

ORPP convenes PPLC on electoral reforms and NADCO report

The ORPP with support of National Democratic Institute (NDI) convened a two-day Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC) meeting on 26th-27th March 2024, to deliberate on its National Steering Committee's proposal for electoral reforms and dispute resolution mechanisms and the implication of the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) report.



Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, CBS during her speech at the PPLC forum in Naivasha

"Our appreciation to our partners NDI for this forum as we discuss the legal reforms and some of which are currently in the form of Bills on the electoral process. The Office is committed to making Kenya better where opinions should be heard and respected. I urge you to support the ground and only criticize. We must always as parties take stock, build and celebrate the strides we have made as a country," said Registrar Ann Nderitu. "We should always celebrate the strides as a country we have made so far," appreciated, Registrar Ann Nderitu, CBS.

"This sitting gives you as representatives of political parties to discuss electoral reform proposals that have a direct impact on the people of this country. You have to see yourself as a pivot in voicing the aspirations of the citizens.

The NDI remains committed to supporting the endeavors of PPLC for the benefit of the country," said Dennis Omondi, NIMD Country Director.

"The window is open for us to make our contribution to electoral reform. We want to thank ORPP and our sponsor partners for the support to enable this meeting. As leaders particularly in political space, we should promote dialogue", noted National Steering Committee Chairman, Evans Musati.

"We are here to develop resolutions that will focus on the nation of Kenya. The matters on the agenda bearing on the experience we had and geared towards bridging the gaps we have learned", noted Assistant Registrar, Ali Abdullahi.

"Naisihi Kamati ya Political Parties Liaison Committee of Kenya kuwa na mazungumzo endelevu kwa faida ya Kitaifa," akanena Msaidizi wa Msajili, Mhasibu, Florence Birya.

On the NADCO report, the meeting delved into the appointment of IEBC commissioners, legal and dispute resolution; unresolved historical issues contained in review reports among other pertinent current reforms issues.



The National Steering Committee members with Registrar of Political Parties, Assistant Registrars and staff members during the meeting

ORPP crafts Business Continuity Plan and a Disaster Recovery Plan

A section of staff joined ICT Unit from 25th to 29th March 2024 to develop a Business Recovery Plan (BCP) and review Disaster Recovery Plan (DCP) aimed at bolstering ORPP's preparedness and a measure to establish its response strategies in the event of disruption of the Office operations with a focus on ICT resources. The meeting was supported by officers from ICT Authority (ICTA).

The Registrar, Ann Nderitu, CBS urged the team to factor in broader and holistic issues in the development of the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) such as the need to undertake a Data Protection Audit, scenario building and mapping and enhance the risk framework.

"We thank ICTA and other government agencies for continued collaboration with ORPP on various ICT initiatives, an engagement approach this Office is deliberate on to better services delivery to the stakeholders including the citizens in pursuit of respective institutional mandate", assured the Registrar of Political Parties.



Registrar of Political Parties speaking during the meeting held, Naivasha.

"The benefits of BCP and DCP in place for an institution are beyond the compliance requirement. They help us point out risks and their mitigation as one of the Office's ways of assuring stakeholders of uninterrupted service delivery. In the development/review we must always look at the wider scope of worst case scenarios in case of a disaster and put in place strategy to recovery as soon as it is practically possible", CPA Florence Biryra said.

She noted having such critical documents will enhance ORPP's corporate position and sustenance as it delivers on its strategic goals.



Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, CPA, Florence Biryra addressing participants in the meeting

Review ORPP 2020/2025 Strategic Plan commences

A section of ORPP officers and held a session to review, 2020/2025 Strategic Plan on 22nd March at the ORPP boardroom headquarters. The process is with support of International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES).

The team outlined milestone made and identified gaps, and their mitigation risks in line with Plan's current Key Result Areas (KRAs); Registration and documentation of political parties, Regulation of political parties, Institutional Capacity, Strategic partnership and collaboration, Political parties participation in elections in the current Plan.



ORPP officers with IFES' consultant who is the Senior Global Advisor, Rushdi Nackerdien during the Strategic Plan review meeting at ORPP boardroom headquarters.

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" The aim of the review will be to assess overall implementation and provide critical learning for the next Strategic Plan" , said Rushdi Nackerdien, IFES Senior Global Advisor. " We appreciate ORPP staff for their input and assure them that the review of the Strategic Plan will be key in formulating the next Plan as we continue to reposition the Office as a global brand", said Jacqueline Kosgei, head of HRM.

