

EACSOE E-Newsletter
August 2008

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second edition of the East Africa Civil Society Organisation Forum (EACSOE) E-newsletter. The newsletter will and shall continue to feature the Eastern Access to Justice Network (EA-A2J Network) Section as you will read else where in this E-newsletter until EA-A2J Network is independent. This month EACSOE continues to bring you more information that focuses on strengthening and empowering the Civil Society Organizations in the region on East African Community, (EAC) it's institution East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and a special insight on Zimbabwe by the SADC national civil society. We shall also feature training opportunity as means of capacity building for the Civil Society Organisations offered by East African Support Unit for NGO (EASUN). The first edition of the EACSOE E-Newsletter sent last month has gain readership, many of our readers have sent us feedback and comments. We thank you all. We further continue to appeal to many of our readers out there to send in their comments to enable us improve the E-newsletter.

I wish you a happy reading.

Newsletter Editor.

EASUN PLANS THE NEXT FOD COURSE

EASUN is happy to announce cycle "L" of the Facilitation of Organisational Development (FOD) course, which starts in November 2008. Please note that only 20 places are available in this course, which has become quite popular with NGOs in the region. EASUN would like to note that the processes, tools and conceptual base of the course

do require a solid formal educational background for effective mastery.

FOD is a unique training course for the practice of Organization Development that builds an organization's capacity to manage its complex levels and development. This course promotes and strengthens facilitation skills and leaderships that support the development of NGOs as organizations that are conscious of the need to add specific value to their institutional environments. The course is able to challenge the participants sufficiently with regard to the need for specific changes and development in the own institutions. FOD is designed for Directors, Programme Officers, and managers of NGO to facilitate organizational development.

The course is conducted in three one-week residential modules spread over a period of eight months as follows:

Module I of cycle K will take place from 2nd – 8th November 2008.

The dates for module II and III are not set yet but will take place in the coming year 2009.

FOD is facilitated by the most qualified and experienced Organisational Development (OD) practitioners in East African and well known throughout the continent. In addition, graduating from the course gives you an opportunity to participate in follow up practice strengthening activities.

For more information about FOD course overview and application forms, please contact Lydia Bwenda FOD Course Coordinator at lydia.bwenda@easun-tz.org You are encouraged to fill in immediately and submit to EASUN, together with your updated CV. Kindly be informed that the deadline for the receipt of the applications is 15th September 2008 to enable EASUN effective plan.

ZERO DRAFT PROTOCOL REACHES EPIC STAGE

EAC is committed to instituting the Protocol to operationalise the extended jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice.

The EAC held a one-day follow-up regional workshop on the Zero Draft protocol to operationalise the extended Jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) on July 25, 2008. The EAC seized the moment to listen and incorporate comments from representatives of various entities including Partner States, Its organs, EAC Institutions, and legal persons. Towards this end, the EAC will hold national consultation in Rwanda and Burundi before calling for a final regional meeting to review the comments on the current draft.

East African Civil Society Forum (EACSOF), was represented by Program Assistant in charge of Regional Integration, Ms. Joyce Kevin Abalo. Other EALS stakeholders at the meeting were: Dr. Yitiha Simbeye, Ms. Cheggy Mziray, CEO, TLS, and Commissioner (Ms). Joaquine De Mello who was part of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

To review the Draft protocol of the extended Jurisdiction of the EACJ, please visit the EALS Website, www.ealawsociety.org

IRCC MEETING HELD IN DAR AS PARTNERS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR PROCESS

Non-state actors have a fundamental role to play in ensuring regional integration is strengthened, an Inter Regional Co-ordinating Committee meeting held on July 18, 2008 in Dar es Salaam has learnt.

The meeting brought together various regional bodies – East African Community (EAC), Southern Africa

Development Community (SADC), the India Ocean Commission (IOC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Inter Governmental Authority on Drought (IGAD) and regional civil society forums. Its theme was “**Taking integration in the ESA-IO region forward**”. EACSOF was represented at the talks by Mr. Petro Aham, Steering Committee from Tanzania.

The meeting took place as the programming process of the 10th European Commission European Development Fund (EDF) takes shape, considering the state of the Economic Partnerships Negotiations (EPA). EAC has last year signed an interim framework EPA agreement with the E.U. In the deliberations, the need for structured dialogue between non-state actors viz the alliance of the private sector and civil society was recommended. Various strategies aimed at improving cross-border trade in the region were shared. In his speech, EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr Juma Mwapachu called for improvement to factors that contribute to low productivity in agriculture and support for early warning systems.

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN POST-ELECTION DISPUTE RESOLUTION

EISA held a two day conference on the role, opportunities and challenges for civil society engagement in the resolution of post-election disputes on 21st and 22nd June 2008 in Dar-es Salam, Tanzania. This conference was attended by CSO representatives from 14 Countries across Africa. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have over the last decade actively engaged in promoting credible elections and democratic governance in many countries on the continent. This engagement is manifested in a range of actions

including involvement in monitoring and observing the electoral process, mobilising the citizenry to actively participate in different aspects of the political processes by means of civic and voter education and facilitating citizen participation in governance by capacitating them to actively propagate for responsive governance, transparency and accountability from their elected representatives across all levels of government.

