

HAKIKAZI CATALYST

**Knowledge
Action
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THIRD FRIDAY
Development Issues Seminars

17th March
Property and Business Formalisation Programme.

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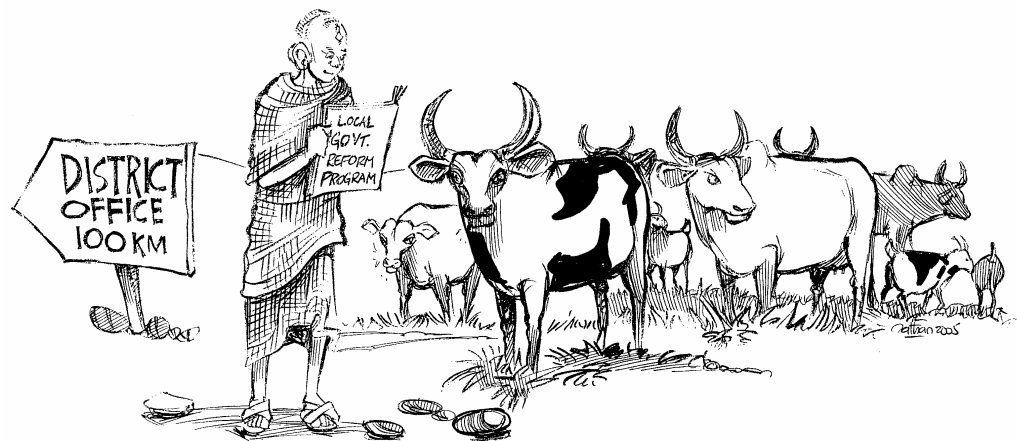
KARIBUNI

Welcome to the February 2006 edition of the Friends of Hakikazi newsletter.

Thanks to all those who sent messages of support and feedback. Please keep them coming.

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PROMOTING BETTER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN NGORONGORO

Since January 2006, Hakikazi has been implementing a programme to improve the participatory planning capacity of pastoralist communities in Ngorongoro District. This work is being undertaken as part of Oxfam GB's Ngorongoro Pastoralist Programme.

Two phases of training have been completed. Phase one, a five day workshop, introduced 30 NGO and CBO representatives to Local Government Planning and the budget cycle. This initial session was complemented with training on monitoring techniques for village level planning and expenditures. Special attention was given to assessing district and

national planning targets and the relationship between actual expenditure and outputs/outcomes at village level.

Phase two, also conducted over five days, introduced the concepts behind the Opportunities and Obstacles to Development (O&OD) planning methodology to animators from four villages in the District. This methodology is gradually being instituted as the primary planning tool in all Tanzanian LGAs as part of a drive to ensure participation at all levels of the planning process. Animators also received training in lobbying and advocacy skills to improve their ability to interact effectively with Ward and District personnel in addition to

capacity building on monitoring budget inputs and outputs at local level.

The programme is continuing at village level as animators coordinate participatory planning exercises using O&OD methodologies.

Two outputs will be produced. The first will be village plans produced according to criteria that will become a nationwide standard in the near future.

The second will be four communities empowered to produce plans in the required manner and to communicate their needs effectively at Ward and District level.

GEM TRADING CARTELS HURT LOCAL MINERS

Hakikazi has facilitated the Arusha Press Club to report issues from the Mirerani mining area in Simanjiro. Here is an edited version of one of their reports.

'Mafia-like' syndicate trading arrangements said to be taking place in both Arusha City and Mirerani hills may be placing the future of local miners in jeopardy.

Explaining their plight, local miners in Mirerani claim that mineral dealers known as 'master-dealers' operate a cartel to maintain the initial buying price of raw minerals from the miners at a low level. This is usually achieved by putting 'gullible' miners on a 'hot-spot!'

"Local dealers have formed a tight network complete with spying agents," reveals Karos Issangya, who is a small scale miner at Mirerani. "As soon as the miners strike minerals, the dealers get informed and pass the 'news' to each other through their networks and agree between them that they all should offer a certain price and no more!"

"Normally these 'master dealers' will offer us the lowest prices possible, no matter how valuable the stones are." explained An-

thony Jacob, an agent who usually acts as middleman between miners and the dealers. "They always seem to know exactly from which quarry the stone originates from and who is its owner!"

