

ORPP NEWS

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Ann Nderitu, MBS

Registrar of Political Parties and Editorial Advisor.

The central role of political parties as institutions of governance as anchored in articles 91 and 92 of the Constitution, Political Parties Act, 2011 cannot be overemphasized. The duty to register and regulate political parties and administer Political Parties Fund is one the that the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) takes with gladness.

It is a duty that calls for alive to the need for multi-agency approach, true fidelity to the legal provisions for a level playing ground and a great deal of servant leadership that we are honoured to have attained so far. Aware of fluid dynamics in political scene and emerging issues through the electoral cycle, ORPP keep taps to these trends and continue to re-engineer processes and general outlook of its operations to serve all stakeholders better.

We have structured our strategic intent as underpinned in the 2020-2025 with five (5) Key Result Areas (KRAs). The encompassing KRAs are: Registration and documentation of political parties; Regulation of political parties; Institutional capacity; Strategic partnerships and collaboration and Political parties participation in election. These build on will largely inform ORPP's ability to align its operations with changing environment in the context of our situational analysis (SWOT and PESTEL) undertaken and appropriate strategies for each. Overall, our course of direction is pegged on the National Development Agenda; MTP III of the Vision 2030 (under the political pillar of "a democratic political system that is issue based, people-centred, result-oriented and accountable to the public and Sustainable Development Goals (goal 16 of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

In this issue of the newsletter, we present a well-packaged collection of progressive gains in all realms of the mandate in all realms of our undertaking. These milestones would not have been possible, without the appreciable support of stakeholders across board including members of the public, to whom we hold positions as public officers in trust. It is through deliberate, diversified and coordinated engagements those catalyses the agencies' responsibilities for a net effective and efficient delivery of services to the country.

We remain open and receptive of constructive feedback that we shape better our way of managing our regulatory affairs for call of democracy. We remain fervent to the course and hope together we will "smoothen" the arena of politics now and in future.

Karibu katika chapisho la kipekee kutoka Afisi ya Msajili wa Vyama vya

Kisiasa

Nifuraha yetu kuwaleteeni katika chapisho la kwanza la ORPP mambo kemkem. Tumeyanakili matukio, hatua na mafanikio na pia ufanisi tuliyoshuhudia katika wajibu wetu wa kuvisajili na kuvidhibiti vyama vya kiasiasa na pia kusimamia hazina ya Vyama Vya Kiasiasa. Hatua hizi zimewezeshwa pakubwa na ushirikiano kutoka wadau mbalimbali ambao twarudishia shukrani zetu za dhati kama Afisi ya Msajili.

Baadhi ya maswala ambayo tumeyaangazia ni kama vile; mchakato na kuvikabidhi vyama vilivyokidhi vigezo vya kisheria vyeti vya usalijili; mikakati ya kuviwezesha vyama kujiandaa kisheria kabla ya uchaguzi mkuu ujao; programu za mafundisho za vikundi maalum vyamani, mbinu za kurekebisha vipengee muhimu vya sheria; uundaji wa kanuni husika za kuendesha vyama. Vile vile, tumekuleteeni ujumbe maalum wake Msajili wa Vyama vya Kiasiasa; kuapishwa rasmi kwa Msajili na manaibu wake; taji tulioitwaa; maelekezo ya afisi za matawi katika maeneo saba katika pembe za za nchi na kazi za idara mbalimbali zinafanikisha huduma murwa kwenyu.

Natumahi utafurahikia usomaji wako. Kuboresha zaidi machapisho yajayo, twaomba maoni, mapendekezo yanayoweza kuwasilishwa kwenye mitandao yetu ya kijamii (ilivyoorodheshwa hapa) au barua pepe info@orpp.or.ke.

Mutethia Mberia

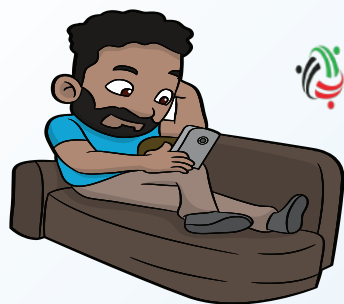
Mhariri na mhudumu katika Idara ya Mawasiliano, ORPP

Ideology development and adherence deliberate; ORPP resolves to guide potential and registered parties

In a bid to ensure registration of political parties with a national character, as contained in Article 91 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, ORPP scrutinizes and guides political parties on the development of their ideologies in line with the parties constitution. Office of the Registrar of Political Parties is keen on reviewing political parties ideologies during the registration process. During the provisional registration stage, political parties are required to submit their ideology to the Name search and Registration committee for review.

The Office regulates political parties to ensure they are institutionalized. Well-organized parties contest and win democratically-conducted elections, aggregate as well as represent social interests, provide policy alternatives and produce political leaders. Competition between parties also helps promote government accountability and ensure responsive solutions to public problems. Further, political parties are expected to have a significant role towards national integration, stability and security. They can also play a critical role in poverty eradication, war against corruption, civic education and mobilization. Parties can also help in entrenching the principles of good governance and enhance the democratization process and policy formulation for the realization of sustainable national development. Having steadfast ideologies, promotes issue-based politics.

Political Party members play a key role of questioning their parties to ensure they are on course and live up to their foundational philosophies. The Office therefore continues to encourage members of the public to join political parties that support their ideology and actively participate in party activities for better representation.



Resign

Join

Status



Remarkable moment, as ORPP rolls out services on e-citizen platform

Kenyans will now have control over their membership in political parties. The on-boarding of services of key services that enables citizens to; check membership status, resign and join a political party of choice through their e-citizen individual accounts is now a reality from 10th November, 2021 following its official launch.

The reformative initiative has been achieved through a robust stakeholder engagement process right from its mooting stage. At varied stages and formats, political parties, members of the public and also ORPP staff have been sensitized by the technical team drawn from the National Treasury and ICT department on services enlisted and user guidelines. These engagements have been pivotal in providing insightful feedback on the infrastructure, ease of use and stakeholders' expectations that have been incorporated prior to roll out.

This initiative, which the Office had a taste of its test run in June, 2021 stems from the Constitutional requirement under article 38 pertaining to actualization of political rights and in pursuit of ORPP duty to verify and publicly make available the list of all members of political parties in line with one of the functions of the Office enshrined in section 34 of the Political Parties, Act, 2011. The right and process to resign as a member from a political party is granted under section 14 of the Political Parties Act 2011.

The overriding objective of on-boarding of these services is to clean up the political parties membership register. It is also geared towards assisting political parties efficiently manage their members with an avenue for opting out and join parties of choice through the ICT solution. The endeavour will also afford citizens an opportunity to exercise 'right to belong, or not to belong' through a safe and secure platform. Besides, membership as constitutionally-guaranteed to political parties is voluntary and open to all citizens of Kenya without discrimination on account of gender, disability, race, ethnic, religious beliefs and professional occupation.

This move is part of the larger efforts of The ORPP to automate processes especially in its role as a custodian of data maintenance and update of database for members and particulars of political as well as ensuring that no person is a member of more than one party at the same time.

To operationalise the on-boarding, the e-citizen has been interfaced with Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS), which is a web-based application developed and administered by ORPP. The IPPMS facilitates efficient and effective management of political party particulars such as membership, party officials and signatures, party symbols and colors, party funding, bank account details, and records of assets and liabilities.

We are now full the scale roll-out effectively allows members of the public to access the membership services on e-citizen platform by logging in to E-citizen portal. The easy steps are; click to access enlisted ORPP services; select your preferred service and fill in the details and submit; you will receive acknowledgment of request. Notification will be given on the system once the requests (save for checking membership status instant) is completed.

Registrar calls for political parties' early preparedness before next main polls

Political parties have been called to ensure functional institutional structures are in place in good time to appropriately participate in the forthcoming general elections. Earlier preparedness for political parties was said to be part of the key facets in delivering credible elections.



