

ORPP engages JLAC, pleads reinstatement of PPF budget cut

The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, CBS, Assistant Registrar Ali Abdullahi and a section of ORPP officers, appeared before the Justice and Legal Affairs (JLAC) Committee on 5th December, 2023 to deliberate on budget cuts to the Political Parties Fund (PPF).



Registrar of Political Parties (center), Assistant Registrar Ali Abdullahi (second left) and a section of ORPP officers before Justice and Legal Affairs (JLAC) in Weston, Nairobi.

In the latest budget appropriation, PPF suffered a significant budget cut. The appearance was prompted by the latest concerns raised publicly and to ORPP by various politicians on the budget cut and disbursement of the same.

The Registrar in a detailed report, gave an analysis of the Fund's resourcing and distribution for the last 11 years, from FY 2013/14 to date, while giving deficits over the years to the resource allocation of the Fund that ought to be at least 0.3% of Government's share of revenue in line with the law.

The Registrar noted there has been a gradual increase in the Fund over the years. "The gradual increase of the Fund will be affected by this current cut. The cut has also impacted negatively on political parties' activities and programmes such as representation, participation of citizens including the Special Interest Groups in political processes and generally

the larger good of democracy that the Fund seeks to promote", said the Registrar.

"It is ORPP's appeal to the JLAC and the National Assembly, in general, to reinstate the cuts and progressively endeavor to allocate resources towards meeting the 0.3 % minimum threshold", recommended the Registrar.



Justice and Legal Affairs (JLAC) committee

"The Political Parties' Fund (PPF) is a creation of the Constitution requirement and an enabler in the realization of the citizens' political rights. Every effort should be made to actualize the legal threshold to strengthen political parties", emphasized Asst. Registrar, Ali. The Assistant Registrar further pointed out that the Office has and continues to engage relevant agencies for better funding of political parties as the report demonstrated.

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Through the review of criteria in the law, the qualifying parties have grown over time from 3 political parties that qualified in FY 2013/14, to currently 48 political parties that qualified for the Fund in the current, FY 2023/24, whose 1st quarter allocation has been fully disbursed.

The Committee through its chair of Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) promised to look into the matter and advise ORPP accordingly.

A section of Heads deliberate on ORPP Career Guidelines

A review meeting of ORPP to review and validate existing Career Guideline took place on 28th January to 2nd February 2024.



A section of ORPP staff during the career guidelines workshop

"The Guidelines are essential HR instruments for aligning Office structure and functional areas with specific job requirements as a basis for staff growth career growth. This document will help in enhancing our staff quality and competence pool to deliver on the unique ORPP mandate", noted Ann Nderitu, CBS, Registrar of Political Parties speaking during the forum.

The Registrar advised that there must be harmony amongst functions of departments while exercising interdependence and establishing necessary linkages in the execution of roles of different departments.

"The Career Guidelines guides career path, aligning ORPP's goals with those of staff members. The Guideline should also provide a performance management framework in line with ORPP career Plan", noted Ali Abdullahi, Assistant Registrar.

The exercise was coordinated by Human Resource Management department with the support of technical officers from Public Service Commission of Kenya.

"We appreciate the staff for their input and assure that the review of Guidelines will address gaps identified in career growth in line with Human Resource Management (HRM) policy and best practices in the whole spectrum of ORPP human capital management", said Jacqueline Kosgei, head of HRM.

February highlight

Top leadership and a section of staff with the support of Elgia Africa (ELGIA) are in discussions on proposals towards amendments to the Political Parties Act, 2011 and attendant Regulations. The deliberations are part of ORPP legal reform agenda ahead of planned engagements with external stakeholders including a scheduled session with Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC), 7th February, 2024.

(Detailed coverage on this in our next issue)



ORPP top officials and a section of officers deliberate on legal reforms on 7th February, 2024 in Naivasha

Reflection time on milestones made at the end-of-year retreat in 'bara'

To its custom, the ORPP fraternity convened for its staff end-of-year meeting, from 19th to 21st December 2023, this time round away from the traditional coastal venue, with Aberdares Country Club in Laikipia County being the chosen destination.

There was a full pack of subject areas for discussions, key note addresses by top leadership cutting across formal processes, staff personal development nuggets as well as an enchanting team building session. The sessions had gainful insights as presided by expert speakers from ORPP and external stakeholders who gave practical approaches and action points and areas of improving varied processes.