According to the miners, if they refuse to accept the first offer, the dealers will again conspire to drop the price even lower and threaten the miner to keep doing so if he or she refuses to surrender.

The Tanzanite price is supposed to be about US\$1100.00 per carat in the US market, but very few local miners can access the international markets. "Most of us have no idea how to go about it and are afraid to even try.," added another local miner, Jaffery Bakari Matambi, saying that it was only the 'master-dealers' who held the key to the outside markets. As far as they are concerned, despite their investment and physical toils, at the end of the day the benefit from the miners' sweat will go to the 'master-dealers'. They normally take 75 percent of the value of Tanzanite sales while local miners are left with only 25 percent of any profitable gems transaction.

Some small scale miners also believe that 'master-dealers' have their tentacles spread abroad to make sure that a local miner who tries to by-pass their 'set-ups' here and take the minerals abroad will either fall into the hands of con-men or be given even lower prices than those given locally.

The Chairman of the Zaire village, Oscar Gunewe, whose precinct is the central Tanzanite trading area of Mirerani, explained that most miners ultimately decide to simply sell their gems locally to either agents or dealers, whose price offering maybe much lower, but who are at least reliable, rather than taking big risks in venturing abroad in search of better offers.

"We may blame dealers for rock bottom Tanzanite price offers, but I think the problem lies between ourselves," according to Salome Chami, one of the lady miners of Mirerani. "The trouble with local miners is that we are not united!" She adds that even the Chairman of the IPP group of companies, Reginald Abraham Mengi (whose company recently ventured into Tanzanite mining in

the area) had previously tried to unite local miners so that they could have a single strong voice, but for some reason a number of them were not interested and now they are forced to accept low prices.

At one time most local miners were members of a collective body, the Arusha Regional Miners Association (AREMA). But many of them complained that the association was a 'toothless bulldog' especially when it came to advocating for their rights, both in local marketing circles and in their conflicts against Tanzanite One.

When contacted for comment on the claims of the miners, the Executive Secretary of the Arusha Regional Miners Association (AREMA) Issaya Letema insisted that, "Such marketing syndicates do exist in mineral industry, but certainly not here, maybe abroad and precisely in the US!"

A new representative association, Manyara Regional Miners Association (MAREMA), is now likely to be established as Mirerani has now become part of Manyara Region.



Hakikazi Catalyst plain language guides are available on our website:

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WHAT IS O&OD?

Opportunities and Obstacles to Development (O&OD) is a participatory planning methodology currently being institutionalized in all Tanzanian Districts as an integral part of the Local Government Reform Programme (LGRP).

As such it provides an opportunity for CSOs to build the capacity of communities to be conversant with the process and to make it work to their best advantage. However, regardless of the introduction of O&OD, the ability of a community to advocate and negotiate on its own behalf at Ward and District level will still be an important factor in the achievement of their development goals. Any development planning training should include both components.

The idea behind O&OD is to ensure that communities participate fully in development planning and retain ownership of their plans. In essence, the methodology has much in common with other types of participatory planning (PP). However, some differences exist.

The starting point for many PP interventions is problem identification. O&OD, however, starts with the identification of opportunities available to a community or area. Opportunities are seen as resource potential. Resources such as land or forests may be unused or under utilized and as such represent development and poverty reduction potential. Barriers to the effective usage of these opportunities are termed obstacles to development. Therefore interventions aim to remove these obstacles.

This methodology could be dismissed as merely moving

problem identification to Step 2 in the process rather than its normal position at Step 1. However, the process of identification of opportunities may throw up some alternative options for development planning that may not emerge from stand alone problem analysis.

Importantly, O&OD is a process which empowers communities and Districts to define their planning needs independently. Advantages are seen by O&OD proponents in a move away from resource driven or sector specific plans or interventions towards a more holistic approach. Plans established in this way should then form an entry point through which all partners and stakeholders in the development and poverty reduction processes can coordinate their interventions.

Plans will also act as a tool for improving the coordination of development planning at village, District and national level as all planning will be undertaken with reference to the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and subsidiary government policies.

