

# ENTRENCHING CIVIC SPACE



*Leaders of CSO sector reviewing Progress in CSOs and county governments relationships and engagement in Machakos, July 2018*

## REVIEW OF THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN MACHAKOS COUNTY, KENYA

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Civil Society Sector in Kenya is under tremendous pressure to perform amidst challenges posed by lack of funding, declining influence of the sector, poor enabling environment coupled with intimidation of some members of the sector by the state and political forces in the country.

Pundits have classified the sector to be in a state of *Kujitolea* (voluntarism) unlike in the 80's and 90's when the sector was awash with funding and bursting in the seams in influence and affluence.

During this time, CSO leaders like Prof. Kivutha Kibwana under Ufungamano Initiative engaged in vibrant advocacy that saw the reveal of section 2A of the old Constitution of Kenya that banned multiparty politics in early 90's.

This change birthed other changes, such as the election of a new president under Narc Coalition during the third multi party elections in 2002 and later the New Constitution in 2010 and transition into devolved government systems in 2013.

However despite midwifing these transformative changes, the sector seems to have lost its luster and vibrancy as many of its leaders left the sector and joined government, and donors seem to have constantly shifted funding and support from the sector to either private sector or government.

The transition into devolved government system particularly caught the sector unprepared and in a difficult position due to challenges of funding and weak leadership.

CSO players such as PEN and the Civil

Society Reference Group (CSRG) have been grappling in the past 5 years with attempts to support devolvement of CSO engagements to counties.

PEN has set up CSO networks in more than 10 counties and experiences in the few that have progressed are currently being documented and analyzed for posterity and learning.

Machakos County is one among others where devolved CSO forum or network has been in operation in the past five years, going through a mixed grill of success and challenges.

The conference on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 attended by 41 CSO leaders (21 men and 20 women) looked at achievement of the sector in the midst of devolution process and made recommendation on ways to

### CSO DEVOLUTION SCORE CARD REVIEWED

1. Effectiveness and team spirit within the sector, sharing resources and engaging together on pressing county and national issues
2. The openness of civic space particularly the freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and freedom of association
3. Effectiveness of the sector in engaging, supporting and auditing county governments

**Suba Churchill of CSRG and Chris Mbiti of PEN on the State of the Sector >**



improve CSO effectiveness at county level.

Chris Mbiti of PEN sparked the tempo of deliberation with the following pertinent questions:

*“The Machakos CSO Network has been in existence since 2013 but cursory observation shows that we are not making progress as we initially thought:*

1. *What is hindering our progress in reclaiming space for Civil Society at the county level?*
2. *What is constraining our work and ability to engage the county government and to audit its service delivery mechanisms?*
3. *The county government had confirmed their participation in this conference, why are they not present?*
4. *What does their absence in this critical review import for the sector and how do we ensure that we bring them on board for such crucial activities in future?*

The workshop engaged in participatory review process led by three lead speakers:

**Suba Churchill**, the convener of Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) who discussed challenges of defining civic space and how to entrench it in Kenya;

**John Mwaniki**, the current chair of Machakos CSO network, who discussed progress of the network at county level in holding constructive engagement with the county government.

The other speaker, **Ms Wanjiru Gikonyo**, a devolution and accountability expert working with The Institute of Social Accountability (TISA) discussed dynamics of delivering accountability through devolved government systems.

**Suba** challenged the sector to rise above the narrow definition that focuses on NGOs, FBOs and CBOS but to widen it to “every actor between the family and the state, including formal and informal institutions such as unions, associations, clubs and funeral committees for example. “The bigger the sector is, the more likely that the state actors will listen.

“We must challenge the perceived invincibility of state actors with our own invincibility. Involve citizens, educate them and ensure that they hold their vote as the ultimate tool of negotiation. Nothing threatens leaders than the prospects of losing a vote”, said Churchill.

The Machakos county CSO network only made significant progress in engaging county government in 2017 after more than four years of difficult relationship.

