

A SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY TOOL EMPOWERED YOUTH GENERATION IN GOVERNANCE





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ACRONYMS

CAJ	: Commission of Administrative Justice
CDF	: Constituency Development Fund
CPSB	: County Public Service Board
CSC	: Community Score Card
CSO	: Civil Society Organization
EACC	: Ethics and Anti-corruption Authority
EYGG	: Empowered Youth Generation in Governance Project
IBA	: Independent Budget Analysis
OAG	: Office of Auditor General
ODPP	: Office of Director of Public Prosecution
PET	: Public Expenditure Tracking
PFM	: Public Finance Management
PSC	: Public Service Commission
TOC	: The Oslo Center

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NO	NAME	COUNTY	ORGANIZATION/POLITICAL PARTY
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3	Emma Kiptala	Baringo	United Democratic Alliance
4	Kevin Owala	Trans-Nzoia	Ford-Kenya
5	Esther Chacha	Migori	Orange Democratic Movement
6	Munyendo Maxwel	Kakamega	United Democratic Movement
7	Tasline Otieno	Homabay	Kenya African National Union
8	John Abukuse	Nairobi City	Amani National Congress
9	John Mueke	Kitui	Wiper Democratic Movement
10	Kenneth Lel	Nandi	Nandi County Youth Network
11	Mary Wambui	Nandi	Nandi County Youth Network

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It is our hope and belief that this social accountability publication will provide immense awareness and knowledge to the citizens to participate in their civic responsibility to demand accountability and better the service delivery and development of the Nation.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The youth demography in Africa and specifically in Kenya is an asset for the development of good governance and accountability. Though youth have been historically marginalized in political and policy decision-making, their creativity, innovation, and agility could be critical assets for influencing policy decision-making governance. One of the avenues of their contribution is holding the government at national and subnational levels accountable through social accountability mechanisms. Kenya's legal framework mandates and provides opportunities for citizens including youth to influence decisions by the government and ensure accountable implementation of the government's policies, programmes, and projects.

This is a social accountability tool that has been developed by youth active in politics

at the county level and in political parties. The tool encompasses the understanding of the concept of accountability, the legal framework guiding good governance and accountability in Kenya, the concept of public participation, social accountability tools, the conduct of citizen social audit, and the utility of petitions in public policy decision making. The tool also presents a sample community score card to guide on the practicality of social accountability at the community level.

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Social Accountability tool provides a framework for a citizen-led action to hold governments and service providers to account for the proper use of public resources. The youth being the majority in the population have a role to play in tracking and monitoring accountability in government. The social accountability tool has been developed by a youth taskforce to provide an avenue for their fellow youth to exercise their constitutional right to participate in decision-making and processes concerning their own development.

Accountability refers to the principles and practices that ensure public officials are responsible for their decisions, actions, and overall performance. It is a crucial aspect of a democratic practice as it ensures transparency, integrity, and trust in the government.

In a democracy, accountability serves to check and balance mechanisms to prevent abuse of power and corruption. It requires public officials to be answerable to the public and held to account for their actions. This can be achieved through various mechanisms such as financial audits, public inquiries, and performance evaluations.

Accountability in governance promotes good governance by fostering accountability, responsibility, and responsiveness. It enhances public trust and confidence in the government and ensures that public resources are used for the intended purpose of improving service delivery and wellbeing of the citizens.

There are various social accountability mechanisms and tools that are used in different settings. These include Community scorecards, Social Audits, Public Expenditure Tracking surveys, Independent Budget Analysis, Gender responsive budget analysis, public revenue monitoring, citizen charters, citizen report cards and public townhall hearings. This social accountability tool promotes two key approaches for the youth to hold government accountable. These approaches include the community scorecards and social audits to be applied in County Governments.



The Social Accountability tool provides a framework for a citizen-led action to hold governments and service providers to account for the proper use of public resources.

1.2 PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTABILITY

There are 4 Key Principles.

- i. Participation
- ii. Evaluation
- iii. Transparency
- iv. Feedback mechanisms

Participation- Public participation is aimed at improving the effectiveness of governance by involving citizens in governance, policy formulation, and decision-making processes. It was designed to promote transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of any modern government and of course, devolved and county governments.

Evaluation- provide feedback on the effectiveness of policies, programs, and services. It allows governments to identify successes and areas for improvement, enabling them to adjust their strategies and ensure that resources are used in the most effective way.

Transparency- promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their government is doing. Openness and transparency at county government levels are essential for a strong community. Direct civil society engagement and oversight are greatest at the local level, providing an opportunity of strengthening integrity and accountability through civic oversight.

Feedback mechanisms - Feedback is a two-way process, with citizens giving input on governance and service delivery processes, and the government providing feedback to citizens on their views in public engagement processes and any issues raised by the citizens. Feedback is important in public participation as it contributes to trust and confidence building between the government and citizens. However, to be effective it should be timely and communicated clearly in formats and means that are mutually accessible to citizens and the government.

1.3 CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING ACCOUNTABILITY.

Lack of transparency: Transparency is a crucial element of accountability, this leads to a lack of oversight, scarce accountability mechanisms, and unreliable data and information to the citizens making it impossible for the public to understand what government policy is being undertaken.

