

Plenary sits to interrogate office governance policy documents

The Office held two separate plenary sittings; 17th-20th April in Machakos and 24th-27th April in Naivasha to review the final approval set for ORPP internally drafted policy documents. The documents reviewed were: transport policy, communication policy, political parties ideology guidelines and review of sample party ideology.

"This exercise is part of top leadership's commitment to ensure ORPP has solid policies in all processes as demands of good corporate governance practice. The Office will continually review the policies to align with the relevant laws, meet and factor stakeholder feedback and expectations and improve overall service delivery", noted the Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu CBS, also the Plenary Chairperson.



A Plenary Sitting during review of some of the policies and documents held in Naivasha.

"The development of the policies is aimed at providing clarity on procedures and Office posterity. They will further aid in the presentation of ORPP institutional memory, refine processes, improve performance and sustenance of customer experience", said Assistant Registrar, CPA Florence Birya.

"Policies are foundational to sound governance which ORPP

observes. These policies and others in place will continue providing a basis for informed decision-making and guide on all the processes", added Assistant Registrar Ali Abdullahi.



Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu CBS and Assistant Registrar, CBA Florence Birya during the Plenary Sitting in Naivasha.

Some policies/manuals evaluated were; Political Parties' Ideology Manual, Transport Policy, revised Communication Policy, Political Parties' Ideology guidelines. The Political Parties Ideologies Manual will assist political parties in formulating their ideologies in compliance with section 6(2)(da) of the Political Parties Act, 2011. The Ideology Manual will further promote democratic ideals and marshal citizens along parties' ideological standpoints.

At the close of review, concerned Heads of Departments / sections were advised on areas of improvement prior to eventual approval and dissemination.

Editorial Advisor: Ann N. Nderitu, CBS
Registrar of Political Parties/CEO

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ORPP participate in inter-faith discourse

The ORPP joined stakeholders in an inter-agency discussions during the 4th National Dialogue Conference was held between religious outfits and the state and a section of non-state to scrutinize the NADCO report and associated Parliamentary Bills relating to elections.

"Through such discussions, we aim to identify areas of consensus, pinpoint and give recommendations for essential reforms", said Martin Kivuva Chairman, of the Dialogue Conference.

" We commend the National Council of Churches of Kenya - NCCCK and the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) for holding this conference which promotes democracy, good governance and helps stakeholders to formulate workable measures towards peaceful and free elections. As ORPP, we are working on legal reforms to the Political Parties Act, 2011 and strategies aligned to other reforms in the governance and electoral governance', informed Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, CBS one of the key guest speakers.



Registrar of Political Parties (third left) among the panelist guest during the 4th National Dialogue Conference on 30th April, 2024 in Nairobi.

The National Dialogue Conference was organized by the National Council of Kenya (NCCCK) and the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) with the support USAID - US Agency for International Development as part of stakeholders' consensus building in the process of electoral reforms.

Areas of discussions by the panelist revolved around the inclusivity of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in political parties, effective management of political parties, affirmative

action to promote inclusivity of marginalized groups, NADCO report bills among others.

HR and Administration members skills honed in a committee training

The Human Resource and Administration Committee held a capacity building session on 29th April to 3rd May, 2024. Areas of discussion were on Human Resource legal framework; Training and Development; Discipline and Grievance Handling; Constitutional Values and Principles; Occupational Health and Safety.

"The ORPP leadership is committed to align its Human Resource management practices and instruments with relevant laws, latest public service Guidelines and larger Human Resource practicing dynamics", said Ali Abdullahi, Assistant Registrar, also in charge of Human Resource Management during the opening.



Assistant Registrar of Political Parties, Ali Abdullahi talk to ORPP select committee

"The Committee's capacity development, is part of the Office's mechanisms to ensure that members are re-tooled and up scaled for its continued proper and objective discharge of wide range of HR functional areas", added Ali while appreciating the Committee's for its professional conduct on its matters.

"I appreciate the HR Committee for its expeditious and objective efforts in handling HR matters. The Office leadership will continue prioritizing training to its other Committees. This training is essential for accord members insights on current and emerging issues geared towards better welfare of staff including improving reward mechanisms for ORPP staff", CPA Florence Biryia.

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"This meeting will also help us take stock of the status report of the Committee to improve in any gaps for better welfare of the staff", noted with Joseph Kanja, the Committee's Chairperson.

The sensitization was organized by the Human Resource Management department with support of facilitators from Public Service Commission.

In the training, staff were urged to familiarize themselves with labour related laws, regulations, guidelines and ORPP raft of the instruments to improve on productivity and overall service delivery. The members were also called on to comply with these instruments in line with respective engagement terms.