In addition to establishing the resources, or opportunities, available within the community, O&OD planning will also benefit from prior knowledge of the size of the external resource envelope. Under the Local Government Reform Programme's Capital Development Grant System, 60% of resources available to an LGA will be planned at District level and the remaining 40% at sub-District level. The amount available, or Indicative Planning Figures (IPF), will be made known to villages prior to the start of the planning process.



In practice, institutionalising O&OD is being undertaken by a trained corps of District Facilitators (DF), who are LGA staff. The DFs in turn train Ward Facilitators, drawn from the ranks of WEOs and extension officers. Village level work is carried out by Ward Facilitators supervised by a DF.

The process in the villages should take nine days and begins with an introductory meeting. Six to ten community members are selected to participate in the planning process with the members of the village council. Focus groups are identified and a work schedule agreed.

Participatory data collection e.g. mapping exercises, well being analysis, gender resource mapping etc. forms the first activity. In the following three days, focus groups discuss community opportunities in the context of the aspirations of Vision 2025. On Day 6 the focus groups and the VEO draft the village plan which is then forwarded to the Ward Development Committee for comments. Finally the plan is submitted to the Village Assembly for approval before being sent

to the LGA for incorporation into the District Development Plan.

Although the O&OD process was initially promoted as a bottom up planning methodology, a recent directive from central government has the effect of diluting this characteristic. District Councils will now draw up lists of development projects that will be given priority in the allocation of funds. These will tend to be have more tangible outputs, such as roads and dispensaries. As a result it may prove difficult to get resources to address other types of vulnerability, such as gender issues or tribal conflicts.

Another issue is the continued involvement of the WDC as a decisive part of the planning hierarchy, thus necessitating the promotion of advocacy skills at local level. It might serve communities better if the WDC was restricted to ensuring that plans are correctly presented and that inter-village projects are promoted.

In short, communities who have been facilitated to understand O&OD by CSOs may be at an advantage once the LGA facilitators arrive.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

The deadline for the completion of negotiations on the content of Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and the ACP countries is drawing ever closer. The date set for implementation is 1st January 2008. By this time each participating country must have also adjusted its internal legislation in light of EPAs.

Local civil society involvement in the negotiation process has been very limited to date. Problems of capacity and resources are central reasons for this lack of engagement. In addition, most African countries are negotiating under the umbrella of regional alliances, ideally requiring a coordinated civil society approach within these groupings. Unfortunately, civil society linkages are usually too weak at regional level to sustain a meaningful campaign at this level.

However, as regional trading blocs in Africa do not operate as customs unions as defined by GATT, each country will ultimately have to sign an individual EPA with the EU. Therefore, scope exists for a more manageable form of in country civil society action to improve the level of debate among influencers.

The Oxfam sponsored Say No to EPA campaign has encouraged this type of activity in Tanzania. Hakikazi, with Oxfam Ireland support, are organizing a series of round table discussions involving civil society, government and EU actors to enhance debate about EPAs and to evaluate possible alterna-

tives to the agreements. The need for alternatives was identified following Hakikazi networking activity with Government and civil society. It became evident that the Say No campaign will be strengthened if civil society, elected representatives, influencers and the general public understand the consequences of certain types of agreement on the one hand, and are also aware of the relative merits of a range of options on the other.

Novib has been conducting a study of possible alternatives to EPAs. They have kindly provided Hakikazi with a pre publication draft of the report in order to facilitate the planned round table discussion.

It is envisaged that the discussion will be wide ranging. For instance, any EPA or alternative will have social and economic effects at every level in each country. Certain effects can be predicted roughly, such as the changes in tariff revenue

that can be expected in each implementing country. However, it is more difficult to predict the downstream effects of changes in Government revenue or the effects of tariff changes on any given sector of the economy. Without detailed information of this nature it will be impossible to assess the development effects of EPAs in each participating country.

The ACP Council recognized this issue in 2005 by making a Declaration that development benchmarks should be established to assess the outcomes of EPAs and to ensure that trade liberalization works in favour of sustainable human development.

Achieving agreement on a set of benchmarks would be difficult process due to differing views on what constitutes development. However, requiring specified improvements in development indicators prior to implementation of each phase of an EPA would offer a valu-



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able safeguard to vulnerable sections of society living in liberalized markets.

Under the Say No to EPA campaign we hope to generate knowledge and debate on these issues over the coming year and to create a coalition that can influence the negotiation process in favour of the poor of Tanzania.