Registrar of Political Parties, Ms. Ann Nderitu address Secretary Generals of Political Parties at Sarova Woodlands

Speaking during a compliance meeting for Secretary Generals of political parties at Sarova Woodlands, Nakuru on 27 th and 28 th July, 2021, Registrar of Political Parties highlighted a raft of areas parties and players key to it being mopping up parties membership registers. The Registrar noted parties have a key role to play to ensure laid down procedures are adhered to in recruitment and resignation which should be detailed in their respective party constitutions. “We must work as parties and stakeholders to ensure members access their membership data through the use of secure technologies such as E-citizen platform as earlier piloted”, said Ms. Nderitu. Adding that in the recent past, membership in political parties was steadily. for instance, in the last three months membership in parties has increased from about 15 to approximately 18 million members currently, hence important and sensitive data number must be managed in the best way possible, one of the ways being automation of applicable processes and integration of ORPP and party ICT solutions.

The Assistant Registrars underscored the import of party officials such as in the stature of Secretary Generals to be accountable to their members and larger citizenry. “We must be responsible leaders, in all respects of good governance. You are key in offering strategic direction for your party institutions”, noted Assistant Registrar Ali Surraw in charge of Regulation, Compliance, Capacity Building and Political Parties Fund. Parties were further called to harness technology advancements of the time to maintain a secure data base for their members. “Maximise on technology and put in place technically-responsive infrastructure to better serve the members and meet compliance thresholds effectively”, reiterated CPA Florence Biryra, the Assistant Registrar, Registration and Field Services Coordination. The Registrar further urged on the critical need for parties to solve amicably conflicts within internal party structures to avoid protracted and at times lengthy court determination process. “There are a lot of parties with disputes and others bordering simmering disputes that are increasingly crippling operations of parties if not resolved. Let us solve our differences within Internal Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (IDRMs) to realise the object of political parties”, the Registrar counselled. She called on parties, especially at the time when the country is upbeat to the next general elections to institute and/or review party ideologies and manifestos that manifest the issues affecting the public. “Political parties should demonstrate what they stand for, speak and advocate about the less privileged in society including the elderly, marginalised and all Special Interest Groups as you pitch your prepare for campaigns that should be resonant to pressing matters of the time such as economic issues”, Registrar underscored.



Secretary Generals of Political Parties at Sarova Woodlands

Ms. Nderitu further giving a stern notice on proponents of hate speech, electoral violence and other malpractices. She noted that all stakeholders must join hand in efforts towards embracing politics that accommodates diverse political expressions and opinion of Kenyans electorates. “We should shun from ‘soul erosion’ in order to reinstate and preserve dignity and be proud of the progress the political parties have made. Recent impressive posting out of audit of headquarter offices in the recent exercise conducted by ORPP is one of the pointers to that fact”, Registrar appreciated.

The political parties resolved to act and review recruitment procedures and processes in line with Political Parties Act , 2011 and Data Protect Act, 2019 and act on concerns raised by numerous (over 4,000 received at ORPP) Kenyans during on boarding of Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS) piloting phase.



ORPP staff discuss matters on IPPMS piloting phase

There were other areas of presentation and discussion during the forum. Such were the Political Parties Amendment Bill, 2021, Political Parties (Membership) Regulation, 2020, Political Parties Membership roll-out, roadmap for the 2022 general elections as well as a sensitisation on Data Protection Act, 2019 undertaken by Data Commissioner.

Persons with specials needs, a critical constituent for progress of political parties, Registrar informs

Political parties have been called to put central in their governance and operational structures the interests and aspirations of Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs) as key element of inclusion. The Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu underscored this while opening a one-day capacity building workshop for PWDs drawn from all fully registered political parties held on 26th August, 2021 at Sarova Stanley, Nairobi.



Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu addresses participants during the PWDs sensitization forum held at Sarova Stanley Hotel.

The Registrar pointed out that as backed by statistics there are low numbers of PWDs in political and overall governance processes. She called for deliberate effort to champion and mobilize others within and outside political parties and rally behind PWDs to actualise their positive contribution to the progressive politics. “Every Kenyan including PWDs has equal right as guaranteed in the country’s Constitution .We must speed up affirmative action for PWDs with passion and vigour, which has lagged behind as compared to efforts of other Special Interest Groups categories”, Ms. Nderitu urged. She further called on PWDs to play their part in their respective parties to demonstrate and earn their space

“As persons with special needs, you must interest yourselves in politics and espouse a unity of purpose approach to realise the gains you aspired”, counselled the Registrar. She assured of ORPP’s commitment to continue putting up targeted programmes for PWDs with partners to realise their inherent potential not just in political parties but in other realms of leadership. “It is our commitment to strive to programmes such as this in partnership with other agencies to support and guide PWDs not only to meet composition of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and other compliance threshold in governing bodies of parties but importantly, to empower you to contest in elective political positions as well as other leadership opportunities”, she assured. Assistant Registrar, Ali A. Surraw, elucidated the various SIGs mainstreaming efforts ORPP has put its regulatory role. “Aware of the myriad challenges, we continue to steer legal and policy interventions responsive to PWDs well-being in political parties”, noted Ali.



Assistant Registrar Ali Surraw, speaking during the PWDs sensitization forum

Participants present agreed to advocate for prioritisation of their agenda within parties. They called for the need to embrace responsive modes of communicating and devise specific strategies responsive to SIGs diverse needs. They further noted of the need for further fora to deliberate on a wide breath of proposal they made including ; iron out gaps in membership and census data of PWDs; enhance funding of PWDs targeted programmes with political parties, mooted formation of possible special Fund; formation of a caucus of PWDs among other recom-

mendations.

The deliberations were hinged on the need for additional efforts towards mainstreaming PWDs in



Participants pose for a group photo

electoral process being a global challenge. “Even in Europe, there are a host of technical and legal barriers that befall full inclusion of Persons with Special needs” , noted Daniel Seiberling, Hanns Seidel Foundation Resident Representative Kenya -Ethiopia.



Daniel Seiberling, Hanns Seidel Foundation Resident Representative Kenya-Ethiopia.

The Office personnel made varied presentations in relation to legal requirements of PWDs in political processes (Loserian Tukei); Level of inclusion of SIGs in political processes (Anastasia Kaberere) ; Roadmap to 2022 elections, election timelines and aspirants requirements (Juliet Murimi). They were complemented by their counterparts as session moderators, rapportuers and logistical support. The engagement which was supported by Hanns Seidel Foundation, Kenya Office preceded a similar with youth leaders of fully registered political parties held on 27th August, 2021.



Awards proposal mooted for best compliant parties

Majority of fully registered political parties have functional headquarter offices. A compliance status report on inspection of headquarters offices conducted for 65 parties by Office of Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) between 21 st and 24th June, 2021 has revealed.

In the report presented to Secretary Generals of political parties on 28 th July, 2021, parties managed an aggregate score of 58 % on “very good and good” category, while 40% were at “fair” rating. This translates into about 98% above average rating, signifying considerable effort made by the parties in maintaining functional head offices.

Teams in the exercise were lauded by party officials present for their professionalism during the inspection exercise, a key milestone for the Office. “This report challenges the long-held narrative about dysfunctional parties. Progress has been made since 2016, the last time ORPP conducted such an exercise. It is now time to focus to remedy areas of improvement identified not just for compliance but for the progress of Kenyan politics”, noted Director of Compliance while presenting the report.



Head of Compliance Juliet Murimi presents Political Parties` office inspection report during the compliance meeting for Secretary Generals for fully registered political parties

Proposal was given to recognise by way of certificate of recognition or award the best performing parties to motivate others that may lag behind. “Shouldn’t there be an award or a trophy for the sterling performing parties”? posed one of the Secretary Generals. The

proposal was noted by ORPP for possible roll out in due time. Some further called for review of parameters for inspection to details required areas.

The party officials present were pleased with outcome of the inspection and committed to carry on and improve gaps identified. “Kenyans are looking upon us to give them a platform to exercise their democratic rights of elections. Therefore, every effort and structure must be in place to realise this expectation of Kenyans”, urged Evans Misati, the Chairman of Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC).



Chairman of Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC), Mr. Evans Misati contributes during a plenary session of Secretary Generals compliance meeting

It was resolved that full reports will be shared with respective political parties, during which ORPP will offer appropriate compliance guidance for gaps therein. The un-inspected political parties will be required to show cause to the Registrar on grounds why legal action should not be instituted for the non-compliance within stipulated timeframe.

