

## ORPP sheds light on change of officials and educates on political parties' governance

**T**he Office of the Registrar of Political Parties has been in the better part of May in national discourse following the decision on Jubilee Party leadership.

In a bid to put things right into perspective and counter malformation that were peddled on the subject, the Office rolled out public information messaging through the media and official platforms to inform the public on the limited role of ORPP on the matter as change officials and resolution of any dispute is within the concerned political party in line with its governance structure and constitution. The Registrar and Assistant Registrars engaged mainstream on the matter through talk shows, pressers and interviews.



Registrar of Political Parties (second left) during a presser at ORPP boardroom headquarters on 23rd May, 2023

"We would like to categorically put it to the public that the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties does not have a hand on the leadership of Political Parties, we register and regulate parties and affirm to their party constitution in

accordance to the laws of Political Parties Act." said Registrar of Political Parties in a presser held on 23rd May at ORPP boardroom headquarters.

"Right now Political Parties Dispute Tribunal (PPDT) is handling the Jubilee Party leadership matter. We sent a letter notifying them on the suspension of two leaders which the party wrote to us through the proper procedure." added registrar. "We currently have 90 registered political parties that the Office serves and disputes are always there and they follow due process to solve them. We urge Jubilee party to find amicable way of solving their dispute. We also urge the press to clarify factual information from us before relaying it to the public out there." concluded the registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu.

### The Office automation bolstered by Digitization policy on cards

**S**ession to review ORPP Career Progression Guidelines to define the career path of its human capital while aligning competencies to the attainment of Office mandate.

"The review is useful in establishing sound and unified human capital practices. This is aimed at improving staff recruitment, capacity building, placement, career planning, and succession management "said Asst. Registrar, CPA Florence Biryra during the opening

session.



A section of ORPP team during a review meeting of Career Progression Guidelines held on 29th-31st May, 2023.

The Asst. Registrar further noted that the framework is an essential reference in Office performance management that will also help put in place other HR-bound measures such as sanctions, rewards, and career improvement plans. The HR instruments must be interlinked for seamless coordination and practices, said one of the consultants.

"Public Service practices have a long history and are ever evolving. It is advisable that ORPP shapes these instruments for best fit to its mandate but align with public service guidelines", said an officer from Public Service Commission of Kenya, also part of the experts guiding the process.

**ORPP reviews its staff career progression instruments** on page 2...

...Continue from page 1

**F**unctional ORPP Resource Centre offers you a wide and rich collection of online and physical information resources. To better this, the Centre, last week led in the development Digitization Policy to solidify ORPP's pursuit of digital transformation.

Making available political parties' membership on multi-online platforms such as eCitizen, in-house IPPMS, and mobile service- \*509# set the pace for the larger ORPP's digitalization goal. Automation of other services is planned. En-

gage us via [www.orpp.or.ke/libraryservice](http://www.orpp.or.ke/libraryservice) or email: [library@orpp.or.ke](mailto:library@orpp.or.ke) for access details. The Centre strives to give staff and stakeholders cutting-edge collection using modern systems and structures for knowledge creation, sharing and preservation.



## Urafiki wa kishirika: Tanzania -Registrar of Political Parties on a study visit to ORPP

**O**RPP and Registrar of Political Parties, Jamhuri ya Tanzania have long shared history on their establishment, regulatory instruments, approach, and collaboration. The Registrar of Political Parties played host to her counter Hon. Francis S. K. Mutungi, the Registrar of Political Parties - Tanzania, and his team from 22nd to 24th May, visiting with a focus to learn on Kenya's ICTs systems and legal framework in regulating political parties.

"ORPP is delighted to have you as with further our long-standing partnership. Tanzania's ORPP is a bedrock in es-

regulatory agenda, to work collaboratively with all stakeholders, especially political parties," said Ali A. Surraw, Asst. Registrar -Regulation and Compliance.

The two teams shared varied perspectives similarities and points of departure in their regulatory role based on their country's political history. 'I am impressed by ORPP tailor-



Hon. Francis S.K. Mutungi, Registrar of Political Parties and his team at the ORPP boardroom headquarters on 23rd May, 2023

making appropriate measures for political parties to thrive in Kenya. ORPP robust legal and ICT reforms and having in place appellate organs like PPDT are great insights helpful and timely to us as we currently strive to reform the political parties' regulatory instruments, "appreciated Tanzania's Registrar.

establishing good governance in the EA region since its establishment ahead of others in 1992. ORPP's impactful initiatives in ICT reforms and encompassing regulatory instruments stem from learnings we have gained from you", noted Registrar, Ann Nderitu.

