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ENA FAMILY

Thanksgiving for a Cause

It was pomp and colour as Dr. Jennifer Riria, ENA GCEO, on Friday 5th July, led the board, partners, staff and friends of ENA in a thanksgiving ceremony which was held at ENA Offices on Ngong Road, Nairobi.

The event was graced by Reverend John Maromba of Lavington United Church. In attendance was pastor Rose representing Pastor Fred Geke of Second Chance Community Church Kikuyu and Pastor Joshua from St. Pauls university. Other attendees included ENA partners from Hanns Seidel Foundation, CARE Kenya and Kenya Women Microfinance Bank (KWFT).

Organized by ENA, the event was meant to be a time to reflect and give thanks to God for the milestones since its inception.

We give God thanks for the successful rebranding, ENA 2018-2022 strategy, the completion of The Jennifer Riria Hub in Nakuru County and all our programmes which have successfully taken off.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Riria recalled her journey, challenges and victories up to this point. "I remember the day I walked into the compound and the place that used to be full of cars and noises was now empty, there was neither noise nor cars. I thought that everybody had gone on strike.

I walked into the office and I could hear the silence. Staff were in despair, bowing their heads down and with teary eyes. For a moment, I lost it but gathered courage and asked the Lord to be the center of everything. I called for a meeting and gave hope to my staff, urging them to hold on a little longer. When I look back, I do not regret holding on to the vision. We owe our success to God and hence this ceremony today".



Sweet taste of Success: Led by the presiding minister Rev. John Maromba (4th from Left) and ENA Group GCEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria (4th from right) together with ENA board members, Ms.

The money that was received during the event was donated to Lavington United Church to support the Grannies Programme which ministers to 80 older persons every Wednesday at Lavington United Church and to Destitute Children from Second Chance Community Church in Kikuyu to support the provision of food and education for destitute children.

Going forward, this event will now be an annual event that will see ENA give thanks to God while impacting the community through giving towards a cause. Indeed, a family that prays together, stays together!



ENA Group GCEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria (right) and Rev. John Maromba (left) lead the ENA board members and distinguished guests in a triumphant entry as they arrive for the thanksgiving event.



ENA staff and other guests praise God through a hymn at the event.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Empowering Girls to become Future STEM Stars.

ENA's youth empowerment and advocacy focus areas are now in Meru County. The focus areas heads led by the GCEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria, held an inception meeting at Kithangari Girls Secondary School; a public school located in the heart of Meru county.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss ENA's initiatives towards bridging the persistent gender gap in STEM related fields as well as addressing pertinent issues revolving around sexual reproductive health among girls.

ENA in collaboration with Kithangari Girls High school has established a steering committee who will spearhead the initiatives activities in strengthening the existing Maths and science clubs to improve performance thus boosting the overall score of the school.



ENA Group GCEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria and Mrs. Lucy M, the Principal Kithangari Girls Secondary School take a group picture with the students to commemorate the start of the Girls Excel initiative.

The committee also plans to conduct dialogue sessions with parents, guardians and teachers for the general well-being of the students addressing issues that affect them in all aspects of life.

In doing this, ENA aims at increasing higher scores in Mathematics and Science subjects as well as reducing the percentage of teenage pregnancies in the schools.

In addition, the survey will seek to provide homegrown strategies for enhancing the voice and participation of women in the fish sector while simultaneously addressing their human rights concerns. ENA hopes to use the results of the survey to propose changes to the existing policy documents therefore entrench women as key players in the sector. The final document will also be used to inform program approaches and establish areas of collaboration between ENA and other stakeholders including the County Governments and local implementing partners in aquaculture.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Aquaculture Validation Workshop on the status of Women in the Aquaculture Value Chain.

Following ENA's gender analysis survey in the fish farming sector conducted in Homa Bay county, the women empowerment focus area held a validation workshop with key project stakeholders to verify the accuracy of the findings with an objective of developing a framework for ensuring full inclusion of women in the entire fish value chain.

The validation stakeholders' forum brought together 39 participants with 27 participants representing various Government Ministries, Government Agencies and Local Civil Society Organizations and 12 media practitioners.

Among the findings highlighted during the survey, it was established that, there are no deliberate programs within the fisheries department to promote women in aquaculture. It was also noted that women tend to be few in fishing industry leadership positions. Fishing is traditionally viewed as a men's role. Other concerns by the stakeholders were that government bodies like the Ministry of Agriculture should conduct gender awareness and implement Gender-responsive fishing projects.

ENA in collaboration with other aquaculture stakeholders will continue to empower women to participate in activities designed for their empowerment, raise awareness about the dangers of fish-for-sex transactions and identify other sources of income for vulnerable women and men..



ENA's General Manager (Operations, Cohesion and Development) Ms. Makena Mworira and ENA's Senior Manager Ms. Teresia Wakahia lead participants in discussing findings during the Aquaculture Validation Forum.



Participants drawn from the County Government of Homa Bay, Government Agencies and Local Civil Society Organizations and ENA take a group photo to culminate the forum.

DEMOCRACY TRUST FUND

Rapid Intervention to Position Women at the Kenya National Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI).

Echo Network Africa (ENA) through the Democracy Trust Fund (DTF) initiative supported by Hanns Seidel Foundation held meetings bringing together women directors from the women in Business Forum (WIB) of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) from all the 47 counties. Following the results of the KNCCI election, not a single woman was elected as a national official. ENA began to lobby for women inclusion in the KNCCI leadership.

As a result of the engagement process, the President of KNCCI, being responsive to the challenge put across by ENA, invited the WIB National Chairperson to present 10 women, who would be co-opted into the various national committees. As a result of this development, a second meeting was convened on 12th July, 2019, bringing together the same group of women. At this meeting a vetting process was agreed upon to select the 10 women who would be forwarded to the President.

The engagement process with KNCCI and specifically WIB, has demonstrated that women's voice and position in every space requires to be amplified. However, for that amplification to take place, women will need to be organized and coordinated. ENA will continue Lobbying for the amendment of the KNCCI to include the provisions that will promote women's participation as equal members in KNCCI.



Dr. Riria, Group CEO Echo Network Africa flanked by Utah of Hanns Seidel (Sponsor of the event) stand in solidarity with women seeking inclusion in Kenya National Chamber of Commerce leadership.

TALENT DIVISION

ENA joins Humanity for Africa Initiative (HFAI's) "SAY NO! CAMPAIGN"

In order to encourage staff to take a more active role in their health care management, ENA Staff, led by the Group CEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria, who is the ambassador for the "SAY NO! CAMPAIGN" as a non-communicable Diseases Champion, participated in a health awareness forum conducted by the Health for Africa Initiative (HFAI).

During the forum, specific health-related issues concerning Nutrition, Cardiovascular Health, and general body health were discussed. Alongside the talks, ENA staff, participated in the free screening for lifestyle diseases.

Humanity for Africa Initiative (HFAI) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization in Kenya which Focuses on Health Care and Education for the underprivileged in Africa.



Your Health is your wealth: ENA's and HFAI's Staff members present at the health awareness session.



Your Health is your wealth: ENA's and HFAI's Staff members present at the health awareness session.

HFAI's SAY NO! CAMPAIGN is geared towards saying no to premature death and No to death from preventable diseases. It focuses its strategic efforts on the “midstream” targeting groups of people specifically institutions. The campaign aims to say No to premature death and No to death from preventable diseases.

EVENTS IN AUGUST

- 1) Girls Excel Initiative: 1st August 2019
- 2) Annual General Meeting (AGM): 9th August 2019
- 3) Fish Cage farming women group training: 5th – 17th August 2019

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