In the forum, staff members also reflected on milestones made in the half-year period and made proposals to serve better. Staff were reminded to uphold teamwork and professionalism in the course of their duties while upholding a positive culture.

'As ORPP, fraternity we must always remain thankful while appreciating the efforts and support earned from stakeholders', said Ali Abdullahi, Assistant Registrar-Regulation and Compliance. He counseled staff on the need to lead authentic and purposeful lives as they work. Mr. Ali also spoke on many other issues around the ethos of professionalism on matters of punctuality, dress code, attitude and career growth.

The Assistant Registrar, CPA Florence in Swahili, underscored the importance of family values and aligned the same to individual and institutional performance obligations and targets. "Kama maafisa, tunaporejelea mipango yetu ambayo tumeitimiza, tukumbuke wajibu wetu kulingana na matarajio ya washikadau na wateja wetu", akanena, Mhasibu F.Birya.

The Assistant Registrar, CPA Birya thanked staff for their efforts while urging them to continue setting better goals and objectives in the new calendar year. "Many things were not clear in the past but I am sure most issues have been clarified in course of course of the retreat. We expect you to continue making informed decisions going on" added the assistant Registrar.

Registrar of Political Parties, Dr. Ann Nderitu, CBS, spoke on raft of issues relating to staff conduct, emphasis on exceptional service to stakeholders, desirable corporate culture, upholding ORPP standards and exceptional service delivery.

These she underscored the need to address the gaps identified in service process. She singled out simple but

critical issues around turn around time on issues, confidentiality and creative thinking and initiatives to deliver office mandate.

While appreciating ORPP staff, the Registrar noted "Employees are a priority to ORPP as an empowered workforce can serve with integrity and excellence. You are the reason to sustain ORPP as global brand that has become.



ORPP staff at the 2023 end-of-year retreat in December held in Nanyuki, Laikipia County

"We must adopt a positive culture and stem out undesirable ones. The essence of the end of year meet up is to reflect on set goals and celebrate our victories, learn our mistakes including policy provisions as we focus and chart our future direction," emphasized Dr. Nderitu while pointing out areas of improvement for the period.

Some of the milestones, the Registrar further pointed out were on the Office's undertaking and disseminating a Post -Election Evaluation report, legal reform, establishing new functional field offices, roll out of sensitization programmes at national and regional / county levels for parties,' stakeholders, various individual staff and corporate awards the ORPP had received and a raft policies/procedures/guideline developed.

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Delightful moments during the End of year staff retreat, 2023



PICTORIAL



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The meeting was organized with the lead of the Human Resources and Administration Department. Topics of discussion were; mandate & strategic plan; Records Management Policy; corporate communication and customer experience standards; preparation for retirement, drug and substance abuse; and HIV/AIDs among other staff matters.

Registrar converse with staff in a prayer and value clarification session

A thanksgiving and professional talk was held on 15th January, 2024 in the afternoon at the ORPP boardroom headquarters. The Registrar, Ann Nderitu, CBS, noted to staff the need to uphold professional ethos as underpinned in the Office's core values.

"You will all be counted for the value and impact you had in your service time. You must continuously reflect and correct on areas erred to grow holistically", the Registrar counseled.

Assistant Registrar Mr Ali Abdillahi while appreciating staff for commitment to duty said "There are four or five career killers you should try to avoid this year. Avoid lack of skill development, poor time management, bad attitude and poor communication. I therefore call on you to remain focus and nurture your careers," advised Assistant Registrar.



Registrar of Political Parties presides a prayer session with Staff in the ORPP boardroom headquarters.

In the session, there was a thanksgiving for ORPP calling

the Lord's guidance to all Office undertakings. In the session, staff presented shared reflections on 2023 and projections of better service delivery in 2024. They also communed in a cake courtesy of Safari Park Hotel & Casinol, who extended the gift for the continued partnership with ORPP. ORPP holds such thanksgiving meetings regularly as part of entrenching institutional values and building up a positive corporate culture.

ORPP continues sensitization for Political Parties officials

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties' carried out sensitization of County Political Parties officials of fully registered political parties on Thursday 25th in five counties of Nakuru, Kisumu, Garissa, Kilifi and Nyandarua. The forum was part of grassroots interventions to improve the governance of Political Parties.

Some of the areas of discussion included the roles and functions of a political party, an overview of Political Parties' compliance with the law, running and managing Political Parties, and the roles of various party organs.