Limited access to information: Access to information is a key principle in achieving accountability. The Constitution lays great emphasis on public institutions making public policy information more accessible to the citizens. However, when information is asymmetrical, it hinders the citizens from actively engaging or participating in public policy. In some cases, relevant information needed to assess accountability may be restricted or inaccessible. This can occur due to classified or confidential information, data protection laws, or intentional efforts to withhold information. Limited access to information hampers the ability to hold individuals or governments accountable.

Weak regulatory frameworks: Inadequate or weak regulatory frameworks can undermine accountability processes. When laws, regulations, and enforcement mechanisms are insufficient or ineffective, it becomes easier for individuals and governments to act with impunity and avoid being held accountable.

Political interference: Accountability is often hindered by political interference, especially when powerful individuals or groups manipulate or influence the processes and institutions responsible for ensuring accountability. This can lead to selective enforcement, cover-ups, or lack of consequences for wrongdoing.

Public apathy and disengagement: Lack of public interest, apathy, or disengagement from governance processes can weaken efforts to promote and ensure accountability. When citizens are not actively involved in the governance process, it becomes easier for those in power to evade responsibility.



2.0 THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON ACCOUNTABILITY IN NATIONAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS IN KENYA

Governments are accountable to their citizens because they derive their power and authority from the people they govern. This means that governments have a responsibility to act in the best interests of their citizens, to respect their rights, and to be transparent and accountable for their actions.

Accountability helps to ensure that governments are acting in the best interests of their citizens and not engaging in corrupt or abusive practices. Further, accountability helps to promote transparency and openness in government, which can enhance public trust and confidence in the government.

2.1 THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA

The Constitution provides a legal framework for governing accountability in Kenya. Article 1 provides that all sovereign power is derived from the people; hence there is need to exercise that power judiciously and to the best interests of the people. Article 10 of the Constitution establishes the principles of governance, which includes the rule of law, democracy, participation of the people, accountability, and transparency.

Article 35 also guarantees the right to access information held by the state or any other person that is required for the exercise or protection of any right or fundamental freedom. This provision provides citizens, including the youth, with a legal basis to demand information

from their County and national governments.

Chapter 12 of the Constitution provides for principles and framework of public finance and how public finances should be utilized, in a prudent and responsible way. Further to this, there is established the Public Finance Management Act and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act.

Article 232 provides that public service should exercise ethics, efficient and economic use of resources, responsive, impartial, and equitable provision of resources, involvement of the people in policy making processes, accountability, and transparency for administrative acts.

Article 47 states that every person has the right to fair administrative action that is expeditious, lawful, efficient, reasonable, and procedurally fair. Therefore, anyone can move to court to challenge any decision of an administrative body.

The Constitution also establishes various independent institutions that are mandated to ensure accountability and transparency in government. These institutions include: **the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Auditor General, the Public Service Commission, and the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ), the Office of Director of Public Investigations, Assets Recovery Agency, Kenya National Human Rights Commission. The Office of the Data Commissioner** is also established vide the Data Protection Act. EACC and ODPP have the power

to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption and maladministration in government. PSC formulates a code of conduct for public servants and outlines the ethical standards and values they are expected to uphold; takes disciplinary actions. EACC investigates corruption cases, recovers assets obtained through corrupt means, prosecutes. The Auditor General audits all government accounts, to ensure funds are well used; reports to Parliament, PAC, investigates misappropriation of public funds. CAJ investigates complaints from members of the public about duty bearers; promotes and protects human rights; monitors the performance of government entities with respect to human rights and good governance. At the gamut of accountability is the doctrine of separation of powers; these independent commissions and offices are envisioned to be independent and should not receive any orders from any person to execute their mandate. All these check on the excesses of the Executive since power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Article 22 of the Constitution provides that every person has the right to institute court proceedings claiming that a right or fundamental freedom has been denied, violated or infringed, or is threatened. This gives people the right (locus standi) to approach court to challenge the procedures undertaken by public bodies.

2.2 COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ACT 2012

The County Governments Act 2012 provides for the establishment, composition, and functions of county governments in Kenya. The Act also provides for the powers and functions of county governments, which include the provision of basic services such as health, water, and sanitation, and the management of county resources. The Act also provides for public participation in the governance of county governments, which allows citizens, including the youth, to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

The Act also establishes the County Assembly and the County Executive as the two arms of the county government. The County Assembly is responsible for making laws and overseeing the work of the County Executive, while the County Executive is responsible for implementing county policies and managing county resources. The Act also provides for the establishment of the County Public Service Board, which is responsible for the recruitment and management of county government employees.

The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution provides for a distinction between functions

of the county governments and those of the National Government. There are also provisions for shared functions. It is important to know these functions so as to know which entity to hold accountable.

2.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



The constitution has bolstered public participation as a foundation pillar for governance and democracy in Kenya. Article 10, 118, 124, 201, 221 and 232 has guaranteed the right for citizens to participate in matters that affect their wellbeing.

