Hello County Government

By Dorah Nesoba

Kenya's devolution is finally here with us. On March 4, 2013 Kenyans elected several representatives including the President, Governor, Senator, Member of Parliament, Women Representative and County Ward Representative moving a step closer to making the devolved Government a reality.

On Friday March 22, 2013, Kenyans witnessed over 1,000 elected County ward representatives taking their oath of office nationally as well as those elected speakers of the corresponding County Assemblies.

With this the single event countrywide, Kenya has finally actualized the County Government with counties soon expected to run some of their own affairs. Over the next three years, they should be given the money and power to run all of the responsibilities outlined in Kenya's 2010 Constitution.

All the ceremonies held on Friday were presided over by High Court judges and were held at designated county headquarters nationwide. The idea of county governments is indeed revolutionising the management of county resources as well as infrastructure development.
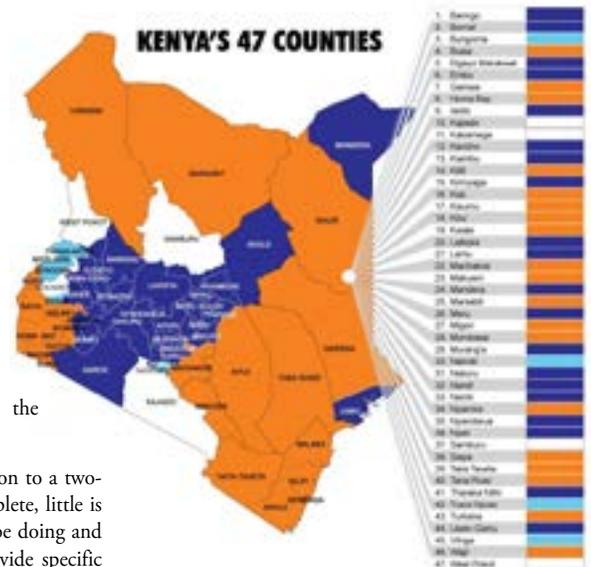
With the swearing in of Governors on March 27, 2013 the country's focus now turns to the appointment of County Executive Committees by the Governor as provided for in Article 179(2) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. This will be an important task for devolution goals set out in the Constitution. It is upon County Assemblies to give political guidance on the way forward, for that is the only way they can attract investors to their regions who will help them bridge budget gaps.

Now, as the dust settles down, the newly elected leadership in the counties need to position their counties effectively to attract and compete for investments opportunities. If well positioned, the numerous investment opportunities can create employment for the locals besides improving infrastructure and making the provision of basic services a reality.

Although the first big step in the transition to a two-tier system of government is almost complete, little is known about exactly what counties will be doing and how much money they will have to provide specific services. This is a matter of serious concern, because counties have core responsibilities in health, housing, energy, agricultural and a number of other areas. In many of these sectors, they share obligations with the national government.

It is the hope of TI-Kenya that citizens will continue keeping vigil over the management of count governments in their respective areas just as they have done in the past over the Central Government. We

hope that the County Governors and their staff will manage the resources in each county for the betterment of the county residents and by extension Kenya at large.

The writer is TI-Kenya's Programme Officer, Advocacy and Communication

Understanding devolved governance in Kenya: Structures and institutions

By Collins Kipkorir Arap Baswony

The general elections of March 2013 have been like no other that Kenyans have participated. For the very first time, Kenyans have elected Chief executive officers and legislators for the newly formed County governments.

These governments fall within Kenya's devolved structure. The cardinal principal of devolution is to decentralise administrative, financial and political power to the local level in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of government.

In effect, devolution is envisioned to provide opportunity for greater citizen participation in local development and permits the government to respond quickly to local needs.

The County Government comprises the County Assembly and the County Executive. The county assembly is the legislative arm of the County, while the County Executive carries out the executive functions of the county.

In this issue...

Quote of the Month

"The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government -- lest it come to dominate our lives and interests."

Kenya launches Mobile Drug Tracking System

The Mobile Drug Tracking System (MDTS) is a mobile based application that runs on a Smart SMS platform developed with the overall objective to infuse citizen participation in monitoring the procurement and supply chain of pharmaceuticals in the Kenya.

Pursuant to the objectives of Forum for Transparency and Accountability in Pharmaceutical Procurement (FoTAPP) in ensuring citizen participation in monitoring pharmaceutical procurement, the forum agreed to expand the logistics management information system. The Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) which belongs to the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) is a system that is designed to automate the current manual reports system, for faster reporting and Turn-Around-Times (TATs) for Commodity fulfillment for Health Facilities countrywide. The MDTS was linked to the LMIS for data linkage and exchange.

The LMIS allows citizens, community health workers and hospital management committee's query and monitor stocks in target health facilities through the mobile tracking system. Through the MDTS, Citizens would be in a position to get feedback on whether a given health facility has a targeted medical commodity (pharmaceutical) or not.

It thus provides a link for ordinary citizens to both their Local Health Facility and KEMSA. The system is designed to focus on the availability of medicines, information and quality of service delivery. This supports citizens in being more assertive in demand for accountability and transparency from government and service providers in the health sector.

To operationalise the system, every health centre in the country has been allocated a unique code which serves to identify it at KEMSA. This code is referred to as the MFL (Master Facility List) through which the health centre's elements will be managed by the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency.

The MDTS was piloted at three health facilities between July 9 and 15, 2012: Riruta Health Centre (Nairobi); Tom Mboya Health Centre (Rusinga) and Lunga-Lunga Health Centre (Kwale)

The mobile tracking system solution in particular enables access to drawing right balances; stock status for respective products at KEMSA and commodity stock status information at health facilities.

Benefits of this system include: Efficient ordering of medical commodities; Dispatch notification to help plan receipt; Delivery confirmation; Consumption reports on a continuous basis;
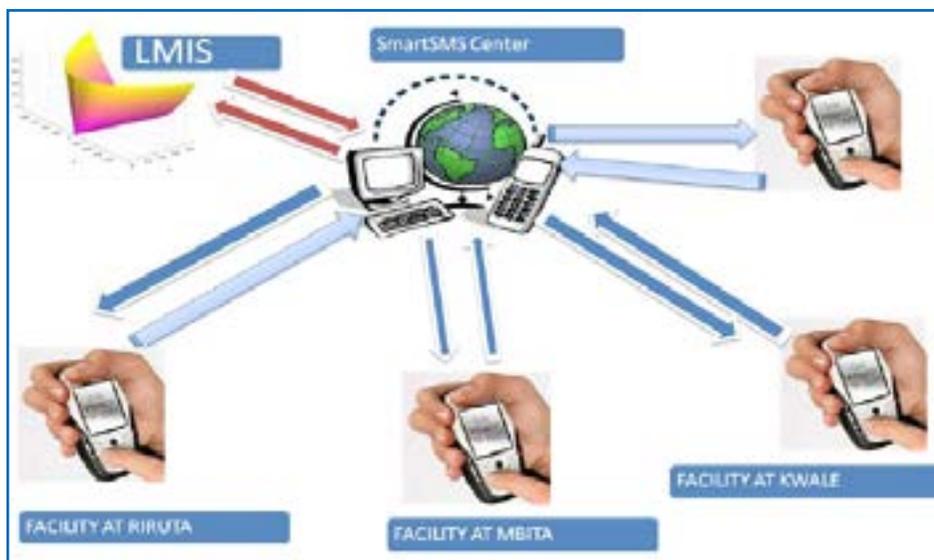
Nelius Rwamba

Ad hoc/ exception reporting; Enable enquiry on order status; Enable enquiry on drawing rights balances and timely reports for decision making.

Key findings of the pilot exercise

1. On average about 84%of the respondents felt that the mobile drug tracking system generated enough information for their purposes and about 12% felt that more information would be necessary: this information included access to information on various aspects such as the availability of medicines, services and personnel in the health facilities.

