

A bulletin from Office of the Registrar of Political Parties

August, 2024

ORPP hosts Sierra Leone counterpart, moots continental Regulators Association

The ORPP hosted the Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC), Sierra Leone from 2nd to 5th September 2024 for an exchange to share insights on two institutions' regulatory models. The visit hosted by the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) with support of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Sierra Leone. A possibility of forming Africa's Political Parties' Regulatory Agencies Consortium was commenced.

The delegation choose Kenya being a continental leader in its model of registration, regulation, and funding of political parties. The Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu, CBS, while welcoming the guests, highlighted the Kenya's democratic journey as reflected by history of political parties and establishment of ORPP. "This visit is part of ORPP Kenya's efforts toward well-founded and structured governance of political parties that significantly impacts a country's socio-economic and political progress," she noted, while educating on the Office's contribution to democratic governance in Kenya.



The Registrar and the delegation of Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) of Sierra Leone

The Head of the PPRC delegation, also the PPRC's Executive Director, Olushogo A. David, acknowledged the shared legal framework and operational similarities between the ORPP and the PPRC. He acknowledged Kenya's advancements in technology, legal reforms, and political parties funding that would be valuable insights to his team. "We stand to gain immensely from Kenya's proven successes in these areas," David said.

During the visit, a range of ORPP Kenya's departments and sections sensitized on their processes. These included governance structure and HR practices, registration, compliance, corporate communication, partnerships, field services, ICT & legal among others.

These processes were interrogated with comparative lessons drawn on the two institutions' procedures and standards with reference to Kenya's models for party financing and the impact on political dynamics:

Key lessons drawn by the team pertained to leveraging on ICT in managing parties membership records and overall efficiency; promotion of personal data and operational efficiency and design of capacity building programmes. Further, ORPP's decentralized of services including a visit to one Nakuru county office, maintenance of information systems, collaborative efforts and networking strategies, corporate positioning were explored.

The visit culminated in identification of future collaborations by ORPP and PPRC in areas of capacity-building, staff exchange and joint research ventures. These efforts will enhance both countries' to effectively manage and regulate political entities for stronger democratic institutions across Africa.

ORPP staff equipped on parties PWDs inclusion

Human capital capacity is essential in actualizing inclusion agenda political parties and good governance pursuit.

A section of ORPP sensitized on 22nd August 2024 to equip the skills to implement and support mainstreaming inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) within ORPP and political parties.

The session conducted by Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) centered on various provisions of the Minimum Standards on Inclusion of PWDs.

The 10-Standards framework which has focus on; compliance to disability legislation and policies, involvement of PWDs in party leadership, access to information, improved participation in party processes, accountability measures among others

Assistant Registrar, Ali Abdullahi urged the staff to prioritize the inclusion of PWDs in their programming as part of support and reference for political parties' efforts to implement effective PWD inclusion mechanisms



Assistant Registrars Ali Abdullahi and CPA Florence Biryia lead discussions during a section of ORPP staff sensitization on Inclusion of PWDs held at Dusit Princess Hotel, Westlands on 22nd August 2024. The meeting as with support of WFD,

"The ORPP is dedicated to promoting participation of PWDs in the political and electoral processes through policy formulation, legal reform and sensitization programs. The ORPP staff must infused strategies within their functional areas that are true to promotion of

PWDs rights," noted CPA Florence Biryia, Assistant Registrar, Registration, and Field Services Coordination during the forum.



Asst.Registrar CPA Florence Biryia speaking during the forum.

The forum sets pace for a series of other trainings targeting staff and party officials to be progressively rolled out under the Westminster Foundation for Democracy's Kenya Inclusive Political Parties (KIPP) programme.

ORPP in lead role to convene Regional Governance convention

The ORPP has mooted plans for convening East Africa's Governance and Election bodies convention to forge a common regulatory framework towards promotion of democracy and governance by the respective regulatory bodies.