Public participation refers to the active involvement of individuals, groups, or communities in decision-making processes that affect them and the broader public. It is a democratic principle that emphasizes the inclusion of diverse perspectives, promoting transparency, and ensuring that the public has a voice in shaping policies, projects, and actions that impact their lives. Public participation aims to bridge the gap between the government or other decision-making entities and the citizens they serve, fostering a sense of ownership, accountability, and legitimacy in the decision-making process. The areas in which citizens can participate include public participation in law making, budget making process, and oversight process. The tools for public participation include the submission of petitions, memorandums, and through public forums.

2.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURE

Public participation typically involves a series of steps or stages to ensure meaningful engagement and involvement of the public in



decision-making processes. While the steps may vary depending on the context and specific objectives, the success of public participation is largely determined by how thoroughly and thoughtfully it is planned. The procedure may include.

- **Planning and scoping:** In this initial stage, the purpose, goals, and scope of the public participation process are defined. The key issues, decisions, or policies to be addressed are identified, and the objectives of involving the public are clarified. The planning stage also includes determining the target audience, setting a timeline, and allocating necessary resources for the participation process.
- **Notification and outreach:** Once the planning stage is complete, efforts are made to inform the public about the participation opportunity. Various methods are employed to reach out to a diverse range of stakeholders, including public announcements, media releases, website postings, social media campaigns, and direct invitations. The goal is to raise awareness about the process and encourage participation.
- **Education and information sharing:** To ensure effective participation, it is essential to provide the public with relevant and

easy-to-understand information about the issues at hand. This stage involves developing educational materials, fact sheets, background documents, and other resources that help participants understand the subject matter. The information should be presented in a clear, accessible manner to facilitate informed discussions and decision-making.

- **Consultation and input gathering:** This stage focuses on actively engaging the public and soliciting their input. It may involve public meetings, workshops, focus groups, surveys, online forums, or other interactive platforms. The aim is to allow individuals and groups to express their opinions, ask questions, share concerns, and provide suggestions or alternatives. Feedback mechanisms are established to capture the input effectively.
- **Analysis and synthesis:** Once the input and feedback have been collected, the information is carefully analyzed and synthesized. Common themes, ideas, and concerns are identified, and the data is organized in a meaningful way. This stage may involve data coding, categorization, and summarization to make sense of the diverse range of perspectives shared by the public.
- **Integration and decision-making:** The input received from the public is integrated into the decision-making process. The decision-makers, whether they are government officials, organizations, or other entities, consider the public input alongside other relevant factors such as legal requirements, technical feasibility, and budget constraints. The aim is to strike a balance between public values and other considerations while making informed decisions.
- **Feedback and communication:** After decisions are made, it is crucial to communicate the outcomes to the public. This stage involves sharing the results, explaining how the public input influenced the decision-making process, and providing a rationale for the final decisions. Feedback is sought from the public to ensure transparency and accountability.
- **Evaluation and reflection:** Once the public participation process is complete, it is important to assess its effectiveness and impact. This evaluation stage involves reviewing the entire process, identifying strengths and areas for improvement, and reflecting on lessons learned. The findings from the evaluation can help inform future participation efforts and enhance the overall practice of public engagement.

3.0 SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY TOOLS.

There are several social accountability tools that citizens can use to monitor and track accountability in County Government. The table below provides a breakdown of each tool and how they can be applied by the citizens.

Social accountability	Application
Community Scorecard	A community score card is a tool applied in a participatory process to rate public services and performance of a service provider (for example, health, education facilities) using scores defined by the community. It aims to identify failures and gaps in service delivery and provide feedback to the provider to improve the quality, efficiency, accessibility, relevance, and accountability in the delivery of public services.
Social Audit	Social audits are a participatory approach that collects information on government projects or public resources and their use in the delivery of public services. The information is analyzed and shared publicly in a participatory manner. The central concern of a social audit is how resources are used for social objectives.
Public Expenditure Tracking (PET) Surveys	PETS are tools to track the flow of public resources i.e., human, financial or in-kind, from any level of government to the intended beneficiary at the point of frontline service delivery. It can be used by citizens, through civil society organizations (CSOs) and is also used by the government. They enable citizens, participate in governance processes through the gathering of information and monitoring the flow of public funds and spending to deliver services.
Independent Budget Analysis	Independent budget analysis (IBA) is analytical and advocacy work aimed at making public budgets more transparent and at influencing the allocation of public funds through the budget. It involves a review of budgets to assess whether allocations match the government's announced social commitments. It may also involve analyzing the impact and implication of budget allocations.
Citizen or Service Charters	A Citizen Charter presents or signifies a commitment expressed by a public institution in the context of a particular service meant for targeted service receivers. It provides more information on the kind of service a public institution should provide and an approach for citizens to ensure quality service provision.
Citizen Report Card	Citizen Report Card is an approach used by the citizen to provide feedback to the government after conducting an evaluation of their direct experience, observation and opinions through a participatory survey. This is a way in which citizens form their own opinions about the quality of services provided by the government to demand more quality service.

3.1 BENEFITS OF SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Social Accountability supports good governance and fosters better service delivery. Institutional accountability mechanisms alone are often not effective in promoting good governance, leaving room for opaque and corrupt practices in the management of public resources. When citizens get involved through social accountability mechanisms they can monitor and hold public officers and elected leaders to account for how public resources are spent and their performance in the delivery of services. Citizens also provide vital feedback on the quality and challenges faced in accessing public services. This helps to improve responsiveness and quality of services, and the rational and effectiveness use and value for money. The feedback loops ultimately lead to better informed policy design and outcomes.