2. 89.32% of the respondents indicated that the system was easy to use; however 10.68 % of the respondents, especially in the rural areas, did not think so. This is attributed to low illiteracy levels and unreliability of the telephone infrastructure (network) in rural areas. These could be mitigated by translating the system to Swahili and other local languages and further simplifying of the codes used.

3. For this service to operate, FoTAPP purchased bulk SMS bundles from Safaricom, a telecommunications service provider for free access by the public for the pilot. Asked if they were willing to pay for this service in future, the responses indicated evidence of the need to access information, even at a premium with a majority of the respondents showing willingness to pay to get the information as opposed to doing without it.

The findings support an inference that citizens value this information as a tool of empowerment. The system presents an opportunity to empower community members through information and further enable them influence the government's decision making process in matters that concern the health facilities.

The writer is TI-Kenya's Deputy Programme Officer, Institutional Strengthening, Governance & Policy

An overview of the mobile drug tracking system

Understanding devolved governance in Kenya: Structures and institutions

County assembly

The County Assembly is the voice of the residents of the County. The Assembly holds the legislative authority of the County. The County Assembly will enact County laws, direct and limit the power of the Governor and the County Executive and, while respecting the principle of separation of powers, exercise an over-sight role in all the activities within the County.

The assembly comprises of a speaker and elected and nominated members who among other things are expected to:

* Maintain close contact with and consult the people of their ward on issues to be discussed in the Assembly and to collate their views, opinions and proposals.
* Present the views, opinions and proposals of the people of his ward in the County Assembly
* Draw attention in general debate to national policies, which are relevant to the debate in the house.
* Actively participate in the work of any sub-Committee appointed to maintain frequent liaison with organized productive economic groupings in the County.
* Appraise the electorate on the workings of the Assembly and debates and decisions passed

The Assembly is charged with the responsibility of receiving and approving plans and policies for the exploitation and management of the County's resources and the development and management of the County's infrastructure and institutions. In doing so, County Assembly is bound national and county legislation.

Other functions of the county assembly include:

* Approval and oversight of budgets
* Approval of development projects
* Supervision of other units within the County through political authority, guidance, and direction
* Monitoring the execution of projects under approved development plans and assesses and evaluates their impact on people's development.
* Approval of investment decisions.
* Approval of loans.

County Executive

The Executive authority of the County is vested in and to be exercised by a **County Executive Committee** consisting of a **County Governor**, **Deputy County Governor** and members appointed by the **County Governor** with the **approval of the County Assembly**, but who should not be members of the County Assembly. The Governor, directly elected by the populace, is the chief political executive of the county.

The governor of the county:

* Performs such state functions as the president may determine
* Represents the county in national and international fora and events
* Constitutes the county executive committee portfolio structure to respond to the functions and competencies assigned to and transferred to each county.
* Submits the county plans and policies to the county assembly for approval
* Considers, approves and assents to bills passed

Collins Kipkorir Arap Baswony

by the county assembly

* Chairs meetings of the county executive committee

Submits to the county assembly an annual report on the implementation status of the county policies and plans
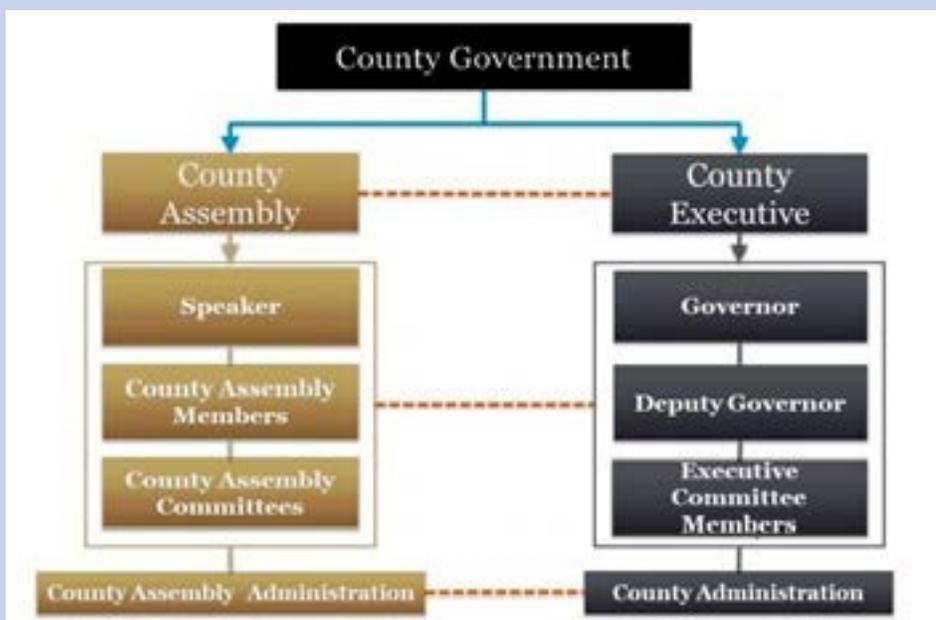
The **Deputy Governor** of the county Deputises the governor in executing executive functions in the county executive. The Governor may also assign Deputy Governor any other responsibility or portfolio as a member of the county executive committee.

The **County Executive Committee** comprises of members nominated by the governor and approved by the county assembly. In appointing members of the county executive, the governor shall take into consideration gender equality, community and cultural diversity as well representation of minorities. Additionally, in order for someone to be appointed to the county executive, they have to be a Kenyan Citizen, a holder of at least a first degree from a university recognized in Kenya, satisfies requirements of chapter six of the constitution and has experience and a distinguished career of not less than five years in the field relevant to that portfolio.

Functions of the County Executive are stipulated under article 183 of the constitution of Kenya (2010) as follows

* To Implement county legislation
* To Implement within the county national legislation to the extent the legislation requires
* To Manage and coordinate the functions of the county administration and its departments and
* To Perform any other functions conferred to it by the constitution or national legislation
* To prepare proposed legislation for consideration by the county assembly
* To provide the county assembly with regular reports on matters relating to the county.

The writer is TI-Kenya's Deputy Programme Officer, Advocacy & Communication

Did technology enhance accountability in Kenya's general elections?

Kenya has been the golden child of Sub-Saharan Africa with the pace of its technological innovation and development and this seemed like an opportune coming of age moment that the historical election would also be driven by the latest in ICT.

I remember a taxi driver telling me that no mischief could possibly contaminate the process with the new Biometric Verification Kits in place. The IEBC seemed to have opened up to the tech community, having setup a website to transmit the results live and exposing an application interface for software developers to be able to interact with the results directly. This was truly going to be the election of the 21st century, catapulting Kenya into a future of accountability and transparency on the back of the latest technology. Before the March 4, 2013 election, the country had great optimism about the role that ICT would be playing.

However, when voting day finally arrived, the nation collectively began to realize that technology was not the saviour but had become part of the drama that unfolded over the next six days. First to fail were the voter identification kits which only worked for some polling centres and so voters fell back to a manual register. Then the central server crashed due to 'lack of disk space'. As the results began trickling to a standstill, Kenyans learnt that IEBC was abandoning the provisional results being transmitted by the GPRS enabled phones from the polling stations and the returning officers would deliver the results to Nairobi physically. After much speculation about the high number of spoilt votes, IEBC Chairman Mr. Issack Hassan told the press that a bug in the software had actually multiplied this by a factor of eight as rumours of potential hacking began to emerge (this was later refuted). *However, any number when multiplied by 8 would not result in an odd number.* Both Safaricom and Google issued press statements clarifying their role and distancing themselves from the problems at hand. It seemed that IEBC's

Justin Luu

endeavour at ICT in the Kenyan elections had not survived its baptism of fire.

