

OPEN GOVERNANCE



The Governor of Makueni County, His Excellency Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, addressing participants about his open government policy that is now extended to all Civil Society Organizations in Makueni County.

September 2018

Proceedings and Conclusions of Makueni Civil Society Conference, Wote Town, September 5th 2018

Executive Summary

The Makueni Civil Society Network Conference under the leadership of Makueni Civil Society Network (MACSON) and PEN in September 5th 2018 was a signature event.

It was the first such conference attended by a number of stakeholders, who included: Civil Society Organizations, the County Government, media and representatives of political leaders.

The attendance included 50 Civil Society Organization leaders and was graced by the Governor, His Excellency Prof. Kivutha Kibwana and two heads of departments in his government:

Julius Kaloi – CEC Devolution, Zipporah Wambua, Director of Public Participation and Civic Education, Department of Devolution and Victoria Mutunga, representing Member of Parliament Makueni Constituency, all who were at the event until closing.

This was unlike another event in the past where not even a single member of the County Government attended.

The difference also was that in this conference, the Civil Society Network was the one blamed for delaying

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A DAY WITH THE GOVERNOR

That demonstrated a spirit of cooperation and willingness to open all doors to Civil Society in Makueni County. The invitation of the governor to civil society organization to engage and work with his government were great news to the staff of PEN, Makueni Civil Society Network (MACSON) and wider Civil Society fraternity in Kenya. We hope that this opens doors for all other counties to follow suit.



Summary Continued

the processes of engaging with the County government. The County was seen as way ahead and ready to collaborate but the civil society was not taking up the challenge.

The Governor opened all doors for Civil Society participation. He highlighted various devolution forums (village clusters and People's Forums) that have been established in the county all the way from grassroots to County level.

He concluded by saying:

“Welcome, our doors are fully open. Engage with communities. Engage with the government. Engage with any department under my Government, we have established adequate devolution structures that you can engage in, all the way from grassroots to the county level. We will soon carry out elections to fill these structures. Choose whichever space that suits you. We will be there to support you”.

Such words are unlike what civil society has heard in other counties and it is up to the Civil Society in Makueni County to take up the challenge.

Conference Recommendations

From Civil Society

From deliberations in the conference the civil society made several actionable recommendations among others:

1. To set a terms of reference for CSO Network on how to engage within itself and also with the County Government and to develop a strategic plan for the Network.
2. It was further agreed that the network should strategize and organize itself to take advantage the invitation by the County Government to participate in county activities.
3. The network should form thematic committees that will deliberate on engagement strategies through devolved open governance structures that the county government was putting in place.
4. Internally the network should also come up with a methodology of communication between CSOs with regular meetings particularly in preparation of annual Governors' Devolution Conferences.
5. Member also CSOs should ascribe and strictly adhere to the Constitution, MoU and code of conduct on how to behave as members of the Network.
6. There was also a need to bridge the gap between the old and the new Civil Society Activists because of huge gap in CSO Network between the two and domination of the old .
7. Fund raising too was urgent and necessary step to ensure that the network is able to carry out its activities as proposed.

From County Government

The county government reiterated its open government policy, telling civil society organizations that all doors are open.

1. Be free to associate, be free to assemble and to speak out on any matter.
2. The governor however cautioned that with all these doors open, he would not want to see a situation where there is conflict. “We can work together; we can resolve any issues that are there. We have adequate structures to participate and contribute to county's development planning including the more than 3000 clusters whose elections were due and the peoples' forums among others. Our doors are fully open”.

The CEC Devolution, Hon. Julius Kaloi reiterated the governors' stand.