This came to the fore during a courtesy call discussions between the Registrar, Ann Nderitu, CBS with officials of Christian Democratic International Centre, Sweden and The Oslo Center on 31st July 2024.

Other collaborative areas explored included capacity building programmes for women aspirants in 2022 General Election and County Assemblies Women Caucuses.

The discussions also laid ground for Office commemoration of the International Youth Day which the Office commemorated through an X-space discussion on 12th August, 2024

Other joint initiatives proposed were mentorship and coaching program ; and production & dissemination of political education/governance related multimedia information material to the reach of diverse audience.



The Registrar Ann Nderitu, CBS presents Political Parties Sources book after meeting an official from Christian Democratic International Centre at the Registrar's lounge

ORPP & WFD partner in drafting Disability and Inclusion Charter (DIC)

The ORPP with support of Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) in a session to develop a roadmap in drafting its Disability and Inclusion Charter (DIC) to be spearheaded by a selected Technical Working Group on 7th August 2024.

The DIC seeks to establish minimum standards for Inclusion for ORPP's governance and operations in line with international benchmarks and conventions.

The Charter will build on other Inclusion measures ORPP has in place including proposals for pro-inclusion legal reforms, support of Disability leagues in parties, Disability and Inclusion Policy and Capacity Building initiatives for Special Interest Groups within established party structures.



The ORPP team and WFD officials in discussion to chart a roadmap for an Disability and Inclusion Charter



A section of ORPP team and WFD officials after the session at Sarova Stanley Hotel on 7th August 2024

Assistant Registrars in talks with partner to spur Political Parties in SIGs inclusion

Inadequate Special Interest Groups representation in leadership & funding, gaps in internal disputes remains a challenge. The various parties representatives highlighted.

The ORPP held discussions with International Republican Institute (IRI) and Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) on 15th August 2024 to explore ways of enhancing Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Youth, Women and PWDs in the governance of political parties.

Assistant Registrar, Regulation and Compliance, Ali Abdullahi assured of ORPP commitment to enforce the law to ensure the active participation of SIGs in political parties. Assistant Registrar for Field Services Coordination, CPA Florence Biryia noted that the ORPP will continue building its collaborative mechanisms to support the inclusion of SIGs bearing their emerging needs.

Senior Compliance Officer Anastasia Kabere outlined various steps ORPP had taken to ensure greater inclusion of SIGs, such as conducting quarterly compliance audits, offering capacity-building programmes, ensuring compliance of political parties' work plans, legal reforms to improve the electoral process, implementing ICT reforms, and distributing the Political Parties Fund.

Building synergy for different players for holistic approach in championing the SIGs in political parties' governance was resolved to be key.



Assistant Registrars Ali Abdullahi, CPA Florence Biryra and a section of staff on SIGs in leadership ,held on 4th floor boardroom on 15th August 2024



Assistant Registrars; Ali Abdullahi (Seated 2nd left) , CPA Florence Biryra (seated right) ,ORPP staff, IRI &CMD representatives in a photo session after the meeting

Registrar commences radio talks on political parties registration processes and regulation

Registrar Ann Nderitu, CBS engaged the citizens on raft of registration, compliance and funding of political parties during a at Radio Citizen, morning talk show on 1st August, 2024. The discussion fromed a series of other engagement in various radio stations in the course of the quarter aligned to ORPP's to political education agenda. During the show, the Registrar had an opportunity to clarify on the then topical issue around the ORPP's decion to a Gen-Z proposed name reservation request. The Registrar advised and outlined the reasons for the youth to join a political parties, from the 90 parties presently fully registered that aligned to their belief and form, within their rights, progressive parties in accordance with the law.

"Every Kenyan has a choice to register a party. However, such must have a national outlook with representation diverse demographics in its.. leadership and operational structures and members.

Registrar also spoke on entire registration process of political parties and briefly gave the requirements needed to form a Political Party.



