

Women Empowerment and Peace

An opportunity for women to take up leadership positions

Despite constituting over half of the population, the presence of women in key state organs in Kenya is minimal. A peep at the government ministries, the courts, parliament and other state organs reveals this sad reality. Kenya has about 42 ministers and of these only six are women. At the Judiciary, things are shaping up after domination by men for a long time. It was a score for women after Lady Justice Nancy Baraza was appointed the Deputy Chief Justice while former nominated MP Njoki Ndung'u got a slot the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land. Before this, there were 11 judges at the Court of Appeal with no women after the only female judge-Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch took up an elective post at The Hague. At the High Court, there are 29 male judges and 18 female judges. There are 181 male magistrates compared to 118 female counterparts, and 18 kadhis with no females. In Kenya- 70 percent of the government ministries and parastatals have zero budget on gender mainstreaming and for those that have an allocation, get less than Kshs5 million. On governance and public sector- Job Groups P and above-

where key decisions are made- have less than 25.1 percent of women. A latest survey says that 72 percent of the public service sector is dominated by men. According to Ms Atsango Chesoni several factors contributed to this phenomenon, which include, gender imbalance in decision-making fora and the absence or underrepresentation of women in these fora; absence of enabling policies and legislation to ensure gender equality in respect of policy and law making processes; sexist and discriminatory cultural practices and customs that militate against women's advancement; discriminatory electoral and nomination processes and the dominant culture of political patronage.

Status

Their absence in decision-making bodies aggravates women's inferior status not only as individuals but also within the family and society as a whole. Indeed, the growing poverty forced many women to seek paid job but this does not discharge them from their traditional duties as chief family carers- responsible for health and education of their children. Despite the fact that they constitute the large number of workforce in the agricultural sector, women

do not own land and cannot get credit. But now that is a thing of the past since the new Constitution has come with many provisions that guarantee equal rights and participation in all spheres. To start with, the Chapter on Citizenship is a big score for women because unlike before, the Constitution now permits a person married to a Kenyan, citizenship. Before the promulgation of the Constitution in August 27, 2010, this privilege was a preserve for men.

Affirmative

Another score is to be found in Article 27 (8) which states that not more than two-thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies shall be of the same gender. The same Article also calls of the State to come up with legislation and other measures including affirmative action programmes and policies to redress the imbalance suffered by women and other minority groups. Similarly, Article 27(3) of the Constitution calls for equal

Continued on page 3.

Empowerment of women is critical factor in the eradication of poverty and the overall improvement of the national economic situation.

The more the women get wealthier, the benefit to the family is immediate- effective control of population relies on educating and training women
World Bank.

Women celebrate the International Women's Day in Style

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that fears the Lord, she shall be praised. This is the day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it," Amen.

This year's International Women's Day was marked with pomp and colour as mothers, sisters and daughters came out in large numbers to celebrate March 8, a day that has been set aside for them.

At the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) the theme that was chosen was *"Equal access to education, training and science and technology-pathway to*

decent work for Women."

The women gathered at AACC sung hymns in praise of the Lord as they asked Him to open their eyes to see, their ears to listen to the cry of women, their mouths to speak out for justice and their hearts to work for the betterment of the life of mothers, sisters and daughters. The sermon was delivered by Dr. Emily Onyango of St. Paul's University.

In Kenya, we are glad that various steps have been made towards the betterment of the lives of the women. To begin with, Article 59 of the new Constitution establishes the Kenya National Human Rights

and Equality Commission to deal with gender discrimination.

The Constitution further says in Article 27(4) that women and men have a right to equal treatment, including the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, social and cultural spheres. This is a big achievement. Bread for the World, a partner with TAABCO has been supporting women groups such as the Kiagasa Breastfeeding Single Mothers and Orphaned Children (KIBISOM), a community based organization in Rusinga Island.

Continued on page 2.