The visit adds to several institutions that benefitted from ORPP regulatory model. During the visits, the Tanzanian officials will also hold engagements with PPDT Kenya, Political Parties Liaison Committee of Kenya, Konza Technopolis eCitizen.

"I encourage you as you set off reforms in political parties'



## Other ORPP moments of the month in brief

### ORPP convenes political dialogue with parties in PPLC

Selfless political dialogue is important to steer the progressive politics of the country. Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu observed this at the opening of a two-day Political Parties Liaison Committee of Kenya (PPLC) political dialogue forum in Nakuru.



Registrar of Political Parties addressing PPLC steering committee during Political dialogue for a in Nakuru on 10th May 2023

Political Parties Liaison Committee is a dialogue platform comprising of ORPP, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), and fully registered political parties. The ORPP-convened forum was supported by Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD).

### The Office holds SIGs and women groups sensitization at grassroots level

Slightly over 3% was the increase of women elected in the 2022 (12%) general election related to 2017 (8.7%). Premised on this, ORPP is keen on collaborating with other stakeholders to capacity-build women for leadership in political parties.

ORPP's South Rift regional office held a women's forum Friday 12th May in Nakuru County and women groups and leaders in the region. The forum was part of grassroots interventions to improve the representation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), as one of the shortfalls of SIGs' participation in elective positions.

Supporting the forum were, The National Gender and Equality Commission-Kenya, Media Council of Kenya (MCK) and National Legal Aid (NLAS) which Office is indebted.



Participants

The ORPP, Nakuru Regional Office organized a post 2022 general election with political parties' officials, members and relevant stakeholders drawn from Nyandarua county. Political Parties present included JUBILEE, NARC-KENYA, ODM, TSP and UDA. Stakeholders participated on the forum were, IEBC, Maendeleo ya Wanawake, Representatives from youth and Persons living with Disabilities in the county. The forum was evaluation of the General Elections 2022.



ORPP South Rift regional coordinator John Mwaura during the evaluation of the General Election forum in Nyandarua .

In the Forum, performance of political parties, candidates and sourcing for feedback on the gaps and challenges experienced were deliberated. The forum was held on Friday 2nd ,June 2023 at Lake Ol Bolosat Resort, Nyandarua county.

## ORPP, presents in the “Walk the Talk” launch, a report highlighting inclusion short-falls

**O**RPP joined stakeholders in the launch of The Oslo Center "Walk the Talk", a report on women, youth, and PWDs electoral processes in Kenya. Key findings in the report include gaps in inclusive legislation, inadequate support structures of SIGs in political parties, two-gender rule shortfalls, and SIGs' lack of awareness of their political rights.

The Registrar of Political Parties in her guest address, outlined the importance of SIGs inclusion in political parties' governance and the strides ORPP is taking, among them administering the Political Parties Fund and making proposals for review of legal framework pertaining political parties governance.



Registrar of Political parties (far left) together with officials of the Oslo Centre during the launch of “Walk the Talk” report on 3rd May in Nairobi.

She also informed of ORPP's ongoing grassroots civic education programme in Kajjado, West Pokot, Tana River and Laikipia counties and more scheduled ones. The fora are meant to heighten awareness on the role of parties, ideologies, Code of Conduct of political parties, and inclusion of SIGs in party processes, similarly reflected in some of the recommendations in the launched report.

### Forum Role of parties, ideologies, Code of Conduct of political parties, and inclusion of SIGs in party processes

## Finally “ORPP’s mentee baby” visits ORPP, meets Registrar

**M**eeet up with ORPP’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project student mentee, parent, and kin today at HQ. The Office adopted the course in January 2023 to sponsor the needy student, now in Form 1, through his schooling, identified from previous CSR engagements. The project dubbed Adopt, Educate Mentor (Adem) finances school tuition fees and other necessities from staff voluntary contributions.



Registrar of Political Parties presents a gift pack to Waren Kirai a mentee in the Adopt, Educate and Mentor (Adem) programme on 9th May at the Registrar's office.

"This Office resolved to take up this noble course as part of staff concern for the underprivileged in society. I urge you to do your best in your studies to transform your family and kin", Registrar ,Ann Nderitu advised the student during the meeting.