"At ORPP, we are committed to providing capacity building on political party officials them being the primary stakeholders." You must be at the forefront in promoting key political, economic, social policies and programs of the party at the county level." said the Registrar, Ann Nderitu while in Nyandarua county forum.

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Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, Florence Birya address County Political Parties' officials in Kilifi county

Speaking during the Kilifi county, Assistant Registrar, CPA Florence Birya underscored the ORPP resolve to prioritize the capacity building of party officials at the County and other devolved levels. She informed of a series of sensitizations, being conducted in cohorts with the current one being in 5 counties. These she noted are meant to promote compliance of parties in various aspects of their running. "You need to align your party structures at the grassroots with what is spelled out in your respective party constitutions to play the grassroots role better. As party officials, strive to seek current knowledge on parties' and political processes and involve your members as part of good governance, management, and leadership responsibilities you have", said CPA Birya.

Further, she challenged parties to roll out programmes at the devolved units that are positively impactful to their parties, members and the general citizenry.

The meeting was part of ORPP continuous capacity building and engagement with political parties to actualize the purpose for establishment including their obligation to promote democracy and citizens' enjoyment of political rights.



ORPP's Joy Onyango sensitize County Political Parties' officials during the forum in Nakuru County.

ORPP joins the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner to commemorate the day of International Data Privacy

The ORPP joined the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) and other institutions on 25th-26th January 2024, by engaging and exhibiting in a two-day forum to commemorate the 2024 International Data Privacy at Tom Labour College, Kisumu County.

The forum on theme "Fostering a culture of Data Privacy" was conducted by Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) in partnership with Media Council of Kenya to sensitize stakeholders on the Data Protection framework in Kenya.

A team of ORPP to showcased it's effort in data protection including ICT platforms to manage political parties' membership records and data and it's capacity building efforts to parties to adhere and promote data privacy aspirations in Data Protection law.



ORPP ICT Officer, Josphat Nyongesa engages clients at the ORPP stand on 25th January at Tom Mboya Labour College, Kisumu County

The Office also was delighted to host among key note speakers of the event and chief guests Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy, Mr Eliud Owalo together with the host Data Commissioner Ms. Immaculate Kassait of ODPC at the ORPP stand during the event. They were informed of raft of measures of ORPP has upheld on the data integrity and privacy in management of political party membership by IT solutions as through IPPMS



Chief Guest, Eliud Owalo, CS Ministry of (ICDE) (seated), ODPC, Immaculate Kassait (standing 2nd right) signs visitors book at the ORPP stand

Staff of ORPP spreads cheer as it shares food aid in Ganze

The ORPP's staff voluntarily contributions were received with delight and merry following Assistant Registrar's, CPA Florence Birya call for support to residential of Ganze. In their tradition, staff heeded to the call and made individual and voluntary contributions in cash and items.

The proceeds, with a boost of Office kitty to the drive, were delivered in-person to the target vulnerable persons on 5th December, 2023 to residents of Mugujini ward, Ganze Constituency Kilifi County. Assistant Registrar, CPA Florence Birya, teamed up with Mombasa-based officers, bracing the long and challenging road journey with support of Corporate Communication's Mugo Wanyoike they delivered donations, interacted and engaged the residents and local leaders. The food distribution consisted of assorted food items and other basic necessities.

"The ORPP staff have voluntarily donated these items as little help to you during these difficult situations such as the recent drought and now effects of heavy downpour", informed CPA Birya while acknowledging ORPP fraternity for their contributions.

She noted that the drive was in line with one of the ORPP's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy and Strategy which outlines Environmental conservation and Protection; Humanitarian Intervention; Education and Sports and Employee Wellness as three areas of focus for its CSR undertaking. She noted that identification of the target group was based on needs of the locality. "Going forward we want to foster a partnership with you through such support activities", added the CPA Florence.

The Assistant Registrar called on the local leadership prioritize impactful development projects and programmes to improve livelihoods in the area including income and create

employment in the area. She also urged the members of the public to exercise their democratic rights and vie for political seats in the next elections so as to create their own solutions.



Residents of Migujini together with Assistant Registrar CPA Florence Birya and ORPP team at the food distribution exercise in Ganze, Kilifi County.

The area Assistant Chief, Alfred Katana representing the local leadership was full of gratitude noting that the had had been hit by various challenges such as famine, floods and wildlife-people conflict leading to serious food scarcity. "Tunashukuru sana wafanyikazi wa Afisi ya Msajali wa Vyama vya Kisiwa kwa kuchagua eneo hili na kuliweka katika mipango wenu, wananchi hawa hawatahi saha jambo hilo kamwe", akanena Chifu Katana.

