

Empowering Communities to Act on Social Problems

Kibaha The meat problem

In early 2008, Policy Forum entered into collaboration with another network, the Kibaha Network of CSOs (KNC). This was part of PF's pilot initiative to get its two working groups (the Local Governance and Budget Working Groups) jointly carrying out selected activities. The pilot involved analyzing accountability in both Kibaha Town Council (KTC) & Kibaha District Council (KDC) after training done by the PF secretariat to KNC 18 members. Soon after the training, collection of data began from 1st July to 18th August 2008.

The advocacy issue that came from the analysis was regarding the problem of hygiene in the town's abattoir. Cattle were being culled under unsanitary conditions and the facility was dilapidating. The unhygienic condition was threatening the health of Kibaha residents, who relied on the abattoir for its meat. Although this problem was widely known amongst the residents, it was not until civic actors realized how much was allocated for rehabilitating the abattoir that they began advocating for improvement of the facility.

SAM Findings

1. The council plan was to collect and spend 2.3 billion, they however managed to collect 1.3 billions, out of which they spent 1.05 billion leaving 335 millions unspent up to the end of the financial year 2007/08
3. Though Kibaha Town Council budget grew steadily at an average of more than 29.05% from 2005/06 to 2007/08, expenditure and implementation did not show the council implementing public priorities as per participatory processes carried out. About 50% of the budget that is 54.4% for 2005/06; 56.01% for 2006/07 & 48% for 2007/08) were being allocated to priorities which were not in accordance to those reflected in the results of the participatory exercises implemented in the council.
4. From the council development programme plan and budget for the year 2007/2008, about 23,993,875/- was allocated to Agriculture development of which 19,497,178/- was set aside to renovate the abattoir.

KNC decided to share these findings during a regular monthly public debate it conducts for the public. At the debate on the 25th of November 2009, in the presence of journalists and other stakeholders, the issue of the abattoir was identified as one needing immediate attention. Journalists from ITV and the daily *Mtanzania Daima* requested more information so that they could produce articles for their media houses of which KNC provided as well as taking them to the abattoir sites where they took pictures. The video clips were shown on TV on the evening of 27th November 2009 as well as on the morning of 28th. The daily *Mtanzania Daima* paper carried an article on the 28th of November 2009.

As a result of this, the Kibaha District Commissioner, Ms. Halima Kihemba, inspected the abattoir and ordered the immediate closure of the facility, citing its dire state and unsanitary condition as reasons. This forced Dr. Christine Ishengoma, the Regional Commissioner, to intervene after Kibaha residents complained of lack of meat in the town. On the 2nd of December 2009, he directed the Town council to immediately 1) Repair the abattoir or 2) Keep the facility open temporarily pending major repairs and/or the construction of the new facility. To date, the old abattoir has been renovated and yet construction of another new abattoir is being undertaken (see before and after pictures on page 4).

CHAIN OF EVENTS

PF provides training and support to 18 KNC members in 2008 to conduct Social Accountability Monitoring



KNC's Social Accountability Monitoring analysis reveals poor prioritisation and under-spending of funds. In particular, they find out that although 19,497,178/- was set aside to renovate the town's abattoir, the facility was dilapidating and in an unhygienic condition creating a health hazard for the locals.



KNC advocacy creates interest from stakeholders including journalists who run the abattoir story on television and a daily newspaper.



The Kibaha District Commissioner orders the abattoir closed for being in a dire state and a health hazard.



The Regional Commissioner intervenes after Kibaha residents complain of lack of meat in the town by ordering the Town council to immediately repair the abattoir and construct a new facility.



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