3. “Let's focus on what we can do together. How we can work as a team to deliver services to citizens. Let's engage on County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2019-2022 and Makueni Vision 2025 to ensure that we meet our milestones. Don't wait to be called, just come, the doors are open.
4. When the Governor has spoken the way he has, the way ahead has been cleared. We don't need to go back to him for further direction. We need to go to relevant departments to put the Governor's instructions into action”.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	Community Based Organization
CEAP	County Environment Action Plan
CEC	County Executive Committee
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group
INGO	International Non Governmental Organization
FBO	Faith Based Organization
MACSON	Makueni Civil Society Network
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCKK	The National Council of Churches of Kenya
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NSA	Non-State Actor
PBO	Public Benefit Organization
PWD	Persons With Disabilities
TOR	Terms Of Reference

Objectives of the Conference

Mary Mutuku of PEN and Florence Mutanu

Mary Mutuku of PEN welcomed the participants into the conference on behalf of Chris Mbiti, the Executive Director of PEN.

She informed the participants that PEN had put together CSO conferences as a way of bringing stakeholders together to check on health of civil society sector because of its rapidly diminishing influence in Kenya.

She said that the Makueni County Civil Society Conference followed after a successful one held by Machakos Civil Society Network in July 2018 and a similar event was going on in Kilifi County the same week Makueni Conference was going on.

The conferences are expected to reflect on the state of the sector in each county, particular the relationships between county governments and civil society sector.

In Makueni County the contrasting performance of county governments and that of civil society was to be examined.

Constitutionally, the civil society is expected to work in tandem with government in services delivery; by mobilizing citizens to contribute to county government's plans and budgets; by working with citizens to provide checks and balances on government development processes, while carrying out its own development initiatives.

While this is clearly stated in the constitution and other acts of parliament, the situation on the ground differs from county to county, with most counties having very little to do with civil society sector in their governance structures.

It was noted before the start of the conference that the Governor of Makueni County, HE Prof. Kivutha Kibwana was once a CSO activists and there was so much expectation to learn from him the missing magic that made the civil society of the 80's and 90's firebrand.

Catherine Mutanu, introduced the objectives of the conference as following:

1. To evaluate the achievement of Civil Society against devolution bench marks established in the law such as Articles 10 and 201 of the Constitution, section 87 of the County Government Act (2012) and the Public Finance Management Act (2012) that provide for public participation in planning, implementation and in reviewing the county government achievements;
2. To redefine the network goals towards achieving a vibrant CSO network that is able to establish objective relationships with the county government
3. Provide a platform to strengthen leadership of the Network and commitment on what the government and the CSOs can achieve together for public good.

From the beginning it was clear that this was going to be a conference like no other we have held before where county governments have been the ones blamed for being unwelcoming to the civil society.

Makueni county has cast a different image, with open governance processes that the governor has been promoting and that seems to be



Mary Mutuku (Right), receiving the Governor (left) at the start of the conference



Catherine Mutanu, Moderator of the conference

receiving overwhelming support from citizens, with positive reviews at national level.

From a national perspective, Makueni County is viewed as a best performing county in Kenya, an example of devolution that works. On the contrary the Civil Society in the same county was said to be way behind in complementing the efforts of the county government in devolution process.

The biggest questions then that begged for answers at the start of the conference were

- 1) From a well performing county, to a poorly performing, weak and struggling Civil Society Sector, what was the cause of the chasm?
- 2) Why was the civil society that is often loud on non-performance of governments at national level seems conspicuously quiet in the county?
- 3) Why is the current state of the sector classified as struggling trying to catch up with fast changes in the county?

Our Doors are Open: The Governor, Makueni County

An Abridged Speech by the Governor Makueni County, His Excellency Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, during the Makueni Civil Society Conference, September 5th 2018

Welcome to Makueni County. Hamjambo.

This is a great day of having such a gathering of civil Society Organizations that work in Makueni County. I believe we are all here to discuss how best we can all serve the people of Makueni county, collaboratively, working with the national government.

I appreciate the roles that PEN and MACSON are playing in bringing the civil society together and ensuring that this meeting has happened. Thank you for inviting my office to grace this occasion.