Despite these laudable developments in terms of an increased number of elections across the continent, concerns are being raised over an emerging trend regarding the credibility and acceptability of the elections in certain countries on the continent. These questions and doubts over the credibility of some of these elections are due largely to the fact that the outcomes of these elections have negatively affected the countries in questions, in some instances throwing these countries into orgies of unimaginable violence and the destruction of lives and property.

The consultation took a close look at a few of the so called 'democratic' elections that have taken place in the last few months all over the continent including Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya, Lesotho, Zanzibar *et.c.* Rather than focus on what went wrong, this meeting brought emphasis to what civil society actually did to help in situations such as these where the election process went wrong. This acted as a guide to Civil Society in other Countries.

Participant expressed concerns with the manner in which the Judiciary has dispensed with cases of election related disputes as well as a loss of confidence in the judicial system. They also expressed concern on the adverse effects and consequences of these post-election disputes and violence had on the political stability of the continent,

the socio-economic wellbeing of our people and the loss of public trust in the electoral process across the continent.

Among other recommendations, the consultation resolved that:

- The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their Member States must accord Civil Society the necessary Institutional recognition and space to engage in all efforts, including ongoing processes in Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya and Lesotho, aimed at resolving election related disputes.
- Civil Society across the continent should proactively engage the respective continental, regional and national structures and authorities respectively and ensure that such engagement should be utilized constructively.
- The resolution of election-related conflicts should not undermine the expressed will of the electorate and thereby result in loss of public confidence in the electoral process
- Civil Society must build its capacity on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution skills and develop a regional and continental pool of experts readily available for engagement across the continent as and when necessary.

SADC CIVIL SOCIETY SPEAK OUT ON ZIMBABWE

The Civil Society Organisations representing the three apex organisations in Southern Africa, namely SADC Council of NGOs (SADC-CNGO), Southern African Trade Union Coordinating Council (SATUCC) and Fellowship Of Christian Councils in

Southern Africa (FOCISSA), met on 27 to 28th of July 2008 in Braamfontein, South Africa. They discussed the situation in Zimbabwe, and the processes under way to address the deepening crisis as well as the current situation. They made the following observations;

That the threatening pre and post election dispensation in Zimbabwe, climaxed in the 27th June 2008 illegitimate Presidential run-of of elections;

The social, economic and political crisis characterised by increasing rates of human rights abuse, food insecurity, increasing levels of poverty, lack of rule of law is deepening.

That there is growing humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe;

That the growing international focus on Zimbabwe is a set back to efforts aimed at building a strong democratic Africa, free of dependence on external forces to solve its problems, to build institutional capacity and to resolve such conflicts;

They took cognisance of the processes and initiatives under way to respond to the situation, and in particular, the signing of the MOU creating the necessary momentum for the creation of dialogue and the movement towards resolution.

Regarding the MOU, they noted that it does represent a positive step forward and lays the basis for meaningful engagements. However, they note the following:

The process lacks inclusiveness, and it is insensitive to gender equity and balance, undermined by continued militarization of the country, lacks transparency and accountability processes;

The mediation process and structures should be improved to better enhance

delivery of a stable and a prosperous Zimbabwe.

For more information about this statement, visit www.crisiszimbabwe.org

EASTERN AFRICAN ACCESS TO JUSTICE NETWORK SECTION (EA-A2J NETWORK)

Welcome to EA-A2J Network, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the East Africa Access to Justice (EA A2J) Network Section. This Section would be used to share information on your organizations and/or initiatives. The EA-A2J Network as detailed in the first edition of the EACSOE E-newsletter was initiated in May 2005 at a workshop on Access to Justice organized by the East Africa Law Society in collaboration with the Canadian Bar Association (CBA). The Network aims to empower Civil Society Organizations working on Access to Justice and Legal Aid Service Provision. On behalf of East Africa Law Society (EALS) I wish to thank you for your interest and participation in the East Africa Access to Justice Network. Thank you for taking time out to meet and share with our team on your various activities.

We are currently developing a dedicated page on our Website for the Network, which we hope, should be up and running in the next week or so. We welcome articles and whatever input you may wish to share on any new developments and/or challenges to access to justice in your respective fields, this network is for you, by you. Once the web page is ready, briefs on the various member of this network can be found on the EALS website. Kindly update the forum coordinator, Ms. Njeri Kagucia on any topics you would like to be discussed on the forum at njeri@ealawsociety.org

**POLITE REMINDER ON THE E-
NEWSLETTER ARTICLE
CONTRIBUTION.**

EACSOF would like to remind you to send us your contributions in terms of news, written articles, CSOs activity updates to inform, educate and

empower CSOs in the region. In case you would also like to be included into our E-newsletter mailing list, Please send your contribution to the EACSOF Coordinator to Ms. Joyce Kevin Abalo at JAbalo@ealawsociety.org.

We thank you in Advance on your precious cooperation and collaboration