



# NEWSLETTER



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KAS Hauptabteilung  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit

Welcome to the KAS Ghana Newsletter

## 'The Code of Royal Ethics for Chiefs, Social Accountability and Environmental Protection – KAS activities 2013'

READ ABOUT PAST AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF THE KAS GHANA COUNTRY OFFICE

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### Code of Royal Ethics for Chiefs

A very important project KAS worked on during the last month is the Code of Royal Ethics for Chiefs. "This project, realized in close collaboration with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, codifies age-old traditional rules and customs. Its implementation will enhance the integrity of chieftancy and render traditional rules more transparent", explained Professor John Sebiyam Nabila, President of the National House of Chiefs.



Participants at the Launching Event on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June

Traditional leaders like Chiefs and Queenmothers play a very important role in Ghanaian culture and society. Chieftancy is one of only few institutions that survived all three political phases of the Ghanaian history. Today Chieftancy still enjoys

high legitimacy and relevance in the everyday life of Ghanaians. According to a 2006 study of the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD) more than 80% of Ghanaians feel loyal to a Chief. Chieftancy is also present in the Ghanaian Constitution, state institutions and Ghanaian law. Nevertheless many decision made by Chiefs or Queenmothers rely on customary law and can evoke conflict. Therefore a codification of traditional rules and ethical principles is important to strengthen transparency and maintain legitimacy among the population.

Already in 2011 Prof. Nabila, the President of the National House of Chiefs, approached KAS to collaborate on this project. Since the cooperation between KAS and the National House of Chiefs already lasted for more than twenty years, KAS enjoys wide appreciation among the institution. In several meetings and conferences members of the KAS and the National House of Chiefs worked on the codification. A committee of experts, consisting of Dr. Isaac Owusu-Mensah, Mr. Ankomah Akwasi Asare, Dr. Henry Dannaah and Mr. Edward Marfo assisted in the process. The final result of this process is the Code of Royal Ethics for Chiefs, an 18-page

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document covering among others the relationship between Chieftancy and the laws of Ghana, the community and the people as well as the relationship between different Chiefs. Furthermore it entails clear rules of implementation and reporting.



*Prof. John Sebiyam Nabila, President of the National House of Chiefs, speaks at the Launching Event*

After the document was signed by Prof. Nabila and the Honourable Minister for Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs, Dr. Henry Seidu Dannaah it was officially presented at a launching event in Accra on the 5th of June this year which was also covered by the media. It was attended by Minister Dr. Dannaah, Prof. Nabila, His Excellency Dr. Renate Schimkoreit, the Ambassador of Germany to Ghana, Dr. Gregor Ryssel, Resident Representative of KAS Ghana, as well as Chiefs from all parts of Ghana.

**Workshop – Promoting Peaceful Community Development: 6.5., 9.5. in Tumu**

Though Ghanaians are a rather peaceful people and in comparison to its neighbour countries Ghana is only modestly afflicted by intra-state conflicts, this problem nevertheless cannot be ignored. Especially in northern Ghana incidents of violent disputes flame up repeatedly. Mostly these conflicts are tribal in nature

whereas the major causes are disagreements over land rights - particularly between nomadic herdsman and farmers - and blind partisan politics. Oftentimes politicians and traditional leaders instrumentalise ethnic tensions for their own purposes and thereby promote violent conflict. Therefore it is necessary to sensitize the general population so that they are able to resist and question demagogues in order to break the cycle of violence.

In cooperation with the Non-Governmental-Organization 'Tamale Ecclesiastical Province Pastoral Conference' (TEPPCON) the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organized a workshop on the topic 'Sustaining Peace Through Mediation in Northern Ghana'. TEPPCON can draw on a lot of experience in promoting conflict prevention and mediation strategies and is a competent partner in this field. The workshop was conducted on the 6th and 9th of May in Tumu. It covered sessions on the concepts of conflict and peace and its different aspects, conflict analysis and mediation strategies. In total 73 persons attended. Since occasional workshops can only have a small impact, the participants were encouraged to act as multipliers and spread the learned content among their communities.



*Group Picture of the participants*

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**Workshop - Civic Society and Environmental Sustainability: 30.5. in Wenchi and 10.7., 12.7. in Techiman**

Environmental protection and sustainability is an important issue for Ghana in several ways. Firstly, since a proper waste management and sanitation system is non-existent in many parts of Ghana, environmental pollution highly contributes to diseases and a problematic health situation. Secondly, the increasing destruction of the environment as a natural resource poses a threat to development and the livelihoods of Millions of Ghanaians, especially in rural areas. Causes are among others unsustainable agricultural methods, overgrazing, fuelwood-logging. Also fishing grounds are affected.