I am a strong believer of the power of civil society and the power of the people. In this County, during my stewardship, I would not want to have a situation where there is conflict. CSO must input into our plans and correct us when it is necessary. We must not compete. We must collaborate and support each other.

The best thing that can happen is to have actors coming together, discussing issues and finding ways of working together. Collaboration and engagement is the best way of achieving the Big-4 agenda.

New and Old Power

I notice this is an inaugural forum and we want to see greater collaboration and follow up meetings to discuss how best to collaborate in serving our people. I have learnt from what happened in Machakos County and this is a process that we want to engage and consolidate further so that it can be a success story.

Nothing can stop change whose time has come. Conflict that exists in this country is between old power and new power. The new power include the new breed of leaders who act on the needs and rights of poor and marginalized while the old power include those individuals who got into leadership through privilege and don't want change. They are *baba na mama*. They support and stand for the privileged in the society and not the poor.

New power lies at the bottom of society, and create enduring changes at the grassroots. I imagine that CSOs are committed to new power, to empower our people to be part of development and to own processes.

CSO Self-Accountability

My understanding is that CSO are private (separate from state and government) and are not an appendage of any state. They have an agenda and can critique government and even the civil society itself. So even if the CSOs were to receive funding from the state, it should not cede that power.

They are non-profit and don't distribute profits to directors, but whatever funds they raise are ploughed back to the citizens. They are self-governing meaning that any government does not control them. To be a robust CSO you should be self-governing and no government should dictate to you what to do.

Partnership and collaboration

Civil society must however encourage partnership and collaboration to achieve some outreach goals that the state or County Government cannot achieve on its own. I welcome the role of CSOs to enable County Governments achieve their objectives.



Two Minutes of fame: Conference participants posing for pictures with the governor

Word for word from the Governor

“As devolution continues to flower in this County in this second cycle, I want you to be part of the story. I want you to find your space for a greater civil society engagement with County government.

We have provided space for civil society representation in our development committees that are being reelected in a few days’ time. In the previous cycle, cooption was done at the sub ward level, this time it is being done at the village cluster level.

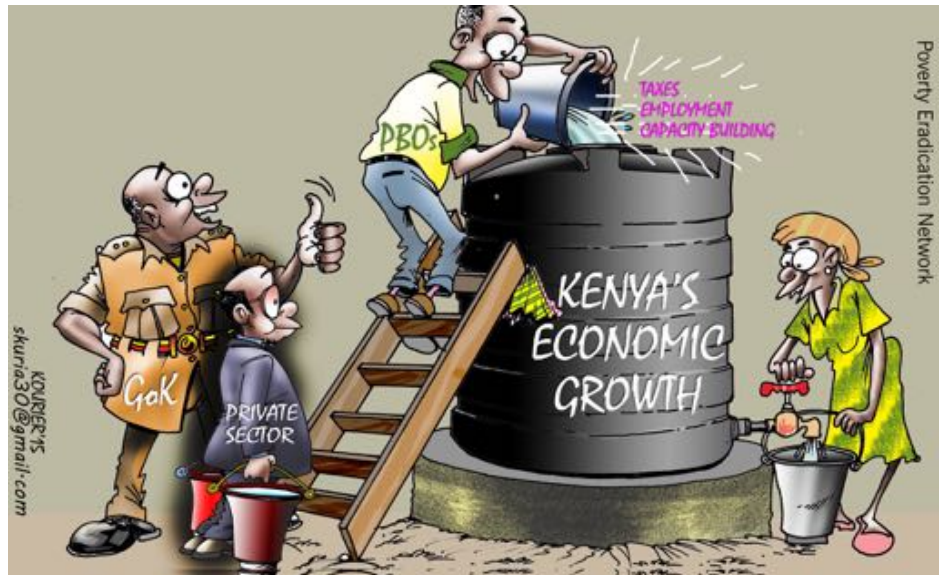
I urge you to take your place in the decision-making process so that you can directly influence both the citizens and the government towards real change and transformation. The cluster development committee level is becoming the primary unit for pro-poor development, participatory rural development and village development planning.