Some of the parameters for inspection were; office particulars (location, accessibility, names & details of contact persons, lease agreements, signage & branding); availability of policy and administrative records; existence of party constitutions, election & nomination rules; work plans; reports; party ideologies; constitution of governing organs among other parameters in line stipulations of sections 7, 17, 18 of Political Parties Act, 2011.

Seize opportunities for full representation in political arena, youth in parties urged

The youth leaders in political parties have been called to take advantage of favourable legal and policy architecture in the country that accommodates their inclusion in political governance. They were apprised of myriad principles in the Constitution of Kenya (CoK), 2010 that promote representation of marginalized groups in electoral positions. In the context of political parties' process, aspects such as nominating candidates to their party list, support in campaign funding and other enabling youth-oriented national platforms have been put in place.

In her opening remarks during a sensitization forum for political parties youth leaders on 27th August 2021 at Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi, the Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu noted that for young people to be adequately represented in political institutions, processes and decisionmaking, they must know their rights. The youth she noted must further be accorded opportunity for necessary knowledge and capacity to participate in a meaningful way at all levels. The Registrar also counseled the youth on emerging challenges brought about by mental health issues that Seize opportunities for full representation in political arena, youth in parties urged she cited was adversely affecting them. "Youth leaders present at this forum need to take stock of particular issues affecting you and advocate in your respective parties for appropriate solutions including on matters pertaining to mental health issues", the Registrar advised. She urged the political parties youth representatives to tap knowledge and understanding from the older people that can help them impact positively in the political space.

Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, Mr. Ali Surraw called on the youth to overcome myths that youth are apathetic and not mature enough to take up leadership positions. He reiterated that a healthy and resilient democracy must be inclusive.

On his part, Resident Representative, Kenya - Ethiopia: Daniel Seiberling of the Hanns Siedel Foundation Kenya, the supporting partner to the ORPP-convened forum too challenged the youth to take up double responsibility, that of working with the party and working with the youth. "The youth face many issues in this world,



Resident Representative, Kenya - Ethiopia: Daniel Seiberling of the Hanns Siedel Foundation, speaking during the youth forum held at Sarova Stanley Hotel.

but these issues go unheard. I urge you to work and relate with the youth at the community level, since the youth would better understand other young people", he said. He further urged the youth to be ready to take up duties as power comes with responsibility.

The Office designated team sensitized participants present on various topical areas including; political parties processes; level of involvement/inclusion of Special Interest Groups in political processes; barriers to meaningful participation and roadmap to 2022 General Elections; election timelines and aspirants requirements.

Youth leaders who spoke were of the collective view that bodies involved in electoral management to upscale information sharing in readiness for the upcoming general elections. Bina Maseno of Movement for Democracy and growth (MDG) party encouraged the youth present to move the youth agenda forth and be empowered to go for leadership positions. "Negotiate for any position, have courage, be pro-active and your party leadership will recognize your effort" she said.



Bina Maseno youth representative for MDG party speaking during the youth sensitization forum.

ORPP shares delightful moments with Mukuru slumswomen group

The Office of Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) on 14 th October, 2020, visited Reli self-help group, in Mukuru kwa Njenga slums, Nairobi to share moments of hope and staff-volunteered donations. This was the Office call to action following a local media outlet; NTV's feature on the group's plight, aired at the height of Covid-19. During the visit, the Office spent the day with the group, resident community-based organisations, local village leaders and on-ground government officials.

The visit presented a rare opportunity for ORPP to share contextualised life skills talks, experiences as well as presenting assorted dry food items bought from the proceedings of staff voluntary contributions. Specific areas of focus of the talks centred on resource-pooling mechanisms to set up sustainable income-generating small scale ventures as well as guidance for the women to actively participate in political processes and general leadership roles. The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu noted that the Office will continue to support such vulnerable groups as part of ORPP care for the less-privileged as underpinned in the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy and Strategy. "We want to be that organisation that is connected with the society as is integral to our service delivery", noted Ms. Nderitu.



A section of Reli women group along the railway line in Mukuru slums demonstrate washing of used packing bags, which they subsequently sell to earn a meagre living at various markets in Nairobi.

The visit was said to be just a beginning of ORPP's outreach programmes for a wider reach. "We will be sharing appropriate opportunities to you and other vulnerable groups to uplift their well-being", noted Robert Waithaka in his talk on the place of vulnerable special interest groups in leadership. The group was also taken through a captivating life skills talk detailing step by step individual and group empowerment practical practices based on personal experiences of the speakers. "You are able and capable of changing your lives and those of your generations. Besides seizing the opportunities highlighted, a culture of little savings and strategically pooling efforts into small scale businesses for each of your members would be appropriate move ahead as you expand your current undertaking and business approach", further encouraged Veronicah Muasya of ORPP in her talk to the group titled, life skills; message of hope.

Local leaders including local chief, Lydia Kwamboka, public health official and local elders present, spoke well of a group destined to unshackle themselves from the yokes of poverty characterising the slum dwellings.



Representatives of Reli Women group filled with jubilation after receiving life skills talks and donations from ORPP. The event was held at Mukuru Medical Missionaries (MMM) in Mukuru kwa Njenga, Nairobi.

“We are so glad that ORPP considered Mukuru’s Reli Women group as its help target. Indeed, we hope for a more sustained partnership with the Office that has done considerable well in its regulatory role in political parties”, noted Eric Ambuche, the founder of Slums Outreach Programme, a CBO that supported ORPP visit.

Reli group’s representatives were full of gladness as they received donations and openly cross-shared touching experiences some which depicted a story of deprivation, pain and anguish. “Thank you for the heavenly visit today, our prayer is you facilitate our hard-working group with tools like water tanks and car wash project for our self-sustenance”, an elated Chair of the group Mildred Okoth urged.

One of the way forward out of the day’s deliberations was for ORPP to further engage with the relevant leaders in the community for long term solutions to afford them a decent living. Further, it was agreed for heightened community programmes that also targets boys, to attain a balanced society in future. Currently, Reli women group has 41 members and has been registered as a self-group by the relevant authorities.



ORPP team and local leaders take a walk around Mukuru slums to the Reli women group’s washing area

Women making mark at pinnacle politics, Registrar points in educative forum for grassroots women leaders

Women have made gradual progress marking their presence in national politics. This is demonstrated by election of women into elective positions, sizeable contenders by women for various as well a number of them at the helm of political parties leadership.

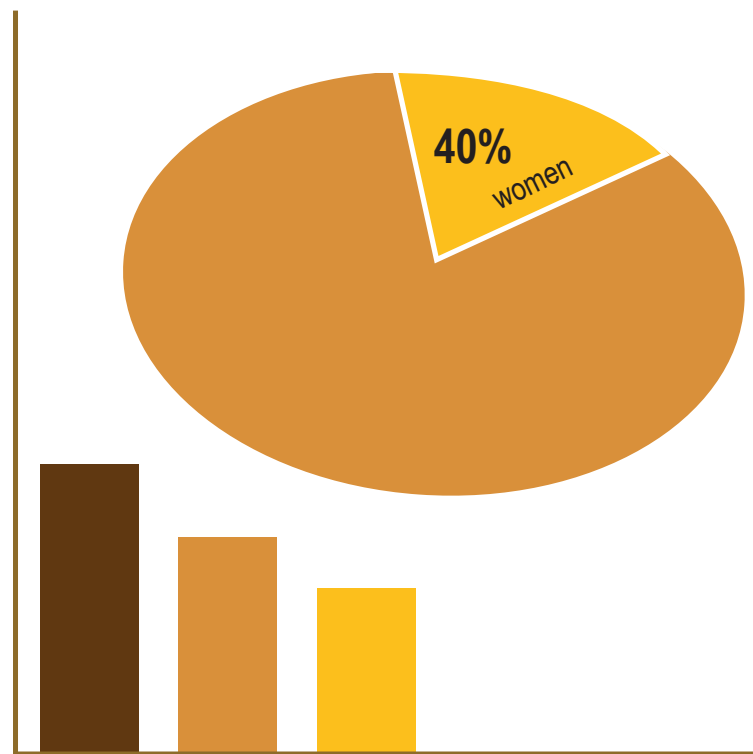
This came to the fore during the 65th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) forum, held on 18th and 19th May 2021, where the Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu was the Chief Guest. She gave keynote address to guide grassroots women leaders with focus on funding and campaign support for women candidates.