The Registrar , Ann Nderitu, CBS, during Radio Citizen breakfast show, Jambo Kenya as she discusses the Political Parties registration process and regulations

The political parties PWDs reps skills honed on inclusion

The ORPP with support of Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) held a session with a section of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) to be sensitized on Minimum Standards on Inclusion, developed by WFD with involvement of parties representatives. The session was held on 21st August 2024 at Kenya Institute of Curriculum (KICD).

Assistant Registrar Ali Abdullahi, appreciated the Standards noting that they complement ORPP pro-inclusion efforts such as legal and policy framework that enable PWDs to participate equally.

"We are pleased by progressive efforts of political parties for inclusion of PWDs. The ORPP will continue supporting such as these efforts to existential gaps towards promoting inclusion", noted Assistant Registrar, CPA Florence Biryra while presiding the event.

The Standards developed by Westminster Foundation for Democracy with support a section of parties' representatives has its focus on accountability, mechanism for inclusion of PWDs in Political Parties; active involvement in representation and processes among others. It also moots the formation of a National Disability Multiparty Caucus and its membership.



Assistant Registrar Ali Abdullahi briefing in the session on mechanism of PWDs inclusion in political Parties



Assistant Registrar CPA Florence Biryia makes her remarks in the meeting held at KICD on 21st August 2024

Registrar mentors Women group in Kiambu county

The Registrar held talks and trained PCEA Women, focusing on Financial Literacy and Social Inclusion held at Leilani Gardens, Kikuyu Constituency Kiambu County on 29th August 2024.

The initiative was aimed at enhancing stakeholder engagement and equip the women's group participation in leadership and governance.

Topics covered were Social Inclusion, Governance and Group Management for Sustainability, Accessing Government Funds.

The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu CBS, commended the progressive inclusion of women in leadership roles. She emphasized the necessity for women to engage fully in societal leadership, manage family responsibilities, and address existing societal gaps.



Registrar Ann Nderitu, CBS (2nd left) joins the women group shares a moment during the empowerment session for PCEA Women at Leilani Gardens, Kikuyu Constituency Kiambu County on 29th August 2024.

The CEO of Echo Network Africa, Dr. Jane Riria highlighted the importance of eliminating discrimination against women. She advocated for practical strategies such as gender impact assessments, capacity building and public consultation amongst women.

The forum was designed to identify challenges and develop interventions to enhance women's political and economic growth.

The event organized by Echo Network Africa was part of ORPP's broader efforts to collaborate with Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to institutionalize leadership, governance, and inclusion.

Funded political parties undergo ORPP's sensitization of programming and prudent utilisation of PPF

The ORPP sensitized the 48 political parties currently qualifying for allocation of the Political Parties Fund on for FY 2024/2025.

The engagement was aimed at building capacity for prudent utilization of the funds for the intended purposes under the Political Parties Act, 2011(PPA).

Parties were guided on the development and submission of work plans and other compliance requirements prior to funds disbursement.

"This Fund is helpful for political parties mainly in promoting party activities. All the parties should have programmes for their county and other grassroots units. However, pending compliance issues must be fulfilled before

concerned parties make new applications," guided the Registrar, Ann Nderitu while speaking during the forum.



Registrar Ann Nderitu, CBS making her remarks on Political Parties Fund on 30th August 2024 at Nairobi Safari Club

The Registrar assured the party officials of continuous and tailor-made capacity building sessions and support of the Office of the Auditor General and other government agencies in guiding proper utilization and accountability of the funds as per the law.

Assistant Registrar, CPA Florence Birya called for involvement of SIGs programs in promoting good governance and accountability.



Registrar Ann Nderitu, CBS(left), Assistant Registrar, CPA Florence Birya and party officials during the meeting

Section 25 of the PPA outlines; 70% of the Fund reference to the total number of votes secured in the preceding election; 15% proportionately on the number of elected Special Interest Groups(SIGs); 10% based on the total number of representatives elected and 5% for Administration of the Fund by ORPP.