It is my hope that this inaugural forum does not abort at its conception. Let us discern the best engagement strategies for sustainable, productive, effective and efficient participatory delivery of results.

“I dream that with your cooperation, I mean with meaningful engagements, we can meet the needs of the people of Makueni. We can fuel the call of open government, which I am currently championing in this second cycle of devolution... Particularly in reaching the most marginalized communities – ensuring accountability for results, and supporting efforts to mobilize additional resources for the development of our people.

I am committed to promoting the platform for your participation in County development agenda that is involving you in the design, implementation, monitoring of programs, advocacy and governance so that together, as I have promised the people of Makueni we may all experience our freedoms”

HE Prof. Kivutha Kibwana



Governor's open door policy, Continued from page 4

An empowered civil society helps monitor policies on sustainable development. CSOs can help in collaborative development by bringing the voice of citizens into fore. You play a critical role in catalyzing Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in primary service delivery, for example, in health and water and sanitation among others. We can therefore work together in your areas of your choice. You are free to collaborate with any department under my government.

I am championing a process that seeks to develop accountability of our work to the marginalized. Your work supplements our work.

Open Door

I am committed to transparency and



freer space for civil society. Through the devolution process, we want to see that you are coordinated and supported so that you can do your work and that we are accountable to each other.

Our doors are therefore fully open.

Engage with communities. Engage with the government. Engage with any department under my government. We have established adequate devolution structures (such as devolution clusters and people's forums) that you can engage in, all the way from grassroots to the county level. Choose whichever space suits you.

We will be there to support you. I reiterate my commitment to new power that will cause transformation of the county as a whole.

In our work trying to build models of our implementation, we must follow best practices and some of these best practices are found in civil society. This is why I support the role of CSOs, because it will help us achieve better results.

We must set a good example. Let's build on knowledge and evidence.

Thank you

*HE Prof. Kivutha Kibwana,
Governor, Makueni County*

We Accept the Challenge

Opening Remarks by Chair, Makueni Civil Society Network (MACSON), Mr. Daniel Mutunga

The biggest challenge highlighted in the conference was the ability of the civil society network to put its house together and to catch up with county government, which was way ahead in setting up participatory structures and processes.

The chair of the network admitted that they had challenges as a network, and indeed has not been able to move at the speed the county government was moving at. But he accepted the challenge and called on network members to arise and accept the test given by the governor.

Established in 2016, the Makueni Civil Society Network (MACSON) was formed to bring together all Public Benefit Organizations (PBOs) operating within Makueni County. These include Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Foundations, Trusts and Societies, and Self Help Groups.

The Vision of the Network is to establish a conducive and an enabling civic environment for all Public Benefit Organizations in the County. MACSON aims at coordinating and demonstrating sectorial leadership in practice through mutual protection, leadership development, self-regulation and policy advocacy.

Aims and Objectives

MACSON has the following objectives:

- 1.To provide a common voice, timely support and mutual solidarity for the sector at the County, Nationally and Regionally;
- 2.To enhance and strengthen the capabilities of the civil society leadership on Values, principles and systems of good governance;
- 3.To serve as a forum for settling and enforcing the best standards and practices for self-regulation;
- 4.To advocate for and create public awareness on enhancing laws, policies and practices; and
- 5.To collaborate and partner with any other organization for the purpose of public benefit.

Membership

Membership to MACSON is open for all civil society organizations operating within Makueni County. So far, the Network had worked with over 70 local civil society organizations (Self Help Groups, CBOS, FBOS and NGOs) with representation in all the Sub-Counties and has also partnered with more than 10 National and International organizations.

MACSON has a leadership structure of 13 people, 7 executives and 6 sub-county representatives.



