



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ICT COMMITTEE

December 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On the 13th of November 2019 KICTAnet in partnership with Huawei Kenya held a multi-stakeholder engagement with the Kenyan Assembly ICT committee on the challenges in terms of engagement, goals of the committee for 2020 to improve ICT in Kenya. The session was moderated by Barak Otieno, KICTAnet. The panellists during this engagement were composed of Hon .William Kisang, chairperson National Assembly ICT committee, Hon. Moses Mabonga, member of ICT Committee, Hon Elisha Odhiambo, member of parliament GEM Consistency, Hon. George Osotsi , member –ICT Committee.

The main takeaways during this engagement were the need for youth participation in ICT Policy reforms, the importance of their voices concerning the ICT Bills, stakeholder engagement through public participation, multi-stakeholder consultative engagement on awareness creation and education on emerging technologies and innovations in the ICT sector.

INTRODUCTION

Meeting objectives and Expected Outcome

The overall objective of the Community Engagement with the National Assembly ICT Committee was to share views, discuss and present to the committee priority areas and areas of concern for growth and development of the ICT sector.

Context

The stakeholders presented their priority areas on ICT that the Kenya National Assembly ICT Committee should consider for their Agenda formulation.

Attendees

Members in attendance included Mr. Barak Otieno, KICTAnet, who was the moderator for this Engagement

1. Hon William Kisang – Chairperson Communication Information & Innovation
2. Hon. Moses Mabonga- Member ICT Committee

3. Hon .Elisha Odhiambo – Member of parliament GEM consistency
4. Hon. George Osotsi – Member ICT Committee

Other Attendees present included; relevant local actors drawn from the government, the private sector companies and groups, the technical community, academia, civil society groups, the media and other non-governmental actors

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANET) is a non-profit organization, which acts as a multi-stakeholder platform for individuals and institutions interested and involved in ICT policy and regulation. The network aims to act as a catalyst for reform in the ICT sector in support of the national aim of ICT enabled growth and development. KICTANET also runs a vibrant mailing list with over 2000 members and has had over 30,000 conversations on ICT policy since it was established in 2005. The engagement was in collaboration with Huawei Technologies.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ENGAGEMENT

The main focus of this engagement were;

- i) Effective engagement of the public participation through the Ministry of ICT in the ICT reforms before Internet Bills are passed
- ii) Necessary Digital framework of the Internet Bills that are of Value.
- iii) Emerging issues

OPENING REMARKS

Barak Otieno (KICTAnet), who was moderating the session began by welcoming and thanking the guests in attendance. He then allowed the members of parliament present and attendees to introduce themselves.

Grace Githaiga the convenor of KICTAnet spoke on the value and importance of stakeholder engagement and its contribution specifically on the areas on ICT that the committee should consider on the agenda formulation

REMARKS

HON. WILLIAM KISANG, Chairperson National Assembly of ICT Committee

Hon. William Kisang's purpose of this engagement was to urge the youth participation in the process of passing Internet bills and amendments of the law, he further explained that the youth should not wait until the last minute to engage in the process, the National Assembly includes the public by giving them an opportunity through the newspapers for public participation.

He further urged the youth to meet with members of the ICT Committee to structure the ICT Legislative in order for the representation of every Kenyan, he proceeded to note that there is no youth participation at the county level. He stated that experts need to engage in ICT committees' to take advantage of private members and members of the ICT committee to strike a balance.

He advised the youth to compel citizens to participate in draft laws to create awareness and self-regulation.

Hon. Godfrey Osotsi – Member ICT Committee

Hon. George Osotsi opened his session by appreciating that technology moves faster than law, he explained that policies needed a lot of catching up to do. Practitioners need to understand what legislations mean to their focus area of work. Critical Infrastructure bills in the working of sponsoring the ICT practitioners to create opportunities

Hon. Moses Mabonga- Member ICT Committee

He opened his session by encouraging the youth to grow in morality, ICT is our platform of knowledge but as we increase in knowledge we have to be careful of our morals which help define our destiny.

He encourages participants in the session to build the nation together by engaging on the KICA bill and help reduce cyber crimes by reporting to the relevant authorities.

Hon .Elisha Odhiambo – Member of Parliament GEM Consistency

Hon Elisha opened his session by stating the future of the world is Innovation, Future of employment is on innovation. He states that he looks forward to exponential growth in terms of how the youth generation can work from home. He explained further that solutions have to be regulated to protect the future innovations for individuals and national boundaries. The youth to invest in policies that drive innovations.

Mr. Churchill Otieno – Kenya Editors Guild

Mr. Churchill opened his session by explaining that the only thing that is constant is change, every minute, every hour. The Digital Legislature should be structured in a way that it enables change to continue , because as we evolve digitally we open our national boundaries and sometimes the values are able to create locally can sometimes be exported outside and it does not help to grow our economy.

QUESTIONS TO PANELISTS

1. How can we regulate pseudo names online , how to train people to use the internet responsibly
2. Awareness of the AI for innovation and devolution , Kamene Faith
3. Can the ICT Practitioners Bill be dropped? Mwendwa Kivuva. KICTAnet
4. How is the Engagement with the Innovation Hub Bill, with eco systems such as ASSEC? Should we consider the Huduma Bill as a Digital Identity Law , Linda Bongo
5. Can programs on certification be developed based on their competencies , Julius (Forensics Expert)

Responses from the Panelists

1. Hon. William Kisang

Innovation went into business in 1997 to sell to ICT systems, opportunities are available for opportunists. The ICT Committee will then enable an innovation environment for thriving youth innovators. The youth should raise issues with the ministry of ICT and engage and be active with the committee, The CDF Committee in partnership with the Ministry of ICT partnered with Telkom to set up constituency innovation Hubs to assist the youth in the Ajira programme but it failed.

2. Hon. Godfrey Osotsi

Telecommunication Bills to be developed and structured by the parliament in a way that it fills up the legislation gaps. Artificial Intelligence is important in areas of driving ICT. Digital Identity Bill isn't in front of the committee yet but it has acknowledged the similarities of the data protection act. The ICT practitioners bill committee to work diligently in the debate of its merits and demerits before passing. All issues will be considered through public participation

3. Hon. Moses Mabonga

Hon.Mabonga has set up quality standard innovation hubs in his county for the youth, in reference to 1 timothy 4:12 Paul to the Romans; "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. He used this example in answering the question concerning pseudo names in social media, the youth remain moral when on the internet and also in their day to day lives. He encouraged the youth to be an example of upstanding behavior

4. *Hon Elisha Odhiambo*

The Huduma Bill has several components, and the public has every right to interrogate the bill before it's passed. The Bill has to have 1, 2 or 3 so that it has some sort of richness in the context of adding value. Transparency and accountability for the consumers to be encouraged by the Communications Authority on telecommunication, the bill is spirited to cater for the citizens including mama mboga

The Association of the ICT Committee to appoint and nominate youth that can champion for digital rights.

Closing Remarks

In closing the members of the National Assembly of ICT committee promised to enhance further engagements with stakeholders especially on reviewing existing bills and provisions including the Critical infrastructure bill, Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, ICT practitioners bill.