The ORPP team besides sharing good moments with the locals, also sensitized the residents on the ORPP mandate, its targeted programmes while urging their participation in political parties activities and them taking up leadership roles. The initiative is part of ORPP's corporate citizenship belief as outlined in its Corporate Society Responsibility Strategy.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

County offices in raft of stakeholder engagements to foster ORPP—stakeholder partnership and improve service delivery.

The County Offices of Kisumu, Kitale, Kitui, Nakuru, Garissa, Nyahururu, Isiolo, Nyeri, and Eldoret were engaged in stakeholder mapping that was undertaken through courtesy calls. A number had also engagements with Political Parties Officials, local media and government officials to discuss and create awareness about ORPP services and programming at the grassroots.



A group photo of county political parties and ORPP Officers with the Registrar of Political Parties in Nakuru County



Uasin Gishu County Coordinator in a discussion with KANU County Officials during their visit to the Office



Nyandarua Regional Office Coordinator Mr. Charles Njagi (right) address participants in the Political Parties County Leaders Sensitization Forum that was held at Breeze Hotel in Nyahururu Town.

Photo courtesy of regional officers



ORPP's Kisumu Regional Coordinator, Ezekiel Obonyo at Migori CC Ms. Milka Kariuki Office. Looking on is Mr. Ignatius Mukabwa, DCC, Suna West.



Kitui Regional Coordinator, Hope Nandwa (right) and her partner gifts Unified Change Party (UCP) party leader, Dr. Kaluyu Japheth (center) during a courtesy visit at UCP headquarters



Kitale County Coordinator Ms. Wachira on the left and the CEM Mr. Cox on the right, at the County IEBC office in Kitale town

Finance, Accounts dockets give nuggets on financial prudence at regions

The Finance and Accounts department carried out a series of sensitization sessions with the 12 county offices on 15th to 23rd January, 2024. The sessions centred on wide aspects on judicious petty cash management include expenditure limits, expenditure items, expenditure returns with returns as well as submission of correct and adequate supporting documentation.

Other areas of discussion were on proper keeping and maintenance of books of accounts and mechanisms for utilization of standing imprest held by the regional officers and seeking of reimbursements upon filing necessary returns.

“The was necessary having noted gaps in management of imprest as well as capacity building the newly officers posted in the region. Upon the exercise our colleagues are better placed to manage their petty cash better which aids the overall prudence utilization of Office resources, financial reporting and audit”, noted Wanzala Osores, head of Accounts section.

A session with Accounts and Kisumu-based team

Financial management and fiscal reporting is placed at premium in the Constitution with raft of safeguards outlined with entire chapter 12 (Articles 201 to 231), dedicated to a raft of issues around public finance including legislative framework principles of public finance, sharing and utilization of national revenue, institutions charged with oversight as well as audit of public resources.

The ORPP places importance towards refining and maintaining appropriate financial management structures and accountability mechanisms, a practice promoted by both external and internal publics. In the recent past, A Finance and Procurement Manual has been developed to guided and provide a refence source on all the processes on the subject matter. This policy blue print is complement by other standard operating procedures that guide other functional areas.



ORPP HQ accounts unit take Garissa regional officers through the finance management and recording

Clinics for select parties on compliance

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties held seven compliance clinics of political parties on matters compliance at ORPP headquarters on 22nd and 23rd January, 2024.

The parties found to have outstanding compliance issues were informed of their party status and guided on remedial measures in accordance with the Political Parties Act, 2011.



Left; Registrar of Political Parties chairs the meeting at 4th floor boardroom while (right) Assistant Registrar of Political Parties Ali Abdullahi chairs the meeting at 1st floor boardroom ORPP headquarters for some of Political Parties that underwent compliance clinic.

Registrar of Political Parties joins neighbor, ACK St. Mark's Church as they break ground for construction of a youth /children centre

A prayer and dedication ceremony of a development plan at ACK St. Mark's Church, Westlands took place on 27th January, 2024. The Registrar of Political Parties was among a key guest and speaker to grace the occasion.

"We celebrate your church today for achieving this strategic development plan. We have had mutual engagements and continued support with this church," said the Registrar, Ann Nderitu, CBS in her address highlighting areas of collaboration between the two institutions.