While IEBC was busy dealing with its technological woes, the rest of the country on the other hand was empowered in leveraging technology to ensure the elections remained peaceful and transparent. As avid users of Twitter, conversations of 140 characters ran hot with the hash tag #Kenya Decides. This also included tearing apart any foreign journalists who hinted at irresponsible reporting, countering it with peaceful news of orderly voting on #SomeoneTellCNN. There was also iHub's Uchaguzi website, launched to crowd source reports from the voting public on incidences including voting irregularities, insecurity issues and of counting. They collected 4958 reports submitted from SMS, social media and other sources and which were analysed and visually presented from their command centre.

Kenyans later learnt that the problems experienced by the IEBC system were at many levels. The software was only tendered and procured in early January, giving them only two months to evaluate the proposals, make payments, develop, test the software internally and then with partners and also train the election officials. This was an ambitious for any project, let alone one country involving over 30,000 polling stations and which the country's future was depending on. There were also a host of reported procedural issues; many of the GPRS phones had only been delivered on the day of the elections, some were not configured beforehand and the officers did not know the passwords and the list of problems goes on.

There are many questions that we could be asking. Was the system thoroughly tested beforehand? How was the project managed? Were there security audits performed? What type of training was conducted? All these may be answered in due time with the case before the courts, but why are we only asking these questions only now?

Technology should not be seen force of good or evil, but simply as a tool that can help us when used properly. However, today as we have built institutions and processes based on technology then these systems also need to be subjected to greater public scrutiny. As Eric Hersman, the founder of iHub and Ushahidi, said in a tweet, "The problem isn't [IEBC's] tech issues, that *always* happens, it's about transparency of the system." Frustrated with the lack of information available about the system, he created an online blog *iebctechkenya.tumblr.com* to collate notes and facts from the public on what is known about the system.

ICT growth and innovation is an unstoppable force in this country and as we are quickly learning that it is not a silver bullet or the ailment to all its corruption woes. For projects as large as and as important as the elections, it is in the public interest that information about the system should be transparent, so that even when things are going wrong, doubt and speculation can be countered by a informed understanding of the causes for the issues at hand.

As Kenya heads into a future containing Konza City and the promises of solar powered laptops for school children, the monetary stakes will become ever higher and the scope for misappropriation and mismanagement even greater. It is the duty of responsible citizens of this country to keep large scale ICT projects in the light of public scrutiny to ensure that they are transparent, managed well and successfully delivered.

The writer is TI-Kenya's Information and Communications Officer

11th Parliament must prioritise Climate Change Bill

Civil society has since 2009, drafted a climate change bill being presented as a private members bill by Hon. Wilber Ottichillo in the 10th Parliament.

The bill, whose aim was to provide a legislation to govern climate change activities in Kenya, was informed by comprehensive research on key sectors driving and affected by climate change. While the proposal to establish a climate change Authority and clear governance of climate change activities was well informed by public consultations and inputs form various civil society organisations as well as selected government ministries, the bill was highly mutilated during the 3rd reading as provided by the Parliamentary Hansard of December 11, 2012.

Some of the amendments included change of the title form a climate change Authority bill to a climate change council bill. In the words of the mover of the bill *'I beg to move:- THAT, Clause 34 be amended by deleting the word "Authority" wherever it appears and substituting therefore the word "Council"'* While the activities of the authority were maintained to be carried out by the council, this in itself may be interpreted to mean introduction of conflict between other climate change sector ministries (these include, Ministries of Agriculture, energy, water, fisheries, livestock, northern kenya and other arid lands, environment and mineral resources, forests and wildlife) and the council during implementation of activities.

The ideal situation would be providing for coordination and enforcement by the authority but not implementing activities meant for other ministries. TI-Kenya in her submission to the Lands and Natural resources committee of the 10th Parliament proposed mainstreaming of climate change activities in all related ministries and establishment of a coordination mechanism.

Further the amendments to the bill altered the scope of the bill and therefore demand for stakeholder's consultation on the changed structures. With this interpretation therefore it would hence be taken to reflect that the bill was sent to the president without proper consultations. Before presentation to parliament for the third reading, stakeholders had given the views for development of an Authority and not on a Council.

When one amends a bill to the extent that its core objective is changed, the bill must go back to the stakeholders. In any case a Council – National Environment Council -does exit which could accommodate issues of Climate Change with appropriate amendments and empowerment. We

Judy Ndichu

should be alert of the fact that we do not want to create more institutions which could add burden to the tax payers. Under a new government, we are expected to consolidate the ministries, authorities and councils into overarching entities to become more cost effective and efficient.

Schedule One - "*provisions on public consultation*" was introduced during the third reading. Incongruously, this was introduced without public consultation on proposed schedule. This was not in original document.

The introduction of list of Members of (proposed) Council introduced during the 3rd stage would not miss the eyes of those keenly following the bill, '*.......and substituting therefore the following new paragraphs—*

"*(b) Four persons, one each nominated by each of the following bodies—*

(i) Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organisation;

(ii) Institute of Climate Change, University of Nairobi;

(iii) Association of Professional Societies of East Africa; and

(iv) Kenya Climate Change Working Group;

"*(c) Two persons appointed by the Cabinet Secretary*"; .

One would quickly ask why the four groups, three of who are civil society groups. Further, what criteria would be applied in selecting the two persons by the Cabinet Secretary? This presents an anomaly in itself and ignores the provisions and spirit of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Further this could be interpreted to mean that the civil society groups were pushing for this law to create opportunities for themselves. This is a demonstration of misuse of opportunities – what would be simply interpreted as corruption. This appeared suspect as KCCWG did not feature in the original proposed bill until the third reading when the document was presented to Parliament and no stakeholder had power to object. It is surprising that no Member of Parliament

objected or questioned this provision-as it was not captured in the Hansard. One then would ask whether members of the last Parliament were really keen on this bill.

Another question would be what criteria was used to narrow down to these organisations? The institute of climate change representative is neither clear nor coherent. The institute that will have its first group of admission later in the year has not demonstrated its inputs into the climate change discourse in the country. Further it is not clear who from the institute would sit in the council, a student, lecturer, or the coordinator. Some members on this list were hardly visible – consistently- at national level doing development of Climate Change issues –even during development of climate change response strategy and action plan. This ignored those stakeholders who consistently were present during the national climate change processes.

The bill turned a blind eye on the private sector, both in structure and implementation of climate change activities. Recognising the role that this cluster of stakeholders would play in climate mitigation, avoiding them would mean less progress in the mitigation. Looking ahead of the international negotiations, the new regime to be realised in 2020 would require Kenya to take action in reducing her green house gases emissions. Therefore, private sector participation needs to be introduced in the national policies now to facilitate real reversion of the increasing global temperatures.

Parliament also refused to provide finance {see article 26(2) (a). So under which ministry would this proposed Council seek budgetary financial allocation from? Would it run on donations only? The best home for such an institution is the Ministry concerned with Environmental affairs. Otherwise, we will continue to experience conflicts on Climate Change management as was observed when the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Environment had a difficult time on updating Kenyans on climate change matters.

While the bill did not consider comments sent by TI-Kenya as may be interpreted from the Hansard of December 11, 2012. Therefore, the civil society has room to relook at the bill and lay strategies on how to revive the bill. To conclude we all agree that Kenya needs not just climate change legislation but a good, practical and efficient legislation.

The Writer is TI-Kenya's Programme Officer, Climate Governance Integrity programme

Redefining citizens' role in building good governance

By Dorah Nesoba

Governance challenges in Kenya have been attributed to limited accountability channels. By creating a more potent legislature and providing enough checks and balances, the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 seeks to substantially improve governance practices and service delivery in Kenya.