“The county government came to us after we held a successful CSO week towards the end of 2017 and sought our partnership, which they had all along ignored. I think the mass of displays by the sector during the NGO week; the innovation and the enthusiasm of the public convinced them that our roles at county level were significant and indispensable. Thereafter, they invited the sector to participate in the development of County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and subsequent reviews. We hope that the final product will include CSOS small contributions and that they will also involve us in 2019”, **John Mwaniki**.

The biggest challenge the Network faces was said to be the response by county government, with County Executive Chiefs (CECs) having willingness to work with civil society but could not commit to any action unless the Governor sanctioned them. Engaging the Governor was said to have been the most difficult part of nurturing CSO-county government relationships.

On devolution and accountability, **Wanjiru** reiterated that there couldn't be accountability in a devolved government system without decentralization. For this reason, the civil society must engage and involve citizens as their primary stakeholders. When citizens' groups are vibrant and know their rights and how to protest and seek redress, then devolution will make sense to them. “Don't fear to take the legal angle, if this becomes necessary. Also ensure that you communicate always in writing otherwise your views will be ignored or misinterpreted,” she concluded.

On recommendations, the conference agreed that the Machakos CSO network was making some progress in opening space for the sector and that it should continue enrolling members from wider Public Benefit Organisations (PBOs) sector, to continuously educate and empower citizens while strengthening the secretariat. The network should however come with better strategies of engaging the executive particularly the County Governor.

Using good examples like the NGO week to strengthen relationship with the county government was lauded. The Network should keep all options open including going to court when all avenues to open up the civic space fail.

The conference also agreed on the need for decentralized delivery of services and activities through organizations with expertise and comparative advantage to avoid duplication and loading the secretariat with every bit of work. Civic education and engagement with county governments should be carried out sector-wise by those organizations with expertise.

The conference was seen as a bold step by the network to address its own challenges and to focus on rebuilding itself for an improved space for civil society in Machakos County while demonstrating best practices on enabling civic space for other civil society networks in the country.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

CBO	Community based Organization
CEC	County Executive Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group
FBO	Faith Based Organization
MCA	Member of County Assembly
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PBO	Public Benefit Organisation
TISA	The Institute of Social Accountability

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference was held in Machakos town on 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 and attended by 41 CSO representatives, consisting of 21 men and 20 women. The workshop was held to assess the effectiveness of CSO sector in the context of devolved governance systems with the following Key objectives:

1. To value and take stock of the progress made in CSOs-County government relationship in the past 5 years, particularly on issues related to opening of civic space, enhancing gains on devolution and strengthening citizens' participation.
2. Secondly, to assess partnership and



Conference in Session

effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations working together to bring effective changes within the sector itself and with the county.

3. And finally to agree on strategies of strengthening engagement between County Government, Citizens and CSOs in service delivery and development of robust governance systems.

The Machakos CSOs Network aimed to use this forum to gather information on capacity building action points that would foster greater synergy and complementarity between the Government of Machakos County and CSOs, while generating lessons for wider learning that could be incorporated by new and upcoming devolution forums and networks in other counties.

Lead speakers were:

**Suba Churchil**, the current presiding convener of Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG), a coalition of more than 100 CSOs advocating for increased Open Space for Civil Society In Kenya;

**Mr. John Mwaniki**, the current Chair of Machakos CSOs Network; and

**Wanjiru Gikonyo**, a devolution and accountability expert working with The Institute of Social Accountability (TISA)



## DEFINING CIVIC SPACE

Suba Churchill, CSRG

Quoting from different sources, Suba defined a citizen as inhabitant of a city or town that is entitled to certain rights and privileges of a free person and these rights accrue to him or her by being a member of that state. A citizen is either a native by birth or naturalization.

### Citizen VS Servants of State

A citizen is a civilian as opposed to a servant of the state for example the military or public servants. Servants of the state are not classified as citizens or *Wananchi* as such, because they are part of the state systems, otherwise defined as duty bearers.

A citizen is entitled to certain rights and is entitled to protection by the state/government. Citizens also have other privileges such as provision of certain services e.g. transportation, employment and health care among others.

