

ECHO NETWORK AFRICA FOUNDATION SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

COLLABORATION:

Partnerships - the key to creating value and making an impact in society



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HIGHLIGHTS

Women Leadership, Political Participation and Governance



Top Left: Dr. Ann Nderitu, CBS during one of the September Running to Win Series. These sessions aim to empower leaders who are women in their quest to running for office - regardless of the level - in the next General Elections, fostering early planning and preparation.

Dr. Ann Nderitu, CBS - Registrar of Political Parties/CEO shared thought-provoking insights on how women aspirants can start preparing early for their political bids.

In the Running to Win session on 11th September, she emphasized the importance of early planning and meticulous organization for women who wish to run for Office.

"Women need to make crucial decisions in advance, such as:

- i. Why they want to run*
- ii. Which positions they wish to vie for*
- iii. How they can best prepare themselves for the 2027 General Elections.*

Having the desire and making a timely decision to run are the first pivotal steps in initiating the electoral preparatory processes."

Still on Governance and Political Engagement, Echo Network Africa Foundation was honoured to be part of the Stakeholders Meeting organized by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties in Kenya on 12th September.

The theme was Reforming Electoral Processes in the Country with the forum seeking to reflect on the gain from Electoral Laws; particularly the Political Parties Amendment Bill of 2012 - with a Constitutional Amendment of 2022.

Leveraging on experiences of 2022 General Elections - which exposed gaps in the aforementioned Law - session obtained Stakeholder views in search for the Law's Review and in preparation for the 2027 General Elections.

Key issues of concern raised were:

- i. The recent call to restructure the Office of the Registrar to a Commission - this needs to be anchored in the Law.*
- ii. Gaps recorded in the distribution of the Political Parties Fund*
- iii. Inclusion and representation of Special Interest Groups.*

Moreover, meeting sought for proposals to the strategies that shall address gaps in Party Nominations and Party Conflicts.

Empowering Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture Markets and Job Creation



Members of Nile Perch Rusinga Group, Nyagina Beach in Homa Bay County

Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture seeks to enhance resilient livelihoods through innovative aquaculture practices to enable work opportunities for young women and men.

The goal is to create 150,000 meaningful and dignified jobs for young women and men including internally displaced persons persons with disabilities in the aquaculture sector across Kisumu, Homa Bay, Siaya, Kakamega, Busia and Kilifi Counties.



Below: Facilitator training participants in formulation of fish feeds



Democracy Trust Fund

Echo Network Africa Foundation and the Democracy Trust Fund (DTF) - supported by UNWomen Kenya and Irish Aid - launched a two-day training workshop in Vihiga County aimed at enhancing women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles.

The workshop, opened by Hon. Anne Desma, CEC for Gender and Florence Sitawa, Acting County Commissioner, brought together key stakeholders to assess progress in promoting women's leadership.



Discussions focused on overcoming challenges and building local capacity to operationalize the Women's Leadership Pillar within Vihiga County Gender Sector Working Group.



The initiative highlights the County's growing commitment to advancing gender equality. It marks a significant step forward in the development of a robust action plan regarding the gender agenda.

Aquaculture



Hesao Integrated Group members through ENAF's Aquaculture Initiative are the proud owners of a pelleting machine. This has been a dream come true for them as they have envisioned the reality from 2015.

The young women and men have been trained by ENAF on financial literacy, inventory control and how to formulate fish feeds. The machine has transformed their fish production in that they can now produce more fish feeds which translates to more sales and in turn - more money in their pockets

The group graduated from the locally fabricated machine which could not handle the scope of work. This new one has widened production resulting to more fish supply and meeting the growing clientele demands.



TO LET



The Jennifer Riria Hub is an ultra-modern, state-of-the art facility developed by Echo Network Africa Foundation. Its design is inspired by the strength, character and gait of the African Woman. The JR Hub is located in the heart of Nakuru City, at the junction of Tom Mboya and Kipchoge Keino Roads. It is strategically positioned to provide a serene environment for its clientele.

The JR Hub is the perfect and hustle-free place for shopping, business, dining, banking and hosting indoor and outdoor events. Key features include: good access-roads, 24-hour CCTV surveillance, ample parking space, sufficient water supply, elevator access to all floors, easy access and exit to the mall and ample, clean sanitary facilities.

Spaces available *TO LET* include: food court spaces, banking hall and specialty stores. Don't be left out!

To book a space, call: +254 722 546 124