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Statistics outlook

The Registrar highlighted statistics as drawn from ORPP-maintained data that depict mixed gains in women pursuit for political leadership as well as membership outlook. For instance, she noted, out the total 16,311,226 Kenyans registered as members in various political parties at the time, 9,717,827 were male while 6,593,399 were female slot, representing about 40% representation. A further review on the office bearers' aspect in political parties, women accounted for an average 37%.

On seeking elective political leadership, there has been mixed outcome, where for example, in the past presidential contests, four women aspirants have tried their hand, among them being: Hon. Charity Ngilu who contested as a presidential candidate in 1997 on an SDP ticket; Hon. Martha Karua on a NARC- Kenya ticket in 2013 while Hon. Prof. Julia Ojiambo featured as vice presidential candidate in 2007. At the helm of political parties, there are at present 6 party women as party leaders. Additionally, in 2017 general elections, substantial milestone was registered where a number of women were elected in governorship, Members of National Assembly and Members of County Assembly as compared in the 2013. "In 2013 there were no elected women in the gubernatorial positions whereas in 2017, there were three (3) women governors elected", read the address in part.



A pie-chart representation of the total number of Kenyans registered as members in a various political parties as at the statistics of ORPP data

The Registrar also guided and sensitized participants on a raft of legal mechanisms in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 (CoK), Political Parties Act, 2011 and other enabling legislation that seek to provide opportunities for women participation in politics. Guaranteed given for party lists under Article 90 of the Constitution, special seats set aside under Article 90 of CoK, purpose and distribution of Political Parties Fund that seek to promote representation of women in Parliament and County Assemblies among others legal and policy interventions were highlighted.

Relevant stipulations in the Political Parties Code of Conduct and Elections Code of Conduct related to the subject area were also interrogated.

Out of the deliberations and challenges highlighted, several mitigation measures were seen palpable. "Insightful discussions we had today, I think some of interventions that are needed of various duty bearers include: appropriate legal reform and implementation; grassroots sensitization; mapping and capacity building of women", Registrar noted. She summed with a clarion call for "collegiate institutional and individual collaboration. This would reshape political parties to cater for women candidates to tap into opportunities that guarantee meaningful participation of women in the political spaces".

ORPP lead in training programme for women in political arena

The Office co-facilitated the second training under the on-going “Empowering Women in Politics (EWIP), 2021-2022 programme”, a joint effort between The Oslo Centre and Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) with support of the Christian Democratic Institute (KIC). The training was held in Naivasha’s Sentrim Elementaita Lodge from the 24 th to 27 th July, 2021.

Topics of focus during the training were pegged on the broad areas of personal branding; lobbying & advocacy; outreach, public speaking, communication and marketing. ORPP presented on the topic

“understanding political marketing” on which key issues such as strategies for political marketing, understanding political arena, target segmentation and marketing; developing effective marketing plans were delved into in detail. “We must right from the start know the development agenda and develop truthful manifestos that one is able to implement once elected to change narrative of ‘empty political’ promises to the electorates”, noted ORPP’s Anastacia Kaberere, who has been coordinating the programme.



Women political aspirants during the training at Sentrim Elementaita that were representing over 30 political parties

Participants were appreciative of such a programme that they termed a “game changer” in their political pursuit and aspirations. “I tell you my fellow women leaders of diverse backgrounds that we are lucky to be going through such important series of trainings, that most women have never experienced in the past”, noted Kaaba Wanja, a former Member of County Assembly in Tharaka Nithi. Efforts by the Office were further in its empowerment and engagement strife for women and other Special Interest Groups. “As I return to my home county to put to practice strategies I have learnt, I feel more than ever before equipped courtesy of ORPP and partners”, applauded a 24-year old MCA aspirant in Mandera county.

The Oslo’s Centre Phoebe Mungai was confident of the positive impact of the three-part training. “It is our individual and joint responsibility to put our best foot forward and battle it out with male counterparts having been given means and skills in these training”, noted Phoebe, a programme coordinator with Oslo Centre.

This training was a continuation from the 1 st training carried on 26 th to 30 th June, 2021 in Nyeri county, under the project with different thematic focus, in which the Registrar, Ann Nderitu was the lead speaker. The past training focused was dubbed “Women preparedness in party primaries beyond legal requirements”.

Recipients of the training programme are women aspirants nominated by various political parties. EWIP’s is geared towards increasing participation and influence of women in politics by strengthening their knowledge and skills capacities in politics.

ORPP sights 3-year budget to grassroots engagements and tech in service

The Office resource needs for the budget planning period of 2022/23 – 2024/25 will be oriented towards renewed stakeholder engagement and ICT solutions in all its processes. During a preparation workshop of MTEF budget held on 17th to 22nd August, 2021 in Naivasha, heads of departments/units/sections and regional offices identified specific activities of focus for the period with budget justifications and a break down to detail of each of the activities proposed for their respective dockets.

During the period, the Office will orient its activities towards deeper engagement of stakeholders and collaborations including with members of public to cat the grassroots through various targeted programmes. The strategic activities identified will also be infused with responsive ICT-inclined solutions to deliver better services to Kenyans with needed ease and convenience.

Speaking during the opening of the workshop on 18th August, 2021, the Registrar Ann Nderitu said that the budget must be meticulous and in synch with gaps identified in the previous budgeting period and must be performance based. “We are an institution known to be very realistic in its budgeting. As we live to this appreciable attribute, let us in the current MTEF budgeting address the gaps in capacity building, civic education, cater for post-general elections activities with appropriate enabling technologies”, the Registrar underscored. The team were also urged to

prioritize activities with corresponding justification as provided in the budget guidelines. “This budget focuses on rebound out of the economic melt-down due to effects of Covid-19. We must therefore ensure strict adherence with guidelines, timelines given and give solid and strong justifications of budget proposals to better serve our people”, Assistant Registrar Ali A. Surraw noted.

The team grouped based on economic classification such as Personal Emoluments, Operations and Maintenance, Medical Covers, Utilities had to burn the mid-night oil through the week to deliver tasking task of isolated and costing all the budget line items.

Teams adopted “quantity multiplied by price” approach as a costing technique where identified activities are associated with price of each of the items to arrive at the sub-cost. The efforts bore fruit with completion of all identification of all the budget items and consolidation of required reports within the given timelines of 30th August, 2021.

Guidelines for Preparation of the 2022/23 – 2024/25 Medium Term Budget were issued on 19th July, 2021 to Cabinet Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries and Accounting Offices of all public entities by the Cabinet Secretary of the National Treas-

ury and Planning Ukur Yatani. It indicates that all effort must be made for full scale implementation recovery strategy that aims to reposition the economy in line with Medium Term III of the Vision 2030, the Big Four Agenda and Post Covid-19 Recovery Strategy



Participants during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) workshop held in Naivasha on 17th to 22nd August, 2021

(PC-ERS).

“Medium-Term Budget will focus on the theme ‘building back better’ through targeted implementation of the PCERS...Prioritization and allocation of resources by government will be aimed at safeguarding livelihoods, creating jobs, reviving businesses and economy recovery”, read the guides in parts.

The guidelines also emphasises the Constitutional requirement of public participation (where applicable) and stakeholder involvement in the medium term budget process within Covid19 mitigation protocols. Upon completion of the initial proposals the Sector Working Groups through their Sector Chairpersons will be required to submit budget proposals to the National Treasury by 15th October, 2021.

Support the political parties, Registrar call to Kenyans

The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu has urged for support of political parties by their members and general citizenry. She noted that members in political parties as key stakeholders, have an obligation to embrace and appropriately contribute in building registered political parties as vehicles of governance. Members should also question their parties to ensure they are on course and live up to their foundational philosophies.



Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu in a press interview with KTN crew in her office.

