Minutes of the Policy Forum Monthly Meeting

CARE Conference Room, 7th June, 2007

Key Action Points

- *Members to decide whether to take up the offer from the Steadman Group of Companies regarding their media monitoring services.*
- *PF members requested to suggest and implement an alternative for selecting remaining members for the steering committee*
- *Policy Forum Website to update and change certain aspects of the website*
- *Budget Working Group to produce Policy Briefs in time for Budget Speech*
- *PF to try alternative solutions for the next budget session*
- *Policy Forum to try to maintain a sense of mutual understanding with the members of parliament (achieved through the seminar)*
- *PF Members to look into working with PMORALG on their call for a dialogue.*

Opening

The meeting was officially started by Coordinator of Policy Forum, Gertrude Mugizi at 10:30am. There was a round of introduction as there appeared to be a few new faces.

Attendance:

1. Rita Toutant   TNCH
2. Charles Obote   Steadman Group
3. Nick Southern   CARE
4. Irenei Kiria   YAV
5. Octavius Alex Kisinda   TEN/MET
6. Frederick Kwame   Oxfam
7. Ruth Carlitz   HakiElimu
8. Peter Masika   TAYOA
9. Gertrude Mugizi   Policy Forum
10. Tejal Raichura   Policy Forum
11. Namwaka Omari-Mwaikinda Policy Forum
12. Semkae Kilonzo   Policy Forum
13. Janzi Sinkamba   Tushiriki
14. Theodory Mwalongo   ADDTz
15. Gervas Sikanyika   Tushiriki
16. Theodosia Muhulo   WLAC

Agenda

1. Monitoring effects of our work in the media – presentation by Steadman Group of Companies. (Steadman Group)

2. Policy Forum Website: Practical Demonstration. (Semkae Kilonzo)

3. Feedback on recent events initiated by the Budget Working Group. (Representatives from BWG)
   a. 2-day seminar with Parliamentary Finance and Economic Affairs Committee, lessons learned and future engagement with Parliament.
   b. Launch of Budget Briefs and feedback
   c. Session with media editors on Budget Briefs
   d. GDSS Session at TGNP
   e. Upcoming events of the BWG

4. Steering Committee elections (Gertrude Mugizi)

5. Working group updates

6. AOB

Agenda 1: Presentation by Steadman Group of Companies

The Steadman Group of Companies attempts to analyze media usage in Tanzania (amongst other regions through Africa). Media forms are utilized at different levels; Steadman attempts to monitor this usage and collect data that will allow organizations to identify what the best form of media coverage. Steadman's ongoing project TAMPS (Tanzania All Media and Product Survey) is the research they do annually (as of 2006) in order to get this information to their clients. Steadman's research could be useful to Policy Forum members as it gives all members a concrete answer as to what form of media gets the most coverage, and in addition, what time of day are most users utilizing that form of media.

Questions and Issues raised by Members:
- Since TAMPS is survey based, and uses an hourly diary to obtain data, the question of literacy was raised, and whether it has an impact on the data.
- Did the survey cover ALL forms of media?
- Would the data received be useful to Policy Forum members specifically?
- Were there any incentives to encourage people to participate?
- The issue of cost was raised, however a verbal statement was made saying that the cost was "negotiable"
- It was stated that this information is important for decision making purposes for different sectors of education, and it would be good to have this information in a systematic format.

Agenda 2: Policy Forum Website

- The website was up and live, the Kiswahili section is in the process of going live as well.
- Members were asked to have a look at the members list and make sure that the information on there was up to date.
- A PF forum has been added on a trial basis where by members can login in and have an open discussion on issues pertaining to PF.
- Members who don't have email addresses can get an email through the Policy Forum website with the policy forum domain.
- Certain suggestions were made to improve the website:
  - o It would be useful to add a links section
  - o Information on non-voting members to be added as well
  - o A different page for the budget working group to upload files and documents, and summaries of past debates
  - o It would be useful to have an FAQ section
- An issue was raised regarding having a form of a bulletin board for members wishing to find certain resources. However this relates to another issue raised regarding what the boundaries are for the website. We don't want the site to be a place where all sorts of irrelevant material is shared. The site needs to remain professional and maintain its strategic edge.

Agenda 3: Feedback on recent events initiated by the Working Groups

<u>Budget Working Group</u>
- The seminar with the Parliamentary Finance and Economic Affairs Committee was successful in increasing understanding with the members of parliament. This would be useful to continue to build and increase the extent of interactions between the parliament and CSOs. This also means that we need to start to build and develop relations with other parliamentary committees.
- PF will continue to try and speak or present in the parliament, however PF needs to be careful of members of parliament becoming involved in the organization. Yet PF should try to target Dar es Salaam based MPs.

<u>Local Government Working Group</u>
- The LGWG brought up the Local Government Day to be held on July 1st 2007, and whether PF would like to hire a tent as an organization. Price per tent was quoted to be TSHS 70,000/- Policy Forum would be interested in having a tent if other members would be interested in sharing the space and cost.
- The LGWG would like to revise their booklets on the local government, and base it on the information received from PMORALG – Hebron to lead this attempt.
- It was discussed that PMORALG had advertised to contact CSOs to have an open dialogue next month with 25 NGOs.
- It was said that the CSOs have a better understanding of the local government. Now we also have a second option with a CD-ROM of information. This CD is to launch on July 4th 2007. Information from this can be used to find beneficial points for the CSOs.

<u>Education Working Group</u>
- The Education Work Group – The 1995 education policy is being reviewed. It was reviewed in 2005 but did not follow the proper channels.
- CCNGO – UNESCO – Secondary data collection
- The Education Watch Initiative was brought up, and its "Education for All" umbrella.
- Mention of the new adult education program
- Education Section Education Plan of Review – Second phase of review

Agenda 4: Steering Committee Elections

- There was one applicant for the two positions open in steering committee. The applicant was not present at the meeting.
- It was decided that the two remaining positions were to be opened up to both male and female applicants.

Agenda 5: AOB

- There were no pressing issues.

Closure

- The meeting was closed at approximately 1:30 pm.