In the past, one aspect of law enforcement that remained largely ignored in Kenya was citizen participation. It was strange that although members of a community complained about certain laws or regulation infringement by some sections of society, they remained aloof and never initiated any moves to either correct or help the designated authorities to deal with such infringements.

Participatory government, consultation and transparency are today's public policy exhortations. Public participation in governance is inscribed at Article 10 that sets out the national values and principles of governance. It requires participation of the people whenever state organs, state officers, public officers and all persons make or implement public policy or enact, apply or interpret any law.

Article 118 on the other hand requires Parliament to facilitate public participation and involvement in legislative and other business of Parliament and its committees while Article 232 (1) recognizes involvement of the people in the process of policy making as one of the values and principles of public service.

Participation or involvement of the people is now a constitutional principle which we have to comply with. Therefore as County Governments and Parliament embark on debates and enact Bills, we must devise effective strategies for consulting and involving the people of Kenya. It is timely that they become more than what they were in order to respond to contemporary expectations for the betterment of our governments.

One simple thing every government in the past had failed on was to inject full disclosure of public information leaving the citizens to believe what so ever they heard. The government has a bigger responsibility to play. However, those who believe in sharing responsibilities have a role to play as we move forward in trying to cement Kenya's economic base. We must all be united in our resolve to see that even far flung are well exposed through such important forums.

Strengthening the relationship between a government and its citizens might seem to be such an obvious priority for democracy and an indisputable alternative for citizen's security. Yet governments everywhere have been criticized for being remote from the people, not listening enough and not seeking the full participation of the people who are at times direct victims national disasters, disease outbreaks, hunger, corruption and many other vices.

Calls for greater government transparency and accountability have grown as public and media scrutiny of government's actions increase as a result of which government must ensure citizens are informed and involved.

Citizens as partners

Engaging citizens in public policy-making allows government to tap new sources of ideas, information and resources when making decisions. To engage people effectively in policy-making, governments must invest adequate time and resources in building robust legal, policy, public relations and institutional frameworks. They must develop and use appropriate tools, ranging from traditional opinion polls of the population at large to consensus conferences with small groups of laypersons. Experience has shown, however, that without leadership and commitment throughout public administration, even the best policies will have little effect.

The key ingredients for success in engaging citizens in policy-making include information, consultation and public participation. The information provided has to be objective, complete, relevant, easy to find and easy to understand. There must also be equal treatment when it comes to obtaining information and participating in policy-making. This means that among other things, governments doing all they can to cater for the special needs of minorities or people with disabilities.

The Constitution greatly enhances the bill of rights with outstanding proposals in key areas like freedom of information, right to basic services such as water, health, education, housing and other individual rights. These are aimed at increasing citizen participation in public affairs, widening the political space and in turn enriching governance practices in the country for the benefit of the common man.

Consolidation of democracies requires appropriate accountability with regard to public resources. Corruption and inefficiency in the use of resources are a growing citizen concern. In the context of governance reforms that seek to strengthen transparency and accountability processes, there is a need to have external oversight organizations more involved in producing concrete results that are observable by citizens.

Thus, we call on every citizen to participate in the decision making processes at the local level, because, in one way or another, he or she will be influenced by the policies implemented by the Government. It is each citizen's bounden duty to participate.

The writer is TI-Kenya's Programme Officer, Advocacy & Communication

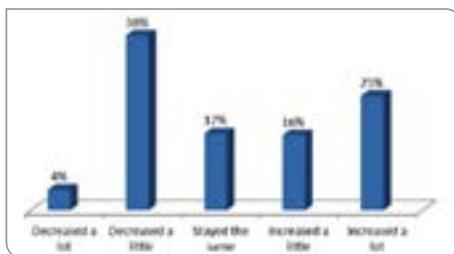# Poll evaluating last decade's anti corruption efforts launched

By Mwangi Kibathi and Collins Baswony

As the new government takes office, it is imperative to evaluate the progress, obstacles and challenges that the previous government registered or faced on the anti corruption agenda. In so doing, the incoming dispensation will draw critical lessons on what worked, what did not work, what needs to be done differently or perhaps not done at all in the effort to improve governance practices in Kenya.
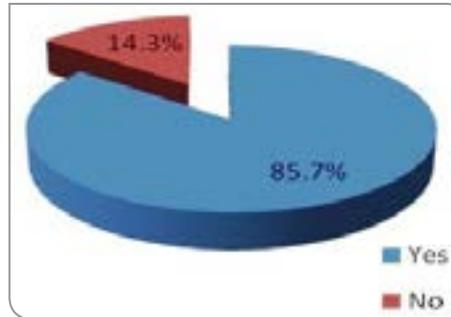
To support such efforts, TI-Kenya conducted a national opinion poll to evaluate the success or otherwise of various anti corruption efforts in Kenya. The poll was conducted by face to face basis between 17th January and 8th February 2013. The report was launched on 24th February 2013 at Pride Inn Hotel Mombasa. The launch event was well attended by local TI chapters in Mombasa and the media. Among the key findings was that Kenyans believe that though the president had enough powers to stop are to resolve the various grand corruption scandals in the past decade he failed to do so.

60% Kenyans believe corruption levels have increased or remained the same during President Kibaki's 10 year rule. 58% of Kenyans think corruption levels have either remained the same or increased in the last decade. 14.5 percent of these respondents believe the levels have increased across that period – this is according to a national opinion poll conducted by TI-Kenya

The report titled, *Stuck on a Treadmill? A national opinion poll to evaluate progress on the anti corruption agenda in the last decade*, another 85.7% of respondents believe the President had requisite powers to deal with those suspected of involvement in the scandals but he did not. This perception implies less than optimal confidence in the institution of the presidency to render critical support to anti-corruption issues.

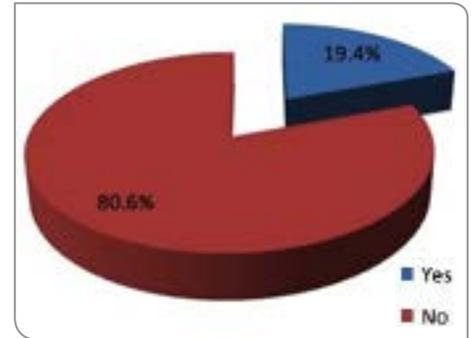*Perceived change of corruption levels in the last ten years*

Those who think the president had enough powers to prevent/deal with scandals

The survey conducted through face to face interviews among Kenyans aged 18 years and above saw a total of 1,788 respondents selected using simple random sampling. The respondents had to have been at least 15 years old in 2003. The survey was carried out between 17th January, 2013 and 8th February, 2013.

The survey shows that efforts in the anti-corruption crusade have either not been comprehensive and participatory enough to win public confidence or have been diluted by negative occurences in terms of perceived lack of government commitment or the grand corruption scandals that have continued and remain unresolved alongside reform efforts. The continued adverse performance of basic services sectors like water, education and security on petty bribery as captured by the East African Bribery Index and other surveys may have also contributed to this perception.

The police/security sector was seen as the most preferred entry point for reform. The education sector and the judiciary also featured prominently at 18% and 17% respectively. It is notable that education and police/security were the hosts of one of the most mentioned scandals by the respondents namely the free primary education and the Anglo Leasing scandals respectively. The mention of the police would however most likely be informed by the high likelihood of ordinary citizens being expected to pay petty bribes to the institution. The low mentions of the water sector at lower than 2% may not necessarily point to low corruption levels but most likely to lower reach of this service to the general populace.

Speaking during the launch at a Mombasa Hotel, Transparency International Kenya Executive Director, Mr. Samuel Kimeu called on the next government to implement various reports produced by the diverse commissions set up in Kenya over the last 10 years.