Inside this issue:

TAABCO team photo	2
A time to celebrate	2
A message of peace	3
Walking side by side	4
A challenge to youth	5
Peacemakers wanted	5
Budget implications	7

All Africa Conference of Churches Executive Committee has raised concerns over new “partitioning” of Africa by economically powerful countries. The Executive Committee said in a statement in April that the trend, to exploit natural resources such as oil, timber and minerals, was unfair as it undermines the freedom and independence which was gained at very high cost. On other fronts, rich countries were also taking advantage of the poor countries in Africa to alienate fertile land in the name of increasing food production in Africa. “We therefore call upon the Church, all nations, people of Africa and the AU to stand firmly and protect the gains and the dignity of the continent,” read part of the statement.

TAABCO team members in a group photo



Sadly is the revelation that women are still trafficked in their quest for decent work. We read in the papers stories of migrant workers living in deplorable conditions.

“Women are disproportionately affected by trade liberalisation , in most developing countries, women have felt the impact of liberalisation most sharply. Since women produce most food for their own consumption, they have been disproportionately affected by the elimination of subsidies, the drying up of credit and the surge in cheap imports”. Economic Justice Network, research paper on Climate Change, water and Food Security in Southern Africa.

Mothers, daughters, sisters celebrate international Women’s Day

Continued from page 1.

The group runs a school that caters for orphans and micro-finance activities among widows. It also supports persons living with HIV and AIDS and single mothers.

Further, the Land Policy, which was passed by Parliament, compels families to allow women to inherit property. This authority has been asserted by a number of court rulings outlawing discrimination of women from inheriting their parents’ properties.

In the National Assembly, the tenth Parliament has 22 female MPs 16 of them having been elected in the 2007 General Election while the rest were nominated by political parties. The number of women seeking elective posts has been on the increase in the recent past.

Affirmative action

Another positive thing to note is the Affirmative action for joining public universities which gives women a lower entry point. The 2010 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) results also showed girls’ performance in an upward scale.

There are also two pending bills in Parliament that are aimed at pro-

tecting women’s rights.

Despite all these positive aspects, there are grey areas that need to be looked into. First, many areas in Kenya especially the northern parts where education for women has not taken root. Despite the fact that women play a very big role at home, very few of them are on salaried employment.

Fragile incomes

Researches conducted reveal that an increasing number of men are seeking employment away from home in order to supplement their fragile incomes. And as a result more responsibilities are falling on women, who are often unable to cope with the increased workload. The domestic chores range from caring the children, fetching water and firewood, and in other areas some are forced to herding and rearing livestock.

Such women should be boosted with income generating activities to enhance their earnings.

Our call is that more schools, that target girl child, should be established in the marginalized areas to empower them.

Sadly also, is the revelation that women are still trafficked in their quest for decent work. We read in

the papers stories of migrant workers living in deplorable conditions.

Many women also have less access to resources such as education, credit and land compared to men. The women should therefore be enlightened on the availability of development funds such as Constituency Development Fund (CDF) which prioritize maginalised areas, the Women Enterprise Fund and Youth Fund and other micro-credit facilities.

“It is important that African legacies of discrimination and marginalization are scrapped so as to negotiate a vital place for women in the given national and economic life,” Dr Agnes Abuom in a paper presented to regional seminar on the Impact of Economic Reforms on the Condition of women in Africa, Accra, Ghana, in 1996.

Faithful urged to come together against violence, aggression

The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) was held in May in Kingston, Jamaica, as theologians, faith leaders and the prime minister of Jamaica welcomed some 1,000 participants from more than 100 countries.

Keynote speaker Canon Dr Paul Oestreicher, a globally recognized peace activist, called for churches across all spiritual traditions to strengthen their position on peace, even while recognizing their own history of declaring war in the name of God.

“Under the sign of the cross, Christian nations conquered other nations,” he said. “In the crusades, they massacred the children of Islam. That has not been forgotten. We, just like our brothers and sisters in Islam, regard those who die in battle as certain of a place in heaven.”

Dr Oestreicher acknowledged that the

path to peace is obstructed by political complexities.

“At the moment war, once it starts, is held by most of our neighbours to be honourable, probably necessary, and sometimes noble. Language disguises the bloody, cruel reality,” he said.

The Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), moderated the convocation’s opening session, which included an opening prayer service, greetings, and stories of churches seeking peace and reconciliation.

“I believe that God has called us here from many parts of the world to carry from your countries your experiences,” he said adding that, “Many of you carry with you the realities of the injustice of violence.”

Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding acknowledged his own country’s history of violence and, at the same time, its ingenuity and resilience in coping over the decades.

“I genuinely believe that we were all created by the same God,” he said. “The challenge is: how can we transform our discussion into a shared set of values that are universally accepted and sustained.”

“The principle question we have to answer is what we as Christians can do together in the face of growing violence, aggression, exploitation and terror,” he said.

The IEPC came at the end of a “Decade to Overcome Violence”, an initiative of the WCC that strove to strengthen existing efforts and networks for preventing and overcoming violence, as well as inspire the creation of new ones.

The Rev. Dr Margot Kaessmann, a Lutheran theologian and minister in the Evangelical Church of Germany, said that IEPC participants are part of a long and complex journey that only begins this week.

“Our economies profit from violence and war that we lament,” she said.

“It is-time that religion refuses to be misused by pouring oil into the fire of war and hatred.”

“As faithful disciples of the Lord of peace, we must constantly pursue and persistently proclaim alternative ways that reject violence and war. Human conflict may well be inevitable in our world; but war and violence are not.”

Destroy

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew shared this message of peace., saying, “First, never before has it been possible for one group of human beings to eradicate as many people simultaneously; second, never before has humanity been in a position to destroy so much of the planet environmentally,” Bartholomew said, acknowledging the precipice humankind stands on.

The patriarch stated that most peace-making efforts fail because we are unwilling to forgo established ways of wasting and wanting



Dr Agnes Abuom speaking at SCC Assembly, Juba in May 2011

“Wealth and property and the power that comes with them are things which divide people and communities and offer a false reading of human value. This is instead a universal message calling on us to reject materialism as a measure of value or security,” World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit.

Opportunities for women courtesy of the new Constitution

Continued from page 1. treatment to men and women, and the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social spheres. In the composition of the members of the National Assembly, women have been guaranteed 47 seats, each elected from every county.

Devolved governments

And for the Senate seats, 16 women shall be nominated by political parties according to their proportion of members of the Senate. That is not the end because Article 175 (c) on the Princi-

ples of Devolved governments says that no more than two-thirds of the members of representative bodies in each county government shall be of the same gender.

Discrimination

The law also guarantees equitable access to matrimonial property and public land, and provides for the enactment of laws to govern the same. Article 60(f) eliminates gender discrimination on inheritance and recognises inheritance rights of wives and children, including those born out of marriage.

Further, the proposed Political Bill

has incentives for parties that nominate women in their strongholds. Such parties will be given more funds for giving a chance for women to participate in political life.

Senate

By the look of things, the eleventh Parliament, the Senate, County Assemblies and many state organs will have a bigger representation by women, thanks to the Constitution. It is hoped that with a bigger number, women will bring the much needed change because they understand the problems that affect Kenyans.

“The implicit assumption that the effects of development activities are potentially beneficial to both men and women is not correct. In reality the advantages of development quite often go to women in the form of increased earnings or labour-saving techniques; the disadvantages go to the women in the form of an increased and unpaid workload.” contribution by Dr Ank Linden then Policy advisor on Gender and Development— during the seminar on Economic Reforms on condition of women in Africa, regional seminar in Accra Ghana, 1996.

Equality between men and women has become a strategic goal for sustainable development.

With participation of all, we can meet all the objectives

Women in Kenya have been struggling for democratic space and recognition for a long time. Although the struggle is far from over, women have scored big in form of the new Constitution.

For awhile, the patriarchal notion dominated the public domain- with men having an upper hand in politics, economics and others spheres. At home too, women could not make decisions and many mothers and wives had to concede to men decisions. For ages, the tasks women did was overlooked and never quantified. The work included childbearing and childcare, food preparation, fetching water and firewood and caring for the sick.

Had the government earlier recognized and quantified the work done by women especially in rural areas, it would have prioritized them and record a meaningful development ages ago.

