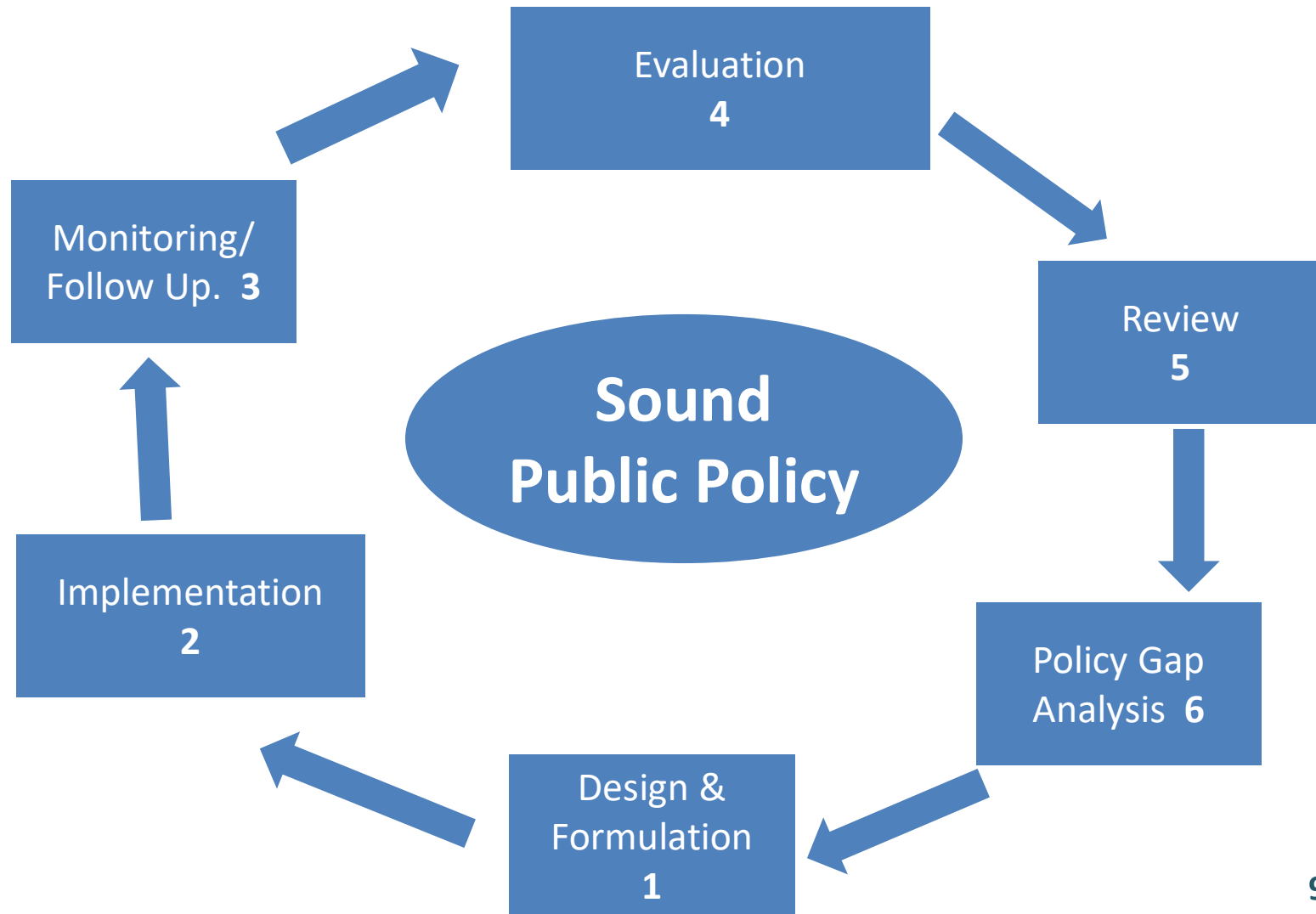


# Institutional Origins of Public Policy Instruments

Institution	Instruments
Centre of Government (Cabinet)	Cabinet memos, White papers, Visions, Development Agenda
Parliament	Budgets, Laws, regulations
Judiciary	Legal advisories, rulings
Ministries & Departments	Budgets, Regulations, Guidelines
Service Commissions	Codes of conduct, Regulations, Guidelines, Norms and Standards
State Corporations	Regulations, Guidelines, standards
County Govts/ Assemblies	Subsidiary legislation, budgets, regulations



# Characterizing the Kenyan Public Policy Cycle



# Lessons Learned

- **Increased citizen consciousness** on rights to policy participation resulting to more litigation
- **Judicial intervention** – Assertive courts giving favourable rulings for people participation.
- **Decline in elite capture** on public policy –the rise of a capable developmental state.
- **Enhanced private sector aggressiveness** – at influencing public policy – in trade, business environment, economy.
- **Devolution and the call for enhanced policy coherence** – need for greater vertical coherence
- **Silos / fragmentation** supports elite capture.
- **Bi/Multilateral collaboration** supports policy cycle capacity building goals.

# Constraints in Sound Policy Making that require our attention

- Limited coherence – conflicting / counterproductive policies across sectors. Complexity of policy making
- Technical Skills and capacity for the policy cycle reviews.
- Political level demand/interests
- Lack of evidence and inadequate public participation
- Data quality – Collection and supply.
- Limited technology integration.
- Elite policy capture and change in policy landscape.
- Budgetary limitations.

# Recommendations

- **Systematic Sector-wide capacity building in Public Policy Cycle** – focus on design and evaluative capacity.
- **Supply side improvements** – data quality –focus on systems and capacity.
- **Budget prioritization for evaluations.**
- **Technology integration** for sound public policy stages.
- **Improvements in policy coherence (inclusive)**– Lateral, Vertical and International.
- **Better public sector interface with think tanks (TTs)** – government-backed incentives to TTs to undertake quality policy research.
- Strengthening oversight institutions, statistical offices and systems, National Audit Offices etc.

# Recommendations Cont....

- **Institutionalization of public policy coordination, innovation in a whole-of-government approach** (e.g. UK's Policy Lab).
- **Improving Policy advocacy among actors (public and private)** – to spur uptake .
- **Enhanced political level interface** – effective lobbying/advocacy strategies for political level buy-in.

**END**