Those who think the president did enough to deal with or prevent scandals

"We are seeking a mechanism for ensuring not just an end to impunity but also redress for the injustices visited on victims of corruption and the gross affronts to the citizens' rights to education, food, healthcare and development, among other things. The implementation of these and other reports and other information on past and contemporary scandals will thus go a long way in guaranteeing justice to victims; and accountability to society in general."

He added that what is lacking is a concerted systemic way of dealing with those responsible for economic crimes resulting in human rights violations.

Kimeu said the national opinion poll was commissioned to get ordinary Kenyans appraisal of the past decade. He said the poll was aimed at providing an agenda setting platform on the anti-corruption agenda for the next government.

The objectives of the national opinion poll were to: Assess the perceived change in corruption levels in the last decade; assess the public verdict on the effectiveness of the various anti-corruption interventions and draw public recommendations on ways and means of reinvigorating the anti-corruption responses for the next regime.

The TI-Kenya Executive Director also urged voters to evaluate each candidate's anti-corruption agenda, "voters in these coming elections should clearly evaluate each candidate's anti-corruption agenda, past contribution to the fight against in and out of Parliament and whether they have been a hindrance or not to the anti-corruption agenda. Those who have been implicated in corruption, or have been indifferent or a hindrance to the fight against corruption should not be given a chance to preside over public affairs."

The writers are Programme Officer, Research and Deputy Programme Officer Advocacy & Communication at TI-Kenya

TI-Kenya takes integrity message to Nakuru, Mombasa

Transparency International Kenya took the leadership with integrity message to youthful voters in the cosmopolitan towns of Nakuru and Mombasa during the month of February 2013 through the 'I run for integrity' campaign.

The campaign's catchphrase was Siasa ni Kuaminika, Kutumikia, Kubadilisha Kenya. The campaign aimed at sensitising the population and especially Kenya's youth, who comprise more than half of the voters in Kenya on the importance of electing leaders based on their personal integrity, competence and suitability.

The integrity message was fused in dance and music, and was delivered by 6 well known Kenyan artistes who also doubled up as campaign ambassadors. The campaign ambassadors included Avril, Sanaipei Tande, Marya, Jua Cali, Rabbit & Ala C.

"Elections are a defining characteristic of democratic regimes" said Mr. Samuel Kimeu, Executive Director of TI-Kenya at the launch of the campaign. "Through elections, politicians are held accountable by the people they serve. It is vitally important that every individual voter understands that electing leaders with integrity is essential to realizing a country's potential. Education and awareness are the essential tools to empower citizens to make informed choices."

Nakuru

I Run For Integrity Nakuru edition was held at the Afraha stadium on the 16th of February 2013 and was attended by over 5,000 people.

Mombasa

I run for Integrity Mombasa edition was held at the Mombasa public beach on 24th February 2013 and was attended by well over 7,000 people.

Jua Cali in action at Afraha stadium during the 'I run foir Integrity' Nakuru edition PHOTO: COLLINS KIPKORIR ARAP BASWONY / TI-KENYA

I run for integrity ambassadors Ala C, Avril, Rabbit, Marya, Jua Cali and Sana at Afraha stadium during the I run foir Integrity Nakuru edition COLLINS KIPKORIR ARAP BASWONY / TI-KENYA

Concert attendants signing their pledge to elect leaders with integrity during the 'I Run for Integrity' Mombasa edition at public beach Mombasa PHOTO: COLLINS KIPKORIR ARAP BASWONY / TI-KENYA

Marya and Avril on stage at public beach Mombasa during the 'I Run for Integrity' Mombasa edition PHOTO: COLLINS KIPKORIR ARAP BASWONY / TI-KENYA

Skits used to promote integrity in the General Elections

By Debra Gichio, Nelius Rwamba and Wakesho Kililo

In the run up to the March 4, 2013 general elections, Nairobi residents were treated to powerful anti corruption and integrity messages under the theme, *"The face of corruption: collection 2013."*

The messages packaged in the form of skits were disseminated at strategic spots with large numbers of human traffic around the city including Uhuru Highway, Railway Station, Tom Mboya Street, Kenyatta Avenue, Haile Selassie round about, Kenyatta avenue roundabout, Mama Ngina Street, Wabera Street; Kencom Bus Stop, The Sarit Centre, Fire station and Nakumatt U.K.

Seeking an innovative way to communicate integrity and leadership messages, TI-Kenya sensitized citizens on the effects of corruption, the need to fight against it and to promote integrity in leadership – by showcasing different pieces of thematic contemporary dance in the main streets of Nairobi at peak hours of the day. The face of corruption dances were accompanied by costumes' and literature to communicate messages on leadership and integrity, peace and the electioneering process. The face of corruption campaign took place between February 26, 2013 and March 1, 2013 along the City streets.

The "face of corruption; collection 2013" was informed by chapter six of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and promoted the election of competent and capable leaders who would ensure that systems and institutions of governance are transparent and accountable to the citizenry as well as ensure citizen participation in the decision making processes.

Grand corruption scandals have been motioned as an example of the manifestations of leadership without integrity. Thus, the campaign was meant to raise awareness on the consequences of leadership without integrity and emphasize the need for citizens to vote wisely.

Further emphasis was placed on the need to vote in competent leaders with a good track record as well as those who are change driven and visionary. The campaign was well received with citizens showing great interest and the desire to learn more about the leadership and integrity bill as well as other provisions of the Constitution. The campaign will be replicated in other parts of the country.

Contemporary dance themes included walk of nations; school child and rich man; Poor woman and rich man; disabled man versus rich man; Sick man and doctors. Digital media and flyers were also used to drive the message home.

Walk of nations was performed in a straight line with the artistes struggling to fit in, it depicted the struggle among people of different classes and social standing trying to earn a living and find space in the country. School child and rich man was depicted by a student in school uniform carrying the rich man on his shoulders, thus portraying the rich man enjoying the free primary education and bursary funds at the expense of the student. This then results in compromised quality of education while poor learning conditions in the schools persist. At the end of this scene the student is too tired to carry the rich man so he falls to his knees trying begging for help from the rich man who in turn walks away with a snotty grin.

In poor woman versus rich man, the artistes enact the disparities existing in access to facilities and services between the upper and lower classes in Kenya today. The rich man has more than enough water so he plays with

Artistes in action during the 'face of corruption' campaign activities in Nairobi CBD PHOTO: NELIUS RWAMBA / TI-KENYA

TI-Kenya staff members diseminating campaign information to members of the public at Nairobi Archives area in the CBD PHOTO: JUSTIN LUU / TI-KENYA.

The campaign also utilised digital media through airing clips from TI-Kenya's *Kikulacho*, a film that highlights the effects of a flawed electoral system and undemocratic elections; inequitable allocation of land and landlessness as well as the weak institutions of government. The clips had specific messages on corruption, peace, integrity and the rule of law and leadership in the elections.

These clips were broadcast on the screens in Uchumi supermarkets at Sarit Centre, Capital Centre, Ngong road and Langata road. The clips also ran on the outdoor digital screen along Haile Selassie roundabout. The target audience were people shopping at the supermarkets and those in traffic along the highway. The messages reached an estimated 1000 people daily. The digital campaign ran for a period of 5 days between.

To emphasize the message on leadership and integrity, fliers were also handed out during the five day campaign. The fliers highlighted past corruption scandals and gave the specific qualities one should look out for in a candidate for political office including qualities such as visionary, honest, change oriented and competent leaders. 1650 fliers were distributed.

The campaign was well received by Nairobi residents who showed an interest in acquiring more knowledge on the Leadership and Integrity Act as well as other provisions of the Constitution.