In a press interview with Kenya Television Network (KTN) in her Office on 26th May, 2021, the Registrar underscored the need to upscale the structured engagement between political parties and members as well as general public for full realization of political rights as enshrined in Article 38 and related provisions of Constitution of Kenya, 2010. “Political parties play a critical role as vehicle for citizenry to exercise diverse rights in promotion of democracy. This can be realized if the members in political parties and citizens embrace and champion the ideals of parties they subscribe to”, noted the Registrar. She further dissuaded Kenyans to detach from ‘personality politics’ in which some political followers

fanatically follow given political figures rather than focus on building political parties as institutions of governance. “I urge political parties to ensure they have structures as required in law for members to actively participate in undertakings of their parties as they aspire to form government or complement the sitting government”.

At ORPP, we continue to re-engineer our business processes by adopting responsive and appropriate technologies for better service delivery. At present, ORPP is improving the Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS) for instance, soon to be rolled out access of some modules of IPPMS through E-citizen platform where designated service will be available at convenience of the citizens”, Registrar informed.

The Registrar during the interview also delved into a raft of other topical matters including legal reforms; political realignments and formations; ideology for political parties; funding of political parties, party primaries among other issues. Ms. Nderitu noted that the country needs to appreciate the strides made in political arena in promotion of democracy. “Looking at our country’s democracy that has been for about 6 decades and a looking at a decade of multi-party democracy, we ought to be proud of the milestones of our growing democracy in imprinting the ideologies of parties compared to other democracies of many centuries for instance, those of western jurisdictions”, she observed. This notwithstanding, she added that ORPP plays a central role in shaping ideologies of aspiring political parties as they are required to present to a panel for interrogation as part of provisional registration process.

In addressing the question coalitions, the country was guided that political formations in form of coalitions and mergers should be seen in good light as mechanisms for inclusivity and embracing diversity. “In the last 3 general elections, we have seen various political formations that despite some challenges have largely expanded inclusivity across demographics”, Registrar guided. A caution was further given that the cooperating parties should strictly adhere to coalition agreements duly executed and deposited with the Registrar in order to mitigate conflict and for the larger good of the electorates.

Strict fidelity to the Political Parties Code of Conduct in 1st schedule to the Political Parties Act (PPA), 2011 was underscored. “In line with this Code, central responsibility lies with the parties in ensuring that indiscipline party officials and members are dealt with in accordance with their respective parties’ constitutions.

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Matters of party primaries were also elucidated. The Registrar called on parties to ensure that there is credibility in their conduct of party primaries in line with the law to inspire confidence of members and members of the public.

Malpractices witnessed in a primaries in run up to the recently held by-elections, must be addressed by relevant party structures as ORPP as guided.

The Registrar on 27th May 2021 featured in another interview with TV-47 where related issues were clarified. The KTN's interview was aired on 29th May, 2021 during its 9 o'clock prime time news. The detailed version is anticipated to be included in the television's special feature for the Madaraka day commemorations.

Grassroots lobby group laud ORPP, call curbing of political malpractices

The Office of Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) through its Eldoret-based office team was part of a grassroots engagement forum in Eldoret, Uasin Gichu County to deliberate on peace building and governance in the county on 20th April, 2021. Through area lobby group named Women Peace Link, the forum brought together various state and non-state actors in electoral processes to deliberate on the subject.

In the forum, participants were enlightened on a raft of programmes the Office has and is planning for its preparatory roadmap for the coming general elections that include mapping and training programme for women political aspirants. "The ORPP in conjunction with other agencies and partners is planning a training programme for women aspirants to equip them with necessary professional skills and knowledge ahead of the forthcoming general polls", said Beatrice Nderi, in charge of North Rift Region during the forum. She also sensitized on various functions of ORPP and efforts made for ease of service access. Notably, she highlighted checking of membership status available across ORPP's regional offices. "We continue to put every effort to enhance our service delivery model for effectiveness of all Kenyans geographical location notwithstanding. Such is through the in-house developed Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS) which has diverse service modules.

Speakers present lauded the efforts the ORPP has ingrained such as strict assessment of proposed parties in the registration process and a raft of other regulatory strive for political parties in line with the Political Parties Act, 2011.

"I take note and applaud the work of ORPP for example, in reaching out to members of the public with authoritative information relating to a wide breadth of electoral and political processes", observed Rtd. Major John Seei, the Chairman of Uasin Gichu Peace Forum and Coordinator of the Kalenjin Council of Elders. He called on ORPP to strictly enforce the Political Parties Code of Conduct by evoking appropriate sanctions to help curb political malpractices such as propagation of tribal politics.



Participants during the forum

Participants in the forum included representatives from Uasin Gichu County Commissioner's Office County government of Uasin Gichu, county peace Committees drawn from all constituencies among others.

Parties called to be agents of peace and cohesion

Secretary Generals (SGs) of various political parties converged for a two-day engagement forum on 10th and 11th February 2021 at the Crowne Plaza, Nairobi to receive guidance on varied compliance matters. The meeting was convened by Office of Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) with support of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).

During the meeting, attendees were taken through a host of requirements for compliance and appraised of their compliance status as spelt out in the Political Parties Act, 2011 and Political Parties (Registration) Regulations, 2019.

The forum also gave an opportunity for the political parties to raise and deliberate on challenges encountered in adhering with applicable codes.

In her remarks, the Registrar noted that the forum was one of the ORPP's strive to strengthen political parties. She reiterated the Office's commitment in laying modalities for political parties to be well governed institutions able to serve the interests of Kenyans. "We encourage political parties to entrench good governance in all processes in order to foster democracy in Kenya". Ms. Nderitu said. The Registrar also reproved of the indiscipline cases amongst political parties. "In the recent past, party members are increasingly becoming non-loyal to their parties, I want to make it clear that ORPP stands for loyalty to political parties to avoid confusion to Kenyans", guided the Registrar.



Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu (standing front, right) makes her remarks during the compliance meeting held on 10th and 11th February 2021, in Nairobi.

The Office monitors compliance of political parties using compliance tools such as statutory forms and checklist that specifies various compliance areas as enshrined in the Act. These tools help political parties outline and submit within specified timelines compliance information to the ORPP.

Assistant Registrar in charge of Compliance, Regulation, Political Parties Fund and Capacity Building, Mr. Ali Surraw, while speaking during the session, commended the fully complaint political parties despite the hurdles experienced such as funding. "To be in good legal standing, those parties that are not compliant must demonstrate effort to remedy non-compliant issues as guided by ORPP from time to time ", Ali said.

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Assistant Registrar of Political Parties Ali Surraw speaking during the compliance meeting.

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Political parties' representatives present expressed their gratitude to ORPP and IDEA for organizing such a productive forum. They too applauded the ORPP's continued effort in regulating parties such as on-going efforts to make public the party membership register through the E-citizen platform. They proposed for consideration of continual embracing of technology in tandem with modern times "We may need new interventions to some of the challenges the parties are facing. For instance, consideration of political parties to have virtual offices, especially in this digital era, where most of the services can be provided on online platforms", posed Omondi K'yoo of the National Liberal Party.

The meeting brought together more than 40 SGs from different fully registered political parties. Currently, there are 72 fully registered political parties with the latest entrant, National Reconstruction Alliance (NRA) attainment of full registration status in February, 2021.

ORPP awarded for gender inclusion

It was glitz and glamour during an award gala dinner on which the Office of Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) was awarded for its various initiatives on gender parity. The Office bagged an award during this year's National Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition held on 12th March 2021 at Sarit Centre in Nairobi. ORPP was awarded 2nd runners up in the category of best parastatal on gender parity. The nominations and eventual awards are based on expert-panel evaluation of an entity/individual work and reports especially those filed with the Public Service Commission by public institutions.

Some of the Office's notable initiatives towards gender parity are capacity building for women in political parties; continual monitoring of compliance for gender parity requirements in the registration and compliance of political parties processes and strategic cooperation with actors promoting gender course.

Various National leaders, heads of government institutions and private sectors luminaries were present at the awards ceremony. Speakers accentuated the need to break the barriers and creating opportunities for the 'able and differently able' for harmonious society. Sentiments that were well in tune with the event's theme "Celebrating Everyday Inclusion in the Workplace and the Society".



