

Together in supplication; staffs congregate in dedicative prayers

The morning of the 13th day of the New Year commenced differently at the ORPP headquarters with inter-faith staff prayers in the fourth floor boardroom. The prayer session convened by the Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu, was meant to dedicate the Office to God's guidance and intervention at its critical time of general election preparations

Top clerics of the Kenya Assemblies of God church (KAG), Archbishop Philip Kitoto and Bishop Stephen Kuria presided over the prayers. In his sermon referenced on biblical verse of Psalms 23, assured despite challenges that may face ORPP, it is destined for great year as Almighty watches over all. "I proclaim that God we serve diligently will fight any battle that may confront us. Let us all be the vessel to be used in our work for His glory", noted Arch. Kitoto in his sermon titled "He is our shepherd". His counterpart Kuria saying that the clergy had



Archbishop Philip Kitoto of Kenya Assemblies of God (KAG) presides over the prayers at ORPP headquarters

"Nothing much we can do without God emphasised Assistant Florence Biryra with her counterpart Assistant Registrar Ali A. Surraw noting the import of prayers in an out of seasons. The Registrar urged staff to re-look at their connection with their Almighty even as they serve in different personal and work capacities.

"We have found it wise as Management to come together in prayers for God's guidance to this Office. Registry informed. We know we have experienced in recent past very unfortunate happenings. This is just one of a series of many of such we will have in future across faiths", the



Registrar (left) and Assistant Registrar during the prayer session

Staff proclaimed 2022 as year of greatness in their service with God's enablement as referenced on the day's oration. "We look forward to this and many more togetherness in prayers", noted Victor Matheka of Compliance department during the session. "Intercede for us" pithily pointed Ezekiel Obonyo, the Coordinator in-charge of the Coast region.

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Staff members during the Office prayers at ORPP headquarters

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“We appreciate the preachers of the day for word that has spiritually renewed us as individuals and as an institution. We look forward to much more”, noted Anastacia Kaberere while giving a vote of thanks. The session organised by Human Resources Department.

Pictorial

ORPP teams in 6 counties for peace fora

A section of staff lead by respective head of regions, will participate in peace forums from 24th January to early February, 2022. A select officers from headquarters will team up with their counterparts in the counties of; Mombasa, Nakuru, Kitui, Isiolo, Kisumu, Uasin Gishu and Nyeri for the fora. The initiative targeting varied stakeholders in the regions is geared towards championing peace and tolerance in the run up to the 2022 general election.

(read more of these fora in next edition)



Siasa Place officials during courtesy call to the Registrar



Green Thinking Action Party officials receive full registration



A section of Universal Unity Party officials receive full registration certificate on 14th January 2022 at ORPP headquarters



Positioning Young Women Leadership programme conducted by the Office on 20th January 2022 at Semara hotel, Machakos

Resource Centre solution in the offing to ease virtual information access, enhance corporate history archival

The Resource Centre is developing an online portal to help in access of both manual and digital-based information and provides a repository for ORPP classified materials. The portal already basic set up is available on the Local Area Network (LAN) for internal use and is now awaiting necessary internal public input and approvals.

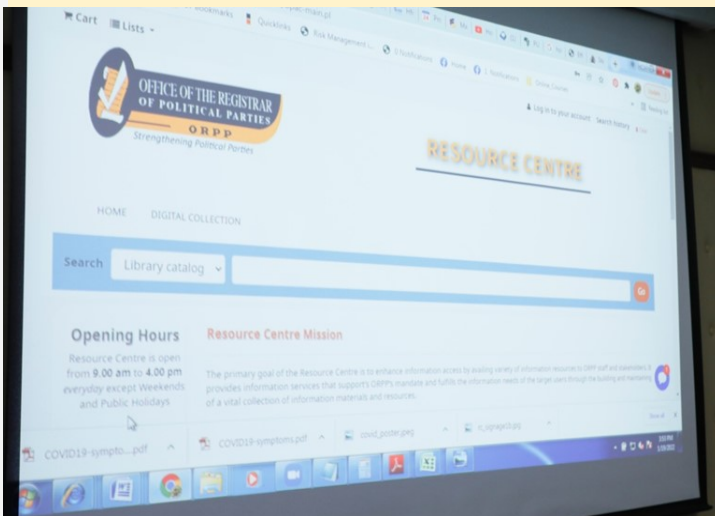
It contains two main categorisation- general bibliographies of the centre's collection and part of ORPP's institutional repository. In each of the categories, there are various modules for search, users' registration, access control levels, statistics and feedback avenues from the users. The system seeks to enhance efficiency and convenience in access and retrieval of available information, including any manual or digital subscriptions



A section of team going through the Resource Centre system demonstration at ORPP 1st floor boardroom

“It is important to have a session for us to go through the initial phase and provide input before the system is presented for necessary approvals and to the rest of staff before roll-out”, noted Joseph Kanja, head of Planning department. His counterpart Abdirahman Hussein appreciating the effort noting that the portal is a step to the direction of actualising Office strive of establishing the Resource Centre. “ As we move on and even create public access links as guided, let us incorporate input of the deliberations and continually collaborate with ICT for the necessary technical advice to better such an important system”, noted Yatic Kevin of Finance department. It was also observed the need to finalise the draft

The Office mooted the process of establishing a Resource Centre in 2019 to act as information hub on matters related to mandate of the Office. So far, milestones such as allocation of space, recruitment of substantive Librarian and acquisition of some resources have been made. Collaboration with the Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC) is being explored to broaden the information resources for the Centre.