But the pervasiveness of patriarchal norm, writes Ms Atsango Chesoni in *Readings on Inequality in Kenya*, directly and indirectly influenced the culture of policy, law and decision making. She adds that the patriarchal norms ensured that women did not own or control assets and their ability to acquire and dispose of property was greatly restricted.

With the new dispensation, however, things have changed for good as women are now acknowledged as political and economic players

and not merely as mothers and wives. The recent suit filed by FIDA-Kenya and other civil society groups blocking the swearing in of five judges of the Supreme Court is a manifestation of this. According to FIDA, the nominations did not reflect gender balance and was in breach of the Constitution, which says that not more than two thirds shall be of the same gender. In the application, FIDA argues that if provisions of Article 27 of the Constitution were to be followed and female gender were to be lesser represented in the Supreme Court, it would follow that at least one-third or 33.3 per cent of the membership of the court be women and 66.7 per cent be men.

A few years ago, Violence against women- was a major scourge in the country. Hardly a day passed without a story of a woman was battered by a spouse. It is indeed this reason that led to the formation of organizations such as FIDA, FAWE, Centre for Rights Education and Awareness, the League of Kenya Women Voters, Women in Law and Development in Africa, Caucus for Women Leadership, and Coalition on Violence Against Women among others to champion for the rights of women.

And as awareness grew as a result of advocacy from these groups, the demand for participation in decision-making organs increased. The drive also saw the onset of gender mainstreaming in many organizations.

Poverty

Civil society organizations took the lead by crafting policies to reflect this change. It was a positive move as these policies ensured that women were involved alongside men at all levels- be it defining the problems, seeking the solutions, executing the plan and analyzing the results.

“With the increase in poverty in the 1970s, especially in rural populations, the notion of target groups was introduced, better nutrition, health and education for the most of the vulnerable groups was not only seen as an end in itself, but as a prerequisite for development” wrote Jacqueline De Grote of Belgium in a paper presented in a regional seminar held in Accra, Ghana in July 1996.

The paper titled 1980/1990 *Economic Reforms on the Condi-*

tion of Women in Africa further says that in mid-eighties, the notion of Gender and Development emerged in Anglo-Saxon countries. The concept of Gender and Development made a distinction between gender differences and differences due to the relationships created between men and women. From then on, women were no longer considered as the beneficiaries of development but as active agents. Their participation at all levels remains vital.

She adds that the Gender and development approach gave rise to concepts of women empowerment and mainstreaming women and women’s concerns- meaning that women had to be given the power to decide on the substance and orientation of the development process.

Equality

Equality between men and women has become a strategic goal for sustainable development. We can meet economic and other objectives with the participation of all- men and women.

In a recent survey on Africa conducted by the World Bank, the role of women in development is appreciated. The survey argues that the more the women get wealthier, the benefit to the family is immediate. After realizing the important role played by women, President Mwai Kibaki started the Women Enterprise Fund in 2006 to empower women through provision of financial services. The women targeted are the ones excluded from informal and formal financial sectors.

Although many women are yet to fully harness the opportunity offered by the Fund, directing resources towards women can help achieve the kind of social transformation which promotes a model of development that is self-reliant, sustainable, holistic and participatory.

The survey noted that women- who are both contributors and beneficiaries from development, still lack legal and property rights, access to finance and modern business practices. The World Bank further adds that most women in Africa risk dying from childbirth. On that note, the government should do more to meet Goal number 5 of the Millennium Development Goals, as it remains a threat in rural areas and the slums.

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Participants during the Impact workshop in Nakuru, June 2011

A challenge to the youth to take up leadership positions

By Chantal Ongaro

Although 75 percent of the Kenyan population is 30 years and below, their status in the society has been placed on the periphery. Their presence is only felt during election time albeit because of their numbers. It would not be wrong to state that the youth in the country have been excluded from designing, planning and implementing programmes and policies that even affect them.

This has remained a sad situation even as the country marks great achievements 48 years after independence from the British rule. Some ten years ago, KANU- the Independence party- was voted out of power and one year ago, Kenyans ushered in a new Constitution.