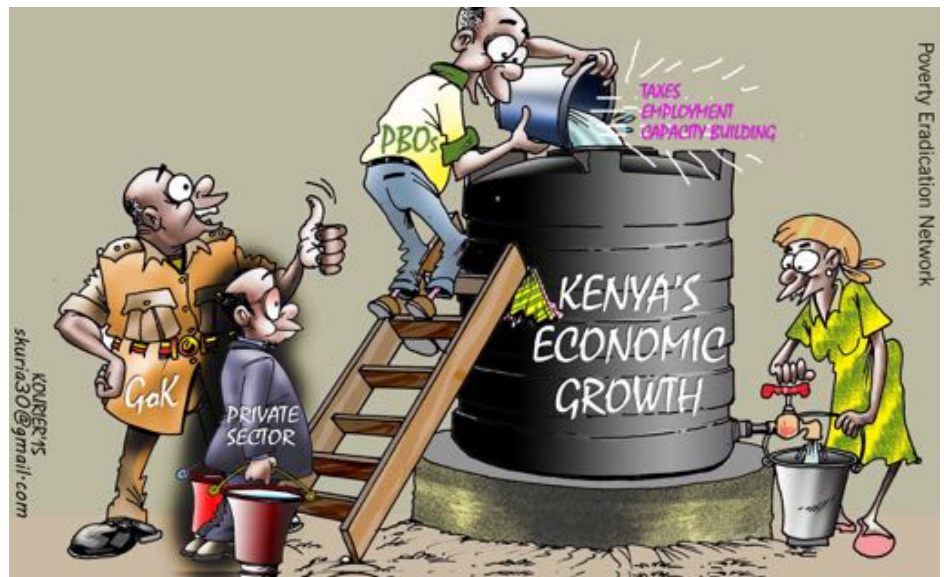
These rights are summarized under the declaration of human rights as the freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of assembly. These rights are what consist of a civic space, which are protected by both international law and constitution of Kenya and are a part of vibrant democracy.

### What's Civic Space

Civic space is therefore that freedom of association, assembly and expression that exist between the family and the state. It is that environment that enables citizens to speak out, to associate and assemble with the objective of protecting their own rights and privileges as citizens.

Often people misunderstand civic space as that space occupied by NGOs, but it is wider than that. It covers space such as that covered by associations, committees, NGOs, CBOs, Private voluntary organizations, People's movements, trade unions, charities, cooperatives, environment groups, consumer organization, faith based organizations and non profit media.

Any Civic Society Network should therefore widen the net of recruitment to include all the above civic actors, instead of limiting its engagement and entitlement to CBOs NGOs only as it is commonly the case. We can widen the space through involvement of all organizations carrying citizens' rights agenda and occupying civic space



## TRENDS IN CIVIC SPACE IN KENYA

Chris Mbiti, PEN

Civic Space is not static, but a dynamic process based on many factors within and outside the sector. In Kenya, this space unfortunately has been shrinking, while the governance space is rapidly expanding due to introduction of devolved government system.

### The 90s and 2000s

In the 90's the sector was funded and well heeled with vibrant and mature leaders that stood their ground despite vindictiveness and harassment by the state.

The space for sector though governed by several state laws, was nonetheless united for a common goal. Thus, NGOs joined forces with religious leaders, trusts, lawyers and associations to push for multi-party systems of government and the new constitution, in the 90s and 2000s respectively.

Ironically the achievement of the sector in marshaling transformative challenges became the cause of its demise or loss or influence.

### Post 2000s

It lost unity when political forces that had seen the power of unity within the sector infiltrated the NGO Council, splintering it into several competing forces that resulted to killing each other's influence instead of working together to fight common problems.

Further, Senior CSO leaders joined government after 2002 elections leaving younger and inexperienced leaders who were not equally courageous to confront status quo among erstwhile colleagues now in government.

### Unexpected Crack down

Then the state crack down became the unfortunate reward to the sector with closure or threat to deregister several members of the sector for perceived anti-government positions and "illegalities".

In 2017 for instance, the NGO Board circulated a list of more than 900 NGOs with threat of deregistration due to lack of compliance and several human rights organizations were suspended and bank accounts of some were frozen.