A screen display of Resource Centre portal developed by the Librarian

The Resource Centre in-charge, Beatrice Amollo, on the 19th January, 2022 run some departments/units that comprised Finance, Planning, Corporate Communication and ICT through the operations of system. In the formulation of the space, she noted that security, necessary work flows and necessary back-ups are factored in line with system development tenets. “This milestone we are about to attain is important even as I call on staff to make use of the Resource and benefit from what is already a considerable physical and multi-media materials”, noted the Librarian.

ORPP part in forum forming Women Coordinating Committee on elections

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) was among the lead institutions that witnessed establishment of a Women Coordinating Committee on Elections (WCC) in a forum held on 14th January, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza, Nairobi.

The 7-member team has its membership drawn from representation of various public and non-state organizations led by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). Some of its tasks deliberated and agreed during the meeting inter alia are the following:

- a) To collaborate with IEBC to formulate appropriate strategies and targeted programmes to enhance monitoring and evaluation of participation of women throughout the electoral cycle while pooling resources;
 - b) To support in development and distribution of women targeted voter information and communication materials;
 - c) To collaborate with IEBC in conducting voter education for members of their representative groups;
- Encourage member organizations to apply for accreditation as election observers and voter education provider for all activities across the electoral cycle.

Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu in her remarks made by the Senior Administrator, Jane Njeri who represented her in the forum, pointed out the disproportionate participation of women in politics over the world visa-vis the world's women population. "A global study that was carried out in 2019 indicated participation of women in national level Parliaments was only 24% which accounted for 8% of national leaders", cited a recent report. Such she noted, only arguments the fact that there are unique challenges that women grapple with in their effort to participate especially in politics.

She noted of the deliberate efforts ORPP had put in place in creating positive and safe space for women to participate in politics. For instance, in order for a political party to be registered, it must meet the conditions spelt out in section 7 of the Political Parties Act, 2011 which among others, requires that Special Interest Groups are incorporated in their respective governing organs and membership register, failure to which there are sanctions including a provisionally registered party not to attain full registration".

The Registrar emphasized continual inspections that Office undertakes to ensure that political parties' have structures to enable women actively engage in the internal affairs of political parties including in governing organs. In addition, she informed of ORPP's robust capacity building forums run for women aspirants. "These fora aim at sensitizing the women about the constitution and other electoral laws in order to enhance their readiness to participate in politics and also scale up their personal development and leadership skills so that they can successfully engage in the political arena and actualize their political ambitions", the Registrar noted. Adding that women should hold one another hands to benefit in efforts of various players like on the Coordination Committee that will bolster women potential and capabilities to not only vie successfully for political positions but also influence the formulation of policies that will positively impact the lives of Kenyans.

Notable speakers who also spoke on varied facets on the subject of the forum's deliberations were among others: IEBC's Vice Chairperson Juliana Cherera, Commissioner Francis Wanderi and Joyce Ekuam Director, Voter Education, Partnerships and Communication. Some of the institutions present and whose representatives will sit in the WCC are; Women Empowerment, Badili Kenya, Mzalendo Trust, Legal Sisters, The University of Nairobi and Humming Bird Initiative with IEBC as ex-officio.

Moments of the end of year staff retreat, 2021



Memories of fallen colleague still pervades ORPP

Fond memories still linger many at the Office of Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) on remembering gallant departed colleague Alice Gichaga who passed away on 24th December, 2021. It was a battle brazenly borne as staff members had rallied behind the call for support during Gichaga's illness period and subsequently their overwhelming contributions and involvement in the entire process of laying her to rest. She was buried at Muthengera sub-location, Igua Miti Ward in Laikipia West sub-county on 7th January, 2022, a day preceded by a requiem mass at her worship church at Buruburu Phase 1, Presbyterian Church of East Africa



Staff members (standing) during Alice's requiem mass at Buruburu Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), Nairobi

External stakeholders and staff alike still recount the work and welfare-oriented interactions they had with the late colleague with most still finding it difficult to bear "I still remember her vividly especially as I serve at the Registrar's office", Josephine Wanjiru, an Office Administrator recollected in conversation with this *Bulletin* desk. "It is quite shocking but we should try to come to terms with the turn of event and as a tradition of this Office, offer her a befitting send-off", noted John Macharia, the Chairperson of the burial preparatory committee during one of the burial preparatory meetings.

Moving tributes were put forth by family, neighbours, colleagues and friends, painting a picture of a well-deserved person who lived and served in diversity of social and work portfolios with ultimate commitment. "Sadly we lost a dutiful, foresight and forthright colleague. Alice remains in the roll of critical personnel that contributed to the process making the ORPP, an independent Office we are today. She was a professional figure whose ability to manage disparate internal and external stakeholders' demands and orientations stood out", noted Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu in her tribute during the burial. The Registrar further thanked staff for support to the late. "I express sincere gratitude to your voluntary individual support to the departed colleague... The support for one another is encouraged not only in trying times but in good times", said the Registrar in



Registrar eulogizes the late Alice during her burial

The late Wanjiru Gichaga who had also been crowned Head of State Commendation (HSC), until her demise, designated as the Senior Office Administrator Office at the Registrar's office where she had served for over a decade.