

POLICY FORUM MONTHLY MEETING – JULY 3, 2008
OXFAM OFFICES- MIKOCHENI,
TIME: 10AM- 1PM

Matters Arising

- Election of new members for the PF Board of Directors
- Follow-up with Salema with regards to popularisation of MKURABITA policy document
- Topic suggestions for future working sessions with Parliamentarians

OPENING

The meeting was officially started by Mr. Hebron Mwakagenda- Chairperson Policy Forum at 10:30am.

ATTENDANCE:

1. Lina Magoma	PF Secretariat
2. Tobias Chelechele	Amani E.C.D
3. Pascal Chambiri	NPA
4. Oddvar Bjorknes	NPA
5. Festa Andrew	WDP
6. Muganyizi Edward	TNCHF
7. Fransisca Matay	TAWIF
8. Raymond Mhagama	TAWIF
9. Kidani Magwilla	TNCHF
10. Annastazia Rugaba	Envirocare
11. Semkae Kilonzo	PF Secretariat
12. Gertrude Mugizi	PF Secretariat
13. Hebron Mwakagenda	The Leadership Forum
14. Vera Mshana	PF Secretariat
15. Richard Angelo	PF Secretariat

MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 08/05/2008

- Ms. Gertrude Mugizi reported that the Citizen's Guide which was supposed to be ready for this budget season and launched at the CSOs' Exhibition in Dodoma but this could not happen due to the delayed inputs from members. However, the BWG was due to discuss it in their next meeting to see the way forward.
- Involvement of CSOs in Local Government – PMORALG have issued a PETS guide and that it will be provided to those who do PETS at the district level.

VACANCY WITHIN THE PF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

During the 2008 Annual General Meeting, the mandate of electing those to fill the two vacant positions within the Board of Directors was delegated to the PF monthly meeting. Ms. Mugizi, once again encouraged members to submit applications for the vacancies and the election will be in August. Of the two vacancies, one is allocated to an international PF member and the second is for a

local member. The international position is vacant because OXFAM GB's former country director, Fredrick Kwame, has left the post.

IDEAS FOR NEW SIMPLIFIED/POPULAR VERSIONS OF POLICY DOCUMENTS:

Mr. Semkae Kilonzo from Policy Forum explained the purpose of these publications and solicited ideas from members for the next popular version.

- Suggested Topics were: -
 - Simplified form of the MKURABITA policy document.
 - Mining report and the EPA embezzlement
 - Simplify the Public Finance Act and Procurement Act.
 - Constituency Development Fund.

Resolution: Following up with Salema and see what can be done and how we can have the proposal and move forward.

UPDATE ON ANALYTICAL THINK PIECES AND POLICY BRIEF:

It was reported by Vera Mshana that according to the annual work plan, PF is supposed to produce two briefs for quarter one and two briefs for quarter two. For quarters three and four, one brief each was required making it a total of 6 Policy Briefs. We have already produced the analysis of the Tanzania's CAG Report for 2006/07; a brief on the Public Participation in engendering Transparent and Accountable and Responsive Governance; and one entitled: 'Local Government Accountability - where are the Opportunities?' The last one on public leadership code of ethics act is yet to be done.

We are also supposed to produce two analytical think Pieces where we have already produced one analytical think-Piece titled, "Demysfication of Mining Contracts in Tanzania" the second one on Decentralisation by Devolution is yet to be done.

COLLABORATION WITH OFFICE PARLIAMENT:

It was reported by Vera that Policy Forum, with the support from IDASA and Revenue Watch Institute (RWI), organized a workshop titled "**Revenues obtained from the mining Industry**".

The first session which intended to deepen understanding and capacity- build the target group were 30 Parliamentary staff (the institutional memory of the parliament), and 15 Civil Society. It was held at the Blue Pearl hotel, presenters were from RWI. In the second session, the target group was mainly MPs. This session took place on 19-20 May at Kunduchi Beach Hotel. It was very informative, participatory and response was very positive.

Further Vera reported that Policy Forum had a 3rd session which was held at the Golden Tulip Hotel from May 27-8. 30 Parliamentarians specifically from the Finance and Economic Affairs Committee and 10 CSOs were invited. The Deputy Minister for Finance & Economic Affairs opened the session. The theme for the session was an analysis of **budgetary issues in relation to MKUKUTA** clusters. Namely, growth and reduction of income poverty (cluster 1), improved quality of life and social well-being (cluster 2), and governance and accountability (cluster 3). The aim of the

session was to deepen understanding of budgetary issues in relation to MKUKUTA and to have MPs as well as CSOs consider more critically their oversight role, particularly in this pre-budget session.

After these sessions, the Office of Parliament requested PF to present on issues surrounding budget scrutiny. This indicated that they were impressed with our work. PF should also look into engaging with the BARAZA la Madiwani (councilors).

Resolution: Members to come up with topic suggestions for future working sessions with Parliamentarians and Vera Mshana to give feedback on her discussions with Office of Parliament on the matter.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

- Way forward with regards to the Citizen's Guide – to be discussed during the next BWG session.
- The Leadership Forum is working on the PETS Guideline and once it is ready will be shared with the LGWG and can also be used at the grass root level.
- The Kibaha pilot project's initial plan on accountability monitoring is ready and activities are expected to begin in Kibaha.

AOB

- We have been invited to Mombasa by MUHURI for Social Audit training on CDF from the 12th to 19th of July 2008. We were given 6 spaces so the PF Secretariat will circulate an e-mail to members so that those who are interested can apply.
- BWG - should think of a new strategic plan.
- CSOs Exhibition at Bunge - PF had the chance to attend the 2008 CSOs exhibitions organized by the Foundation for Civil Society held in Dodoma at the Bunge grounds. CSOs also had a chance to put their burning issues in front of the parliamentarians. The MPs agreed to almost everything and responded by saying that what they want from us is our support in the introduction of the CDF (Constituency development Fund) to Tanzania.
- The Bomani report will be circulated to members though it should be understood that it is not official. The intention was to circulate it before the mineral discussion.