The recommendations given will culminate in a report to be referenced in the development of the next Strategic Plan, 2025- 2030. Heads of department were required to submit their reviews to Planning department on SP experiences with to their dockets.

Potential political parties counselled on registration procedures in their bid to registration

A series of advisory sessions were held separately from 18th to 20th March at ORPP headquarter to guide applicants of three proposed political parties. The sittings were presided over by Assistant Registrar, Registration and Field Services Coordination, CPA Florence Biryra with technical guidance of the Registration department officers.

The applicants were guided on the identified gaps in their respective applications and given directions to remedy them through the provisions of the Constitution, Political Parties Act,2011 and applicable Regulations as part of ORPP deliberate effort to support the applicants through the process.



Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, a section of ORPP registration officers and applicants in an advisory session with applicants of one of the three proposed political parties at HQ.

Stakeholders-ORPP deliberate on electoral reforms

A meeting to deliberate and review the IEBC Amendments Bill, 2024 by the Political Parties Liaison Committee of Kenya was held on 14th March, 2024 . The tripartite meeting consisting of ORPP, IEBC, and Political Parties was aimed at formulating proposals and recommendations on the bill affecting the three institutions.

"We want to utilize this opportunity by owning this process through ensuring the legal reforms are passed into law." said PPLC Chair Evans Misati.

Assistant Registrar Ali Abdullahi appreciated the forum for enhancing dialogue and public participation terming it a key aspect in promoting cohesion as recommended by the NADCO report. "You must continue protecting this platform which will continue promoting peace in Political Parties enhancing their institutionalization.



Assistant Registrar Ali Abdullahi during his remarks at the PPLC meeting in Nairobi.

"Naomba mtumie nafasi ii kwa kuwakilisha vyama vyetu na kutoa maoni ambayo yatasaidia kutunga sheria ii ya Uchaguzi ambayo inagonjewa na tume ya IEBC." msaidizi wa msajili wa vya CPA Florence Biryra alisema.

"Our appearance at the Dialogue Committee helped us to articulate our issues relating to political parties which promoted public participation which is a key principle in our constitution" outlined Ruth Makuthu Manager Legal Reforms PPLC and Campaign Financing matters.

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Besides the proposal for the amendments to the IEBC Amendments Bill, 2024, there was discussions on the highlights of the NADCO report which will be discussed in the upcoming plenary meeting.

The committee officials while appreciating the efforts of member organizations guided further subjection of the proposals to relevant stakeholders. The process was spear-headed by the PPLC legal subcommittee, supported by ORPP.

Staff undertake Alternative Dispute Mechanism course to address manage conflicts in work

Representatives from different departments/sections/units of ORPP in partnership with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) were on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to better manage conflict in the course of their work in management of political parties and elections.

The purpose of the training was to enhance participants' understanding of utilizing ADR to resolve disputes internally and to improve staff capacity to serve as mediators in political conflicts. Additionally, the training also featured a comparative look from global and regional practices in utilizing ADR to enhance the adjudication process.



Registrar (second left seated), a section of ORPP staff members and partners pose for a group photo

The overarching aim of the training was to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively manage disputes within political parties and elections through the use of ADR.

ORPP exhibits at the People's Dialogue Festival , 2024 edition

The ORPP participated in Peoples Dialogue Festival (PDF) , 6th to 9th March, 2024 held at the University of Nairobi, graduation square as part of its awareness creation of its mandate and continued engagement with stakeholders including the citizens.

"This forum is aimed at providing a platform for political parties and other actors on governance reforms and social economic issues to safeguard democratic gains", said Deputy Speaker Farah Maalim, presiding the official opening of the festival. In her remarks, Assistant Registrar of Political Parties CPA Florence Biryia appreciated the initiative by Centre For Multiparty Democracy terming it a platform to enhance inclusivity and transparency in the country while calling on political leaders to observe the political parties' code of conduct.



Assistant Registrar, CPA Florence Biryia among the panelists at the Peoples Dialogue Festivals the University of Nairobi

"The subject of dialogue is going to improve the understanding of governance and social economic issues of the participants", noted the Assistant Registrar. Regional Coordinator ELOG's Mulle Musau called for continuous tracking and monitoring of the electoral processes using technological advancements to ensure free and fair elections. Various participants appreciated efforts by ORPP to ensure inclusivity including strengthening of political parties through capacity building on gender equality and social inclusion. "We call on political leaders to promote cohesiveness through collaboration among stakeholders and commitment to democratic principles of governance." noted a participant. The People Dialogue Festival was for the 5th year running having been inaugurated in 2019.

