

Celebrating Women's Gains



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Word from the Group CEO Celebrating Women's Gains



Dr. Jennifer N. Riria

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ICON/HP, Chairperson
AWLN Kenyan Chapter,
Group CEO, ENA
& Patron DTF

This month, Echo Network Africa (ENA) joined the world in celebrating Women's Equality Day. Our catalytic role in promoting Gender Equality is achieved through empowering, positioning and advocating for girls, women, women with disabilities and women from marginalized communities towards attainment of their full potential.

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and must be respected by all nations.

The current Constitution of Kenya domesticates the Country's commitment to gender equity and equality as amplified in international instruments and conventions such as the Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action.

Earlier this year, ENA together with our Local Implementing Partner, the Democracy Trust Fund (DTF) launched the Chagua Amani, Chagua Mama Campaign. The campaign was intended to raise awareness among the electorate on the need to elect women into political leadership and also

serve as a clarion call to maintain peace before, during, and after the General Elections. The just concluded general elections recorded a small yet significant improvement on the number of women elected into office. Kenyans elected 26 female MPs, up from 23 in 2017, seven female governors, up from three in 2017, and three female senators.

We should be encouraged to not only break the gender bias and inequality but to also celebrate women's achievements.

“ **Gender equality is a fundamental human right and must be respected by all nations.** ”

RECOMMITTING TO PEACE



Dr. Jennifer Riria addressing congregants present during the IEBC National Prayer Forum at the Bomas of Kenya on August 2nd 2022.

African Women Leaders Network Kenyan Chapter (AWLN), Women Mediation Network Kenya (WMNK) and Echo Network Africa (ENA) this month held a national prayer forum at the Bomas of Kenya together with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and the National Mediation Team under the Inter-Faith Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK).

The multi-sectoral forum was held just seven days to the General Elections and served as a final call to Kenyans to maintain peace and restore confidence in the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission. The choice of venue was equally significant and symbolic granted that this is the space where Presidential results are pronounced.

“Despite these and other challenges, Kenyans have continued to cope and have demonstrated amazing resilience, optimism, and tenacious faith in themselves. These are the blessings we are inviting Kenyans to celebrate and preserve. Our positivity and resilience remain our greatest assets.

This is the reason we have come together to persuade all Kenyans to re-commit to peace so that

we can recommit ourselves to preserving this beautiful country called Kenya,” said Dr. Riria Chairperson, African Women Leaders Network.

Kenyans were urged to vote peacefully, pray for continued peace, unity, and reminded that they have a sacred responsibility and duty to safeguard the Country for prosperity.



#ChaguaAmani – Dr. Jennifer Riria, AWLN chairperson, IIBC commissioners and the members of the National Mediation team pose for a group photo after the National Prayer forum at Bomas of Kenya.

AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK CALL FOR CONTINUED PEACE AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS

On August 9th 2022, Kenya experienced one of the most competitive General elections as slightly over 14 million eligible voters came out to vote in their preferred candidates with women accounting for 12.8 percent of all candidates (16,100) and 49.12 percent of all voters.

The African Women Leaders Network this month commended all Kenyans, Political Parties, Candidates and their agents, and the IEBC for their active participation in the just concluded General elections. The Network also lauded the International Community, development partners like United Nations and UN Women and neighbouring Countries for standing with Kenya

and for supporting the cause for peace and for women’s leadership.

The just concluded General elections recorded a small yet significant improvement on the number of women elected into office. Kenyans elected 26 female MPs, up from 23 in 2017, seven female governors, up from three in 2017, and three female senators.

“Kenya is a country that respects the rule of law and this should make us feel that much safer. In this respect, we urge candidates who may be aggrieved by the results to seek redress through legal means,” said Dr. Riria, Chairperson African Women Leaders Network.

She further applauded Kenyans for their civility throughout the electoral process and noted it as a sign of a matured democracy.

The African Women Leaders Network urged candidates who were aggrieved by the election results to seek redress through legal means and avoid actions that may escalate violence.

“We appreciate that Kenya has strong institutions with capacity to address disputes of any sort and

plead with all parties that took part in the election to revert to these institutions as the rest of the country resumes daily activities,” said Hon. Josephine Sinyo, Deputy Chair AWLN.

The Network called on Kenyans of good will and religious leaders to earnestly pray for Kenya and that the Country maintains calm and peace during this period.

“ **The African Women Leaders Network urged candidates who were aggrieved by the election results to seek redress through legal means and avoid actions that may escalate violence.** ”



#Amanikenya - Dr. Jennifer Riria, AWLN Kenya Chapter Chairperson (center) reads out the Joint statement on Peace. She is joined by AWLN members in solidarity to call for political tolerance.

EMPOWERING THE GIRL CHILD

Last year, ENA launched its second incubation - Girls excel initiative. Through a rapid survey to establish the status of uptake, retention and performance in STEM subjects as well as the rate of teenage pregnancies, the initiative identified Kithangari Girls Secondary School in Meru as the pilot



#Girlsexcel- Hesabu club members from Kithangari Girls Secondary School pose for a group photo at Meru University of Science and Technology during their exchange and exposure visit at the institution.

for the initiative. Hesabu club was also launched in the school to help address the poor performance of STEM subjects.

This month, ENA through her LIP Youth and Women Advocacy Network took Kithangari Girls Secondary School students to an exchange and exposure visit at Meru University of Science and Technology. The students visited different departments at the University and gained knowledge on the different courses offered to help boost their confidence in regards to STEM subjects. This is because STEM fields in Kenya and the world over offer greater pay and job stability hence empowering girls and women.

Over the past 39 years Echo Network Africa (ENA) has addressed issues that impede on Girls and Women's social, economic and political inclusion in Kenya. Girls and especially those leaving in rural areas face four main challenges; Female Genital Mutilation, Period Poverty, Teenage Pregnancies and Child marriages.

These evil practices affect the girls physical, mental, social and psychological being. This has led to poor performance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects. ENA is committed to catalyzing change in this respect.

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TO LET



The Jennifer Riria Hub

is an ultra-modern, state of the art facility developed by Echo Network Africa. Its design is inspired by the strength, character and gait of the African woman. The hub is located at the heart of Nakuru City at the junction of Tom Mboya and Kipchoge Keino road. It's strategically positioned to provide a serene environment for its clientele.

The hub is the perfect and hustle free place for shopping, business, dining, banking and hosting indoor and outdoor events. Key features include good access road, 24 hours CCTV surveillance, ample parking spaces, sufficient water supply, lift access to all floors, easy access and exit to the mall and ample clean sanitary facilities.

We are currently looking for an anchor tenant. Other spaces available to let include; food court spaces, banking hall spaces and specialty stores just to mention but a few. Don't be left out!

To Book a Space Call:
0722 54 61 24