

Shadow county assemblies established



Shadow County Assemblies have been established in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega and Vihiga for residents to understand participate in and track the implementation of the new constitution.

During their formation, leaders from each of the counties elected Shadow County Governors, Shadow Deputy Governors and County Ward representatives.

The Busia County Shadow Governor, Ashepete Barasa, praised the establishment of such platforms to set the governance and development agenda for running of the counties.

“We have the people’s will to develop leadership integrity benchmarks, county strategies and policies that will propel the county,” Ms Ashepete said.

Unlike the proposed future county governments, shadow assemblies are mock platforms that will help to demystify the management of county governments. “They are not political avenues in preparation for 2012,” said Shabatai James, Deputy Shadow Governor, Bungoma.

Micheal Murunga, elected Shadow Governor, Kakamega County praised the initiative and encouraged other organisations to support the established shadow assemblies.

“We are so humbled by CPDA through the Usawa programme for demystifying leadership and citizens’ participation in managing their Counties,” said Murunga.

“The forum formed a basis of knowledge sharing and increased understanding of the provisions of the new constitution, generally, and in particular the concept of devolved governments and the management of public finance,” said Dan Chitwah Chegenye, Shadow Speaker Vihiga County.

CPDA received funding from Usawa programme to implement civic education activities on the ratified constitution in Busia, Bungoma, Kakamega and Vihiga Counties. Under the programme, CPDA aimed to empower citizens particularly women and youth to understand,



Bungoma County

Shadow County Governor: Zeth Makokha
 Deputy Shadow County Governor: Shabatai James
 PWD Representative: Benerd W Baraza
 Youth Representative: Solom Kitere
 Women Rep.: Melab Lusweti

Busia County

Shadow County Governor: Ashepete Barasa
 Deputy Shadow County Governor: John Kudombi
 People With Disabilities (PWD): Nicholas Juma
 Youth representative: Eric Ochieng
 Women Representative: Fridah Oyugah

Kakamega County

Shadow County Governor: Michael A. Murunga
 Deputy Shadow County Governor: Ali Otini
 People With Disabilities (PWD): Stephen Mande and Suzzy Busaka
 Youth representative: Edgar Lugalia Senelwa
 Women Representative: Hellen Adede

Vihiga County

Shadow County Governor: Omboko Milema, Shadow Senator: Boaz Ideche,
 Deputy Shadow County Governor: Oscar Buleemi, Shadow Speaker: Dan Chitwa Chegenye, People with Disabilities (PWD): Muhavi Japheth, Youth representative: Stella Kwatembera, Women Representative: Teresa Lukalo.



Benerd Baraza, PWD representative, Bungoma County



County leaders forum, Bungoma

participate in and track implementation of the new constitution under the banner: *Kuelewa, Kushiriki na Kufuatilia utekelezaji wa Katiba*. This is a follow-up to the Committee of Experts's (CoE)'s JJJ slogan of *Jisomee, Jiamulie, Jichagulie* that sought to educate Kenyans on the constitution.

The objectives of the county leaders meeting were two fold:

1. Increased understanding of the new Constitution among the County residents. This will help to increase knowledge and awareness among the residents of the county on constitution transitions and other key provisions.
2. Established County Platforms to maximize citizens' participation and tracking of the implementation of the new constitution. This will include the establishment of key County structures for youth, women and people with disabilities. Such forums will culminate in the establishment of County Shadow Assemblies, County Strategic Plans, and Leaders Integrity Benchmarks, among other actions.

Each of the forums brought together more than 100 key leaders representing women, youth, teachers, farmers, the business community, professionals, people with disabilities, civic leaders, and government, among other key actors in the county. Because of its size 150 leaders participated in the Kakamega County Leaders Forum. The forums were part of a series of activities that CPDA undertakes to empower citizens through increased understanding of ratified constitution.

1. Bungoma Leaders Forum, Held at Rosswood Hotel Bungoma, 22nd and 23rd November 2010.
2. Busia Leaders Forum, Held at Blue York Hotel, Busia on 24th and 25th November 2010.
3. Kakamega Leaders Forum, Held at KAMADEP Guest House, Kakamega on 26th and 27th November 2010.
4. Vihiga Leaders Forum, Held at Chavakali Friends Church, Vihiga on 15th and 16th December 2010.

Vihiga County Leaders Statement

We more than 100 Vihiga County leaders, gathered at the Chavakali Friends Church on the 15th and 16th December 2010 at a county leader's forum organized by the Christian Partners Development Agency (CPDA) resolve that:

1. We, shall support the full implementation of the new constitution as it is an all inclusive manner with all the requirements of a good constitution.
2. Through the elected shadow county assembly we shall initiate, develop and apply leadership and integrity benchmarks which we shall use to scrutinize leaders of this county.
3. We shall so far as is practicable develop communication channels through which the various groups such as men, women, youth, people with disabilities etc shall enable us keep intouch with the grassroots. There is need to establish an FM radio station and a newspaper/magazine to articulate the issues of the County as well as act as whistle blowers for issues in the county.
4. We shall form grassroots platforms which shall provide a basis for knowledge sharing and increased understanding of the provisions of the constitution generally and in particular the concept of devolved governments and the management of public finance.
5. As leaders of the county of Vihiga, we shall set the development agenda of the county through a gap analysis and SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis conducted at the forum.
6. We will also organize the **LAUNCH** of Vihiga County and thereafter a blueprint on its success will be formulated. We shall develop a **STRATEGIC PLAN** for the County and shall to the greatest extent possible monitor its implementation.
7. The shadow assembly elected today shall forge strategic linkages with like minded organizations and individuals to better operationalize its mandate. The elected assembly will form pro-active groups to towards the implementation of the constitution and the regional bills.
8. We resolve to elect leaders who are people of integrity, accountability and of good character.
9. We, the advocates of the High court of Kenya, represented in this forum resolve to offer pro bono services to the poor people of this county. We also vow to carry on civic education in the County
10. The participants of this forum will be at the fore front of articulating and disseminating the issues discussed here in the rest of the County.

Armed with the power that knowledge gives, the forum established the **VIHIGA COUNTY FORUM** and the **VIHIGA COUNTY PRESSURE GROUPS** as vehicles for maximizing citizen's participation and tracking the implementation of the new constitution.