ORPP feted at the DIAR Awards for Best Statutory Commission & Authority

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties has been recognized for three consecutive years for its inclusion agenda on the National Diversity and Inclusion and Recognition (DIAR Awards). This year, the ORPP was awarded winner's as the Best Statutory Commission and Authority on DEIB Sustainability during the 6th National Diversity and Inclusion Awards & Recognition (DIAR Awards) on 23rd March 2024. The award was in recognition of the inclusion and diversity measures ORPP continues to constitute.



Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, CPA Florence Biryra (second right) ORPP officers Brenda Nduta (right), Damaris Mwaniki (second left) and Eustace Njue (left) pose for photo at the 6th Edition DIAR Awards in Sarit Center.

The Office appreciates the gallant team and stakeholders. The award recognizes, celebrates and award champions for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts.



DIAR 2024 promo poster prior to the event

Registrar and Assistant Registrar join Inter-Religious leaders for Ramadhan dinner date

The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu CBS and Assistant Registrar, Ali Abdullahi joined other dignitaries for an Interfaith Iftar Dinner hosted by the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya on 4th April. Central to the discussion was on means of promoting compassion and peaceful coexistence amongst different faiths as part of the observance of the holy month of Ramadhan.



Registrar and Assistant Registrar, Ali Abdullahi converse at the Inter-faith Iftar Dinner in Nairobi

"Our collective effort must be geared towards instating peace and harmony through cooperation and dialogue for all actors, said Dr F.S Abdalla, Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK) Chairman. "The Inter-Religious Council of Kenya must use the progressive provisions in our Constitution to entrench values essential to our country cohesion", observed Dr Willy Mutunga, also the Chief Justice Emeritus who was the chief guest. The second annual event was supported by Diamond Trust Bank and partners.



Guests during Inter-Religious Council of Kenya at the Iftar dinner

County-based officers continues its grassroots stakeholder engagement efforts

The Kitui-based Coordinator, Hope Nandwa represented the Office on 8th March 2024 to commemorate International Women's Day at Nguutani market, Mwingi West constituency. Discussions weighed on women in elective positions while taking advantage of ORPP's capacity building programmes, enabling the legal environment undertaken through political parties

structures. This would counter persistent barriers that confront women in political leadership.

Participants and leaders present included H.E. Governor Dr. Julius Makau Malombe, EGH elected leaders, representatives of national government and non-state actors.



Kitale Regional Coordinator, Ms. Serah Wacuka represented the office at the Trans Nzoia County International Forest Day celebrations on 21st of March at Endebes Technical Training Institute in Endebes Sub County. The event was organized by Kenya Forest Services and brought together National environmental organizations (NEMA, KEFRI, KWS, WRA etc), other MDAs, County government and non-state organizations.



ORPP's Nakuru Office joins the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights Commission (KNCHR) in a stakeholder engagement during the Human Rights forum on 7th March at Eagles palace in Nakuru county.

Garissa team with The Speaker of Wajir County Assembly on 6th March during a Women caucus meeting to discuss women's inclusivity in the decision-making process and the role of the ORPP in capacity-building .



Nyeri regional coordinator, Lucy Kimunto, 25th March 2024, hosted her counterpart from the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, Mr. Patrick Kagwe. They deliberated on training of political parties' officials on political parties' data protection to ensure parties adhere to requisite provisions as they register members to their respective political parties.

Other events pictorial highlights



A section of team during a tender evaluation for ORPP second floor headquarters



The Office would like to congratulate Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, CBS for the honor and recognition of *Women Empowerment Trailblazer* feted by Echo Network Africa Ltd during the commemoration of International Women's Day on 8th March, 2024. The forum, themed "*Inspiring Inclusion by Investing in Women*" was aimed at identifying challenges and interventions to upscale women in political and economic growth.



An ORPP Contract Implementation team and team from the State department of Public works undertaking a site handover to commence partitioning works for the ORPP Kitale



Let's all including political parties' leaders embed in our parties progressive policies and embrace inclusion for all in party processes and structures as part of role of political parties for the good of members and society at large.
A blissful Easter from the entire ORPP fraternity.



May this season bring peace, prosperity & happiness to your families & may your homes & hearts be filled with joyful Spirits.

Thank for your continued support and patronage of the Bulletin..

We call for your contributions in form of appropriate articles, nuggets, attributed quotes and suggestions. Submissions can be relayed to Corporate Communication Unit

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