



Networking for Poverty Eradication and Good Governance

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In this Issue

Social Watch Report Launched	2
Commonwealth Heads asked to fund Civil Society	3
Civil Society Petition to CHOGM	3
DENIVA's input into the PEAP review	4
Resource Centre updates	5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Consultative meetings on social protection research findings between Government, private sector and CSOs

Mid-term review Koboko (9th-16th December).

Welcome to the 18th edition of the DENIVA E-newsletter. This newsletter highlights issues at the Secretariat, in the MOs and the entire country. As usual we are glad to share with you the events that took place in the month of November 2007 and encourage the MOs and well-wishers to share their events in the newsletter.

This month.....

During this month, CHOGM finally came to Kampala. It was a colourful affair with all the British royalty walking our streets.

For Civil society, the Commonwealth People's Forum was successfully held and a communiqué prepared to feed into the Heads of Government meeting. The Social watch report was also launched during the CPF. Highlights of these are part of this month's newsletter. We request members to share their CPF experiences with us for next month's issue.

Doreen Kansime

COMMONWEALTH PEOPLE'S FORUM ENDS WITH A COMMUNIQUE TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

After months of preparations the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting finally came to Kampala. The meeting was however not the only thing being anticipated for the month of November.

The other was the Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF), which was eagerly anticipated by members of the Civil Society.

The meeting which started on the 19th of November ended on 22nd of the same month. Various workshops were held on the different issues that affect the civil society, from these, a communiqué was prepared for the Heads of government on the needs of the civil society.

The eleven page communiqué called the, 'Kampala Civil Society Statement to the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting' called for partnership between governments and the civil society to improve the lives of the Commonwealth citizens.

It also called for increase action towards the Millennium Development Goals, to look into human settlements particularly the increase in urban areas and address the problems that come with Climate change.

The communiqué also covers financing for development energy for development, education, health, HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, trade negotiations, gender and good governance among other things. Lets hope this will go along way in realising people's potential.

2. The Social Watch report

Social Watch Report 2007 Launched

The World Social Watch report 2007 was successfully launched during the recently ended Commonwealth Peoples' Forum on 20th November at Hotel Africana, Kampala.

The report launched by Mr. Obiga Kanya from the ministry of Internal Affairs, focuses on the universal right to social protection and security particularly for those who cannot access programmes such as the social security funds or other safety nets.

Mr. Okanya called on commonwealth governments to provide total social security for all citizens including the 90% living in rural areas in the case of Uganda.

He also called upon government to provide social security for those in the informal sector and those who work outside of the civil sector and the formal sector who constitute only 20% of the population in gainful employment.

Mr. Okanya added that social security issues were not only an issue for government but also for organised civil society right from the grass root levels.

Adding to what Mr. Okanya had said, DENIVA's Executive Director Professor Kwesiga said that it was about time development indicators moved from just economic and political to include the social issues.

Professor Kwesiga said that issues of social security like gender equity; access to basic services like health and education should also be measured together with the GDP and the per capita income.

He called upon civil society to take up the responsibility of speaking for those people who are most affected by social factors and have no fall back plan.

Civil society, he said, should highlight their plight through all possible avenues after carrying out a thorough examination of the factors that make them vulnerable.

The Professor called upon governments and civil society to consider the Social Watch Report and domesticate its recommendations.

The report, which is produced by the International Social Watchers Network, formed in 1995 highlights key social protection issues, which include education, health, water and sanitation, gender equity, sexual and reproductive health and people participation among others.

(Article ideas from, GEM news, an independent publication from the 2007 Commonwealth People's Forum)



Mr. Obiga Kanya launching the Social Watch report 2007 during CPF

3. About the CPF....

COMMONWEALTH HEADS ASKED TO FUND CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil Society organisations have called upon the Commonwealth Heads of Government to provide adequate funding to civil society activities allocated from the national budgets.

Members of civil society asked the Commonwealth Heads of Government to strengthen the political will in guaranteeing a relevant and independent role for the civil society, by providing adequate funding allocated from the national annual budget with accountability measures.

This was during a DENIVA organised workshop in the just concluded Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF).

The Heads of Government were also encouraged to aid the legislation of just laws, promote fair trade, fight corruption, help their countries achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), promote local democracy and also fight laws and policies on things such as terrorism which infringe on people's rights.

Civil society was as well asked to embrace genuine civic participation if it is to realise people's participation.

According to participants, genuine participation could be achieved through civic education and creating space as opposed to manipulation. It could also be achieved through working together as the civil society sector to influence government and donor policies.

At the end of the workshop, a civil society petition was adopted demanding a standard minimum percentage of the Commonwealth government's annual budget to be directly remitted as support to qualifying CSOs playing critical roles in society. This would guarantee a relevant and independent role of the civil society sector.

This petition fed into the communiqué for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

DENIVA partnered with MS Uganda, Network of Ugandan Researchers & Research Users (NURRU), Uganda Advocacy Consortium and Individualland in organising this workshop.