In every of these junctures, Kenyans celebrated, believing they had finally entered the promised land. But grand corruption is still destroying our nation's natural and human potential making us lag behind

many areas. Is the time ripe for the youth to stand up and take over the leadership of this country? Many agree that Kenya needs new crop of leaders in all spheres be it political, businesses, civic and national offices; responsible men and women of integrity and excellence who refuse to enrich themselves or their tribe and who have a genuine concern for and commitment to the well being of all their fellow citizens.

In Kenya, we have tolerated oppression of the poor, people starving whenever there's a drought, slums and its problems, the never-ending issue of squatters and internally displaced people, impunity and public corruption.

As the elections for 2012 close in, it is necessary to encourage the youth who may be interested in building careers revolving around national leadership. It is argued that they are the best vessel debunking the myths of ethnicity and breaking traditional barriers and political facades.

This discussion is motivated by the fact that Kenyan youth have constantly been reminded that they are future leaders and therefore not ready or deserving to be in those positions today. Addition

ally, if the leadership is left to the senior citizens only, shall we not get into situations of leadership gaps at some stage?

On the other hand, it has continually been pointed out that leadership is for those who are financially endowed rather than lightweights. The truth is that age and financial status are ideally not pre-requisites of leadership. Notably, the current British Prime Minister got into power in May 2010 at 43 years.

Indeed, there have been many other cases of young leaders who have attained these positions out of sheer merit even when not financially endowed. Remember that President Obama's campaign was substantially financed by his supporters. Even more encouraging is that our new Constitution has embraced unprecedented guides driven by integrity and leadership principles as outlined in chapter Six.

Moreover, if we can learn from the trends in the recent interviews of senior judicial officers, then the expected leadership standards have started falling in place. Most likely, it is only people with impeccable credentials and character that may in the future venture into public leadership. Is this then not an opportune moment for the youth to start considering their options in leadership?

Ideally, leadership principles are always the same whatever the situation. However, it pays to realize that leadership is

Continued on page 6

Wanted; Peacemakers willing to "cross-over" borders.

By Reuben Inganji

Peace does not mean the absence of noise, trouble or hard work. It means being in the midst of these things but maintaining calm in your heart.

Mother Teresa once said that Peace begins with a smile. A smile, somebody once said can light up a room. Imagine what a smile does in people's lives; and what if everybody smiled at each other? Like a stone thrown into a pond, and the ripples it creates, a smile can have the same effect in a group of people.

How often do we make an effort to advocate for peace be it in our homes, neighbourhood and country? How often do we reach for each other?

Water

In his message to participants at the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) held in 17-25 May in Kingston, Jamaica, the Rev. Dr Burchell K. Taylor, vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, preached about peace.

Dr. Burchell preached on the gospel of Mark 4:35 in which Jesus and his disciples leave a crowd and cross over the wind-swept waters. He portrayed the water in the passage as a troubled border that the disciples must cross in order to spread their message.

"Life is sharply and simply filled

with borders, with boundaries and with frontiers that divide people, making them strangers and aliens," said the preacher adding that, "Associated with this are nurtured and cultivated discriminations, mistrust and hostilities."

According to Dr. Burchell, restoring peace in the world will depend upon peacemakers who are willing to "cross over" borders, or transform their relations based on a restored humanity signaled by a new order of God's rule in Jesus Christ.

"These borders – legal, racial, national, ethnic, social, economic, cultural, gender, political and religious – are assigned values to define and identify those who are superior and those who are inferior, those who are entitled to be dominant and those who are predetermined to be dependent, those who are chosen to be at the center, and those who naturally belong to the margins."

Burchell urged the participants to tackle the challenges waiting for them in their peace work by urging them to "Cross over, agents of peace."

Training

Back home, TAABCO conducted three-day training on Alternative to Peace to some 45 young people from across the country in April. During the training, the youth were urged to reach out to each other and be agents of peace.