Achievements

Since establishment, the Network has made the following key achievements:

1. **Bringing Makueni CSOs together** to give a platform where CSOs can have one voice and work as team.
2. **Capacity building of the Network leaders** - PEN trained 4 members of the Executive team on leadership and integrity.
3. **Involvement in Policy Making** – Through the facilitation of NCKK, members of the Network in Climate Change were involved in the preparation of the County Environment Action Plan 2018-2019 (CEAP)
4. Network Members were involved in the **observing the 2017 General Elections** at their individual constituencies. “We can strongly say there were no irregularities or illegalities during the campaign and the Election period meaning Makueni people got the leaders of their choice”, the Chair of the Network said.
5. The Network is **affiliated to Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG)**, which is a National umbrella body for Public Benefit Organizations (PBOs) in Kenya. This has enhanced the participation of the Network leaders in national forums
6. Network Leaders have been able to attend **CSO forums in other counties for bench marking** to ensure the Network is on the right footing, the counties include: The Bungoma NGO Week, The Machakos CSO Week and Machakos CSO Conference

Challenges

The Network however noted experiencing certain challenges, which included:

1. Understanding the role of the civil society so that they



can come together to have one common voice.

2. For a long time CSOs in Makueni County have been operating in several small networks (clusters) that competed against each other and was thus not effective.
3. The Network has inadequate resources for implementation of work plans.
4. Misunderstanding between CSOs and County Government on roles, goals and engagement approaches has delayed collaborative processes. With this conference, we expect everything will flow smoothly.

Bravo Mr. Governor

The chair applauded the Governor and his team for the good work in the county, for example, the successful Universal Health Care, effective public participation structure.

Others are Youth programs like M-YES which have notably enabled the youth within the county work on their problems, the freedom of expression by citizens and the easy access to all the County offices from the lowest to the highest.

With the above it was high time for the civil society to take its place and work with the County and the National Governments for the good of Makueni people.

Yes, We Can Work Together

The Network was looking forward to work very closely with the County Government in the following areas:

1. **Makueni Universal Health Care:** CSOs are willing to be involved in mobilization and sensitization to ensure that people enroll into the system; MACSON can also mobilize for members to renew their cards every year and encouraging people to go to hospitals for free treatment.
2. **Budget Making Process:** Although CSOs have been fully involved at individual level from the village upwards there is need to be involved more in: Sensitization and mobilization of people during public participation, Training of PMCs, Representation in CBEF, Involvement in the preparation of the CIDP and Implementation and monitoring, and evaluation (Oversight) roles.
3. **Bills/Laws:** CSOs have had the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of the County

Environment Action Plan and we wish to be involved more in the formation of county bills /policies.

4. Other possible engagement processes include **participation in policy making process** itself such as Mobilization of people during public participation; participation in implementation of county government plans and in monitoring and evaluation (oversight), among others.

Vibrant Network

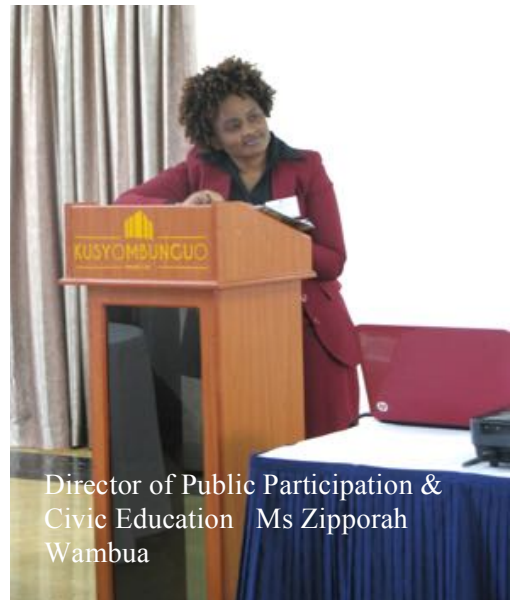
The chair concluded by saying that MACSON aspires to be a vibrant Network with presence in every corner of Makueni County, willing to work with all CSOs including Youth groups and self Help groups.