Social accountability can safeguard against wastage, 'leakage' and corruption when properly applied in monitoring implementation, evaluation and audit of services and projects. Social accountability mechanisms and tools can enhance transparency.

A key benefit of social accountability is that it strengthens relationships and builds trust between the government and citizens, and between service providers and users. It enables citizens to engage with the county executives and elected leaders, influence decisions concerning their development and hold them accountable between elections.

Social accountability promotes empowerment of social groups, social cohesion and inclusion particularly when marginalized, vulnerable and other socially excluded groups are involved, and their concerns and interests get attention. It enables bringing all members of the community together around a common interest.

3.2 COMMUNITY SCORE CARD

A Community Score Card (CSC) is a social accountability tool used to assess and improve the quality of public services in a community. It is a participatory approach that engages citizens in evaluating and monitoring the performance of service providers, such as government agencies, health facilities, schools, or local organizations.

The Community Score Card process typically involves the following steps:

- a. **Planning:** The process begins with a planning phase, where stakeholders, including community members, service providers, and civil society organizations, come together to define the scope, objectives, and criteria for evaluation.
- b. **Data collection:** Community members gather information and data on the quality, accessibility, and responsiveness of the services being assessed. This can be done through surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, or other participatory methods.
- c. **Scorecard development:** Based on the collected data, a scorecard is developed that includes key indicators and performance criteria. These indicators may cover areas such





as service availability, staff behavior, infrastructure quality, affordability, and transparency.

- d. **Verification and validation:** The collected data is verified to ensure its accuracy and reliability. This step often involves independent or external verification to enhance credibility.
- e. **Feedback and dialogue:** The scorecard findings are shared with both the service providers and the community. This creates a platform for constructive dialogue and discussion between the two parties. It allows community members to voice their concerns, suggest improvements, and collaborate with service providers to develop action plans.
- f. **Action planning and implementation:** Based on the feedback and dialogue, action plans are developed to address the identified issues and gaps. These plans include specific activities, responsibilities, and timelines. Both

community members and service providers work together to implement the action plans.

- g. **Monitoring and evaluation:** The progress of the action plans is monitored and evaluated regularly to track improvements and identify any new challenges. The community scorecard process is often iterative, with ongoing monitoring and evaluation cycles to ensure sustained improvement.

The Community Score Card approach aims to empower communities, enhance service delivery, strengthen accountability, and promote citizen engagement in decision-making processes. By involving community members and service providers in a participatory and collaborative manner, it helps bridge the gap between service users and providers, leading to more effective and responsive public services.

3.3 SAMPLE OF SCORE CARD

Example 1: Community Score Card for Ufanaka Dispensary, Tutembee County.

