

# ENA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021 ISSUE



## RUNNING TO WIN

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### Word from the Group CEO Celebrating Women's Gains



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ICON/HP, Chairperson  
AWLN committee.

Group CEO, ENA

This month ENA joined women globally to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on 8th March 2021. The theme for this year's IWD was; "Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID -19 world."

This year, the world over was encouraged to 'choose to challenge' gender bias and inequality and celebrate women's achievements.

Echo Network Africa in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service and Gender with support from UN Women hosted International Women's Day celebrations at the Kenya School of Government.



ENA Group CEO addresses participants of the International Women's Day Celebration at Kenya School of government and encourages women to embrace sisterhood globally.

ENA in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service and Gender invited VVIP Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth who addressed participants of the International Women's Day Celebration where she urged women rights organizations and movements to work together and prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence.



The event was officiated by Her Excellency, Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya. Also present was Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth and Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service and Gender. On this important day women were celebrated and recognized for their unique and diverse achievements.

Women bring creativity and critical services to all levels of the society yet their achievements and contributions often go overlooked, unacknowledged, or even minimized.

International Women's Day served as a reminder to appreciate and celebrate young girls and women.

It is also important to acknowledge that true gender equality does not yet exist anywhere in the world. One in three women will experience gender-based violence in their lifetimes.

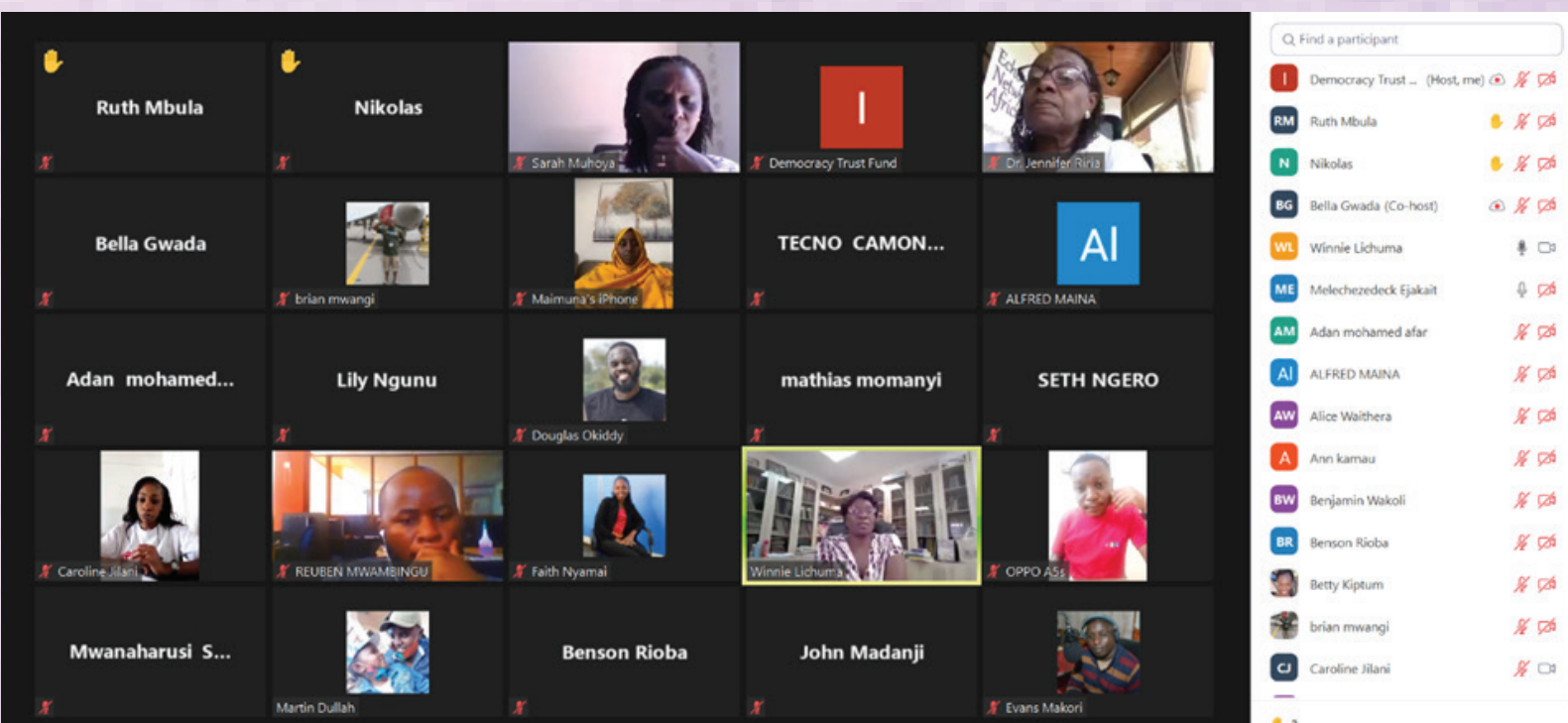
In many countries, women do not have equal access to land, credit or economic and educational opportunities, so when disaster strikes, it's usually women who often suffer the most.



