

## **VISIT TO KENYA BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE BUNDESTAG IN GERMANY**

From the 4<sup>th</sup> February to the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Kenia had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Christoph Ploss, a Member of Parliament from the Bundestag in Germany. During the three days, the Member of Parliament paid courtesy calls to the different leaderships of the Kenyan National Assembly. They included: the National Assembly Deputy Speaker Moses Cheboi accompanied by Majority Leader Aden Duale, Third Chairperson at the Speaker's Panel Hon. Christopher Omulele, the Majority Whip Hon. Benjamin Washiali and the Minority Whip Hon. Nuh Junet Sheikh. The discussions revolved around economic and political developments in Kenya and Germany and how best to continue strengthening these ties through political cooperation.



**Figure 1 From left to Right KAS Country Director Dr. Jan Cernicky, National Assembly Deputy Speaker Moses Cheboi, Dr. Christoph Ploss and National Assembly Majority Leader Aden Duale**

The Member of Parliament also held a roundtable discussion with young politicians who also take part in the KAS Mentorship programme. The young politicians represented their respective counties: Tharaka Nithi, Nairobi, Kitui, Kajiado, Kericho, Vihiga, West Pokot, Turkana and Baringo. The discussions reflected the political, economic, social and cultural issues affecting the youth in the respective counties as well as a collection of best practices.



**Figure 2 KAS Country Director Dr. Jan Cernicky (Centre), Dr. Christoph Ploss (Second Left) pose for a picture with the young politicians of Kenya**

In reference to the devolved system of governance in Kenya, the Dr. Ploss also paid a courtesy call to the County Government of Makueni Prof. Kivutha Kibwana. They engaged in discussions concerning environmental protection and sustainability, climate change and devolution as a system of governance.

Dr. Ploss also got a chance to watch a puppetry show in the informal settlement of *Mathare* in Nairobi, Kenya. KAS Kenya makes use of puppetry shows to enhance civic education among residents in the informal settlement. This enables the residents to be more aware of their civic duties and also gives them an opportunity to understand better the dynamics in politics; hence enabling them to hold their leaders into account on social, economic and political issues affecting them.

Towards the end of the visit, the Member of Parliament met with the Kenya African National Union (*KANU*) which is one of the oldest political parties in Kenya, and one that ruled for nearly 40 years after Kenya's independence from the British Colonial Rule in 1963 until 2002). Officials and Members of Parliament belonging to the political party shared their views and exchanged on inter-party cooperation in respect to the CDU and KANU party.



Figure 3 From Left to Right: Senator Abshiro Halake, Dr. Christoph Ploss, Hon. Gladwell Cheruiyot, Dr. Jan Cernicky, Hon. Agatha Mayola and Members of the KANU Party and KAS Kenya