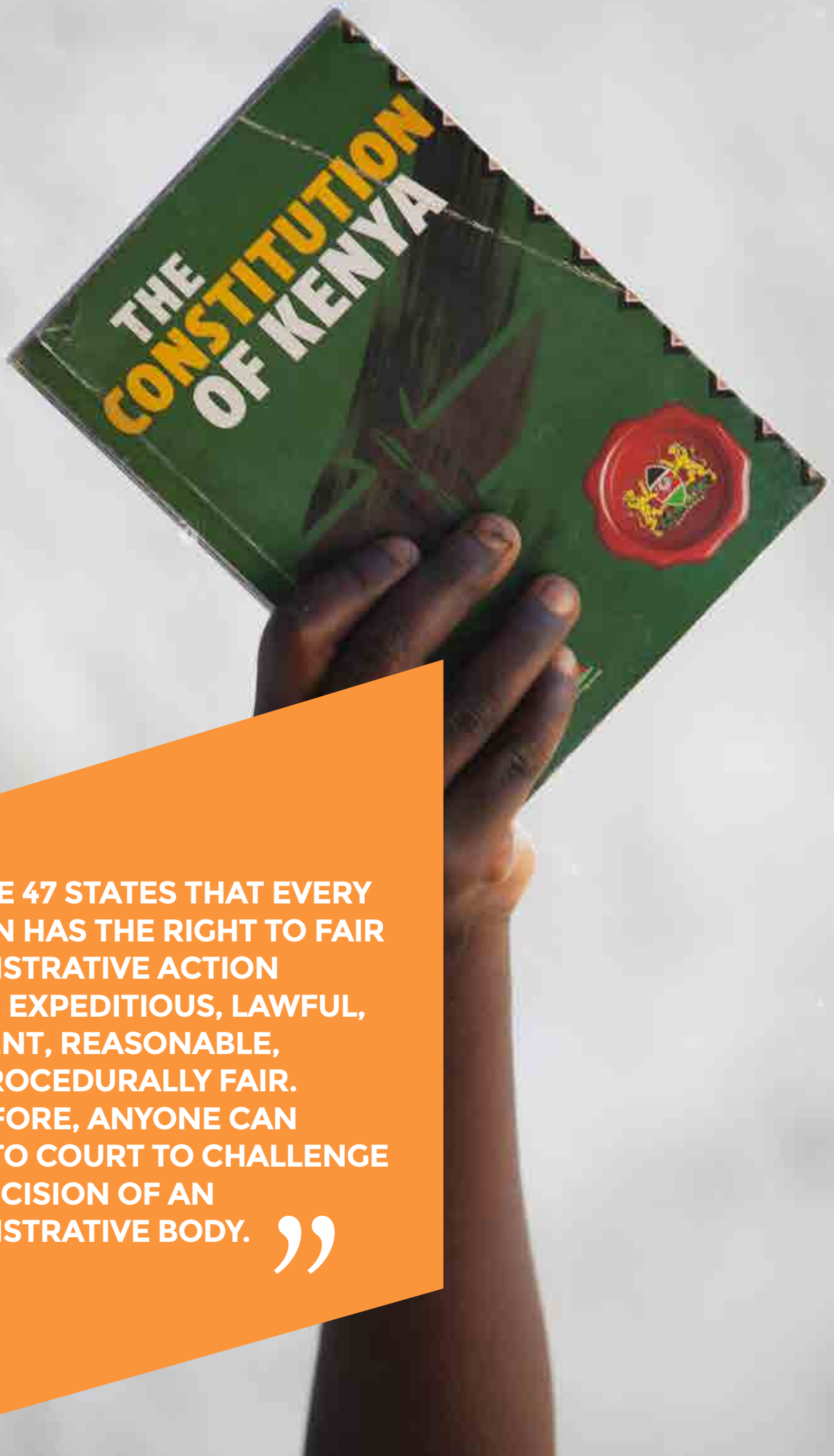
	ISSUE	SCORE					REMARKS
		1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Fair	4 Good		
1.0	Equipment						
	Access to immunization services				4		A fridge is now available. This facilitates storage of vaccines so that immunization services are offered each day unlike before where immunization services were offered once a week.
	Preservation of lab supplies		2				The fridge space in place is small to accommodate large quantities of lab supplies.
2.0	Availability of Water						
	Access to clean water at the health facility		2				Tankers deliver water to the health facility and there is high dependence on rainwater. The facility only has one storage tank that has a capacity of 8,000 litres.
	Availability of running water	1					The piping system is not working due to broken pipes and so facilities like the maternity ward do not have running water.
3.0	Access in Emergencies						
	Access to services during weekends / emergency situations	1					There are no medical personnel available to attend to emergencies since they all live far away from the health facility.
	Accessibility to alternative health centre in emergency situations		2				The nearest health facility after the Local Health Centre is about 8 km and the mode of transportation to access them is challenging.
4.0	Access to Drugs						
	Quantity of drugs available at the health centre		2				The drugs that are available at the health centre are inadequate so some patients end up not getting drugs.

	ISSUE	SCORE					REMARKS
		1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Fair	4 Good	5 Very Good	
	Patients are asked to buy drugs from chemist			3			There are some drug types that are available in the health centre but others are not available and so patients are often asked to purchase those from the chemist.
5.0	Ambulance Services						
	Access to health service during emergency cases		2				Citizens have to find alternative modes of transport to cover more than 8KM to access health services in emergencies because there are no ambulances that serve the area.
	Transfer of patients to other health facilities		2				Citizens have to use personal vehicles or motorbikes to transfer their patients to the nearest Level III hospital, which is 8KM away.
6.0	Laboratory Services						
	Availability of lab services			3			The laboratory facility at the Local Health Centre does conduct basic tests such as malaria and typhoid. Citizens have to use other lab facilities to access lab services for any other tests.
	Availability of lab supplies			3			Though there is a laboratory in place at the Local Health Centre, the facility lacks some of the basic equipment like a fridge and testing kits to enable it to conduct a wide range of tests.
7.0	Maternity Services						
	Availability of maternity supplies			3			The maternity ward has recently been equipped with 6 beds, a modern labour bed, and an infant nose sucker. However, there are no incubators or kitchen facilities to take care of mothers who are admitted at the facility.
	Accessibility of maternity services			3			There is a maternity ward that has become operational now after receiving basic equipment. However, there is no running water in the facility and access to emergency maternity services at night or during weekends remains a challenge.
Total Score = 33 (out of a possible score of 70)							

EXAMPLE 2: ACTION PLAN BASED ON SCORE CARD RESULTS

PRIORITY ISSUES	ACTIONS TO TAKE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE	WHO WILL LEAD? (NAME AND INSTITUTION)	BY WHEN?	BY WHEN?
Availability of running water (Scored as 1 = Very Poor)	Arrange to have the broken pipes fixed as soon as possible.	Service Provider – head of maintenance	Within 2 weeks	Need funds to pay contractor and replacement pipes if needed. Seek funds from the maintenance budget, as this should still have funds remaining.
Access to services during weekends / emergency situations (Scored as 1 = Very Poor)	Arrange for one nurse to be available on weekends on a rotating basis.	Service Provider – head of staffing	Within 2 weeks	Need to provide accommodation for the rostered nurse. Need to develop a roster of nurses.
Quantity of drugs available at the health centre (Scored as 2 = Poor)	More careful and consistent stocktaking and ordering procedures.	Service Provider – head of supplies	Within 2 weeks	Need to develop a new system for stocktaking and ordering drugs, to ensure that supplies are topped up when they are low, before they run out. Need to train staff in the new system and conduct regular monitoring to ensure it is in place.