In 2007-08 post-election violence, the youth were misused by politicians for

selfish gains. It is the youth that were used to disrupt rallies and holding of demonstrations protesting the delay of announcement of presidential results. Their joblessness was a fertile ground for potential recruits as noted in a study conducted by Kenya Thabiti Taskforce that "some of the youth involved in post election violence were not necessarily seeking or defending their personal interests but furthering the objectives of the inciters."

General Election

Another study conducted by Coalition for Peace in Africa says that the youth can be vessels of debunking the myths of ethnicity.

The training was timely as we approach the general elections next year. The youth were imparted with knowledge of how they can coexist with each other and concentrate their energies to fighting impunity, corruption, poor governance and poverty which does not reside in ethnic differences.

Peace comes with a lot of benefits including a stable economy since the country will attract investors translating to employment and poverty reduction among others.



Some of the 45 youth who took part in the training organized by TAABCO in April, 2011



Partners in Mateget, Nandi County during the April meeting held in Eldoret.

Mind you, it may pay dividends to work out dreams that are realizable during the leadership term. Further, it is advisable to be with the followers as they strive to achieve their dreams.

“The integration of women in the development process will not only enhance their status and welfare, but also broaden the country’s human resource base, increasing output and eliminating poverty.”

Youth and leadership– where is the missing gap?

Continued from page 5

about the power of influence, which can be articulated in several ways. One of them is power of rewards where financial endowment becomes the key consideration. In this situation, you use financial might and other favors to buy your way into leadership. But does everybody have to use that route?

Influence

Another popular source of influence is derived from charismatic power. Gifted speakers and more appropriately social communicators fit quite well in this category. Sometimes, they need nothing else other than pulling and influencing people through their oratory skills.

Unfortunately, the power of influence may not work on its own in leadership. In fact, one is unlikely to be successful in leadership when there is no purpose for being in the same. More still, the position may not be sustainable for long. That is why you find that there

are only a few leaders who sustain these positions for a lifetime. The ideal situation is to be in leadership as a way of life.

Vision

So, what does it take to achieve the desired success? One sure way of venturing into leadership anywhere is identifying the challenges or aspirations that prospective constituents could easily identify with. What in other words is destabilizing them, which you think you can contribute in helping to achieve the desired results? What is their vision or, more appropriately, their expected achievements? Do you prescribe to that vision and would you walk with them as they pursue the same? If this can be a shared vision, then you are on the first steps towards acquiring devoted followers.

Dreams

Mind you, it may pay dividends to work out dreams that

are realizable during the leadership term. Further, it is advisable to be with the followers as they strive to achieve their dreams. When the dreams are not achieved and you are unavailable to discuss and face the respective challenges with them, mistrust is likely to set in. This situation alienates you, the leader with the followers. In the end there may be no wins for any of the parties.

This may lead to eventual severance of the relationship and therefore loss of the leadership position. Ultimately, every leader’s desire is to stay on and serve for as long as is practically possible. Are you that leader?

Implications that come with this year's budget

By Alice Mbaye

The Kenyan economy has been on the recovery path in the recent past after suffering external shocks of global financial crisis, the ravages of weather and residue effects of 2007 post election violence. The recovery was boosted by favorable weather conditions in late 2009 and 2010.

The budget is an important instrument that the government uses to define the direction of its national policy, the cost implications of government programmes, and the possible sources of revenues during a fiscal year. The basic functions of the budget therefore show the collection and allocation of resources to priority sectors, provision of public goods and services by government and re-distribution of incomes.

In addition, the budget strives to ensure economic stabilization, social order and harmony, as well as acting as a measure of government performance and accountability. Although the concept of the budget as an indicator of performance is relatively new in Kenya, it is steadily gaining ground with the advent of an increasing demand for transparency and accountability in government's action plans.

How do we as CSOs seek to influence decisions and help develop viable alternatives to Government policies? How do citizens participate in the budget process? Happy to note is the fact that some proposals crafted by CSOs on Alternative Budget have been incorporated in the national budget.

When Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta read out the financial estimates on June 8, many welcomed it because they thought it had cushioned the poor from the rising costs of living and cost of basic commodities like food and fuel. Agriculture and infrastructure received a major boost, as the country targets achieving food security and sustainable development. Increase in the allocation of the amount for social protection was an indication that the government was committed towards strengthening the social security systems in the country.

CSOs need to look at the future with the youth in mind; the Government set aside 1.8 billion for the Youth Empowerment project covering labour intensive works and social services. Private sector firms' offering internship and training placement for the youth will also benefit from tax rebates for training and passing on the relevant work experience and enhancing the employability of the youth

In Agriculture, Funds will be available for irrigation as well as water harvesting in the ASAL areas. The government is also keen on tackling effects of climate change and therefore CSOs should mainstream issues of climate change and environment into their programme.

Funds are already available for fish farming at constituency level and partner organizations can tap into these resources for the benefit of the communities in which they serve.

Human resource development is a key foundation for national socio-economic transformation. In line with this, the government has allocated a significant amount of resources to education and health. The bursary program has been up-scaled to cater for more orphans and children from poor households, in to this, the government also set aside some Kshs300 million for sanitary towels to be distributed to girls in primary schools to ensure that the girl child does not miss classes.

Opportunities

New Constitution dispensation and its effects: this Constitution herald's transition to democratic budget process and its implementation is likely to fast track legal and institutional reforms as well as lead to medium to long term improvement in governance. To this end, it is expected to not only boost investor confidence by creating an enabling environment for increased private sector investment but also fast track structural reforms in public financial management, judiciary, and land reforms and in other governance areas.

As such, the government should ensure it adheres to the set implementation timelines for these benefits to be realized. Expected

growth prospects through affordable credit: This in essence signals expansion of credit facility at an affordable rate to private sector investment.

However, for the private sector to feel these benefits the transmission mechanism from short term interest rate to commercial bank lending rates need to be understood and strengthened. Increased investment in infrastructure especially in the expansion of the road sector has been increasing over the last five years from about 9 per cent as a proportion of the total budget to 24 per cent. The medium term projections for budget allocations to this sector are expected to be maintained going forward and thus this investment is envisaged to bring about returns and benefits to spur further economic growth.

Public Private Partnership initiative and concessional external borrowing; besides, the pace of infrastructure completion is also critical.

Boosting trade opportunities regionally: there are new trade opportunities for Kenya to exploit in the new South Sudan following the successfully referendum. In addition this provides an opportunity for Kenya private sector players to continue investing in the nation despite the many challenges. Kenya intends to increase trade through construction of a road and rail linking the two countries and proposed development of second part in Lamu.

Besides that, the implementation of a fully fledged EAC Customs Union and the EAC Common Market offers more trade opportunities.

Challenges and Risks

Going forward, there are some challenges and risks to the macro-economic outlook for 2011 including, Unfavorable weather conditions: the country is currently experiencing a dry spell, especially in the northern parts of Kenya. People are facing starvation and food shortages. Besides, these spells being witnessed may cause some downturn in agricultural output and in turn lead to food inflationary pressures. competing needs. However, there are some concerns on the fiscal front.



Participants at the Nakuru workshop on Outcome and Impact Orientation.

“Besides that, the onset EAC Customs Union and the EAC Common Market offers more trade opportunities.”

“Sexual harassment in the work place is on the increase. A response to this has been the creation of associations to fight such harassment and incidences of rape. Another front where violence is felt both physically and emotionally is at home. Here children and women are treated to all types of violence that has in recent years been on the rise. Because of poverty, ignorance and cultural factors, these women are not able to seeks redress,” Dr. Agnes Abuom.

www.taabco.org

TAABCO News is produced by
TAABCO Research and Development
Consultants

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Strengthening organisations to manage change
through Consultancies, Training, Research and
Policy analysis

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poverty free society that affirms human
dignity, has participatory leadership and
a strong viable civil society.

TAABCO's Mission is to strengthen Civil
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on Leadership and Management Sys-
tems' Knowledge Management practices
and Deepening Dialogue and Building
partnerships among others.



Transforming Organisations



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African Faith leaders demand action ahead of COP17 in Durban, SA

Faith leaders from across
the continent have
pledged to combat the
effects of climate change
with a revitalised moral vision.