# Over 50 Journalists Trained by ENA on Gender and BBI Reforms

Echo Network Africa (ENA) virtually hosted over 50 journalists drawn from various media houses in the country on 5th March, 2021. The journalists attended a Gender sensitization forum on the gender perspectives of the Constitutional Amendment Bill 2020.

“Focus more on Gender issues, which are inclusive of women, marginalized communities, youth, and persons with disability as you report on global issues,” Dr. Jennifer Riria, Group CEO ENA urged the journalists. She further emphasized that accurate reporting on gender issues would ensure inclusivity and that proper decisions are arrived at on matters affecting gender.



ENA educates over 50 journalists on the gender perspectives of the Constitutional Amendment Bill 2020 on 5th March 2021

Participants at the forum were encouraged on the need to have a gender lens while reporting to assist in gender advocacy for the Constitutional Amendment Bill 2020, popularly known as the Building Bridges Initiative, (BBI). The BBI report was tabled in parliament on 10th March 2021.

Some of the key gender gains in the BBI report include:

1. Compliance to the not more than two third gender rule.
2. The Best Loser principle.
3. Affirmative action sunset.
4. A balanced Senate that meets gender parity.
5. The Governor and the Deputy Governor should be of the opposite gender.
6. Two nominees at the Commission for Revenue Allocation of which one of the nominees would be a woman.
7. Ward Development Fund to implement County Government functions while the Constituency Development Fund would implement National Government Development.
8. Protection against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) including during elections, teenage pregnancies and early marriages.

9. Establishment of the office of the Judiciary Ombudsman.
10. A Youth Commission is set to be established.
11. Administrative guidelines on women economic empowerment including women access to procurement opportunities.
12. Establishment of the Health Services Commission.
13. Inclusion of the Policy Guide on Unity in Diversity.

Participants were informed that joint parliamentary and senatorial meeting would be held before the Bill was tabled in Parliament to lobby for support of the gender issues in the report.

Intercountry meeting would also be held across the country to encourage women to take up more leadership roles.

The journalists pledged to work with ENA and serve as a mouth piece of the female gender to ensure their issues are raised and addressed.

The participants were drawn from 10 counties namely Mandera, Machakos, Nairobi, Busia, Nyeri, Murang'a, Mombasa, Marsabit and Taita Taveta.

## Running To Win – The New Women’s Perspective to Participation in Politics

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On International Womens Day over 100 women graduated from the, Running to Win – Women’s Pathways to Successful Campaigning programme. The graduation ceremony was held at the Kenya School of Government on 8th March, 2021.

The programme was hosted jointly by the Ministry of Public Service and Gender and Echo Network Africa (ENA) with support from the UN Women. Grandaunds were drawn from different counties including Marsabit, Baringo, Siaya, Kakamega, Nyeri, Kiambu, Tharaka Nithi, Kisumu, Kilifi, Mombasa, Murang’a and Samburu among others.

Her Excellency, Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya presided over the auspicious ceremony.

