

### **Enhancing the Capacities of Women in Leadership**

In July and August 2019, KAS held training workshops for nominated women MCAs in Kajiado, Mombasa and Kisumu respectively. The training covered selected women MCAs from the following counties; Nairobi, Kiambu, Kajiado, Machakos, Murang'a, Makueni Laikipia, Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, Tana-River, Lamu and Taita-Taveta, Kisumu, Vihiga, Homabay, Siaya, Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo.



*Image 1: Training session for nominated women MCAs in Mombasa County*

KAS has been engaging with partners to push for participation of women in leadership and decision making processes. There still continues to be a need for the women in leadership positions with a special target group of nominated women members of county assemblies to be empowered more in order to overcome the challenges they are often faced with and clearly get to understand their roles. This is from the realization that women are still left behind in matters leadership of the Country compared to their male counterparts. For instance, in the general elections held on August 8th 2017, only 96 out of 1,450 wards elected women in the 47 county assemblies. This however was an increase from the 2013 general elections whereby the numbers stood at 84 women MCAs. According to the gazette notice no.8380 published on the 28th August, 2017, the numbers of women nominated MCAs stand at 573 in all the 47 counties. A good proportion of women MCAs being first time legislators require their capacities to be enhanced on relevant topics of legislation, representation and oversight. This series of trainings thus sought to improve the efficiency of nominated female MCAs and also help them become more competitive in future elections.



Image 2: Training session for nominated women MCAs in Kajiado County

The overarching objective of the capacity building initiative was to equip the nominated women MCAs in the selected Counties with the essential knowledge and tactical skills on how best to fulfill their legislative, representation and oversight roles; understand the budgetary process; provide an oversight role; and finally learn how to communicate and engage with the media efficiently to use it as a tool to pass on relevant information to the people and create more visibility. The longstanding outcome through an indicator was to see these nominated women MCAs increase their participation and or representation in their respective county assemblies and improve on the content or issues they try to advocate and push for.

Overall, the training drew 58 participants from the various counties listed above. Through their input and sharing of experiences amongst the participants, the meetings were a great success with all of them appreciating the timing and selection of the training theme. The participants assured that they will make good use of the gained skills in their day-to-day legislative, representation and oversight roles within their respective counties. On its side, KAS looks forward to partnering and working with the women leaders in ensuring that they are successful in implementing their constitutional mandate.



Image 3: Group photos of participants from the Kisumu workshop