## Parties counselled in prudent utilization and reporting of Political Parties' Fund

**O**RPP held a sensitization forum on emerging issues for party officials of the political parties qualified for the Political Parties Fund, current Financial Year. The engagement sought to build capacity for officials for prudent utilization of the Fund for purposes intended under the Political Parties Act,2011 (PPA).

*Continue page 5...*



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"ORPP shall continue working with you to resolve any emerging issues and address any concerns relating to the distribution of the Fund in accordance with the PPA", noted the Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu during the session.



Registrar addresses participants during the utilization of Political Parties Fund forum on 18th May, 2023 in Nairobi.

Assistant Registrar of Political Parties CPA Florence Birya called on the party officials present to ensure the allocated funds are utilize in line with the approved work plans aligned with inclusion and citizenry participation programs required by law. Section 25 of PPA outlines 70% of the Fund reference to the total number of votes secured in the preceding election; 15% proportionately on the number of elected SIGs; 10% based on the total number of representatives elected and 5% for Administration expenses.

## ICT policy sharpened to reflect changing times

**T**he 2022 Amendments to the Political Parties Act provide for ORPP to establish simple, accurate, verifiable, secure, accountable, and transparent technology to process political parties' data and records.

This premised review of ORPP's ICT Policy and drafting of SOPs on 16th to 19th May 2023. The forum sought to alight the Policy and procedures to government priorities, re-engineer internal processes and emerging ICT advancements and realities.

The Policy covers the governance of ICT function; political parties' information systems; software and hardware management; network handling, access controls, risks identification and mitigation among others.

"This policy will help the Office enhance its systems to be responsive to data protection requirements while providing direction on how to improve and integrate with political parties' systems. This will also help us fill in gaps experienced in ORPP ICT practices to safeguard authenticity and integrity of systems geared towards Office full automation and our services offering" noted the Registrar, Ann Nderitu during the forum.

**"This policy will help the Office enhance its systems to be responsive to data protection requirements**



Head of ICT, R. Waitthaka presents during the development of ICT policy

The Registrar further urged the need to delineate responsibilities for system users' access & controls as well as the obligation of staff to accountably utilize ICT resources.

"This Office is committed to instating policies that speak to our regulatory role and cater to all processes and workflows. The ICT Policy review is part of Office continued ICT reforms that ORPP has implemented and improved our service delivery", noted Asst. Registrar, CPA Florence Birya during the session. The forum is part of ORPP's policy/manuals/SOPs review/development focus this FY for all its functional areas.

## ORPP on a learning session with USAID

ORPP joined stakeholders in a "Learning Session" on the 2022 General Election convened by USAID Kenya Office on 26th May. A broad spectrum of stakeholders present interrogated and gave proposals on means of "Improving Inclusion, Accountability, and Transparency in Electoral and Democratic Processes".

The Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu highlighted challenges to women's inclusion and participation such as actualizing the 2/3 gender principle; violence against women, patriarchal societal setup, and operationalization of the Election Campaign Finance Act, 2013 as some of the limitations towards political women leadership. "Part of ORPP's interventions the Office undertook in the run-up to General Election were, capacity building of party organs, country-wide sensitization of SIGs, monitoring compliance of parties for inclusion in nominations processes, assessment of SIGs inclusion threshold in political parties' membership among others", the Registrar informed.

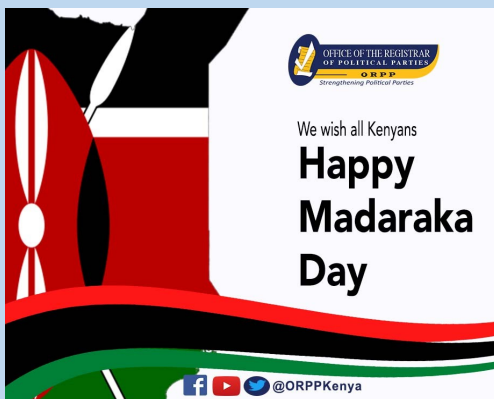
The discussion and analysis made by ORPP and other institutions present will help inform evidence-based multi-stakeholder programming to strengthen the country's democratic space.



### PICTURE SPEAK



Left: Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu on a morning show at Spice fm on 26th May (Right) Assistant Registrar of Political Parties Ali A. Surraw on a morning show at K24 TV on 29th May discussions were based on Political Parties governance and Party leadership .



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