National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Chairperson Joyce Mutinda (left) presents the award to Assistant Registrar of Political Parties CPA Florence Birya (2nd left) and team representing ORPP at the awards gala held in Cherengani halls, Sarit Centre Nairobi.

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Makueni Governor Prof. Kivutha Kibwana called on all county governments to embrace diversity and equality. In my country we seek to celebrate exceptional initiatives such as this, noted Kisumu County Prof Anyang' Nyong'o who was also present to show support to one of the county's Executives being awarded.

"To accelerate the realization of a gender-equal future and women leadership, we must ensure gender balance in leadership spaces and opportunities in both levels of government and the private sector as guaranteed in the Kenyan Constitutional reform agenda", noted Joyce Mutinda, the Chairperson of National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC). James Maina, the Director of Daima Trust, the awards organizers expressed gratitude for all players and individuals' efforts across the country that progressively champion diversity and inclusion. "I'm diversity and we will move far if you embrace me, Maina said in a moving poem he recited to the audience.

Being diverse is to be celebrated, hence the diversity and inclusion initiatives we are witnessing today is critical for all within a society, noted Beatrice Elachi, the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Public Service and Gender. She represented the ministry's Cabinet Secretary, Prof. Margaret Kobia as the Chief Guest.

Other institutions nominated/awarded included; National Council for Persons with Disabilities, Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC), Safaricom PLC, Coca-Coca, BAT Kenya, NCBA, Kenya Re, The University of Nairobi, University of Embu, Kisumu County Government, Commission on Administrative Justice, LVCT Health, NONDO, Cheshire Disability Services among others.

The awards were meant to celebrate peace, inclusion and equality champions who have embraced diversity and inclusion as a tool for advancing their agenda. The event was mooted in 2018, as a programme for recognising individuals and organisations that showcase positive impactful measures in respective sectors.

ORPP in identified lead national team to steer peace and cohesion

ORPP will be part of a multi-agency national Technical Committee to steer holistic strategies that promote peace and cohesive ahead of forthcoming general elections. The Office joins other aligned agencies in the initiative to be convened by National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC). Other members of the Committee will be drawn from Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) among other players. The formation of the Technical Committee was borne out of consultative meeting between the 4 agencies (named above) held on 14th January, 2021 at Panafric Hotel,

Nairobi.



Registrar of Political parties addressing the participants during the forum.

Initial task on the subject projected for the Committee upon finer consultations with other stakeholders and formulation of Terms of Reference will be to: devise ways for conflict resolution mech-

anisms, oversee citizen

education programmes and modalities of entrenching transformative and servant leadership in line with NCIC's already established roadmap for peaceful election guideline. "This joint initiative is pegged on the principle of co-creation, co-implement and co-measure different parameters during

pre, during and post next general elections", noted NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia in his keynote address during the meeting. He further observed that out of this technical team, there will be "a declaration of principles and national values, an aspect broader than the present requirement for

... aspirants and elected leaders to adhere to elections and political parties' code of conduct. Individual leaders and aspirants that will be found in breach of appropriate code of conduct and resulting guidelines, will be entered into a 'wall of shame and fame'.

The Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu in her remarks underscored the need for agencies in electoral processes to collaborate to better manage and remedy the challenges that have been in electoral management in the country. "We need this initiative pegged on appropriate legal foundation hence the need for

partner institutions to review their respective Acts of Parliament". Further guiding that the Technical Committee once formally constituted, also needs to set appropriate timelines for its task in line with electoral cycle and calendar", observed Registrar, also one of the founders of initiative.

The joint initiative once implemented has been seen as one of the ways of bringing sanity to political murky environment and malpractices particularly in the run up to the general elections.



NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia (R) during a courtesy visit to Registrar of Political Parties, on 15th January 2021.

Stakeholders endorse Strategic Plan

Stakeholders have validated the ORPP's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan in a session held on 14th January, 2021 in Nairobi. The validation signifies goodwill the Office continues to receive from multiplicity of its stakeholders. It is a clear pointer of the keenness the ORPP places on its strategic direction, responsive to the stakeholder needs and current and future happenings that affect its mandate.

Stakeholders during the validation were drawn from a wide breadth of stakeholders. They included representatives from government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations among others.

Assistant Registrar of Political Parties Ali Surraw, noted that the forum was one of the ORPP



Stakeholders keenly follow proceedings of the ORPP 2020-25 Strategic Plan during a validation forum held in Nairobi on 14th January, 2021

avenues for engaging with stakeholders. He assured that the Office will strive to implement the eight (8) Key Result Areas (KRAs) as steered by various strategies identified in the implementation matrix. "This Strategic Plan hinges our engagement model with all stakeholders and

gives a clear sense of direction and purpose in 2020/25 period. We will continue the constructive conversations throughout the period to attain together the aspirations in the Plan", Ali implored. He further appreciated ORPP staff for their efforts in developing the Strategic Plan with technical assistant of the consultant enlisted.

"We will follow through to the full implementation of this Plan in line with clear responsibilities assigned to the respective functional areas. The Plan is also a yardstick for our service delivery mechanisms as ORPP", noted Assistant Registrar CPA Florence Biryia.

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Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu appreciated stakeholders for the continued support as she assured the Office commitment to meet the stakeholder needs in line with ORPP strategic objectives in the Plan. “We have spent considerable time and thought in the making of this Strategic Plan to ensure that we deliver on our mandate.

We remain steadfast and putting forth best effort to meet the needs of the stakeholders including the Kenyans we serve”, Registrar assured in her remarks during the forum. She added that the Plan also sets a quality bar higher for the ORPP to achieve the strategic issues identified. “While we will do our best as ORPP, we call for your continued support as stakeholders in attending to respective expectations isolated in the Plan for a collaborative attainment stipulations contained in this Plan”, she observed.



Registrar (middle) and assistant Registrars (L&R) following through the presentations

The Strategic Plan has isolated eight (8) key result areas that are aligned to the Office mandate. These are clustered in thematic areas which are: Institutional Capacity; Registration of political parties; Regulation of political parties; Data and records management; Financial Management and Reporting; Strategic partnerships and collaboration; Political parties’ participation in elections; and Strengthening Strategic Operations of ORPP (Internal Control Systems; Planning; Research; Information and Technology (ICT); and Supply Chain

Management). Key to the Plan is also a review of the vision, mission and core values under the strategic model.

The 2020-25 Strategic Plan was developed following a thorough review of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan to ensure incorporation of the outcomes of situational analysis. This approach further informed alignment of the current Plan to National Development Agenda and the relevant Medium Term Plan. It also offers a premise for the Office to implement the Political Parties Act, 2011 and its larger endeavor to fulfil the aspirations of the Kenyan as envisaged in the provisions of Constitution of Kenya, 2010 relevant to the ORPP existence.

ORPP convenes lobby groups to deliberate on party primaries proposed law

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) with support of Uraia Trust held a meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from 24th -26th November, 2020 in Machakos. Its object was to discuss and give recommendations on the Party Primaries Bill published on 2nd October, 2020 by the Senate. The bill aims to outline a common coordinated framework in management of political parties’

primaries in Kenya. It seeks to bring sanity and stipulate enforceable measures for free, fair and credible conduct of the primaries that have been marred with contestation and characterised by incoordination in the past. Speaking during the opening of the forum, Assistant Registrar of Political Parties Mr. Ali Surraw noted the importance of stakeholder engagement in such an undertaking. He acknowledged

the work that had gone into bringing to fruition the party primaries bill and draft policy as undertaken by a multi-agency taskforce on the task. “Comparative analysis will be used to create memoranda for subsequent submission of consolidated proposals following stakeholders’ input including the CSOs”, Ali noted.

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Mr Ali further urged for collective effort in sensitizing the citizens of their political rights, being an important facet for a vibrant and knowledgeable society. The road towards making of the Party Primaries bill and accompanying policy was outlined. “We have through the journey of the bill convened various stakeholders fora in the entire process to ensure the voice of all are heard and the document is premised on a common understanding”, noted Juliet Murimi, the Director Compliance.