Civil Society Organisations Petition to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Uganda Adds a Voice to Civic Action in the Commonwealth Year 2007

“Refining practical monitoring mechanisms” to enable governments become responsive to citizens' demands

To guarantee a relevant and independent role of the civil society sector in Commonwealth countries, there must be commitment from governments to contribute to the financial independence of their own checks, counter-checks and balances.

We therefore demand, that the Commonwealth's Good Governance monitoring mechanism be amended by a “conditio sine qua non”-criterion which assesses, if a standard minimum percentage of the national annual budget is directly remitted as support to qualifying CSOs playing critical roles in society.

As an additional measure we demand for a Civil Society funding basket on Commonwealth level.

The Commonwealth is tasked with the duty to guarantee that member countries comply with the set standards.

A task force will have to be charged with the task to work out guidelines on how governments have to adopt this aspect into their budgeting process and how they will have to report on progress in this crucial matter of good governance.

4. DENIVA and the PEAP review...**DENIVA'S INPUT INTO THE PEAP REVIEW.**

As part of DENIVA's effort to take part in the PEAP review process, one of the issues being looked at is trade particularly in relation to poverty reduction.

It has therefore conducted research, training and dialogues with its members on issues of development concern pertaining to trade.

These have been done to ascertain whether expectations by government and other stakeholders can be fulfilled through critical analysis of the agricultural sector, private sector, and industries among others, so as to improve people's livelihood.

Through these, DENIVA has noted that Government developed a trade policy aimed at poverty reduction, promoting employment, enhancing economic growth and increasing export diversification.

The objectives of this trade policy have been pursued through continuing liberalisation, deregulation, privatisation and participation in regional agreements particularly COMESA and East African Community.

However, despite these efforts there are concerns about competitiveness, efficiency in domestic production, level of domestic and foreign investment in export-oriented activities, and ultimately the growth of goods and services to ensure that the benefits are broadly distributed so as to ultimately reduce poverty.

It is about these issues that DENIVA made extensive research and dialogues that are the basis for the proposals for input into the proposed 5-Year Development Plan. The plan is to have six major objectives namely:

- ?? To uplift household standards of living
- ?? To enhance the quality and availability of gainful employment
- ?? To improve social, economic and trade infrastructure
- ?? To develop efficient, innovative and internationally competitive industries
- ?? To develop and optimally exploit the natural resource base and ensure environmental and economic sustainability
- ?? To strengthen good governance and improve human security

Although DENIVA's focus is on trade (objective 3), the proposed holistic approach also makes input into the achievement of other objectives, in as much as they are critical for effective trading.

In approaching trade issues, DENIVA suggests, enhancing agricultural productivity, improving the marketing processes for both farmers and traders through linkages and value addition among others.

Additionally DENIVA encourages support for the private sector through infrastructure, financial services, commercial justice, business registration, land registration, and effective frameworks within private and public sector institutions.

Issues of East African Federation and also the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in relation to trade, should also be addressed.

These suggestions will be part of DENIVA's input into the PEAP review process.



**Development Network of
Indigenous Voluntary
Associations**

P. O. Box 11224 Kampala
Off Makerere Road, Kagugube
Zone, Block 9, Plot 490 (Near
Law Development Centre),
Kampala—Uganda

Phone: +256 -414- 530575/540189
Fax: +256- 41- 531236
E-mail: info@deniva.or.ug

www.deniva.or.ug

DENIVA is a Ugandan Network of Non –Governmental and Community Based Organizations (NGOs/CBOs) providing a platform for a collective action and voice to voluntary local associations to strongly advocate for creation of more opportunities for people and NGO participation in the development of Uganda.

DENIVA's Values

Openness, Equality, Trust, People participation, Tolerance, Teamwork, Justice, Sharing and Listening

DENIVA's Vision- “A civil society promoting openness, tolerance and responsiveness as basis of sustainable development.”

DENIVA's Mission “To be a Network of Indigenous voluntary Associations influencing Poverty Reduction and Good Governance processes and strategies through mobilising diverse experiences, knowledge and skills of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Uganda onto a common platform of action”.

Please send your comments and inquiries to info@deniva.or.ug



Dear researcher,

The DENIVA Information/Resource Centre obtained a number of information materials during the month of October which might be relevant to you. These include:

GEM News Issue 1 and 2

CHOGM: Our demands and expectations

The Commonwealth resounds

Civil Society Position Paper on the National Budget proposals for FY 2007/08

Social Watch Report 2007: In dignity and rights (Overview)

Social Watch Report 2007: In dignity and rights

Good Donorship in Times of AIDS

Country Self-Assessment: The way we see ourselves

These and more publications can be accessed from the Information/Resource Centre during working hours that is 9.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm-5.00pm Mondays to Fridays. Closed on Weekends and Public holidays.

By Isaak Lumbuye