Funding to the sector has also reached rock bottom and many CSOs are facing closure or reduction in staffing and activities. Many international NGOs that supported smaller CSOs are moving away from Kenya to better-funded countries.

### Enabling Space

In 2009, the CSOs and government agreed on the need to reform the laws governing the sector, resulting into the development of PBO Act to harmonize registration regimes of all Public Benefit Organizations (PBOs); to strengthen self regulation and capacity of the sector.

In 2013, the President of Kenya Mr. Mwai Kibaki approved the PBO Act 2013.

Sadly, that is where the good news ended. To date, the law has not been implemented for unexplained reasons despite High Court rulings (latest May 2017) for immediate implementation of the policy.

### Expanding Governance Structures

These negative developments facing the sector are happening amidst expanding governance space from one Central Government to 47 county governments and the National government, each receiving a substantial amount of funds that requires citizens and civic engagement on how it is planned for, spent and reported.

The transition to devolved government caught CSOs at the lowest level and challenges now is how to bring its capacity at bar with development challenges, amidst hullabaloo of impunity by leaders, mega corruption cases, and over manipulated citizenry on ethnic grounds.

The sector looks at the bleak future unless vigorous and coordinated efforts from CSOs, government and development partners are put in place to revamp it.

The sector can no longer tolerate disunity and unhealthy competition due to its crippling effects. Further, the government should note that cutting off the influence of the sector is not only unconstitutional but also a way of unleashing unaccountability and corrupt forces in all fronts as currently witnessed.

In fact, it is critical that the sector be supported directly by government at all levels to curb current malpractices associated with county government such as non involvement of citizens in development planning, poor accountability and runaway corruption. Donors should also rethink their funding arithmetic and direct its programmes to revamping the sector.



## HOW CAN WE EXPAND CIVIC SPACE IN KENYA?

Suba Churchill, CSRG

1. We need to expand definition of civic space beyond NGOs, CBOs and Faith based Organisations (FBOs) to include all voluntary organizations enabling freedoms of citizens (freedoms of speech, association and assembly). We must bring others such as resident associations, unions, funeral committees etc.
2. Any Civic Network should therefore widen the net of recruitment to include all the above, plus others instead of focusing on NGOs, CBOS and FBOS only as it is commonly the case.
3. Enhance agenda building and coalitions from grassroots to National and international levels
4. Education and empowerment is critical in order to counteract perceived invincibility and arrogance of leaders. Citizens can only act when they are convinced that they need to act. This explains why governments are limiting this space by not involving CSOS in civic education and other strategic activities.
5. We need to be more organized, mobilized and vibrant to be heard and demonstrate our right to assemble, associate and express ourselves.
6. We must mobilize and work with all stakeholders including county governments for enabling space through the implementation of PBO Act 2013. We need everyone's support in this.



Chris Mbiti of PEN in discussion with CSO leaders

## COUNTERING INVINCIBILITY WITH INVINCIBILITY

“People in authority many times develop some form of invincibility, arrogance and impunity and will ignore you until they see some threats coming from you or from citizens. That is why it is important to counteract invincibility of leaders with invincibility of the sector by reaching out to citizens and creating a vibrant agenda moving coalitions that they can push for changes. That explains why there was a change when government saw how CSOs were able to mobilize and work with citizens in the 80s and 90s.

The sector showed ability to organize, to demonstrate and reach out to citizens. Nothing threatens a leader than showing that they can loss the vote.

The sector must demonstrate ability”.

Suba Churchill

# AGAINST ODDS

## MACHAKOS CSOS NETWORK MAKES PROGRESS AMIDST CHALLENGES

By **John Mwaniki**, Chair, Machakos CSO Network

The Machakos County Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Network was initiated in May 2013 after a PBO Act sensitization forum in the county by PEN, which created awareness about the need to work together as a sector. The network however started official engagement in 2014.

The PBO is a large economic sector in the county contributing to employment of hundreds of people, and supporting overall economic growth.

Despite this, the collaboration between CSOs and the government has not picked up well although there was a slight change in attitude by the county government after 2017 CSOs exhibition that was organized by Machakos County CSO Network and attended by CSOs from within and outside the county, the private sector and county and national government Departments.

