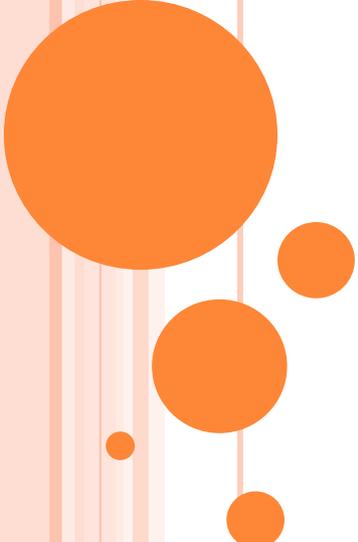


ROLE OF CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL CONTRACT



Presentation

by

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CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

- Citizen involvement in public affairs is not new. Throughout the world citizens have actively participated in the deliberation of local issues, decision making within their communities and the selection of their leaders.
- A central pillar of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 is citizen participation, it provides a strong foundation for the enhancement of participatory governance particularly in the devolved structures at county level
- Articles 174(c, d), 184 (1) (c), 196 (1), 232 (1)(d, e, f) and the 4th Schedule Part 2 (14) all speak to citizen participation and involvement

IMPORTANCE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- Participation is important because it establishes the necessary sense of ownership. People tend to resist new ideas if they are imposed on them. Participation contributes to the sustainability of development initiatives, strengthened local capacity, given a voice to the poor and marginalized and linked development to the people's needs



WOMEN AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- Whilst celebrating the significant gains that have been made in gender and development, there remain gaps in women's participation in decision making at all levels, such as the budget making processes, legislative and policy input, development planning, political and economic structures. This led us to conceptualize the Gender Roundtables at the County level



GENDER ROUND TABLES

- The idea brings together women networks at the county level in an organized manner to dialogue and collaborate with the leadership at the County level. The platforms seek to address issues of critical concern to women in their respective Counties from a nonpartisan perspective towards establishing gender responsive public service delivery using the Reflect Action Circles Methodology developed by Action Aid to assist in empowering grassroots communities particularly women.



REFLECT METHODOLOGY

- Reflect is premised on the recognition that achieving social change and greater social justice is a fundamentally political process. It seeks to help people to assert their rights and change their position in society and as such it involves working with people in this case women rather than for them.
- Reflect action circles are an innovative approach to adult learning and social change. Women get educated on micro finance, reading, writing and healthcare. When women learn how to address the issues that propagate the cycle of poverty, it creates large-scale change for the society for they can access sustainable economic self-sufficiency skills so do their families and communities.



- The Gender Round Tables serve as an opportunity for constructive interaction between the Duty Bearers (Governors & County governments) and the Rights holders to improve the relationship between them and the County citizenry. It also captures the views and needs of women in development so as to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all aspects of County development and public service delivery resulting in a more equitable society.

