

REPORT ON THE MACHAKOS/MAKUENI WORKSHOP HELD ON 21-1-2013 IN MACHAKOS TOWN

This workshop was a recap seminar on the topical discussion meetings held previously throughout the year 2012 by Dialogue Africa Foundation in partnership with KAS-Nairobi. The participants were drawn from both counties of Machakos and Makueni and comprised of opinion leaders, members of civil society, Residents Associations and the 2013 aspiring candidates.

The workshop was graced with the presence of the evaluator from the Germany Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dr. Klaus Pähler.

Mr. Antony Ndolo of MAPACA (Makueni Agency for Paralegal Communities in Africa Trust) was the first speaker and took the participants through the objectives and structure of the county system. This is an area of interest due to the forthcoming 2013 March 4th Election in the country and members participated throughout the presentation period. It also sought to clarify on some areas of concern by the public and the information that has been disseminated previously through a Devolution booklet by KAS-Nairobi to all its partners in different Counties. Participants learned that by distributing authority over public goods and revenues, it makes it difficult for individuals or groups of officials to collude and engage in corruption. They learned that devolution fosters effective cooperation within the devolved units, and local communities are able to mobilize social pressure against corruption.

It came out that Devolution multiplies the opportunities for political participation and therefore enhancing a democratic culture and empower communities to manage their own resources more effectively. By giving the local community an opportunity to take part in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating thus creating sense of ownership of people projects. Devolved government can provide goods and services whose consumption are limited to their own areas and encourage innovation in the delivery of services as people have greater incentives to take part in all aspects of community life and to resolve individual and collective choices. Devolution provides a more effective governance framework for advancing policies to help the poor.

The next presenter was Mr. Chris Mbiti from the Poverty Eradication Network (PEN). He took the audience through the various stages of participation in governance, now and after the general elections. The emerging issues on party-lists were tackled as well. Participants were encouraged to find other sources of gathering public information, when it came out during the seminar that, it was a bit difficult to get publicity material from government quarters. It is the duty of government to avail relevant information to the citizens and for citizens to demand this information from government institutions as agreed in the Bill of Rights. Citizen's organizations and civil society organizations will need to play a key role in civic education and in organizing citizen's platforms to share and deliberate on matters of citizen's interest. Platforms for their participation could be in monthly public forums, monitoring and evaluation systems, public hearings, revenue expenditure forums, procurement oversight committees, social budget forums, environmental management committees among others.

However, it is important to appreciate those meaningful citizen's participation will only be realized if citizens will be able to elect right leaders starting from the county level to the national level. Leaders who will provide foresight leadership free of corruption, nepotism, tribalism among other vices that have afflicted this country for many years. It came out that such leaders are the ones who will put county and national interest above their personal interests and who will fully implement and protect the new constitution.

The third and final session of the seminar dwelt much on the emerging issues of concern by participants and the clarification thereof. This was somewhat a plenary discussion session. The main focus here was the *2/3 gender rule* which most aspirants and voters alike fail to come into terms. It was noted that such a requirement had been suspended by the High Court and may not be a requirement in the forthcoming 2013 elections.

The discussions and presentations might appear repetitive but to the participants, they are the grey areas which deserved much more attention as the participants are expected to relay the same information to the public, especially those in the grassroots.

COUNTY GOVERNANCE AND PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

A follow-up workshop on the emerging issues of importance from previous engagements

21-1-2013

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Time	Activity	Responsibility
8.30AM-9.00AM	ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION	<i>Mr. Kavila Onesmus</i>
	Session chair	<i>Mr. Kavila Onesmus</i>
9.00AM-9.30AM	OPENING REMARKS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Dr. Karsten Duemmel, Director KAS-Kenya</i> 2. <i>Mr Jacob Atiang'</i> 3. <i>R.A Rep. Kimende</i>
	Session chair	<i>Mr. Partridge Mutiso</i>
9.30AM-11.00AM	THE COUNTY SYSTEM: OBJECTIVES AND ITS STRUCTURE	<i>Mr. Anthony Ndolol</i>
11.00AM-11.30AM	TEA BREAK	
	Session chair	<i>Mr. Nicholas Kimende</i>
11.30AM-1.00PM	PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVOLUTION SYSTEM AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES ON THE PARTY LISTS VERSUS SINGLE PARTIES AND COALITIONS	<i>Mr. Chris Mbiti</i>
1.00PM-2.00PM	LUNCH BREAK	
2.00PM-3.30PM	PLENARY SESSION	<i>Mr. Jacob Atiang</i>
	DEPARTURE	

Assistent: **Mr. Patridge Mutiso; Mr. Adam Mwangi; Mr. Hezan Asievra;**