In a communiqué issued after the
meeting in Nairobi's Gigiri to dis-
cuss climate change, the leaders
vowed to lead in ensuring that local
communities understood its threats.
In the communiqué, the 130 leaders
drawn from the Muslim, Christian,
Hindu, African traditional, Baha'i
and Buddhist communities also
promised to draw their spiritual
resources to foster crucial ecological
virtues such as wisdom, justice,
courage and temperance, and to
confront vices such as greed in their
midst.

The leaders further acknowledged
that climate change has greatly
affected already vulnerable people
such as women, children, the eld-
erly, the poor and the disabled and
that it worsens existing inequalities.

Disasters

They agreed that as leaders, they
had an obligation on faith groups to
stand in solidarity with the victims
of climate change disasters, showing
care, compassion and love, to plant
indigenous trees and promote eco-
logical restoration.

At the same time, the leaders from
30 countries in Africa said that they
hoped the upcoming Conference of
Parties (COP17) in Durban, South
Africa must decide on a treaty to

ensure the survival of the coming
generations and renew their commit-
ment to the Kyoto Protocol.

In the message to the world leaders,
the heads called for their commitment
to the principle of inter-generational
equity, the rights of the children for
generations to come, and to the rights
of Mother Earth as outlined in the
Cochabamba declaration.

The leaders also want the wealthy
nations to acknowledge that invest-
ments in sustainability are a better
guarantor of peace than military
spending. They also called on them to
abandon Gross Domestic Product
(GDP) as an indicator of prosperity in
favour of indicators that include hu-
man wellbeing, equality and the exter-
nal environmental costs of human
economies among other things.

Blocs

To the political leaders in the conti-
nent, the heads urged them to regain a
united voice and abandon expedient
allegiances with blocs that are scram-
bling to appropriate Africa's natural
resources. The leaders also want the
politicians to recognise in all policy
statements that the continent's long-
term social and economic interests
require the stability of the biophysical
environment today.

They want political leaders to priori-
tise measures and adopt policies to
resolve environmental degradation in
the nation states.

"They should acknowledge and pre-

empt the violence at all levels that climate
change and environmental degradation is
already fuelling on the continent and adopt
and enact land policies that ensure equity
and justice for all," read part of the com-
miqué.

They also urged the political leaders to
resist the approval of transactions with
exploitative corporations that would cause
serious environmental damage and pro-
mote indigenous tree planting and protec-
tion of existing forests, lakes and rivers.

Stable

In conclusion, the leaders said that every
human generation is faced by particular
challenges and opportunities adding that if
we do not secure a stable climate for the
sake of future generations, we will be held
accountable by them and judged by his-
tory.

"On this very critical issue of climate
change, we must not fail. Every lost mo-
ment increases an irreversible threat to life
on Earth," said the leaders.

"to prioritise
measures and adopt
policies to resolve
environmental
degradation in the
nation states."

"End the crisis in Libya"

The Forum for Former African
Heads of State and Government
want the African Union to pursue the
Peace Plan and Programme it had ear-
lier decided on Libya.

Amid bombarding and air strikes by
NATO, the leaders said in a statement
that the military intervention was not
likely to end the crisis but it was rather
making it difficult for a durable resolu-
tion.

"It is very obvious that the perpetuation
of the current violent conflict, with no
end in sight, including the further exac-
erbation of the animosities among the
Libyans and the destruction of infra-
structure, will make it ever more diffi-
cult to reconstruct Libya as a united,
democratic and peaceful country," said
that 30 leaders in the statement.

Intervene

They called on AU members State to
urgently convene an Extra-ordinary
Assembly and adopt necessary deci-
sions about what Africa must do, and
urgently facilitate a peaceful and speedy
end of the conflict.

"We also know that millions of Afri-
cans, throughout the continent, expect
and pray that their premier organisa-
tion, the African Union, will spare no
effort to intervene to end the immense
suffering and agony of the sister people
of Libya, which is also truly and African
agony," added the leaders.