The church aims to develop a youth and children center to enhance innovation and spiritual growth.



Left: Registrar Ann Nderitu speaking at the forum. Right: Registrar operates an excavator as well planting of a commemorative tree at the ACK St. Mark's Church, Westlands Nairobi, looking on is her host in charge of venue Canon Joshua Omungo.

A wealth of information pack at ORPP's resource Centre; a focus on kindle resources

The Resource Centre has in stock a wide range of information resources in varied formats. Besides the physical resource collection, the [ORPP Resource Centre](#) (RC) has acquired Kindle books from Amazon. These are available via internet or may be read on any reader. The RC currently has two readers that are borrowable for a period of two weeks, at any given time. The Office' decision to acquire the eBooks was informed by current trends, but most importantly, to serve diverse needs of all users irrespective of their location. On the platform, authorized readers (those with credentials i.e. username and password) can access, presently available 77 titles is the right within policy terms and conditions of RC use.

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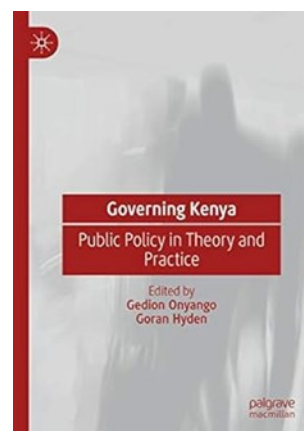
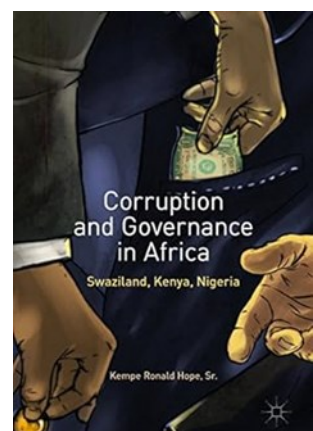
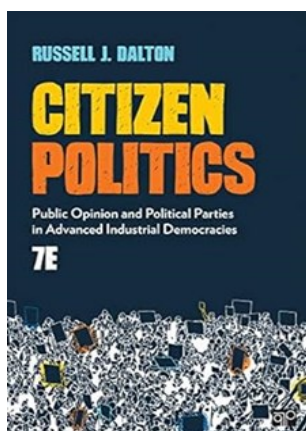
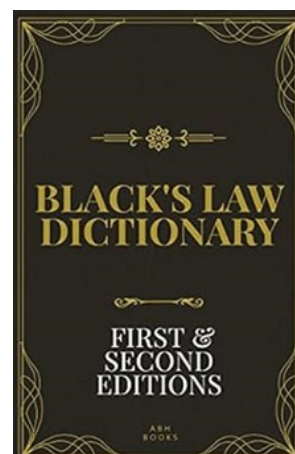
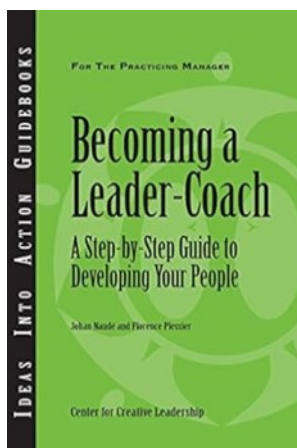
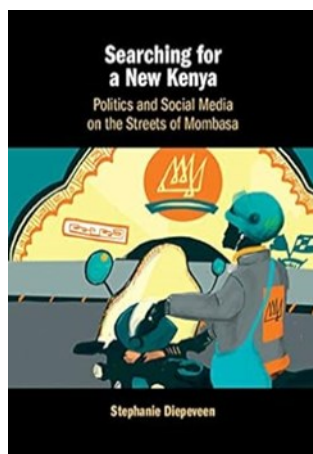
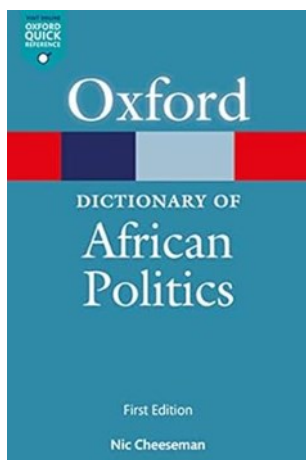
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Mr. Victor Nyabuto, ORPP Accounts Department reads material in the Resource Centre on Kindle Reader



A select titles available on kindle

The End!

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