MACSON plans to hold a CSOs Week soon as a platform where individual CSOs can show case what they do and have the public and the Government assess the scale of work CSO are involved in the county.

MACSON further looks forward to involving the county officials in their activities as a network and were looking forward to a harmonious working relationship with the county government.



HE the Governor and CEC Devolution, Hon. Julius Kaloi



Director of Public Participation & Civic Education Ms Zipporah Wambua

OUR PLEDGE

Minister of Devolution, County Administration, Participatory Development and Public Service, Hon. Julius Kaloi

The Ministry of Devolution, County Administration, Participatory Development and Public Service is charged with a mandate of participatory development that manages development matters in the County through coordination of both the citizens, County departments and all development actors including the CSOs for better, organized, people centered development in the County.

We have been recently appraised for public participation and are moving forward in strengthening the processes to ensure we remain a model county in this great country.

The success of Devolution in Makueni has not just happened. It has been caused by the citizens and you the partners that have taught us how to manage communities and work through them. Governments were earlier known to exist for service delivery and did not care if the services were owned by communities or not, a situation that left a lot of white elephant projects in the country.

Devolution brought about development with the people and through the people—a measure that has enabled sustainability in development. We have learned from you, the Non-State Actors, on the art of doing development. This is the relationship we wish to foster, even with this Network, to ensure that we train, develop and educate the people of Makueni from their perspective or need, to ensure we synergize and do not duplicate efforts in one area while leaving other areas poor and less empowered.

My office therefore seeks to prepare a framework upon which all Non-State Actors working in the County, including CSOs can be coordinated, provided for a platform for engagement with the government and other related participatory development processes.

We seek to hear from you therefore, on how this coordination and management of the gains of devolution can (be) done from a public participation perspective.

Our County does not impose but brainstorms from the wisdom of the stakeholders; hence from this meeting we hope to get a strategic way forward for meaningful engagement with each one of you.

OUR POSITION

Director of Public Participation and Civic Education, Ms Zipporah Wambua

We want to maintain our position as a lead county and we have created diaspora forums in Nairobi and Mombasa, so that they can also participate and engage in County development processes. We recently set up a UK forum.

Diasporas have skills that we do not have at County level. The engagement is purely professional and enrichment of our planning and budgeting processes.

Engaging with the County Government means that we should be accountable to each other and that the CSOs will be able to present regular reports on their work as we also share ours.

Further, Civil Society should establish a framework engagement, showing who is doing what and where and what and who we should engage with.

We invite PEN to bring more CSO professionals from National level next time. We also need to address capacity gaps of the County and we welcome your support in addressing these capacity needs, particularly around NSA agenda.



Catherine Mutanu,
HE The Governor,
Hon. Julius Kaloi
and Daniel
Mutunga



Gerald Mwangi Ole Walterfang

‘New’ Leadership Demands Integrity

Gerald Mwangi Ole Walterfang

Gerald used the event to train the CSO leaders on leadership and integrity issues and he made the following comments about the proceedings of the conference.

Makueni County was performing poorly before the recent election due to wrangling in government.

Look at these two contradicting positions. On 21st Nov 2014, a petition was filed to dissolve the government. Yes indeed the Kiswahili adage says, *Kutangulia sio Kufika*. It did not happen and we are now seeing a totally different scene.

Fast-forward, on June 2018, governor signs an MOU with HIVOS on open contracting for open procurement in recognition of open government practices that the Governor has been promoting.

“This is what is called transformational leadership and the Governor’s speech today has demonstrated that. Thanks to this new approach, anyone can see what the County Government is buying and who gets what contract, beating the biggest procurement headache in Kenya”.

This is the character of what the governor defined as ‘new’ leadership.

He noted that the CSO Network too had made some credible progress. Bringing the Civil Society together should be seen as a great milestone. During the conference, the CSOs were represented from many organizations within the Network – one CSO member was representing 54 small organizations.