ARTICLE 47 STATES THAT EVERY PERSON HAS THE RIGHT TO FAIR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION THAT IS EXPEDITIOUS, LAWFUL, EFFICIENT, REASONABLE, AND PROCEDURALLY FAIR. THEREFORE, ANYONE CAN MOVE TO COURT TO CHALLENGE ANY DECISION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE BODY. ”

3.4 TEMPLATE 1. COMMUNITY SCORE CARD

	ISSUE	SCORE					REMARKS
		1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Fair	4 Good	5 Very Good	
1.0							
2.0							
3.0							
4.0							
5.0							
6.0							
Total Score =							

3.5 TEMPLATE 2: ACTION PLAN FOR INTERFACE MEETING

PRIORITY ISSUES	ACTIONS TO TAKE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE	WHO WILL LEAD? (NAME AND INSTITUTION)	BY WHEN?	BY WHEN?



4.0 CITIZEN SOCIAL AUDIT

A Social Audit is a monitoring process through which project information is collected, analyzed and shared publicly in a participatory fashion. Social audits may go beyond the oversight of project finances and procurements to examine all aspects of the project, including level of access to information, accountability, public involvement, project outputs and outcomes. Social audits are typically carried out by community volunteers (social audit teams/committees) and findings are presented at a public forum/hearing.

The purposes for conducting a social audit include the following:

- To monitor the effects of, and inform policy makers about, the devolution of public service delivery and local governance.
- To assess the views of citizens about public services, measure citizens' knowledge about local governance, and to evaluate their participation.
- To increase the informed interaction between communities and public service providers
- To enhance citizen participation in monitoring access and quality of service.

A social audit can be conducted at the national or local level, depending on available resources and project objectives. Social audits can be utilized throughout project implementation and during the monitoring and evaluation phase to measure the progress and outcomes of public service delivery. In the Kenyan context social audits can basically be conducted on any project where the funds used are those of the taxpayer or where the targeted beneficiary is the taxpayer. An example is where social audits are conducted on CDF projects. The reports thereof shed light on how the funds have been used, whether effectively or not, and how the project will benefit the locals. It also helps the individuals tasked with executing the project through feedback from the citizens. Through this the project is easily managed and satisfaction can be achieved both from the government and the citizens.

4.1 STEPS IN CONDUCTING SOCIAL AUDITS

Step 1: Identification of the purpose and objectives of the social audit.

This is a process of identifying the goal of the social audit. It includes clear identification of the objectives of the exercise, identifying the relevant government agencies or projects that will be subjected to audit, the time frame for the audit, the factors or indicators that will be audited and the stakeholders. Stakeholders should be a mix of government actors from different levels, service providers and contractors, representatives of civil society, beneficiaries, and workers of the service providers or contractors.

Step 2: Development of social audit tool for data collection.

This step includes developing social audit questions and questionnaires that will be applied by the social audit data collectors in gathering information about the government agency or project. The questionnaire can be in the format of quantitative or qualitative to collect all forms of data pertaining to the project to be audited.

Step 3: Data Collection.

This would include interviews, surveys, desk reviews, scorecards, case studies, participant observation, field visits, and evaluations. This step involves collecting all relevant data from the existing sources in a bid to provide more information about a project. During this step emphasis must be placed to ensure credible and factual data is collected.

Step 4: Data Analysis

This step involves making the data collected in a format that could provide information about the project that is being audited. The data should be summarized into simple forms that can be easily absorbed by the public.

Step 5: Validation of Social Audit findings.

The social audit findings are provided to the relevant duty bearers closely involved in the project that was being audited. They are allowed to provide their feedback on the findings of the social audit. The validation session can involve the beneficiaries to further assessing the feedback from the stakeholders.

Step 6: Dissemination of Social Audit findings.

The social audit findings which can include evidence of corruption, inefficient utilization of public resources, poor quality of projects is disseminated to the public to elicit more call to action for accountability. The public may use existing channels to voice out their grievances and demand accountability from the duty bearers.

Step 7: Publishing of the social audit report

The final social audit report will be written which will include recommendations to the government regarding actions to address specific instances of corruption and mismanagement of the project. Copies of the report should be widely disseminated to government officials, the media, participants involved in the process and other stakeholders. Key findings and recommendations should be disseminated in print and audio formats.

Step 8: Follow up Action.

This step involves following up with the relevant duty bearers to ensure that the recommendations from the social audit are being implemented. This step involves developing petitions or memorandums to follow up the implementation of the social audit findings.

5.0 TOOLS FOR DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY.

5.1 Petitions

This section focuses on the process of developing petitions to government structures. Petitions are a form of public involvement in government decision-making. In general, a petition is a written document that is signed by a large number of individuals and presented to a government or other body with the aim of influencing that body's decisions. Petitions can be used to raise awareness of a particular issue or to demonstrate public support for a cause. Petitions can also be used to request specific action from a government or other body. Citizens can use petitions to ask for changes in laws, for the government to take action on an issue, or even for the government to consider a particular policy issue.

5.2 The process of developing a petition.

Introduction:

Start by introducing the petition with a clear



and concise statement of the issue or cause you're addressing. Explain why it's important and who it affects.