The writers are TI-Kenya's Governance and Policy Programme Officer, Deputy Programme Officer, Institutional Strengthening, Governance & Policy and intern Governance and Policy Programme

it and wastes it as a poor helpless woman begs for water to drink. The rich man does all that is within his power to ensure that the poor woman does not get access to the water. This is evident in our society as the rich use corrupt means to further enrich themselves depriving the rest of basic services.

Another skit illustrates a rich man posing as a helper to the disabled man by acting as his spokesman then takes off with the donations to the disabled man leaving the disabled man penniless as other passersby cheer him on as they join in the curtailment of his rights.

In the final skit, we see a sick man on the street.

He requires urgent medical attention, but people walk by and past him without offering any assistance. A man steps out of the crowd asking him to go to hospital, the sick man replies that there are no doctors or medicines in the hospital. The passerby drags the man to the hospital but when he gets there, the doctors are not in a hurry to treat him. They say there are other patients in worse condition and in any event they are on strike and underpaid (painted on the costume). This is the situation in our public health facilities where the workers lack motivation to carry out their duties due to the poor working conditions and low wages.

Upcoming Activities

- Technical drafting/reviews by policy stakeholders of the **Public Procurement and Disposal Act, 2005 and Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2011 amendment Bills.**

- Developing and publishing simplified/popular versions of the bills

- Recruitment and induction of elected MPs into the African Parliamentarian Network Against Corruption (APNAC) Kenya

- Public forums on; Political devolution and Devolution laws in Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu and Uasin Gishu Counties.(Time frame: February to May 2013)

- 3 Consultative forums in Nairobi with various constitutional implementation stakeholders responsible for implementation of the devolved governance including Transitional Authority, CRA and CIC (Time frame: January to September 2013)

- *Compiled by Elijah Ambasa, TI-Kenya's Programme Officer, Governance & Policy*

Stakeholders' validation workshops on Humanitarian Aid Prog.

Transparency International- Kenya hosted stakeholders validation workshops in Wajir and Turkana in February 2013 to feedback on the inputs we received from Stakeholders during our last stakeholders' forum held last year and to also validate the advocacy framework for actions in both counties.

The two workshops brought together stakeholders in the humanitarian aid sector including local and international NGOs, community based organisations (CBOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), Government representatives as well as community representatives to discuss on the advocacy plan of action for each county drawing upon the findings and recommendations of the Food Assistance Integrity Study that was analyzing the 2011 Drought response.

In total, 66 participants attended the two workshops (13 females and 53 men) from key actors operating in the two counties (District Commissioners, District Officers, Drought Management Officers, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Oxfam GB, World Vision, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, Kenya Red Cross, Practical Action, Save the Children, Islamic Relief, ALDEF-Kenya, Wajir South Development Association(WASDA) and other Local NGOs, CBOs, and Community representatives (Relief Committees and the Chiefs).

This event was also an opportunity for TI-Kenya staff to present the call for proposals for the Humanitarian Aid Integrity Programme (HAIP) implementing partners.

TI-Kenya's implementing local partners (CBO/FBO/local NGO) in the two counties are to implement the second phase of the programme for fifteen (15) months starting in April 2013. The partners will be expected to raise the community awareness on identified corruption risk and to build their capacity to monitor aid and basic services projects implemented in their community, train Social auditors amongst the community members to be able to hold services providers accountable and to report any suspected cases of corruption, organize public barazas to sensitize the community on corruption risks and train them on their rights as provided in the new constitution and to organize advocacy forums and capacity building workshops at the county level.

The Humanitarian Aid Programme staff presented the programme to the stakeholders and the Advocacy plan of Action for the Counties that entailed the FAIS recommendations as per counties priorities, expected outputs, activities to be conducted and, set timelines plus the stakeholders involved.

All the participants to the forums discussed and recommended that beneficiaries, civil society groups, women group's religious leaders and Faith Based Organisations should also be trained to identify and address corruption risks but training of Political leaders should only happen when the new county systems are properly in place

They also recommended a structure into which best practices could be translated into actions and to ensure enhanced coordination amongst Aid agencies and the County authorities to be able to know the available resources for different projects to avoid the issue of duplication.

TI-Kenya was also urged by the participants to engage all the implementing partners on the Complaint referral

Caroline Ruto

mechanisms (CRM) to be able to report any suspected corruption and also expressed the need for political will from all the stakeholders to be able to attend some of the trainings.

Finally they jointly agreed the operationalization of the Plan of Action through the County Steering Group (CSG) or the District Steering Group (DSG).

TI-Kenya will therefore request for a special DSG/CSG for the agenda to be discussed adequately and the group will also be monitoring the progress of the Plan of Action.

During the above mentioned visits, TI-Kenya was also privileged to get a slot in Radio Akicha in Lodwar where TI-Kenya Executive Director, Mr. Samuel Kimeu discussed issues around the Humanitarian Assistance and civic education on the elections. Jacob Otachi and Caroline Ruto also conducted a forum for community representatives in Wajir. The forum was held in Leheley locations and in attendance were 16 participants (15 male and a woman) who were mainly relief committees and Chiefs.

The objective of the forum was to discuss on issues that were highlighted on the FAIS report as well as get their personal views on the recommendations highlighted in the report and to also present them the next step of the Humanitarian Aid Integrity programme. The community expressed their several issues as far as Humanitarian assistance is concerned and showed their willingness to cooperate with TI-Kenya in improving the implementation of Humanitarian Assistance in their county.

The writer is the Deputy Programme officer, Humanitarian Aid Integrity Programme, TI Kenya

Stakeholders' validation workshop in Wajir Guest House, Wajir County, February 2013. © Transparency International - Kenya

Activity Roundup

EABI Planning Meeting

The research programme is embarking on data collection for the East African Bribery Index. The bribery index is conducted across five East African countries to measure bribery related experiences by citizens while seeking public services. To support the process, TI-Kenya organized a planning meeting to review technical and logistical issues around the survey. The meeting was held at hotel Blue Pearl in Dar Es Salaam on 27th and 28th February 2013. Among the issues discussed was the realignment of the data collection tool, advocacy efforts and fundraising. The meeting was attended by Executive Directors and their representatives across the region and the TI Kenya research team. - *By Mwangi Kibathi*

Kriegler Report Recommendations Audited

On February 26, Mr. Otiende Amollo Chairman of the Commission on Administrative Justice launched the TI-Kenya audit of the implementation of the Kriegler Commission report which found that a raft of its recommendations had been implemented. These include constitutional, legal and policy interventions that have been effected to achieve the Kriegler recommendations. TI-Kenya Executive Director Mr. Samuel Kimeu gave an exposition of the report aimed at informing the public and government institutions on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Kriegler commission. Present were TI-Kenya staff, media representatives and members of the Civil Society.

On March 4, TI-Kenya staff and long term election observers trained by TI-Kenya participated in the general elections observation process. They were stationed at various polling stations in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Uasin Gishu. They monitored voting, counting and tallying of votes. The election observation report will be released by mid April.

CGIP Activity Roundup

Climate finance governance network meeting

The 3rd Climate finance governance network meeting was held at Transparency International Kenya offices. The network includes CSOs who share an interest on the use and management of climate finances in the country. The main objective of the meeting was to allow for identification of an entry point for the network in the adaptation fund under NEMA as well as conduct a needs assessment on anticorruption for the network. - *Jacob Otachi*

1st African Regional Workshop on Climate Governance

Between May 13 and 16, 2013 Africa will play host to the first African Regional Workshop on Climate Governance. The event will attract other TI chapters in Africa, NGOs and government institutions whose work revolves around climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. The major objective of this workshop is to generate strategies for collaboration and synergies in addressing transparency and anti corruption in climate finance in the African countries. - *Jacob Otachi*

Mapping of CSOs involved in biocarbon projects in Bungoma County

On April 16, the Climate Governance and Integrity Programme will hold a mapping and assessment of CSOs in Bungoma county involved in biocarbon projects and other climate change related projects. According to a research done by Notawasaga Institute, Bungoma County is flooded with biocarbon projects and there are 285 CSOs known to carry out environmental based projects. The major objective will be to identify the CSOs receiving climate finance to allow TI-Kenya to introduce the concept of climate governance in the region.

