



# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE FOR NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

## *Politics & The NPO Sector, Drawing The Line*

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# ABOUT NGOs CO-ORDINATION BOARD



- Established in response to growth in the NGO sector and need for one-stop shop for registration & regulation of the NGO sector
- Board has registered over 10,100 NGOs since 1992. During the financial year ended 2015/2016, NGOs contributed Kes. 125 Billion
- About a third of them are International and the rest National and Local
- NGOs Co-ordination Bureau is the Board's Secretariat and is headed by an Executive Director
- Board membership is drawn from Government and Non Profit Sector. Normally, the Board sits quarterly





# TYPES OF NPOs

- NGOs
- Societies
- Community Based Organizations
- Faith Based Organizations
- Companies Limited by Guarantee
- Trusts
- Foundations
- Trade Unions
- Community Associations etc



# The NPO Sector Pre Independence

- During this period, NPOs catered for Mutual economics, cultural and moral integrity of communities residing in their home lands i.e. All communities in Kenya formed such organizations e.g Kikuyu Central Association, Luo Union and the Kavirondo Association
- The British Government encouraged the formation of such associations as it enabled indirect rule among communities
- Upon realization of discrimination by the British Government, most of the associations transformed into resistance movements and Trade Unions
- The colonial government banned these groups They were considered a threat to the status quo for they agitated for independence from British rule







# The NPO Sector Post Independence

- During this period the NPO Sector remained dormant upto the late 70s. They were turned into Community Welfare Associations responsible for economic and moral purpose. Due to rural urban migration and the search for economic enhancement in foreign settings eg sisal and tea farms. Their presence was mostly felt in urban areas. Relationship with the State was cordial





# The NPO Sector in the late 70s and Early 80s



- Period characterized by the Cold war and the rise of Economic Liberalism. The Donor community intervened in State Development Authority. The Country began witnessing funding of Non State Actors. This was further justified by State corruption and incompetence. Donors channeled funds to developmental NGOs and the Private sector. The Government was tasked with the creation of an enabling environment for the aforementioned to thrive. Detention without trial became common for individuals perceived to be anti establishment





# The NPO Sector in the Mid 80s and Early 90s



- Beginning of the end of the Communism and the eventual fall of the Berlin Wall resulted in the creation of a politicized NPO sector. The creation of a New World Order and agitation of multi partism led conflict between the State and the NPO Sector. Churches, Trade Unions, Pressure groups, University Students, Community Associations etc challenged the State to open up Political space. During this period many NPO operatives were killed and detained. State/NPO relations were strained. Led to the creation of the NGOs Act of 1990



# The NPO Sector in 2002- 2007

- This period witnessed a decline in the influence of the NPO Sector as most NPO operatives joined Government. Lack of leadership succession led to the decline and in some instances the fall of institutions/organizations e.g National Council of NGOs
- Partnership & Collaboration between Government and NPOs
- Corruption reached eye brow raising proportions
- Increased ethnic intolerance
- Decline in alternative voices as the perceived ethnization of the NPO Sector
- Deep divisions in the political class







# The NPO Sector 2008 - 2017

- Re-emergence of the sector pre and post election violence
- Unchartered waters- building bridges
- Active participation in the development of a new constitution and the TJRC report
- Return of mistrust and suspicion between Government and NPOs
- Divisions among NPOs
- Dwindling funding from traditional donors due to financial crisis
- Development and passing of the PBOs Act
- Delay in the gazzement of the PBO Act
- Civic Education
- Research for providing actionable solutions





# Challenges



- Donor fatigue
- Emergence of County Governments
  - Poor relations with the State
- Mistrust between the various development stakeholders
  - Negative Ethnicity
  - Financial crisis in Europe
- Emergence of China as a super power
  - Radicalization of societies
- Proxy confrontations between the West, China, Russia and Iran
  - Recolonization of Africa





# Way Forward

- Reinvention and localization of the NPO Agenda e.g road carnage, boy child education, Family unit
- Sustainability of the Sector
- Partnership and collaboration with other development stakeholders
- Encouragement of Local Philanthropic activities and Foundations
- Tax rebates
- Improvement of Governance and Democracy
- Volunteerism



**THANK YOU**