Background:

Provide background information to give context to the issue. Include relevant facts, statistics, or examples that support your case. This will help readers understand the significance of the petition.

Goals and Objectives:

Clearly state the goals and objectives of the petition. What specific action or change do you want to achieve? Make sure these goals are realistic, specific, and measurable.

Main Body:

Present your argument or case in a logical and persuasive manner. Divide the main body into sections or paragraphs, each addressing a different aspect of the issue. Use evidence, examples, and personal stories to support your points.

Call to Action:

Clearly and explicitly state the action you want the recipient or target audience to take. This could be signing a petition, attending an event, contacting a specific individual or organization, or any other relevant action.

Signatories:

Include space for individuals to sign the petition. Leave enough room for names, signatures, and contact information (such as email addresses or phone numbers). You can use paper-based forms or online platforms for collecting signatures.

Conclusion:

Summarize the main points of the petition and reiterate the importance of taking action. Encourage readers to sign and share the petition with others who might be interested.

Delivery:

Determine the appropriate authority or organization to whom the petition should be addressed. Research their preferred method of receiving petitions (mail, email, online forms, etc.) and ensure that it reaches the intended recipient.

Conclusion

Addressing these gaps will require concerted efforts by all stakeholders, including county governments, the national government, and civil society organizations, to improve transparency, accountability, and public participation in the budgeting process. It will also require the strengthening of oversight mechanisms and building the technical capacity of county governments to plan and implement their programs effectively.



6.0 POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The European Union (EU) defines political accountability as the responsibility of elected officials to explain and justify their actions and decisions to citizens and stakeholders. It is a crucial aspect of democratic governance, ensuring transparency and public trust in the democratic process. This accountability is achieved through various mechanisms, including parliamentary oversight, public scrutiny, and the legal system.

Political accountability refers to the responsibility that elected officials and government institutions have to the people they represent. The United Nations defines political accountability as the obligation of those in power to be answerable for their actions, decisions, and policies to citizens and stakeholders, including civil society organizations, the media, and other accountability mechanisms.

Political accountability denotes good governance, power dynamics, legal frameworks, access to information, rights and freedoms, transparency, inclusion, participation, responsiveness, oversight, and monitoring mechanisms such as independent audits, performance evaluations, and investigations.

6.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

The legal framework is a critical aspect of promoting political accountability, and there is a strong correlation between the two. A strong legal framework can help to ensure that government officials are held accountable for their actions and can help to promote greater transparency and responsiveness in government decision-making.

The legal framework provides the basis for establishing and enforcing rules and regulations that govern government actions and can help to ensure that these actions are in line with the public interest. This includes laws related to access to

information, public participation, and transparency in government decision-making.

A strong legal framework can also provide citizens with a means to hold government officials accountable for their actions, through mechanisms such as judicial review, administrative tribunals, and other legal remedies. This can help to promote



greater accountability in government decision-making and can help to ensure that public resources are being used in the public interest.

Importance of legal framework to political accountability

The legal framework plays a crucial role in ensuring political accountability within a democratic society. Political accountability refers to the ability of elected officials and government institutions to be held responsible for their actions, decisions, and policies. It is a fundamental aspect of a well-functioning democracy as it promotes transparency, prevents abuse of power, and safeguards the rights and interests of the citizens. Here are some key reasons why a robust legal framework is important for political accountability:

1. **Rule of Law:** The legal framework establishes the rule of law, which is the

principle that all individuals, including politicians and government officials, are subject to and must abide by the law. It provides a set of rules and procedures that govern the conduct of those in power and ensures that they can be held accountable if they deviate from these standards. This helps prevent arbitrary actions and fosters a predictable and stable environment.

2. Accountability Mechanisms: A strong legal framework provides the necessary mechanisms to hold politicians



and public officials accountable for their actions. It establishes legal procedures, such as investigations, inquiries, and courts, which can be used to investigate allegations of misconduct, corruption, or abuse of power. These mechanisms serve as checks and balances, allowing for transparency, justice, and appropriate consequences when necessary.

3. Transparency and Access to Information: An effective legal framework promotes transparency and ensures access to information. It may include laws on freedom of information, public disclosure, and campaign finance, among others. These laws enable citizens to obtain relevant information about the actions, policies, and decisions of politicians and public officials. Access to information empowers citizens to scrutinize the performance of their elected representatives and make informed choices during elections.

4. Electoral Processes: Legal frameworks establish the rules and regulations governing electoral processes. They define the procedures for conducting elections, campaign finance, and the qualifications for candidacy. By ensuring free and fair elections, the legal framework enables citizens to choose their representatives and participate in the democratic process. Fair elections are a fundamental mechanism through which citizens can hold politicians accountable and express their preferences.

5. Judicial Independence: A strong legal framework supports the independence of the judiciary. An independent judiciary is essential for ensuring that politicians and public officials are subject to impartial and fair adjudication. It allows for the judicial review of government actions, prevents the abuse of power, and ensures that the rule of law is upheld.

6. Protection of Rights: The legal framework protects the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. It establishes constitutional rights, such as freedom of speech, assembly, and association, which are essential for political accountability. Citizens can freely express their opinions, criticize government actions, and engage in peaceful protests without fear of retribution. These rights enable citizens to actively participate in the democratic process and hold politicians accountable for their actions.