Also present was Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service and Gender and ENA Group CEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria.

“We know that women can bring a difference in leadership by ensuring that the needs and aspirations of women and men, boys and girls are addressed equitably,” the First Lady said as she rooted for enhanced gender equality and women empowerment especially during the COVID-19 era.

She also conferred certificates to graduands of the first cohort of the Women in Political Leadership Training Programme that she launched last year.

The program equips the participants with knowledge of; how best to present themselves when vying for political positions, building strategic alliances, how best to map out political terrains, how best to understand social, economic, political, environmental and religious categories and the importance of understanding voter behavior and patterns.

The Training program aims at enhancing the capacities of women to participate in competitive politics especially in the 2022 General elections in order to increase the number of women at all levels of political leadership.





**Hongera:** Her Excellency, Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya unveiled the certificate of ENA's Running to win program on IWD. The certificate will henceforth be awarded to women trained in the program.



Graduates of the first cohort of the **Running to Win – Women's Pathways to Successful Campaigning** program take a group photo in celebration of their graduation with Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth (seated at the center), Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service and Gender (seated third from left) and ENA Group CEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria (seated third from right).



## ENA Launches Its Second Incubation

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ENA strategizes to introduce innovation and research every one and a half years. The first was Democracy Trust Fund which supports women to run in the political spaces.

Echo Network Africa launched its second incubation Girls Excel Initiative (To catalyze acceptance and commitment by communities in the target areas towards the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation, Period Poverty, Teenage Pregnancies and Early Marriages through accelerating the performance and uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects among girls.) The incubation is set to run for the next one and a half years.

The Girls Excel Initiative is set to begin implementation of its activities in Narok County. This is attributed to the fact that the County is continuously being affected by retrogressive cultural practices. 44% of teenage girls born and living in Narok County are likely to drop out of schools due to teenage pregnancies, Female Genital Mutilation, early marriages and high poverty levels.

It is for this reason that the initiative was developed to contribute to the broad objective towards gender equality and women's empowerment in Narok County. Gender-based violence is a significant human rights violation that is widespread across the country and indeed the globe. According to WHO, approximately one-third of women have experienced SGBV in their lives. It is widespread and mostly socially tolerated despite being a human rights violation and indiscriminately cuts across nationality, race, class, ethnicity, and religion.

Further, it creates significant inequalities between genders and perpetuates the socio-economic subjugation of women in the communities. To catalyse gender equality and empowerment of adolescent teenage girls, young women in the target areas is critical. In order to achieve this, there is need to catalyse the work done in the target area by local government, churches, local CSOs and strengthening of school-based interventions in the ASAL areas.

The initiative will catalyze information sharing among girls both in communities and schools, provide menstrual health materials and knowledge and educate the communities on how to approach issues on human rights violation including rape, incest, FGM and early marriages.

**“44% of teenage girls born and living in Narok County are likely to drop out of schools due to teenage pregnancies, Female Genital Mutilation, early marriages and high poverty levels. It is for this reason that the initiative was developed to contribute to the broad objective towards gender equality and women's empowerment in Narok County. ”**



The Jennifer Riria Hub is an ultra-modern, state of the art facility developed by Echo Network Africa (ENA). Located at the junction of Tom Mboya and Kipchoge Keino road in Nakuru County. The Hub has 400 shops and 210 parking slots (187 internal parking slots and 23 external parking slots) making it the perfect and hustle free place for shopping, business, indoor and outdoor events.

#### **ANCHOR TENANT SPACE AVAILABLE**

15,700.05 Sqft (GROUND FLOOR)  
&  
7, 640.29 Sqft (Upper GROUND FLOOR)

#### **OTHER SPACES AVAILABLE**

Offices, Banking Hall,  
Food Court- Restaurants,  
Speciality Stores, etc.

#### **KEY FEATURES**

24 hrs CCTV security system, Ample parking, Standby generator, Sufficient water supply, Lift access to all floors, Easy access & exit Ample toilet facilities, Good access roads

**Book Now**

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