South Sudan Ministry of Gender seeks counsel from ORPP regulatory model

The Office hosted a delegation of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare on a study visit to ORPP on 17th April, 2024 at the headquarters. Deliberations centered around collaborations by the two institutions in promoting women's participation in political activities.



Registrar of Political Parties and a section of ORPP officials host the South Sudan delegation on a study visit .

"The country has a enabling legislative instruments anchored in the Kenyan Constitution and Political Parties to ensure registration ,regulation and administration of Political Parties Fund (PPF). This has enabled this Office promote gender equality, meeting threshold on membership and having in place governing bodies, conducting capacity building

among other initiatives" said the Registrar Ann Nderitu, CBS hosting the delegation.

"Our Office efforts to promote inclusion of women in Political activities has yielded positive representation of women in elective positions and also enhance women's engagement in political activities", said Assistant Registrar Ali Abdullahi.



Registrar of Political Parties , Ann Nderitu and Assistant registrar, Ali Abdullahi together with a section of ORPP officials pose for a group photo with visiting senior ministry officials.

"The political parties eligible for PPF as per law have to adhere to established procedures including having approved work plans and formally apply for the Fund through statutory forms contained in the funding Regulations dedicated women programs", advised Joshua Kimulu, Senior Chief Finance Officer in his discussion on funding of parties.

The Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare in South Sudan Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille, outlined actions they learnt from ORPP in promoting women leadership including mapping areas with low women leadership, initiating capacity building programmes, incentives for women vying in elections, legal reform, setting a Fund to support women vying for leadership among others.

The delegation had useful lessons learned from Kenya's political parties regulatory model in promoting women's inclusion in leadership.

The visit was coordinated by the ORPP Partnership and Linkages department with UNDP South Sudan, supporting the guests' visit.

ORPP convenes with PPLC to discuss nomination guidelines

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties convened a Political Parties Liaison Committee of Kenya sitting on 2nd May, 2024, to finalize amended National Steering Nomination Guidelines to its forthcoming elections. The meeting also discussed various Senate Bills that included Political Parties (Amendment) Bill, 2024; The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and a number of other Senate Bills relating to elections undergoing public participation.

"The Nomination Guidelines is essential in the planning and conducting a credible PPLC's Steering Committee election. I call upon the Steering Committee to adhere to principles of the 2/3 gender rule and other Constitutions requirements towards inclusivity", advised the Registrar, Ann Nderitu during the meeting.



Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu CBS, makes her remarks at the PPLC meeting held at Glee hotel, Nairobi County.

The Registrar applauded the stakeholders for their continued discussions with the Office on the NADCO report, noting that the insights gains had improvement to the Office and PPLC memoranda on the various Bills emanating from the report.

"A lot of improvement has been made since we started this process, I am glad to that we have made as an Office, political parties and partners good representations in respect to electoral reforms", said Registrar.

"I thank the political parties that are in PPLC that form the Steering Committee appreciates ORPP, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission(IEBC) and our regular partners such as Netherlands Institute for Multiparty De-

mocracy (NDI) for the support in the whole process of the legal reforms. We had a collective approach in submitting our views during this stage of reforms", said Evans Musati, Steering Committee's Chairperson.

Other discussions during the meeting was on selecting PPLC's representative(s) for the IEBC select Commissioners select panel and PPLC's Steering Committee progress/operational reports. Also present was Assistant Registrar of Political Parties; Ali Abdullahi and CPA, Florence Biryia and a section of ORPP staff.

Top leadership designates sits with Regional based officers

The ORPP's top leadership held a collaborative engagement with field officers on 21st—24th April, 2024 in Naivasha. The meeting besides discussing common issues also took stock of the regions performance reports for half-year in the financial year FY 2023/24.

"Field Services function is critical in representing ORPP and offering services at the county level. I appreciate your commitment in the recent stakeholder mapping and engagement undertaken. This has given us insights on service delivery improvements", noted Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, CBS during the meeting.



Registrar (seated second right) and Assistant Registrars pose for a group photo with ORPP county regional officers

The Assistant Registrar, Registration and Field Services Coordination noted the meeting up field was also to build better teams through open and honest conversations on the challenges while developing a workable road map to ensure the Field Services docket live up to the stakeholders' expectations and aspirations.

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"This engagement with the field officers is meant to collectively review performance review, seek necessary policy clarification and evaluate varied service delivery strategies", noted Ali Abdullahi, Assistant Registrar Regulation and Compliance.

The meeting was convened by Field Services Coordination Department led by its Coordinator Joshua Ngala. The outcomes of discussion will further be deliberated by management for appropriate action and remedial measures taken.