“We believe that the CSO exhibition was an eye opener to the county government as they realized that we were a significant sector that could not be ignored anymore. After the exhibition, officers from county government came calling asking us how we could collaborate and work together” Mr. Mwaniki

The purpose of the Machakos Network is to strengthen networking among CSOs and with county government towards achieving effective service delivery to citizens as well as sharing best practices.

### Vision of the Network

A just, transparent and citizen driven service delivery that promotes accountability in Machakos County for sustainable development

### Mission of the Network

To strengthen CSOs and citizen participation and establish a learning platform for sharing best practices within the sector geared towards effective service delivery

So far the Network has made some strides in achieving its goals. Key achievements include:

- 1) Establishment of an MOU that put together the network and signed by more than 30 PBOs
- 2) Survey and establishment of database of PBOs in the county
- 3) Development of 2015/16 popular version of county budget
- 4) Mobilization of members of the public to attend public participation forums on 2017 County Integrated development Plan. The challenge is after extensive



Group Work Session

consultation not a single item requested by CSOs was included in the budget.

- 5) The Machakos Public Participation Act was established in 2017 hopefully it should be implemented in 2018. The challenge is still in the making of real commitments and accepting inputs from citizens and CSOs.
- 6) Held successful CSO exhibition – in Partnership with the national and county government and private sector in November 2017. Each sector demonstrated innovations and best practices to citizens
- 7) Supported financially and administratively, consultative forums toward the development of 2018/19 CIDP. Now the county has a CIDP that has significant public input – which was not there in previous years.
- 8) Held a round of meetings with the county assembly and have shown commitment in working with PBOs although the progress is rather slow.

### Road Blocks

The response from county government has not been encouraging. CEC's find it difficult to commit to anything unless he or she has approval from the Governor and this approval has not been forthcoming.

Many CECs are willing to discuss issues but unless sanctioned they cannot facilitate any collaboration.

Commenting on the same Mr. Kimeu said: “How can you build partnership and working relationship with county staff when there is fear among executive officers about repercussions? It is also not possible to engage without approval of the Governor and it is a challenge when the governor is not supportive”.

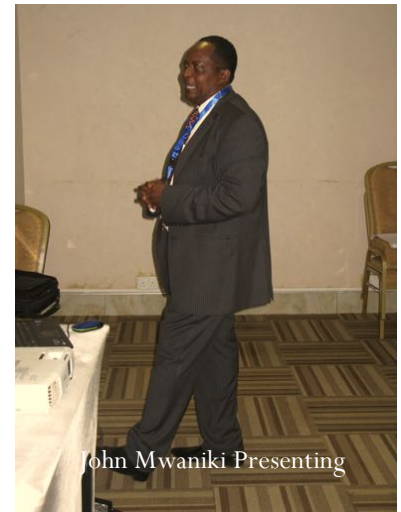
“The “other challenge now is that there is a government with limited powers at present in Machakos county because of nullification of election of the Governor by the High Court and ongoing petition at the Supreme Court. Everything is at stand still now”, Mr Kimeu continued.

“No government has been set up, no ministries have been set up etc. It is very clear to us therefore that stability at government level is critical for building collaborative partnership and opening space for CSOs”.

“There is also a challenge with transfers of staff between departments, which derail earlier progress and decisions”, Mr. Kimeu concluded.



Poster Exhibits during NGO Week



John Mwaniki Presenting

## TAKING STOCK OF PROGRESS

The Conference agreed that working jointly on CIDP was good progress. When the process began discussions and negotiations, the government did not have funds to facilitate public participation on CIDP and CSOs agreed to chip in resources to support the process.

This therefore was actually a CSO initiative although CSOs did not get response from them until after the CSO exhibition. “The exhibition was an icebreaker that brokered improved dialogue”, Mr. Mwaniki.

The exhibition kind of brought to realization that the CSO sector was alive and vibrant in the county. “Now we know you exist in the county, we can see your work and now we understand your agenda and we can work together”. Summed up by one county official.