TI-Kenya produces climate finance governance documentary

The Climate Governance Integrity Programme (CGIP) jointly with other agencies has produced a documentary showcasing advocacy work on climate finance and key steps being taken to make this effective. Through joint and voluntary Communities of Practice (CoP) on thematic issues such as forestry, a network has been formed and has constantly facilitated information exchange, advocacy and capacity building. Some of the issues arising have formed key discussion and advocacy action points to better engage in anti-corruption safeguards in Climate Finance Governance. Two Natural Resource Management Networks were formed in counties of Kwale and Kilifi to aid the communities better engage and co-ordinate for effective governance on the resources. To overcome the shortcomings seen in citizen involvement in climate governance, greater access to information, direct engagement and oversight by the public are needed. With an increased need for proactive information flow, journalists underwent a capacity building exercise that acted as an eye opener in pitching of climate change articles from different angles especially as development and human interest for the benefit of the communities. At policy level, the program actively engaged stakeholders to review the climate change authority bill and come up with recommendations. The program will lobby the new government to implement recommendations.- Judy Ndichu is TI-Kenya's Programme Officer, Climate Governance Integrity Programme

A grain of wheat

By: Isaiah Mwongela

HOW long will ye slumber? When will ye take heart?

And fear the reproach of your neighbors at hand?

Fie! Comrades, to think ye have peace for your part,

Whilst the sword and the arrow are wasting our land!

Shame! Grasp the shield close! Cover well the bold breast!

Aloft raise the spear as ye march on your foe!

With no thought of retreat, with no terror confessed,

Hurl your last dart in dying, or strike your last blow.

Oh,'t is noble and glorious to fight for our all,--

For our country, our children, the wife of our love!

Death comes not the sooner; no soldier shall fall,

Ee his thread is spun out by the sisters above.

Once to die is man's doom; rush, rush to the fight!

He cannot escape, though his blood were Jove's own.

For a while let him cheat the shrill arrow by flight;

Fate will catch him at last in his chamber alone.

Unlamented he dies; -- unregretted. Not so,

When, the tower of his country, in death falls the brave;

Thrice hallowed his name amongst all, high or low,

As with blessings alive, so with tears in the grave.

A new Kenya

By Nelius Rwamba

If I dare, then I can,

If I dream, then I will,

If I can believeit, then I can achieve it,

I see a lot, for myself and for my country,

A Kenya where no man is equal than the rest,

A Kenya with winners not losers, limitations nonexistent,

A Kenya where good is rewarded and bad punished; not glorified,

A Kenya with the capacity and ability to increase value of our natural resources within,

A Kenya with institutions that enjoy continuous trust and confidence from the citizenry,

Impartial; neutralare the institutions that guide the acquisition and exercise of power,

A Kenya where political competition is based on ideologies and priciples,

I envisage Kenya where violence is not an option for conflict resolution,

A Kenya where people's values, traditions and heritage are respected,

A Kenya that takes measure to safeguarded theenvironment;

Conservation, rehabilitation, restoration; magic words of the day

I envision an empowered Kenyan citizen,

One who knows his rights and responsibilities?

I dream of a Kenyawith no tribal; class division,

Some may call it impossible; others may call it madness,

I call it my future country, Kenya,

I choose to believe in the impossibilities,

I dare to dream; I dare to hope; I dare to believe,

Let us be a Kenya that believes, hopes and dreams,

Lets us be a Kenya that dares.

WANTED: GUEST WRITERS/CONTRIBUTORS + BLOGGERS

GUEST POSTING

We are now accepting guest posts on the TI-Kenya site **http://www.tikenya.org/.** The benefit of guest posting on our site is that we will promote your article to our combined database of email subscribers, which will result in traffic back to your site. You will get full attribution, a credibility boost as well as traffic back to your site.

ADILI CONTRIBUTORS

Adili Newsletter is produced on a monthly basis. We welcome you to make contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter. This being the first issue under the devolved system of government, we believe we can improve and make it better and more informative. We welcome any information of interest to anti-corruption and good governance including results of research, emerging issues, jokes, quotes and inspirational stories. Both electronic contributions and hard copies are welcome.

We are looking for writers who want to write just one article as well as permanent writers who commit to writing at least one article per month. Topics you can write on include: devolution, anti corruption, public policy, humanitarian aid, climate governance, citizen participation, communication, motivation, and leadership (and anything else in the governance and anticorruption category).

POSTS AND ARTICLES REQUIREMENTS

The article requirements are that the article must be original (cannot be published anywhere else on the internet, including your own blog) and must be at most 900 words. If you're interested in being a guest blogger, get in touch with TI-Kenya by replying emailing **communications@tikenya.org** with the Subject Line: Guest Post/ Contributor. Let us know whether you want to write just one post or whether you're interested in being a permanent columnist on the website.

Comments and contributions can be sent to the Editor on the address on Page 16. Contributions may be edited for clarity, space or legal consideration.

Nairobi County Residents embrace social vetting of aspirants

ALAC Nairobi conducted an interactive exercise dubbed 'social vetting' in Nairobi County. This event targeted aspirants for County Ward Representative. Present in the forum were some of the aspirants, the area chief, Transparency International Kenya staff, members of the Nairobi Good Governance Coalition and officials of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). The exercise took place on February 23, 25 and 26.

The objectives of the social vetting exercise included providing the electorate with a platform to highlight and articulate social, economic, and political issues within the society; give aspirants a chance to respond to queries from the people with regard to their competencies, integrity and policy on various issues of interest to the participants; assist the participants in making informed decisions during the elections based on the candidates ability to perform and their competencies and encourage political discussions based on issues affecting the public rather than ethnic affiliations and propaganda.

10 aspirants from Mathare constituency attended the vetting exercise. They included Stephen Kariuki, Mohammed Ahmed, John Kamau, Samuel Ndung'u, Kamande Juma, Joseph Kabiru, Daniel Mutiso, Joseph Shilingi, Alfred Gitau and Geoffrey Okanda. The aspirants were drawn from 3 county wards namely; Kiamaiko, Ngei ward and Huruma ward.

From Roysambu Constituency, which has five wards, four aspirants including Amos Mbuthia Mukami-Kahawa Ward; Calvince Onyango Sua-Kahawa West Ward and Patrick Chege Ngaruiya - Kahawa West Ward attended the exercise.

The general issues of concern in Roysambu constituency were listed as lack of playing grounds in the area and exposing children to danger by playing by the road side; inadequate education facilities for physically challenged members of the community; clarification on the whereabouts of funds of up to Kshs. 8 million put aside for building a bridge; the sale of land belonging to residents of Kaguaro and the displacement of residents in Kamai at the time of demarcation of the land; candidates to declare their wealth and how they got it and how assistance to persons living with HIV/AIDs and other terminally ill patients in the area.

During the forum, one participant wondered whether TI-Kenya was investigating the candidates. However, Nairobi Advocacy Legal Advisory Centre Programme Officer Juliet Mule explained that TI-Kenya is an independent observer and facilitated the forum to create awareness to the people and assist members of the public to make informed decisions during the general elections based on presentations by various aspirants and their responses to allegations and issues touching on their integrity and competence.

In the forum, an official of the IEBC took the electorate through the general and specific electoral procedures and electoral offences. An example of an electoral offence as stated by the official was the giving of bribes to the voters.