In conclusion, a robust legal framework is vital for political accountability in a democratic society. It establishes the rule of law, provides accountability mechanisms, promotes transparency, ensures access to information, supports fair electoral processes.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS:

Freedom of information laws give citizens the right to access information held by the government, which helps to ensure that politicians and governments are transparent and accountable to the public. Citizens can use these laws to request information on government policies, decision-making processes, and public expenditures, which can help to uncover corruption and promote transparency. Freedom of information laws

also provide an important check on the power of government officials, as they can be held accountable for any abuses or misconduct.

Freedom of information laws, also known as access to information laws, are legal frameworks that guarantee citizens the right to access information held by their government or public institutions. By granting citizens access to information, freedom of information laws can help promote political accountability by increasing transparency and openness in government decision-making. This allows citizens to hold their leaders accountable for their actions, and to monitor government activities to ensure that they are acting in the public interest.

Freedom of information laws can help to expose corruption and malfeasance in government, as well as to promote greater participation and engagement by civil society and other stakeholders in the decision-making process. Research has shown that countries with stronger freedom of information laws tend to have more effective and accountable governments, and that access to information can help to reduce corruption and increase public trust in government institutions.

6.2 APPROACHES FOR YOUTH TO DEMAND POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

a. Youth Leagues:

Youth leagues are platforms for youth engagement in political parties. They provide a pathway for youth to access, participate and get representation in the political space. Over the decades, the youth population doesn't reflect their representation in formal institutions and governance structures. The youth are politically marginalized as they are often excluded from democratic processes while their needs and desires have not been given adequate attention as they are underrepresented in policymaking, budgeting, and governance processes. Youth leagues are instrumental in advancing the agenda and space of youth

in political parties as such there is a need for the youth to engage in political parties through the platform. One of the key roles of the youth leagues is to build the capacity of the youth in the political and electoral processes. The program has led to strengthened youth leagues that have observed recognition among the party leadership. The youth leagues have been instrumental in representing the policy agendas of the youth, especially during the development of nomination rules and regulations that will govern the conduct of the party primaries.

b. Youth Responsive Policies

The development of youth-responsive policies provides an opportunity for youth to demand accountability within political parties. The youth ought to engage political parties by demanding the development and implementation of policies that will enhance their well-being and address their needs. Youth policies in political parties are important as they address the specific needs and concerns of the young population. These policies focus on issues such as education, employment opportunities, healthcare, and social inclusion. They aim to empower young people and provide them with opportunities to actively participate in the political process. Youth policies also promote the development of leadership skills and encourage young individuals to engage in public service. By incorporating the voices and perspectives of young people, political parties can better represent the diverse demographics of society and work towards a more inclusive and equitable future. It is important for the youth to take an active role in shaping policies within political parties.

c. Building alternative approaches for Political activists.

Youth have the potential to transform the traditional political system by infusing new technological-based approaches to political engagements. Social media platforms can enable young activists to engage in political activism without the need for formal political structures like parties. Young leaders can develop individual brands by creating online content

like YouTube and TikTok videos, expressing opinions on critical issues through blog posts, and engaging in dialogue on Twitter or Facebook. The youth can engage on social media to create connections with like-minded individuals and share ideas on how to mitigate and tackle barriers they face to address accountability and inclusion in politics.

d. Youth actively participating in the electoral process.

The youth can seek to monitor and track accountability in political parties by using the platform to vie for different elective positions. The youth can progressively resolve the underrepresentation challenge by coming out in large numbers and

encouraging the voters to elect them to office. Youth can increasingly seek accountability through elections as there is the power of their vote in shaping the future. The youth should understand that by participating in elections, they can hold their elected officials accountable for their actions and decisions. Young people need to actively engage in political campaigns, advocate for their rights, and demand transparency and integrity in the electoral process. Through their vote, youth can push for reforms and policies that directly address their concerns, such as climate change, education, and employment opportunities. By participating in elections, the youth can become active agents of change and drive societal progress.





7.0 CONCLUSION

The EYGC project has developed an integrated social accountability tool that incorporates a community scorecard and social audit that will provide a strategic guideline on how the youth will hold the county governance structures and leadership to account. The tool provides a comprehensive social accountability framework that attempts to state the importance and application of accountability, citizens' roles and responsibilities, how to engage the duty bearers, and mechanisms for feedback. This tool serves as a support document for quality civic education on citizen's oversight roles and vigilance in accountability and the utility of the youth demography in demanding accountability for efficient service delivery in county governments.



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RESPONSIBILITY EQUALS ACCOUNTABILITY
EQUALS OWNERSHIP. AND A SENSE OF
OWNERSHIP IS THE MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON A PERSON CAN HAVE.”

~ PAT SUMMITT

NOTES



DEMOCRACY AT THE CENTRE

The
oslo
Center

Uraia
Kenya's National Civic Education Programme



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**
Denmark in Kenya

 Acorn House/
Ipsos Building,
97 James Gichuru
Rd, Lavington, Nairobi



+254 110 517 106



info@oslocenter.no



www.oslocenter.no