The office of the County Secretary called the CSOs and held a meeting on how to work together. They agreed to jointly participate in the CIDP and started it in January 2018.

CSOs were further invited to participate in validation of CIDP, where CSO raised further concerns after publication of the draft and is expected that the final CIDP document should accommodate CSOs Network and citizens’ proposals.

There was hope and expectation this collaboration would continue in 2018 and beyond.

“Sensitize the people. Don’t go alone to confront the leaders. Show that you have citizens behind you. Leaders fear the power of Wananchi. We must therefore invest heavily in educating and mobilizing citizen so that together you become protectors of human rights”. Suba Churchill

## WHAT NEXT FOR THE NETWORK

In order to strengthen collaboration and effectiveness Mwaniki recommended the following:

1. Involve CSO heads instead of staff in any dialogue on CSO collaboration to enable constructive dialogue and to remove institutional roadblocks
2. Ensure that CSOs are well coordinated and team working through a functional secretariat and sector working groups
3. It is critical to find resources to facilitate our work – that includes a coordination office, and support to members work in areas of Civic Education and mobilization of citizens.
4. Expand the network scope of registration to include wider PBO sector all the way from grassroots to county level.
5. Proactively put in place mechanism to initiate constructive dialogue with the Governor as a first step before engaging individual CECs
6. Initiate court petitions and litigations if the county government is not responsive. “We need lawyers to support us”.
7. Enhance civic education through sector groups to empower citizens to know their rights and how to demand for improvements through constitutional avenues.





## MAKING DEVOLUTION WORK FOR CITIZENS

Wanjiru Gikonyo, The Institute of Social Accountability (TISA)

First, it is clear to every one that you can't have devolution without decentralization. If the government fails to decentralize decision making all the way to the grassroots, the benefit of devolution will not be realized. Citizens at the lowest level of governance have a right to be heard and contribute to county level planning, implementation and reporting.

However this seems to be a challenge. Most county governments have adopted a top down, sometimes tokenism approach as a means of engaging citizens.

### Building capacities at grassroots

This is where CSOs must intervene. We must build the capacities of citizens through active and ongoing civic education. County governments must live to the constitution by providing relevant information to citizens so that they can have constructive engagement.

Where county governments fail to do this, then a legal process should be pursued. This is not popular but sometimes necessary. Capacity development should focus on building capacity of these small civil society groups, such as Self-Help Groups whose roles in the engagement process must increase and as ours (NGOs) decrease. This is a good governance practice

### Social Audits

A Social audit is like a bomb. It is powerful and CSOs should expend as much resources on this. It is about interrogating reports by governments and ground truth-ing them. We must ensure that citizens verify county governments reports. Accountability should be core of our engagement with county governments.

### Division of Labour

Split work among yourselves, collaborate and don't load every activity of the network on the secretariat. Our experience shows that nothing will be achieved if this happens. Each organization of

the network has its special niche and focus and should concentrate on these areas of expertise and comparative advantage. The network secretariat should only carry out essential services of organizing, coordinating and bringing members together and also reporting and liaison.

### Citizens Roles and Responsibilities

Rights should be viewed also in the light of citizen's responsibilities. If the state fails to deliver, it is the right of CSOs to engage and involve citizens in finding alternative mechanism of delivering services. Kenya is full of examples where citizens have build schools, hospitals etc. instead of waiting for governments.

The Karen-Ngata Resident Association (KARA), for example sued the Nairobi City for collecting levies and failing to provide waste management services and they refused to pay levies and initiated their own waste management system. There is power is raising the capacities of grassroots stakeholders.

### Tools of Engagement

Capacity building should be targeted at citizens. We must empower them to know their rights. CSOs do not exist in a vacuum, and citizens are our platform. Our tools or engagement are through ensuring that citizens have access to information, are able to engage and mitigate and to be able to challenge decisions through petitions in courts and other alternative justice systems.

### In Writing Please

We must ensure that every engagement particularly communication with county governments must be in writing otherwise it will be ignored or misinterpreted by county officials.