Institutions represented in the Taskforce that developed the bill and policy with support of a number partners included: The National Assembly; The Senate; Attorney General’s Office (AG); Kenya Law Reform Commission; Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC); The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC); Political Parties Dispute Tribunal (PPDT) and Judicial Committee on Elections.

The deliberations pointed out the opportunities of modern-day

technology in addressing some of the pertinent issues surrounding membership registers and curbing fraudulent registration of members in political parties. ‘In line with demands of the 21st century, we need as an Office to continue to upscale and adapt responsive technologies to better our service delivery”, observed Joshua Ngala, Kitui Senior County Monitor. The Office has made strides in trying to arrest fraudulent registration of members by instituting various measures. Such has been a commenced initiative to integrate the Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS) with relevant systems like the E -citizen to enable members of public to check their political party status among other features. Participants present were appreciative of the efforts made by the Office in supporting and commitment to streamline the party primary processes.

Civil Society Organizations pledged to advocate to its conclusive end the party primary reforms. We look forward to the consolidated report of the proposals and eventual enactment”, observed Harriet Wachira of Transparency International (TI).



ORPP team and participants drawn from various Civil Society Organizations during the meeting

The CSOs represented in the deliberations included: Mzalendo Trust, Crawn Trust, FIDA Kenya, Transparency International, United Disabled Persons Kenya, Centre for Multiparty Democracy, CRECO, Vine-Africa, Crawn Trust, Siasa Place, Westminster Foundation for Democracy among others.

Pictorial



Participants during the sensitization of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) on various political governance processes held at Sarova Stanley Hotel on 26th August 2021.



Sensitization of Youths leaders on political governance processes held at Sarova Stanley Hotel on 27th August 2021.



Center for Multi-party democracy (CMD) covered the 2021 Peoples' Dialogue Forum (PDF) at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi on 15th September 2021. The Registrar of Political Parties Ms. Ann Nderitu (centre) being one of the lead panelist discussant.

Pictorial



A sensitization workshop on women leadership for aspirants and a section of PPLC members held on 8th October 2021 at Panari Hotel, Nyahururu



Orientation of ORPP new staff members at the Sentrim Hotel, Naivasha held on 13th October 2021



Registrar addresses the Secretary Generals of various Political Parties during the compliance meeting held on 27th and 28th July 2021 at Sarova woodlands, Nakuru.



A section of Chama Cha Kazi officials receive their full registration certificate on 19th August 2021



A section of Wiper party officials pay a courtesy call to the Registrar's to deliberate and seek guide on varied political processes on 3rd August 2021



British High Commission officials pay a courtesy visit to the Registrar, the meeting deliberated on matters concerning 2022 General Elections

Chief Justice presides over ORPP's State Officers oath of Office , hails Registrar's leadership

Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu is now the first substantive holder at the helm of the Office of Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP). This is after the coming to an end of a rigorous, competitive recruitment process that culminated in her oath of Office on the 2nd November, 2020 by the Chief Justice.



The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu receives oath of office from Chief Justice Hon. David Maraga while presiding over the swearing in of the Registrar and two Assistant Registrars at the State Officers oath of Office, Supreme Court, lauded the ORPP's milestones made under Ann Nderitu's stewardship pursuant to ORPP's regulatory role of political parties. Hon. Maraga acknowledging the good work the Office had realised pertaining overall management of political parties as well sustaining good working relationship with stakeholders including political parties as well as state and non-state actors.

The CJ challenged the Office to continue its good streak of streamlining political processes especially on governance and inter-political party relations. "Your seat will be a fairly hot one. It will therefore be your duty to continue ensuring that political parties operate to promote internal democracies and reign on the non-compliant ones in line with the law for a cohesive society", Maraga urged the Registrar.

The Registrar reiterated her commitment to continue steering the ORPP with objectivity and fairness as it has been the tradition. "We have always been a progressive corporate institution that values its history and foundation. I therefore salute the founders of this Office as together with the coming of the Assistant Registrars double our efforts towards our institutional aspirations", Ann Nderitu assured after the oath of Office.

Ms. Nderitu further thanked all the stakeholders and staff for the support accorded to her in the two year stint at helm prior to her substantive appointment. She noted her commitment to espouse open and consultative stakeholder engagement in exercise of her duties. "We remain steadfast in our commitment as an Office to institutionalise political parties, a panacea to good governance practices", noted the Registrar. She further appreciated ORPP staff support to her vision noting that she will continue espousing open engagement with staff for a collective achievement of the Office goals. "We are an Office that is careful to listen to one another and professionally correct one another whenever we err to maintain a working family that we are known for".

Recruitment of the Registrar and Assistant Registrars began in May, 2020 following advertisements of their positions in print and broadcast media of national-wide reach. The process entails various phases by different authorities in line with Sections 34, 36A and sixth schedule of the Political Parties Act, 2011. The appointments of the three State Officers were contained in a special issue of The Kenya Gazette Vol. CXXII- No 183, notice No. 8089 of the 9th October, 2020.

Assistant Registrars inaugurated, commit support to ORPP's milestones made

The two Assistant Registrars Florence Tabu Birya and Ali Abdullahi Surraw took oath of Office on 2nd November, 2020, signalling official start of their respective duties at the Office of Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP). The swearing in presided over by the Chief Justice Hon. David Maraga, took place at the Chief Justice's chambers at the Supreme Court, Nairobi.

Speaking after the swearing in, the two Assistant Registrars promised to seamlessly gel into the work already attained by the ORPP. They noted the milestones the Office had made and cemented ORPP's corporate image as a brand responsive to needs of stakeholders locally and across the region.

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Assistant Registrars CPA Florence Tabu Birya and Ali A. Surraw take being sworn in at the Supreme court

“I am so delighted to join the ORPP team that has demonstrated exemplary service to this nation. I thank H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta and people of Kenya for trusting me with such honourable responsibility I’m taking up today”, appreciated Florence Ta-bu. She noted of her commitment to bring her wealth of experience to the ORPP fold to steer the Office even to greater levels. “I take note of the strategic leadership the Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu has provided for the time she has been at the helm without the Assistant Registrars. I therefore, commit to join ORPP team to bring about a unique blend of strategic leadership for expected service to this beloved country”, she added.

His counterpart, Ali Surraw corroborating the commitment while acknowledging the leadership responsibility to his position. “With boundless optimism, I accept this noble opportunity with a deep sense of passion, humility and commitment. My eyes will be on the strategic goals, my ears wide open to the voices of all and my heart committed to the service”, noted Ali in his remarks after oath of Office. He further informed of the good image the ORPP has managed to establish and maintain to stakeholders including members of the public. “You have a good corporate name out there. I salute the leadership and staff for attaining such, which persuaded my desire to join such a great institution. It is my assurance that I will support the Registrar towards realising the strategic goals of ORPP”, he acknowledged.

Guests and accompanying family members present, spoke well of seasoned professionals the two are. “Registrar, you have „an assistant and half that you can depend on as you undertake responsibilities in line with your mandate”, assured one of the guests. Representatives of ORPP staff were elated for the two joining the Office after a long wait. They unanimously acknowledged the completion of a rigorous process of recruitment of substantive Registrar and Assistant Registrars as a day of historical importance not only to ORPP but the country as a whole.

The two Assistant Registrars bring a wealth of expertise and experience to ORPP, having served in varied high ranking portfolios across sectors in respective careers spanning over a decade.

Regional presence of ORPP

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties has established seven regional offices to decentralize its operations across the country. The seven are located in Nakuru, Nyeri, Mombasa, Kitui, Isiolo, Eldoret and Kisumu. Each of the regional offices serves specific number of counties within the regions. The regional offices contribute in the execution of the Office mandate in the counties more efficiently.

Establishment of the regional Offices is a measure undertaken by ORPP to ensure reasonable access to its services in all parts of the republic in the spirit of devolution and access to services, as provided for in chapter two of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The office will continue to establish more offices in other regions to optimise this endeavour.

The Regional Officers have contributed to the strengthening and enhancement of political party management through various programmes, among them; Sensitization of faith based organisations, engagement with community women leaders, advocacy, publicity and sensitization during public barazas in various counties; training of agents, monitoring political parties activities within the specific regions, and supervise the party primaries for political parties; and offering a select services to the members of the public.

