KECOSCE

Peace and Stability

KENYA COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE (KECOSCE) QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

KECOSCE'S VISION: A free, just and democratically governed society that upholds progressive equality

SECURITY CONTACT CARDS ENHANCE SECURITY RESPONSES IN THE COAST.

Mr. Joseph Muthee, the OCPD of Changamwe in Mombasa County hands over security contact cards to community leaders.

The Government of Kenya has over the last months asked Kenyans to be vigilant and participate in reporting security and crime incidents to the authorities. A huge section of the population has not been able to respond due to lack of working telephone lines and their limited access to senior officials to whom they can report cases to. Kenya Community Support Centre's (KECOSCE) peace and security project has facilitated information sharing and early warning system response system that link the Mombasa county population with all security actors. KECOSCE has printed contact cards and posters that have been pinned in strategic areas like the Chiefs offices, churches, mosques, schools etc. The posters bear names and telephone contacts of key security personnel for people to call them whenever they suspect, see or hear of actions that might cause harm to people and property. About 20,000 such cards and posters were distributed to community leaders at village levels in Kwale, Mombasa and Kilifi counties. Three months after the launch of the cards, crime has been reported to have reduced in these areas. Community leaders have reported increased confidence and easy access to not only the local police boss but also the County Police Commandant and the County commissioner who were perceived to be too high in the security ladder and inaccessible. The local police have become more responsive as the card increases accountability. The public are also provided with an alternative Alert Number held by KECOSCE to report if they don't feel confident to interact with the security officials. The cases are forward to relevant officers through the organization's early warning and early response system. With a contact base of over 15,000 people, KECOSCE's early warning mechanism has continued to receive and provide early warning messages, public sensitization and conflict analysis. This helps the government, the community and CSOs to effectively respond to prevent escalation of violence.

In a break from past passivity in security, the community now gets more involved in securing themselves and their environs. According to the Assistant County Commissioner of Changamwe there has been a shift from passivity to active community policing. In April 2015 a community member from Chaani Location used the security Contact cards to report a suspect of a criminal gang that had attacked an AP officer in the area, disarming him and taking off with his AK 47 rifle. After reporting the person took an initiative to mobilize other community Despite isolated cases of crime, Public vigilance and reporting has been scaled up to an extend the criminals fear indulgence in crime. Though there has been instances of armed robberies and shootings, sustained vigilance and reporting has been instrumental in achieving relative calm in Mombasa.

EMBRACING GREEN ENERGY : CONSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAXIMIZING ECONOMIC GAINS

KECOSCE director explains the how biogas digester works to the Kwale County Minister for Community Development Hon. Patrick Mtsami

KECOSCE in partnership with Allavida is promoting Aloe Bitter Gum trade in Kinango sub county. The process involves domestication of aloe plants from the wild to family farms, establishment of nurseries and extraction of aloe sap which is used in producing cosmetic and pharmaceutical products locally and globally. This process involves boiling which in turn depletes the environment and causes further desertification. With the growing emphasis on sustainable use of natural resources and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, KECOSCE has introduced Biogas Digesters in the project area. The digesters use animal and plant waste to produce gas that is used for domestic purposes and commercial production of aloe bitter gum. This new initiatives was launched in April, 2015 by the Hon Patrick Mtsami, the County Government of Kwale Minister for Community Development. The flexi Biogas systems is an affordable solution that provides household energy. It has great potential for the household, community and the environment. Biogas is clean, renewable energy obtained from biodegradable organic materials such as kitchen, animal

Animal and plant waste. The Biogas digesters produce compost manure that is used in farms for value addition on crop yields. This has reduced the impact of deforestation in search of firewood, and reduced women drudgery in fetching for the same. It also has improved household hygiene by recycling what would otherwise be waste into energy. This initiative is geared towards achieving development opportunities through people centered growth while encouraging green economy. The digesters have been installed in two loca-

Hon Mtsami lights gas produced by the Biogas Digester in Mtaa Location.

tions (Mtaa and Chengoni) these Strategically are in areas of high production of aloe gum. Mtaa and Silaloni are now the leading producers of aloe gum in the market. 5 tons of aloe gum have been purchased from farmers in these and other four locations. The digesters now produce enough energy to sustainably produce aloe gum in the two major centers and managed by Aloe management units.

Speaking at the launch even, Hon. Mtsami lauded KECOSCE for the innovation and economic transformation efforts especially targeting women and children in the locality. He pledged to work with the community and line ministries to scale up uptake of the initiative in the County and others geared towards empowering communities towards development and environmental conservation.

Hon. Mtsami shared the Kwale county's plan to establish an investment company that will bring together entrepreneurs in the county and provide not only funding but also technology transfer to make Kwale an industrialized county. He further pledged funding opportunities to the groups working in the locality and the cooperatives which KECOSCE is in the process of registering.

Other environmental conservation efforts have been in partnership with the School of Agriculture and veterinary services, University of Nairobi. The initiative aims at working with students to plant indigenous fast growing trees in Kinango sub county. In April, 2015, we planted over 700 tree seedlings of draught resistant plants in Six Locations of Kinango. This initiatives was conducted with the Aloe management units, women from local homesteads and schools. During the long rains September October we plan to plant about 10,000 seedlings in the area to improve forest cover and sustain the tree planting culture in the area.