### Legal Back Up

Better to have space legally in order to engage effectively. But this should not limit if you don't have space in the law especially when forums exist to submit opinions. However insist on legal processes if county officials fail to act. It is critical to counteract impunity with tactful and legal force when all else fails.

## TAKE AWAY ACTIONS

The following were discussed as take away actions from the conference:

### Relationship with county governments

1. Demonstrate ability to mobilize citizens and effectiveness as a sector, start on positive development so far achieved such as the CSO week
2. Involve citizens more and more in agenda building, presentation and review through succinct sector wide research, advocacy and empowerment
3. Proactively engage executive particularly the governor to ensure that CECs are responsive to our agenda

### Issue based advocacy

1. Be analytical (have facts and evidence at hand) and be participatory involving as many stakeholders as possible in pushing for your agenda.
2. Start with softer approach and progress towards more combative and legal processes.
3. Perceive advocacy space as ranging from grassroots, to county level; national and international levels.
4. Don't forget the power of media particularly the social media in communicating issues

### Engage Citizens

1. Light fire under their seats using citizen's voices and this can happen if citizens are empowered through continuous civil education on their rights and performance of county executive and assembly. "It is the people who govern government and not the other way round" but this can only happen if citizens are aware and empowered on how to engage.
2. Particularly important is need for citizens to exercise their right to vote as a means of negotiation/mitigation.

### CSO Leadership

1. Reorganize on comparative advantage to give room to experts to handle work with competence through sector groups.
2. Leave the secretariat with core functions of coordination, networking and liaison
3. Support in establishing structures of coordination at the secretariat

### Capacity of the sector

1. Widen space by bringing in as many stakeholders as possible from wide civic society as defined during the conference as that space between family and government. This will build mass, voice and invincibility of citizens to counteract leaders arrogance and impunity
2. Engage in active civic education targeting citizens and citizen based institutions
3. Capacity building of MCAs on citizens agenda (although effectiveness of such actions were questioned by some participants)
4. Make use of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and private sector to support some initiatives

### Resource Mobilization

Strengthen fund raising through:

1. Membership recruitments and registration – targeting all possible PBOs from



Chris Mbiti, Moderating final session



Angella Ndaka, Panelist



Catherine Mutanu, Discussant

## WAY FORWARD

- grassroots to county level
2. Look at mechanism of getting support from citizens (Mwananchi) where agenda demands immediate actions such as petitions. Citizens don't value the space and rarely contribute unless they are properly educated and empowered.
3. Support the secretariat to fundraise from as many sources as possible (public, private and public sectors and from development partners)
4. Each Member of the network where possible should include funds for the secretariat in their regular fundraising initiatives
5. Get a good strategy and plan on what and how to engage in future.

Other recommendation include:

1. Educate and sensitize other citizens so that together we can form protectors of human rights. As Suba Churchill said, "Governments tend to form invincibility, arrogance and impunity and it is up to us to protect our rights and civic space. Don't go alone. Show that you have citizens behind you. Leaders fear the power of Wananchi. Confront leaders perceived invincibility with your own invincibility". We must therefore invest heavily in educating and mobilizing citizen so that together you become protectors of human rights.
2. Let's celebrate our achievements. CSOs hardly celebrate and that is the reason citizens do not know about our achievements and they end up swallowing government propaganda against CSOs.
3. Use technology to improve visibility e.g. Whatsapp or Facebook and YouTube
4. We should encourage PBOs to register with the network on continuous basis so that the Network can have numbers.
5. Open accounts off-shore or with other organizations as safeguards against governments' actions to cripple CSO by closing bank Accounts or freezing them



Kennedy Siocha, Treasurer of Machakos CSO network, and also a representative of PWDs closing the conference

"Corruption and impunity are challenges we must address head on and we must demonstrate capability of doing so. We must take them to court where possible and necessary. Ensure that you decentralize your processes to the lowest level to achieve greater success and momentum. There can't be devolution without decentralization". Wanjiru Gikonyo



"CSOs must not confine themselves to common engagement space, such as county level headquarters. We need to go beyond this to the grassroots or to national and even international levels. If the county government can't act, go to Nairobi, if Nairobi can't act move higher to any relevant international Forum. Let the world know that you aren't satisfied and you need change. I am sure the Governor would not resist to listen to you".