“Bringing people together this way is a major achievement. This is one way of achieving results. That is why the Governor and CEC Devolution lauded it as one of the best meetings they had ever had”.

CSOs now have an opportunity to be represented in various County Boards and to engage through village clusters, peoples’ forums and thematic groups.

One reason for inability to participate in the past was being timid and this should be broken as the county doors are now open.

The best way of development is participatory approach. We should not be sitting on the sidewalk complaining. We should seek a way of being a part of the processes by taking the initiative, especially when we have been asked to participate.

“Good governance does not depend on laws but on personal qualities of those who govern. The machinery of governments always subordinate to the will of those who administer that machinery. The most important element of the government therefore is the method of choosing leaders”.

You must therefore be committed, as civil society to a purpose. Know yourself very well, your structures and your capacities and then use this to influence people so that they can choose the right leaders.

“Makueni Governor has demonstrated that he can, so you too can; new leadership committed to integrity and carrying out people’s agenda. This is what civil society must demonstrate in all its work”.

Take Away Actions

From Civil Society

Way-forward from civil society was facilitated by the chair, Mr Daniel Mutunga and moderator, Catherine Mutanu and these were mentioned as things to take away home:

1. Set a Terms of Reference (TOR) for CSO Network on how to engage within itself and also with the County Government. Come up also with a strategic plan for the Network.
2. Strategize and organize the Network to take advantage of the invitation by the County Government. Form sectoral committees and set in place structures that will deliberate on engagement strategies.
3. As a network, assess our institutional capacity both as a network and thematic groups so that we can seek targeted support in addressing these needs.
4. Come up with the methodology of communication between CSOs. Commit to having regular meetings in preparation of annual Governors' Devolution Conferences.
5. Member CSOs should ascribe and strictly adhere to the Constitution, MoU and code of conduct on how to behave as members of the Network.
6. The CSO should seek facts and information so that they can engage with clear evidence. The network needs relevant information from departments and directorates so that it can build a rapport with the county and develop requisite intervention strategies.
7. Engage the media so that they are able to understand and address civil society issues proactively.
8. Bridge the gap between the old and the new as advised by the governor. There is huge gap in CSO Network because of domination of the old.
9. Since devolution started, CSO have been sidelined. They should arise, be awake and take advantage of opportunities given by the law and the open door policy that the governor of Makueni County has presented. We need to organize on how to participate from this day onward. We need representatives from CSO to engage at government level.
10. We need to meet regularly (at least 4 times) annually. We can rotate meetings between members. We can also build our own knowledge database and website. Civil society should be able to meet the cost of such process.
11. Our work should also be reflected on County Government website, so that citizens of Makueni County can know what we do in different sectors and areas.
12. Important to engage in aggressive fund raising to enable MACSON carry out all these actions.
13. "Include Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), let them be involved more. On top of this lets thank the owners of this hotel for creating a disability friendly ramp" Catherine Mutanu
14. Be visible on social media and other events – remember out of sight, out mind.
15. Let's not die or give up when struggles becomes hard. Stand your ground, don't accept to be bribed – work hard.

From County Government:

Hon. Julius Kaloi, CEC Devolution, Makueni County

1. It is the wish of the Department of Devolution to see all of us focusing on what we can do together. How we can work as a team to deliver services to



Catherine Mutanu, Moderating final session



CEC, Devolution, Hon. Julius Kaloi



Welcoming the governor on disability friendly ramp at the hotel, that was highly commended

citizens. We have started in this meeting and the doors are open to reach every person in Makueni County”.