The general concerns in Roysambu Constituency were cited as development records of the aspirants in the community; police harassment, extortion and insecurity in the area; safeguarding children's rights and aspirants' policy on physically challenged individuals in the community. Residents also

Anne Buluma

demanded that aspirants must state their qualifications and declare their wealth. There was also a question on respect for human rights with an example of extra-judicial killings taking place in the area and indicated how difficult it had been to assist the family of the victim to get justice. On inter-ethnic harmony, a sought to know how the aspirants would ensure equal distribution of resources among the various communities in the area.

In Huruma, the general concerns included tribalism, land issues, corruption and development related issues. One participant inquired about the acquisition of a public toilet built by the city council and run by a youth group which was a private entity. Another participant asked why there was no woman aspirant on the panel, she wondered whether the women aspirants were afraid of their male counterparts or whether there were simply no female aspirants.

ALAC Nairobi did a follow up after the elections through the Nairobi Good Governance Coalition and found that among the aspirants who attended the social vetting exercise, Mr. Amos Mbuthia and Mr. Peter Chege Ngaruiya were elected as County Ward Representatives for Kahawa and Kahawa West, respectively.

The writer is Deputy Programme Officer, Advocacy Legal Advisory Centre Nairobi

Follow us on **twitter** twitter.com/TIKenya

Asserting role of youth in anti-graft efforts

Nepotism, favouritism, tribalism, impunity, tyranny and inequality are all forms of corruption sometimes performed by youths. Today I ask my fellow youth, what is our role as the youths in anticorruption initiatives especially in the devolved system of government?

The new generation will bear the brunt of corruption. Therefore the youth should refuse any form of corrupt practices including cronyism, nepotism and tribalism. By utilizing technology and adopting social media platforms the youth can fight corruption.

The books of Genesis and Exodus talk about love and God's love for man. This is the first principle of our role in Kenya's devolved system of government. To love and surrender to the authority.

In my understanding, devolution is allowing or giving decision making power to smaller or local units that will implement the decisions. We are the smaller and local units. We have a key role. We need to cure the regional imbalances. This is by basically promoting a democratic, accountable and transparent exercise in every action that we take; be it voting, businesses, carrying out political activities, name them. If we are able to do this in a transparent way, then, we are likely to reduce the rate of corruption in our motherland.

As youth, it is our responsibility to promote national unity by recognizing the diversity of the people of Kenya. Many may dismiss it as the government's role but today I ask you fellow youth, who is the government if not you? It is upon us to stop corruption by recognizing the rights of communities to manage their own affairs; to protect and promote the interests of the marginalized communities. We can only achieve this by speaking out about all cases of corruption without fear or favour.

Samuel Sowedi Issa

People think that corruption is a monster and when a wrestler comes, they jeer or celebrate. This is the tragedy of Africa and humanity all at once. Until the day when we the youths realize that we must participate in the fight against corruption, the ghost of corruption may not be exorcised.

We may have migrated from Egypt to the promised land but there are those Kenyans who have migrated from Egypt but still have too much Egypt in them. We must expel the country's cancerous corruption that is slowly eating up our motherland. IT CAN BE DONE! IT CAN BE DONE! IT CAN BE DONE!

The writer is a guest contributor living in Kakamega

TI-Kenya promotes accountability in Humanitarian Aid

By Caroline Ruto

The humanitarian Aid arena in Kenya has been crucial in providing mitigation for the thousands of Kenyans saddled by catastrophic disasters like drought, floods and other man made hazards.

The resources which flow to this sector are enormous and in most cases lacking accountability protocol to ensure proper utilization. This has been attributed to urgency of the activities which include a rush to save lives and mitigate the suffering of the victims. With prioritization of saving lives, accountability protocols are compromised and therefore the risks of corruption become real.

TI-Kenya Humanitarian Aid and Integrity Programme, conducted,Published and launched an Integrity report on Food Assistance (FAIS) that was analysing the 2011 drought response in Kenya . The objective of the report was to identify some of the the Integrity and accountability mechanisms governing food assistance programmes, and some loopholes which could allow diversion of aid.

Key risks identified by the report included politicization of food assistance with political leaders, local elites and local relief committees influencing who receives assistance and staff recruitment due to internal pressure by politicians and local authorities.

Transportation of the relief food also featured with businessmen jostling to obtain the tenders in cahoots with staff of the humanitarian agencies; failure to respond to early warning systems which led to a late rush and political pressurised response, this meant that some organizations struggled to lay strong procedures in the limited time heightening the risks of corruption and diversion while poor coordination and weak policies contributed to confusion on role mapping thus increasing the risks of intervention failing to address the neediest areas.

Poor communication and information dissemination including inadequate information regarding management of strategic grain reserves as well as forecasts of significant pipeline breakages and food distribution problems were also identified. As such, this created a fertile ground for the actors to cut deals and circumvent the right of the victims to receive the right amount of aid.

To address some of these challenges, the study recommended that humanitarian actors need to jointly analyse corruption related risks regarding different food assistance instruments to identify mitigation measures and set up a process of joint monitoring of food assistance.

Further, it was recognised that there is need to raise awareness of communities on the existing channels and mechanisms available at the local level for reporting concerns and incidents on diversion of humanitarian assistance.

Organizations were also advised to consistently consult and coordinate interventions with official government structures at county level. Initially Community dialogue forums were lacking. To address this, TI-Kenya is sensitizing communities to be proactive by providing an oversight role in food provisions to enhance citizen participation in the humanitarian chain delivery.

Since its launch, the FAIS study has received high level of ownership from key actors in the sector due to their involvement from the conceptualisation of the programme. TI-Kenya has now launched the second phase of the Programme structured around three components: (i) Advocacy: the TI-Kenya advocacy strategy has been drafted together with humanitarian partners at the National level and in three Counties (Wajir, West Pokot and Turkana). (ii) Capacity building and best practices exchange workshop for Humanitarian aid and government representatives has been conducted in West Pokot to raise awareness and mitigate risks of corruption in the implementation of aid. Similar workshops will be conducted in Turkana and Wajir (iii) Community participation: TI Kenya will work together with local partners to raise beneficiaries' awareness on identified corruption risks and to build their capacity to monitor aid and basic services projects implemented in their community. Social auditors drawn from the community will also be trained to hold service providers accountable and to report suspected cases of corruption.

To ensure sustainability of aid programmes, the TI-Kenya Humanitarian Aid and Integrity Programme intervention has jointly with key actors in the three counties developed an advocacy plan of action. Initially, TI-Kenya will provide the lead role in coordination of the activities as stakeholders take over the implementation and coordination.

6 ways to Report Corruption

1. sms ALAC on 3129

2. CALL **0800 720721** for free to get FREE legal aid & advice

3. Send us an ANONYMOUS message to @TI-Kenya

4. Send a DIRECT message to @TIKenya

5. E-mail:
Alac Eldoret: alaceldoret@tikenya.org
Alac Mombasa: alacmombasa@tikenya.org
Alac Nairobi: alacnairobi@tikenya.org
Alac Western: alacwestern@tikenya.org

6. Walk-In-To Our ALAC centers:
Alac Eldoret: Catholic Diocese of Eldoret, Uganda Road
Alac Mombasa: Ujamaa Centre, Nyoka Road, Nyali
Alac Nairobi: Children Legal Action Network (CLAN) Riara Road
Alac Western: Kisumu Town

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL KENYA
Towards a transparent, accountable and corruption free-Kenya!
1st Ngong Avenue, Nairobi.
Telephone: +254 (0) 20 2730324/5, 2727763/5
Cell: +254 (0) 722 296 58 9
Email: transparency@tikenya.org
www.tikenya.org

ALAC
Coast Region-Mombasa
Nairobi Region-Nairobi
Western Region-Kisumu
Rift-Valley Region-Eldoret