Suba Churchill



"Walk the talk- you can't criticize and call for accountability from others when yourself are not compliant. Above all we must work as one team, expanded and covering all possible grounds (all possible PBOs). We should never compete but complement each other where possible. We have one common goal, one common task of ensuring that citizens benefit from devolution process by holding all leaders to Account".

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>NAME</b>	<b>GENDER</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
1 Alukwe Imbaali	F	PEN
2 Angella Ndaka	F	Kenyatta University/ Machakos Professionals
3 Beatrice Kipsanai	F	Mutheneni Child Sponsorship Project
4 Catherine Mutanu	F	COBADES
5 Catherine Ndunge	F	Women Caucus for Democracy and Governance
6 Chris Mbiti	M	PEN
7 David Wambua	M	Kyevaluki CBO
8 Denis Kioko	M	I Choose Life-Africa
9 Edmond Magara	M	VSO
10 Eunice Muunda	F	Eastern Community Development Programme
11 Festus Mutuku	M	Vukka Arts Kenya
12 George Musau	M	KADEG
13 James Kitili	M	Angel's Paradise
14 John Kieti	M	Masaku Professionals
15 John Mwaniki	M	ADSE
16 Joseph Kathuku	M	Peacenet Kenya
17 Joseph Kimeu	M	Mara Cos Network Member
18 Joseph Nduva	M	Biovision Africa Trust
19 Juliana Kisuva	F	Makueni Civil Society Organizations Network
20 Juliana Mbuvi	F	Young Professionals for Development
21 Juliet Mule	F	GIZ
22 Kennedy Siocha	M	BLINK
23 Lennart Oesterguard	M	GIZ
24 Ludivicus Omollo	M	PEN
25 Lufta Ali	F	National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders-Kenya
26 Mary Mutuku	F	PEN - Machakos
27 Matthew Muendo	M	INADES Formation Kenya
28 Mercy Wachira	F	Centre for Health Solutions
29 Nduku Makau	F	ABC Development
30 Peter Kilungu	M	Green View
31 Robert Nzioki	M	Masaku Professional Association
32 Rose Mbevi	F	BLINK
33 Rosephela Matingi	F	FIDA
34 Sammy Keter	M	PEN
35 Stephen Muli	M	PELUM Kenya
36 Suba Churchill	M	CSRG
37 Sylvester Ndeto	M	NACODEV
38 Teresia Kiguru	F	Plan International-Kenya
39 Vexinah Mueni	F	NEMCHA
40 Victorian Mulalya	F	W4W CBO
41 Wanjiru Gikonyo	F	TISA

# PROGRAMME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MACHAKOS COUNTY CSOS NETWORK CONFERENCE PROGRAMME ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018			
GELIAN HOTEL, MACHAKOS			
Time	Session	Objective	Facilitator
0830 -0900hrs	Introductions	Convening organizers, formally welcoming participants, sets the tone for the meeting and introduction of participants	<b>PEN</b>
0900-9300 hrs	Session 1	Understanding Machakos CSOs Network; Successes, Challenges and future plan	John Mwaniki Chair Machakos CSO Network
0930-1030hrs	Session 2	Protecting Civic Space: Role of CSOs and Citizens	Suba Churchill
Tea Break			
1100-1130hrs	Session 3	Envisaging working with Machakos CSO Network for Oversight/Devolution success	Machakos County Assembly
1130-1230hrs	Session 4	Milestones in Devolution: is it working for Kenyans?	Wanjiru Gikonyo
1230-1300hrs		Plenary/Discussant Responses	Plenary Moderator
Lunch Break			
1400-1500hrs	Session 5	Group Task: Looking at Challenges of CSOs in Machakos and Exploring Strategies of engaging the County Government	Chris Mbiti

*POVERTY ERADICATION NETWORK (PEN) is an NGO Registered in Kenya since 2001 with a mission to:*

*To create wealth and prosperity in Kenya through value driven programmes that enhance capacity and sector coordination, sustainability and citizen's voices at all levels.*



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