Registrar sits in an inter-generational women discussion

The Registrar of Political Parties was part of the inter-generational discussion meant to promote women's participation in Politics dubbed 'Siasa Cafe' held on 9th April, 2024 in Nairobi.

The conversation led by women leaders in Parliament and other heads of organizations also delved on gender equality, social justice and effective strategies to engage the electorate.

The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, CBS in a panel session, appreciated the increase in the number of women participating in political activities. "The youth including women are now driving the conversation around gender equality through various engagements." said the Registrar.



Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, CBS speaks during women participation in politics dubbed Siasa Café dinner in Nairobi

She outlined ORPP's initiatives in promoting inclusivity and diversity through conducting sensitization programmes to

empower Special Interests Groups to build leadership capacity among others.

Other panelists advocated for support and lobbying of women who are interested in politics to promote participation. The forum was supported by Netherlands Institute for Multi-party Democracy (NIMD).

Risk champions undergo framework training

To bolster ORPP good governance practices, training of Risk Champions was held on 14th to 19th April 2024. It was aimed at developing risk strategies and mitigation measures to build into ORPP's Risk Framework.

"This document will be guided by the principles of risk management which entails culture, strategy and review of objectives and performance", said Veronica Muasya, Head of the Internal Audit.



ORPP Head of Internal Audit, Veronica Muasya addressing a section of staff present during the training of Risk Champions in Naivasha.

"Staff are responsible for analyzing and integrating any risk through understanding the uncertainty of any occurrence", noted Hussein Abdirahman, the lead Risk Champions team also a staff in the Planning department.

Areas of training are Institutional Risk Management methodologies, roles in Internal Risk Management, risk register development among others. The Risk Champions are expected to manage risks for an overall institutionalized risk framework at ORPP. An elaborate risk a is critical part of corporate governance which ORPP brand champions for.

ORPP presents its position on IEBC –bound reforms contained on the NADCO report to JLAC

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties appeared before the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) to make its submissions. The team was led by the Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu CBS, on the IEBC Amendment Bill, 2024 at the National Assembly chambers, on 18th April.

Accompanied by a section of senior officers, the Registrar noted "The Office is giving views and recommendations on this Bill as part of our contribution to a better electoral justice system and have better mechanisms for political parties and political parties coalitions participation in elections with-in democratic ideals".



Registrar and a section of ORPP senior officials at the Parliament building during the NADCO sittings conveyed by JLAC

The Bill is at public participation and aligned to proposals in the National Dialogue Committee report (NADCO).

ORPP on course in review of Human Resource manual

As part of ORPP's commitment to having in place responsive Human Capital instruments, the review of the ORPP Human Resources and procedures manual, 2017 is at an advanced stage.

"The review allows sealing of gaps encountered during its implementation. You must also cater for emerging issues and practices while undertaking necessary benchmarks of applicable policies", noted Registrar Ann Nderitu, CBS at the ORPP's Review of HR Human Resources Policy and

Procedure Manual exercise on 8th to 12th April, 2024 while opening a review session by a section of staff led by the Human Resource department.

"In the review which the State Department for Public Service is glad to support, we must be cognizance of progressive modern-day such as infusing aspects of Alternative Dispute Resolutions that is key in building employer-employee relations as a workforce", said Dr. Mbijiwe from the state department ministry.



A section of staff during the review of Human Resource manual policy

The review aligns the policy with the current legal framework, regulation and guidelines in line with modern day Human Resource practices. It also seeks to improve the policy for seamless execution of Human Resource matters.

The head of the HRM department, Jacqueline Kosgei, led the exercise noted that the office will make every effort to align all its HR instruments to applicable laws, regulations and practices in the public service.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Nakuru Regional Coordinator, John Mwaura represented the office in a forum organized by The National Steering Committee on Implementation of Alternative Justice System. The forum dubbed "Alternative Justice System (AJS) and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) sensitization forum" took place at The Ole Ken Hotel, Nakuru County.



Photo courtesy of regional officers



Kitui office hosted a youth sensitization forum at the Smith Hotel, Kajiado County on 7th May 2024. Over 15 political parties were represented in the forum. The participants called on ORPP to consider such meetings at sub-county level for wider reach of youth across the county.



Nyahururu Regional Office on 30th April, 2024 hosted the officials of Central Kenya Youth Association. The meeting was to seek the process of registering a political party as stipulated on the ORPP mandate.



Bungoma Regional Coordinator paid a courtesy call to the Dean of students for Kibabii University on 25th April, 2024 to discuss areas of collaboration between ORPP and students' leadership forums where the office can sensitize students about political education.