In preparation of the upcoming general election, the officers have developed plans and strategies to guide in management of election activities during the election period. Such planned activities include to; hold consultative meetings with the county political parties leadership, train and capacity build aspirants with special emphasis to the Special Interest Groups, sensitization of the various elected leaders on the role of ORPP in the electoral process, train of media houses / journalists on responsible political reporting, and ensure strict adherence to the Political Parties Code of Conduct among others.

The regional ORPP offices are at your services and are located in the following geographical locations.

Headquarters

Lion Place, 4th Floor
off Karuna Close, Waiyaki Way, Westlands Nairobi
P.O. Box 1131-00606 Sarit Center, Nairobi Kenya
Telephone: +254(0)204 022000

Regional Offices

KISUMU

Reinsurance Corporation Limited, 3rd Floor, Bank Street, New Station Road, Kisumu Town

MOMBASA

Palli House, 5th Floor, Nyerere Avenue Mombasa-

Town

UASIN GISHU

KVDA Plaza, 7th Floor, Oloo Street, Eldoret Town

ISIOLO

Forest Road, opp. Office of the Ombudsman, Isiolo Town

KITUI

Jeyca House, Next to Kenya Prisons, Kitui Town

NAKURU

Assumption Center, 4th Floor, Moi Road Next to St. Pauls University, Nakuru Town

NYERI

Advocates Plaza, Lower Ground, Baden Powell Road, Nyeri Town

ORPP Departmental Profile

Compliance and Regulation Directorate

The Compliance and Regulation directorate is charged with the responsibility encapsulated under Section 34 of the Political Parties Act, 2011 to regulate, supervise and ensure that political parties adhere to the provisions of the Political Parties Act, 2011. In particular, the department develops strategies and policies for compliance and regulation of political parties as well as guidelines and tools for tracking compliance.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Department

The ICT department proactively contributes to the fulfilment of the Office mission, particularly regarding all matters related to the management of the Political Parties membership database and other in-house information and communication systems. The Unit also supports the business needs of the Office from technical and legislative standpoints through collaborating with other departments and managing the ICT function.

Administration Section

This section is responsible for management of ORPP records, offering administrative support services including development and implementation of administrative policies, standards and procedures among others.

Human Resource Management (HRM) department

The role of HRM department is to efficiently and effectively manage the Office human resources to facilitate realization of the Office mandate. In its operations, the department is guided by the Human Resource Policies and Procedures Manual which incorporates the provisions of the Constitution, Labour Laws, other relevant legislations and adoption of best practices in Human resource management.

Planning department

The Planning department is responsible in developing and/or review; ORPP Strategic Plan, work plans, projects and programmes and ensure implementation through monitoring and evaluation of set targets and objectives.

Accounts Section

Accounts section is responsible for ensuring prudent budget execution proper documentation of expenditures and revenue as well as timely reporting to the relevant stakeholders. It also ensures that relevant laws, circulars and procedures are adhered to. The Accounts section is pivotal in facilitating all the programmes in line with Office Strategic Plan.

The Finance department

The overall goal of the Finance department is to ensure efficient allocation and use of public resources for the achievement of the key mandate of the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties. It is responsible for development and implementation of prudent financial policies and procedures; budget preparation, expenditure monitoring, oversight of commitment of funds and expenditure trends. This is in line with Treasury Circulars; budget monitoring and reporting; reallocations within Budgeted Heads and programmes and the overall financial management and control of voted funds.

Supply Chain Management department

The specific roles of Supply Chain Management department pertain to: coordination of various activities in delivering a combination of inputs, outputs/outcomes for specified requirements in accordance with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 in strict adherence to the Public Procurement and Disposal Regulations, 2020 and other applicable laws and policy documents. This is geared towards desired impact on Public Procurement and Supply Chain in entirety.

Internal Audit Unit

The Internal Audit responsibilities are to: Review and evaluate the ORPP budgetary performance, effectiveness of the financial and nonfinancial performance management systems; and give reasonable assurance through the Audit Committee on the state of risk management, control and governance processes of the Office.

The Audit Committee is stipulated in Section 73 (5) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015. The functions are stipulated in section 174(1) the PPMR, 2015. The Unit facilitates carrying out of audit assignments and manages reporting and appropriate redress measures arising from the audit findings amongst audit parties.

Legal Unit

The Legal Unit general duties are to: ensure that in fulfilling its mandate under the Political Parties Act 2011, the Registrar and other functional areas abide by the rule of law by providing appropriate legal advice; review Office contracts and other legal documents; represent the Office in all litigations and disputes that it is involved in; and overseeing legal reforms undertaken from time to time.

Corporate Communication Unit

The Corporate Communication Unit provides a framework for developing and sustaining effective communication thrust between ORPP and its varied stakeholders including members of staff.

Office commended for quality mark in financial submissions and reporting

It is beyond the standard template in budget preparations and financial reporting and other submissions to the relevant authorities that the Office has always been known for the recipients and sub-sector institutional counterparts. The calibre of Office reporting in respect to substance, thoughtfulness, ingenuity and general appeal have been the hallmark of ORPP various reports. To this high mark of quality in the recent past, the submissions have been a subject of reverence by relevant authorities such as Parliament, National Treasury and a host of other stakeholders. The recent report submitted to the National Treasury in July, 2021 “Budget allocation for 2022 General Elections Activities” under which the Office was required to identify strategic programmes, cost and give detailed justification for each of the activity for consideration has been cited as such. Feedback received over the report and many proceeding ones tabled at varied period, from the National Treasury cited it as a reference to ORPP’s sub-sector counterparts. “We are glad that our submission as an Office on this subject is one of the best in the sub-sector to the Treasury’s considered view”, noted Joshua Kimulu the Chief Finance Officer during a presentation of 3 sector reports to Management review and adoption on 24th August, 2021.

The three other reports that have been finalised and timely submitted are; Programme- Based Budget (PBB), Programme Performance Review (PPR) and Sub-sector Report (SR) for the MTEF 2022/23 – 2024/25.

The Programme-Based Budget captures resource requirements for the MTEF period based on the Office programme and subprogrammes. Programme Performance Review gives an account of attainments in the previous year (2020/21) based on resources allocated while Sub-Sector Report gives a summary of resource requirements for presentation during sub-sector resource bidding process.

In the context of resource allocation, ORPP is funded on, Registration, Regulation and Administration of Political Parties Fund as the main programme with three sub-programmes namely; registration and regulation of political parties; funding of political parties and Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC).

Despite the challenges experienced including supplementary budget and Covid-19 ramifications, the Office registered key milestones. Some of the Office key achievements the reports have highlighted for the MTEF period pertain to; processing and certification of political parties; development of Political Parties (Registration) Regulations, 2019; Development of Political Parties (Funding) Bina Maseno youth representative for MDG party speaking during the youth sensitization forum.

Office commended for quality mark in financial submissions and reporting Regulations, 2019; draft Political Parties (Political Parties Liaison), Regulations, Parties (Membership), Regulations. Others relates to Office steering the development of Policy Framework on Party Primaries; maintenance of party membership register; conduct of compliance meetings; continual upgrade of Political Parties Integrated Management System; sponsored trainings for staff across cadres ; raft of corporate positioning measures through media engagement and collaboration, participation in ASKs & corporate events and among other institutional policy and systemic improvement efforts.

In the period, the Office has posted improved trajectory in aspects of budget absorption, registering an average of 97 % for the three year- 2018/19 - 2020/21 period and considerably managed its pending bills. “During the period under review budget utilisation stood at 94.8% in 2018/19, 97.8% in 2019/2020 and 99.13% in 2020/21... the Office pending bills as at 30th June, 2021 amounted to Kes. 1, 406, 489.31”, indicated the Sub-Sector report, illustrating a streak of good performance across the years.

These are some of the critical reports that form the basis of resource bidding and justification of resources for institutions for various sectors as contained in functions of government in budgeting and allocation of resources. ORPP lies in the Governance, Justice, Law and Order (GJLO) subsector that comprise of 13 other corporate public institutions.