The session was coordinated by ORPP Finance department with support of a section of other departments

ORPP premiers on X Space Users as part of commemoration of International Youth day

On August 13, 2024, ORPP joined on X-space a section of stakeholders in discussions themed "Revitalizing Democracy through Youth Participation and the Role of Political Parties in Good Governance."

The head of Legal and Advisory, Wafula Wakoko joined other panelists including Elections Observation Group (ELOG) Marcus Ageng'a, Eustace Kinyua and Mike Muchiri, founder of Civic Rise Kenya and others to lead discussions that brought together youth drawn from diverse representations.

Wafula Wakoko, emphasized the critical role of youth in shaping the democratic process. "Youth are not just future leaders but are key players in today's governance," Wakoko stated. He highlighted the importance of political parties in fostering democratic practices and ensuring transparent governance.

ELOG's Marcus Agenga's expanded on the concept of youth engagement, discussing its efforts to observe and enhance the electoral process. "Youth involvement is essential for the vibrancy of our democracy. It ensures that diverse perspectives are included and that governance reflects the needs and aspirations of the younger generation," Ageng'a said.

Mechanisms through which political parties can engage with youth effectively were also discussed. It was also stressed that political parties must adapt to the changing dynamics of voter engagement. "Political parties need to be proactive in reaching out to youth, not just during elections but throughout their political careers. This ongoing engagement helps build trust and ensures that policies are relevant and impactful." the Moderator said.



A poster of the X space meeting engagement

The conversation also touched on innovative approaches to increase youth participation, such as leveraging social media platforms for political education and engagement. The panelists agreed that while there are challenges, there are also significant opportunities for revitalizing democracy through inclusive and active youth involvement.

"For democracy to thrive, we must ensure inclusion of every generation, especially the youth who have a voice and a role in shaping governance. Political parties and civic organizations must work together to create pathways for meaningful participation."

The discussion on X informs a series of other ORPP engagements in youth and the role of political parties in fostering good governance. The insights shared by the panelists provided a roadmap for how democratic systems can be revitalized through active and informed youth participation.

Staff sensitized on Resource Center's collection and usage

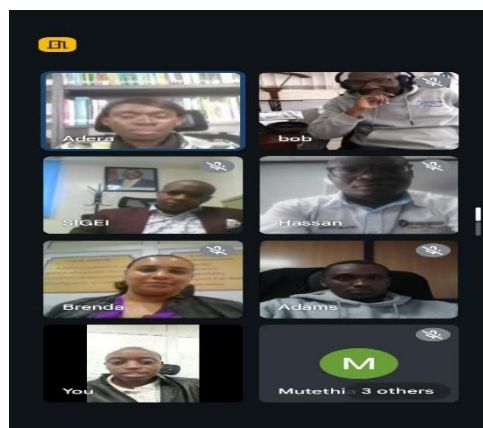
On August 16, 2024, the ORPP staff were sensitized on various services and information resources availed at ORPP Resource Centre (RC). The online session was convened and hosted by Beatrice Amollo of the Resource. It sought to design and equip staff with essential knowledge and skills for effectively utilizing the Resource Centre's diverse services.

"Today, we're going to embark on a journey to familiarize ourselves with the Resource

Centre's vast resources," stated Beatrice. "Our goal is to ensure that you feel confident in using these tools to enhance your research and policy planning activities."

Key areas discussed were on overview of the Resource Centre's resources Ms. Amollo, highlighting different types of resources available. She also guided on navigating the RC's portals that harbour the resources as well as physical catalog used in managing the Centre's physical collections.

The staff sensitized in the session benefitted on online information materials and means to use through platforms such as Amazon Kindle, ProQuest, Taylor & Francis, and EBSCOhost.



A screen shot showing some of the staff during the virtual training session

The staff present thanked the Librarian for the session. They committed to optimize use of vast Resource Centre's information resources available through multiple platforms.