2. Let’s engage on CIDP 2019-2022 and Makueni Vision 2025 to ensure that we meet our milestones. Don’t wait to be called, just come, the doors are open.
3. When the Governor has spoken the way he has, the way ahead has been cleared. We don’t need to go back to him for further directions. We need to go to relevant departments to put the Governor’s instructions into action.
4. I want to assure you through the Directorate of Devolution that we will go hand in hand with you. Let’s engage through devolution forums, all the way from the grassroots. The doors are open, please engage.
5. We want the ‘big civil society’ to accommodate ‘small civil society’ on the fringes of society. Organizations like PEN should come and meet us down there to be able to tap knowledge, experiences, leadership and integrity so that we can become active participants of county development processes”.
6. The cluster level will be the focus of learning. This is where village development plans are articulated. CSO are welcome to help at all levels of cluster engagement.
7. Let’s have a forum like this every year so that we can deliberate and resolve issues together. This is one of the best forums I have taken part in the past one year.

Director of Public Participation and Civic Education, Ms Zipporah Wambua

We have created diaspora forums in Nairobi and Mombasa, so that they can also participate and engage in County development processes. We recently set up a UK forum. Diasporas have skills that we do not have at County level. The engagement is purely professional and enrichment of our planning and budgeting processes.

On closing remarks, the Director reiterated the following:

1. Engaging with the County Government means the ability for CSOs to present regular reports on their work. We need to strengthen accountability to each other.
2. Civil Society should establish a framework for engagement, showing who is doing what. Design and adopt that results framework – outputs impacts and sustainability and let’s discuss how we can collaborate structurally.
3. Once the framework is adopted then you will be able to see who each NSA is in the County, what projects they are carrying out and impact they are creating.
4. We want to maintain our position as a leading County. We invite PEN to bring more CSO people from National level next time. We want to learn from Bungoma for instance because we want to always be on the lead and we hear they are threatening to take the lead from us.
5. We also need to address capacity gaps of the County and we welcome NGOs like PEN in addressing these capacity needs, particularly around NSA agenda.
6. Devolving to various levels – you have an opportunity as CSO sector to work through our devolution forums. We have phased out current development committees and election for 3017 villages will happen soon. We need representatives at all levels e.g. 1 person at County level and 6 at Sub County level.
7. We are designing a more interactive website – let us have anything you wish to share with the County Government. Let us see that we can launch together. We would like to cover the Civil Society Network stories in official county newsletter
8. To work with us, you need to understand County Government’s plans and mechanisms. I will invite you to meet all departments, to share vision 2025, CIDP and others.
9. We are however concerned with briefcase organisations. We visit to assess and find out who is genuine and who is not. As much as we would like to collaborate with all, we would not like to be on the wrong side of the law.



A standing ovation after the governor’s speech (left) and a pose with some conference participants (right)

List of Participants

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Programme and Acknowledgement

DATE: 5 TH SEPTEMBER 2018			
VENUE: KUSYOMBUNGUO HOTEL, WOTE			
Time	Session	Objective	Facilitator
0830-0900hrs	Introductions	Convening organizers, formally welcoming participants, sets the tone for the meeting and introduction of participants	Mary Mutuku – PEN Catherine Mutanu
0900-0930hrs	Session 1	Understanding Makueni CSOs Network; Progress, Challenges and Vision	Daniel Mutunga-Chair, Makueni CSO Network
0930-1000hrs	Session 2	Official Opening and Remarks: How the Government of Makueni County Envisage Working with the Civil Society in Makueni	His Excellency, Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, Governor Makueni
Tea Break			
1030-1110hrs	Session 3	Success of Devolution in Makueni and the Role of Civil Society Sector in Making the Results Better	Hon. Julius Kaloi - CEC Devolution, Makueni
1110-11500hrs	Session 4	Plenary Dialogue on the State of Civic Space in Makueni County	Catherine Mutanu - Moderator
1150-1250hrs	Session 5	Leadership and Integrity of CSOs	Gerald Mwangi
Lunch Break			
1400-1500hrs	Session 6	Group Task: Looking at Challenges of CSOs in Makueni and Exploring next steps	Daniel Mutunga- Network Chair Mary Mutuku – PEN
Health Break and Departure			

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