

**What Has The EVALUATION SOCIETY  
OF KENYA Done/Is Doing To Influence  
Government Policies Related To  
Evaluation?**

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# Background

- Efforts for a vibrant national professional evaluation body begun in 2008
- Initial efforts focused on revamping the moribund Kenya Evaluation Association (KEA) through a consultative and inclusive team approach of M&E practitioners with support from the Monitoring & Evaluation Directorate (MED), Ministry of Planning
- MED coordinates the operationalisation of the National Integrated Monitoring & Evaluation System (NIMES) .NIMES tracks and provides feedback on the implementation of the country's economic Blue Print," ***The Vision 2030***"

# Background-Contd

- As part of the efforts to have a vibrant national evaluation association a joint presentation by the NIMES and KEA was made at the 2009, International Development Evaluation Associations (IDEAS) Conference in South Africa
- The objective of the presentation was to develop ideas for “Local Country Actions” that may contribute towards improving capabilities for evaluation of development activities in Kenya
- The presentation outlined how the institutions, working with other development partners could collaborate to strengthen evaluation capacities in the country. The recommendations of that initiative have since informed FSK’s evolution

# Background-Contd

- Interim steering committee was identified and endorsed by the members to spearhead the process of revamping KEA
- In 2010 consultatively, due to inevitable circumstances a switch was made from revamping KEA to having a new Society-” *Evaluation Society of Kenya-(ESK)*”
- An independent and consultative electoral process was conducted this August with the first formally elected committee comprising 8 officials to serve for a 3-year term

# Mobilization of Members

- An old contact list of KEA former members together with other innovative ways such as identifying M&E focal persons in organizations was used to target and invite potential members to initial meetings
- An e-platform (with about 200 members currently) was developed with the support of professional partners , ODI (Britain) .This revolutionized interactions for members and their exposure to matters M&E
- E.g. members receive local and international information on jobs, consultancies and trainings from AfrEA, IPDET, EvalPartners, IDEAS and AGDEN listservs
- With this kind of exposure, it is seen as one of the ways of strengthening the M&E capacities of members to be able to provide their professional input into Kenya's development agenda- in line with our overall strategic objective

# Building of Institutional Capacities

- Formal Registration. This legitimized the Society including providing the credibility to engage with other development partners and the public
- Consultative development of Constitution
- Consultative development of Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plan
- Conducting an Independent and consultative Electoral Process
- The ESK website is being finalised

# Implementation of Strategic Plan

## Collaborations with Government

- Since inception, ESK has worked with the NIMES e.g. the latter has provided physical space in the last few years as venue for our meetings and informal secretariat which is critical as we get financially stable
- Now in the process of moving to the next level in collaborations with government by the implementation of strategic plan and Annual Work Plans (AWPs) through a multi-stakeholder approach
- Will include professional input into draft national M&E policy and its related legal framework; ESK members' involvement in the NIMES key stakeholders' committees.

# Implementation of Strategic Plan-Cont.

- Organize round table discussions and policy dialogue with technocrats and other policy makers (parliament, cabinet) ; conduct sector-specific evaluations jointly with government and establishment of sector-specific thematic working groups for members
- It is intended that ESK shall maintain her independence while also engaging in non-confrontational policy advocacy in this process
- This comes at a strategic moment in the history of our country when development has been devolved under a new constitutional dispensation . The citizenry /media are also very alert on development outcomes and impact



# Implementation of Strategic Plan-Cont

- We also see it as a golden opportunity for ESK through a multi-stakeholder approach to contribute towards the strengthening of the NIMES capacities and national Evaluation culture that are still weak

## **Building Partnerships**

- ESK endeavors to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to build a formidable professional evaluation force that will re-energize the NIMES and revolutionize the way development is currently executed in the country. They include: universities, research institutions, UN Agencies among others

# Implementation of Strategic Plan-Cont.

- An example of how successful such collaborations can be was demonstrated recently during the high visibility launch of ESK organized jointly with MED within a national M&E and support from other development partners like UNICEF ,UN Women, UNDP, DFID,SIDA and the world bank among others
- This event contributed towards the sensitisation of M&E in the country including raising the visibility of ESK and the NIMES as instruments for tracking and communicating development results
- It generated a lot of interest from the public and media who were interested to know the linkage between the two and in particular how ESK' s presence will change for the better the execution of development

# **Implementation of Strategic Plan-Cont.**

## **Engagement of Media/Social and Citizenry**

- To communicate and disseminate our analysis and findings of topic development issues, ensuring the reporting is evidence-based

## **Development of Evaluation Standards**

- The consultative development of evaluation standards is one of our AWP priorities. This will be aligned to the local development context and also be geared towards meeting international quality standards with reference to those of other professional bodies like IDEAS and AfrEA

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- A robust M&E system is part of our strategies to track and provide feedback on the implementation of the strategic plan

# Challenges

- Weak institutional capacity and budgetary constraints: As outlined above ESK initially had of necessity to focus on operational issues to bring the Society on its feet as opposed to the technical implementation of the strategic plan
- The absence of a secretariat .The committee members are all volunteers and are also very busy professionals with other competing career priorities
- Competing responsibilities of members making it difficult to attend meetings in large numbers

# Recommendations

- Support for institutional strengthening including Secretariat component
- Strengthening the capacities for members to be able to provide professional Evaluation input into the NIMES e.g. through peer learning
- Strong resource mobilisation strategy with a special focus to self-sustenance from e.g. membership fees and other activities
- Functional M&E system to track and provide feedback on strategic plan implementation

**THANK YOU!**

**ASANTE!**