ICT, HRM lead staff online appraisal's sensitization sessions

To enhance the effectiveness of the appraisal process, the Human Resource Management (HRM) with support of ICT conducted sensitizations sessions to staff, clustered by departments. The sessions were held the 4th in the boardroom and virtually for regional officers and officers out of Office conducted on 28th August, 2024.

In an effort to automate the HR process, the Office developed and implemented an online Performance Appraisal System which was rolled out during the FY2019/2020.

“ These sessions are meant to improve the overall Performance Management to bridge the challenges experienced by staff while using the system”, said the Jaqueline Kosgei, Assistant Director , HRM in one of the sessions.



Jackline Kosgei, Head of HRM department demonstrates a the use of the system in one of the appraisals sensitization sessions in the Boardroom.

Staff were advised to embrace the appraisal were while acknowledging that performance appraisals is not a one time event but a continuous process which begins with setting of performance targets at the beginning of every financial year, conducting a mid-year performance evaluations and eventual evaluation at the end of the appraisal period.



A session of staff during an appraisal session presentation on 28th August 2024



Senior ICT Officer Mr. Josphat Nyongesa facilitates a session during a session

ORPP Participates in a grassroots sensitization activity in Kitui County

The ORPP Kitui on 21st August, 2024 engaged Kakumiti Syondo women, a self-help group in Kitui West constituency. Participants included Kakumiti women's group with a focus on improving access to information and resources for Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

"Such local-based engagements with women and other such groups is part of ORPP's empowerment and inclusive efforts and participatory political landscape in this region. "emphasized Hope Nandwa, the Regional Coordinator Kitui office.

The session aimed to enhance the group's knowledge and political processes and empowered them on ways of actualizing their political rights.



Kitui's team, Hope Nandwa and Lucia Muia shares ORPP's publications and print material during their visit to the group.

During the session, the women were also educated on their rights as members and given the opportunity to interact with IPPMS in checking their political parties membership status, as well as to resign from or join political parties of their choice.

The initiative also bore an invitation from the Kakumiti Syondo women's group to further engage with other women in the upcoming elections.

Local leaders, including Area Chief Mr. Martin Kimanzi and Market Chairman Robert Muema, committed to assist in the dissemination of ORPP's Information, Education, and Communication materials to the locals to as part of enhancing awareness.

Bungoma team meet up DAP-K officials

The Bungoma regional office, on 12th August, 2024 hosted DAP-K, top officials who paid a courtesy call to the office.

The officials were seeking the ORPP guidance in preparation of its elections fill in vacant in the youth and women league within Bungoma county.

The Regional Coordinator guided officials accordingly and underscored the need for political parties to embrace inclusion of the SIGs and adherence to the 2/3 gender principle in the governance and management of the parties.



ORPP's Bungoma-based Sigei shares publication with DAP-K official at his Office in Bungoma town.

He expressed ORPP's commitment to strengthen political parties through capacity building and sensitization programmes as well as by monitoring compliance by political parties.

The officials thanked ORPP for devolving services to the grassroots saying it has relieved them of seeking services at the headquarters

ORPP guides potential political parties at varied stages of registration

The ORPP held separate meetings with various political parties between 21st August – 28th August, 2024. The guidance for various proposed political parties centered receipt of website, presentation of statements and ideology and manifesto and other matters within the initial stages of registration process.



Conservation of Democracy Kenya (COD-K) officials during a presentation of party ideology as Chaired by the Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu on 28th August



ARPP, CPA Florence Birya chairing a session with Achievement Party Of Kenya (ACPOK) presentation on 23rd August, 2024 in the ORPP headquarter boardroom.



Joshua Ngala, head of Field & Services chairs a session with Ahadi party officials on 14th August in the Office boardroom. The officials took ORPP through its intended Registration and ICT processes including the website and membership recruitment mechanism.

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