Environmental protection is not only the government's or the industry's responsibility, but rather needs to be addressed in a holistic manor by the whole population. Therefore the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organised two workshops in cooperation with the Ghana Union Of Traders Association (GUTA) on the topic 'Civic Society and Environmental Sustainability' in the Brong-Ahafo Region. The two workshops aimed at sensitizing the civic society particularly traders, farmers, agro-chemical sellers on the need for good and healthy environmental practices for sustainable growth and development. A focal point were traditional mechanisms of protecting and sustaining the environment. Poverty is both a cause and a consequence of environmental destruction and degradation, thus sustainable environmental practices have to be linked directly to development in Ghana.

**Workshop - Traditional Women Leaders in Environmental Management Through Improved Hygiene And Ecological Sanitation: 09.-15.06. in Sunyani**

The Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD) in collaboration with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organised a 2-day Workshop for 50 selected Queenmothers in the Brong-Ahafo Region under the theme 'Traditional Women Leaders In Environmental Management Through Improved Hygiene And Ecological Sanitation'. The workshop was held at the Regent Hotel in Sunyani from 09-15 June 2013.



*Queenmothers at the workshop in Sunyani*

The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the Traditional Women Leaders to the eco-sanitation concept. The workshop created an opportunity for the women to reflect and brainstorm on their roles in ensuring good hygiene and sanitation practices in their communities. It also enabled them to identify the challenges they face in addressing sanitation and hygiene issues. At the end of the workshop, they gained a deeper understanding on the eco-sanitation concept and jointly developed an eco-sanitation programme that would be implemented under their leadership leading to improved cleanliness,

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improved environmental hygiene and ecologically sustainable livelihoods in their communities. Each participant went back with an action plan she developed at the workshop on concrete follow-up activities which are attached to the report.

The participants were taken through the current sanitation and environmental challenges in rural Ghana and its implications on rural health and livelihoods. They also reflected on the traditional roles of women leaders in ensuring good hygiene and sanitation practices in their communities.

**Workshop - Traders and Social Accountability: 27.05.-31.05. in Wenchi and Nkoranza, 26.-30.08. in Busunya, Jema**



*Contribution by one of the participants during a workshop in Wenchi*

In collaboration with the Ghana Trade Union of Traders (GUTA), KAS organised and implemented several workshops on the topic "Traders and Social Accountability". Two workshops were held in May in Wenchi and Nkoranza and another two in August in Busunya and Jema all in the Brong-Ahafo Region. The objectives of the workshops were to brainstorm on the concept of Social Accountability, its importance to nation building and how civil society organisations particularly traders associations can exact social

accountability as part of the process to enhance and promote good governance. Members of civil society groups like traders, farmers, artisans like tailors, seamstress, beauticians, students groups, agrochemicals sellers etc. from the Nkoranza South and Kintampo South Districts respectively participated.

Three (3) resource persons made presentations. The first presentation was on the topic, "What is Social Accountability and the tools for social accountability". The second topic was on "Promoting Social accountability, the role of traders". The final and the third topic that was presented was "Social accountability in Ghana".



*Presentation during a workshop in Nkoranza*

The central point for discussion was that the state usually channels resources to institutions and organisations for the promotion of socio-economic development. Unfortunately, public officials entrusted to manage these resources do not utilise them to the maximum benefit of the people. Research indicates that when civil society is well organised and informed, they can present a unified front that would put pressure on state officials to render accounts of their stewardship to the people. As a key pillar or ingredient for good governance, social accountability would promote popular participation,

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reduce corruption, reckless dissipation of resources, ensure equity and promote healthy collaboration between the state and the citizenry.

**Department of Political Science  
Lecture Series 2013: 13.09. in  
Accra**

On 13 September the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in cooperation with the Political Science Department and the Political Science Students Association (POSSA) of the University of Ghana conducted a special event on the German federal elections. The topic was 'German Elections 2013 and Its Implications on the Politics of the European Union'. Dignitaries present were Dr. Emmanuel Debrah and Mr. Frempong Kaakyire, who are members of the Political Science Department, the resident representative of KAS Ghana, Dr. Gregor Ryssel, Dr. Isaac Owusu-Mensah, Programme Manager of KAS, as well as a special guest - the Acting German Ambassador to Ghana His Excellency Thomas Wimmer. In total over 200 students attended the event; this impressively shows the strong interest of Ghanaian students in German politics.

Mensah and Dr. Emmanuel Debrah gave a few introductory words. The Acting German Ambassador made a presentation on the German political and electoral system elaborating on its features and characteristics in light of the German history. Furthermore he outlined the differences between the Ghanaian and the German electoral system. Subsequently a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of different electoral systems for Ghana embarked. The German representative stressed the need to thoroughly investigate the specific conditions and circumstances in Ghana before implementing a new electoral system, which might be appealing on first sight. Though the event did not touch the actual topic in much depth it was nevertheless very beneficial since the students could draw lessons from the German case and apply them to current Ghanaian politics.



**Impressum**

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*The board of discussants at the event at Universtiy of Ghana in Legon, Accra*

After an opening prayer by one of the students, Dr. Isaac Owusu-



*The Acting German Ambassador To Ghana His Excellency Thomas Wimmer*