ALOE TRADE IN KINANGO RECEIVES APPROVAL BY KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICES AND CITES

KWS licensing officials visit to Chengoni to assess aloe gum production

Bitter gum, Aloe gel and ornamental plants. Aloes have several uses including: Medicinal, cosmetic, food supplement, ornamental, livestock fodder, fencing and rangeland rehabilitation. Among local communities, cultural uses of aloes include superstition, treating livestock diseases and in controlling pests. Bitter gum is produced by boiling freshly collected sap from specific indigenous species, till it produces a viscous brown liquid, which is poured into sacks or drums to cool.

Trade in aloe gum has substantially improved the quality of life for farmers in Kinango sub county. KECOSCE has worked with aloe farmers to improve value addition which has witnessed an increase in aloe gum prices from Kshs 120 to Kshs 250 per Kilogram. KECOSCE's approach is in line (Conservation and Management) (Aloes species) Regulations,

2007 that promotes domestication (artificial propagation) of the aloe species and certification of harvesting operations. Trade in aloe products is regulated both internationally and at national level. Internationally is regulated by CITES and at local level by the Aloe species conservation and managements under the Wildlife Act. The main export prod-

In order to ensure farmers benefit from this trade, KECOSCE has facilitated creation aloe management units whose membership are aloe farmers for on farm value addition, quality control and marketing. The AMUs have received necessary certification and export permits from KWS.

A market for bitter gum has been found and the AMUs are now in the process of researching on establishment of aloe processing plant in the project area to maximize benefits from aloe trade and[produce aloe products locally.

TRANSFORMIING MASKANIS INTO SAFE PUBLIC SPACES IN LIKONI

Youth in Likoni playing football to build resilience and promote talents

"Maskani" as they are commonly referred to at the Coast of Kenya, are public spaces often frequented by different age sets for a get along chat or just a pass time. In the past these important public spaces have been associated to be places of idlers and thus hideouts for criminals and law offenders. Such a misconception has been used by errant policemen to arbitrarily arrest youth and extort money.

KECOSCE organized Edusport activities in Likoni dubbed *"Safe Maskani"*, The activities brought together youth and police to discuss on security matters in Likoni and forge avenues for collaboration. This month long event enhanced engagement between the Police and youth and provided a platform for integration through football

"Before, the OCS would never come to a youth function, this has greatly changed my perception of the police, it is my first time stepping in to a police station to raise a crime alert despite having stayed at Kiwerera - just a few steps from the Police station. We now know the roles of the community policing committees and other committees in peace and security. Maskani youth are now free to interact with these important structures!" Says the Chairman for Goshen Maskani

KECOSCE

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USALAMA WA MSINGI MTAANI:

WEWE NI MACHO YA JAMII, SOTE TWAKUTEGEMEA

Kaa Macho! Ukisikia, ukiona au kushuku lolote la hatari dhidi ya usalama wako, jirani au nchi.

TOA HABARI KWA NAMBARI ZA WALINDA USALAMA, KAMATI ZA AMANI NA UWIANO, COMMUNITY POLICING, JIRANI ETC KWA 999, 911,112.

In a departure from the norm , Mombasa county residents stormed social halls in a bid to review the County Integrated Development plans and participate in the budget processes for the year 2015 to 2016. being the third year in devolved governance, the Mombasa county government was at pains to justify the deadline rush to pas the county budget.

In Changamwe Sub County the County government was forced to repeat the public participation meeting on budget was adjourned due to public pressure. The community demanded for more time in order to study and propose projects that would be in line with past proposals and the CIPD.

Elsewhere in Kisauni, community demanded for a meeting to review past government expenditure within the 2013-2014 budget in order to comprehensively submit opinions. This has been indicative of the improve public knowledge and monitoring in Mombasa.

Such intensified public participation not only in improved number of people but in tracking results and performance of the county government has also led to the constitution of a county caucus for people with disability that has been formed by the county government to spearhead the implementation of resolutions towards improvement of the livelihoods of People with Disability in Mombasa.

Such heated county debates have improved the budget making process and held authorities accountable in line with the constitutional provision of the Constitution of Kenya 2015.

KENYA's NEW COMMUNITY POLICING SYSTEM RELAUNCHED

The government's new look community policing also known as Nyumba Kumi initiative has been rebranded and relaunched for implementation in the county. This is in line with Article 244 of the constitution which provides that National Police Services will foster and promote relationships with the broader society. Section 96 (1) of NPS Act 2011 clearly stipulates the objectives for community policing as; *Establishing and maintaining partnership between the community and the Services; Promoting communication between the Service and the Community; Promoting cooperation between the Service and the community in fulfilling the needs of the community regarding policing; Improving the rendering of police services to the community at national, county and local levels; Improving transparency in the Service and accountability of the Service to the Community; and promoting policing problem identification and policing problem-solving by the Service and the community.*

community policing is not new to Kenyans. It was first launched in 2005 by President Kibaki, the new look strategy has however broadened the actors and brought on board lessons learnt from its practice over the years and has now been re-launched for implementation. The program brings together all Government Policing Agencies (GPAs) and not left to just one arm of police. The government has in the last one month been sensitizing all top county government security agencies including chiefs, assistant chiefs and community policing committees. KECOSCE and all CSOs involved in peace building and conflict management looks forward to seeing how the new initiative will be implemented and hopes Kenyans of all walks of life will embrace and work with security teams to make the Nyumba Kuma initiative possible. We however remain vigilant and monitor how this is going to be implemented as already, some chiefs are known to have "selected" people they want to be in the committees against the spirit of people coming together to nominate representatives to be in the "Nyumba Kumi" committees. Voluntary participation is the only sure way to ensuring security in our neighborhoods.