THE FIRST NATIONAL SUMMIT OF PBO LEADERS
ON EXPANDING CIVIC SPACE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC BENEFITS ORGANISATIONS ACT (2013),
FRIDAY OCTOBER 7, NAIROBI

#PBOActNow
Welcome

• More than 350 colleagues from civil society organisations across Kenya; 1/3 of us are women.
Our purpose today

• To bring together Public Benefits Organisations working at county, national and regional levels to discuss the latest developments with the PBO Act and agree a way forward.

• By the end of the day we will have:
  • Deepened our understanding on the current situation for civil society in Kenya;
  • Listened to key partners on the opportunities of commencing the PBO Act;
  • Briefed PBO representatives on recent developments on the PBO Act;
  • Jointly strategized on a way forward for the sector & agreed next steps.
Our agenda

2.00 Welcome from the Chairs - Suba Churchill, CSO Reference Group and Emma Naylor-Ngugi, Care International
Presentation on the PBO Act – Regina Opondo, CRECO Director (5 mins)
Statement by Adan Wachu, Inter-religious Council of Kenya Chairperson (5 mins)
Statement by The Head of the EU delegation Ambassador Stefano Dejak (5 mins)
Statement by UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative Siddharth Chatterjee (5 mins)
Statement by Commissioner George Morara, Kenya National Human Rights Commission (5 mins)
Statement by The United States of America Ambassador Robert Godec (5 mins)
Plenary discussion

3.00 Break and Media Briefings

3.30 Presentation on the enabling environment/Civic Space issues in Kenya study (5 mins)
Presentation on PBO Act (2013) post court injunction and preparation for October 10 hearing (5 mins)

5.30 Close
Why us & why now

• A moment of opportunity for Kenya & a moment of risk

• Effective operationalization of the Act would make Kenya a leader in the region.

• Delays in implementation are having a negative effect.

• The impacts are being felt across the sector

In our survey of delegates here today, 80% agreed that the PBO Act should be operationalized immediately

“ There is a lot of uncertainty. We were scheduled to begin new projects but our donors are unsure of the current status” – respondent NGO
THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANISATIONS ACT

Regina Opondo, Executive Secretary, Constitution & Reform Education Consortium
The PBO ACT 2013 AT A GLANCE

The Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) Act provides for the formation, operation and growth of Public Benefit Organisations (PBOs) and establishes a regulatory and institutional framework within which PBOs can operate.

The Act Provides for

- An enabling legal, regulatory and institutional environment for PBOs;
- One identity for all PBOs;
- Acknowledges service, capacity building and advocacy roles across all sectors;
- Holds the sector to high public disclosure, accountability and transparency standards;
- Promotes a new sense of co-operation and shared responsibilities between the government, development partners and stakeholders in their dealings with PBOs;
- Enhances leadership standards within the sector aligned to Chapter 6 of the Constitution;
- Creates space for an independent regulation and membership agencies that can redress public complaints;

Key Highlights of the PBO Act

- Prescribes minimum provisions to be included in the governing documents of PBOs as well as financial transparency and reporting by PBOs;
- It advances and demands good leadership and accountability from PBOs and Regulator in line with the Spirit of Chapter 6 of the Constitution;
- Provides for an institutional framework for principled partnership between Government and PBOs at all level;
- Allows PBOs to determine standards, certification and adherence to a professional code of conduct;
- It allows different types and forms of CSOs doing public benefit work to operate under on single act.

The goal of the Public Benefit Organisations Act 2013 is to advance a new legal, regulatory and institutional framework for Public Benefit Organisations.
DR. FRANCIS KURIA
ON BEHALF OF ADAN WACHU
Chairperson, Inter-Religious Council of Kenya
BRUNO POZZI
Deputy Ambassador of the European Union

Delegation of the European Union to Kenya
BUILDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT & CIVIC SPACE
THE PBO ACT IN THE COURTS
NEXT STEPS
Questions

• What actions should we take to deal with the court action?
• What actions should we take to resolve immediate operational issues with NGO Bureau?
• What should we be doing to prepare for and engage with operationalization of the PBO ACT?