

NATIONAL VALUES & PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

**Supporting Sustainable Development through
Research and Capacity Building**



This booklet is published in furtherance of KIPPRA's commitment in creating public awareness and building capacity in understanding and embracing National Values and Principles of Governance.

DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Values

- Values are lasting beliefs and ideals of a person or a social group.
- They bind a society together; define what is important and worthwhile; and provide guidance on what is right versus the wrong.

National Values

National values are beliefs of a nation guiding the attitudes, actions and behavior of its citizens.

Principles of Governance

These are normative standards that oblige the State to perform its functions in a manner that promotes the general well-being of the people.



President Mwai Kibaki signs the new Constitution of Kenya into law on Friday 27th August 2010 at Uhuru Park

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON NATIONAL VALUES

Preamble

...Recognising the aspirations of all Kenyans for a government based on the essential values of human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice and the rule of law:

Article 4(2)

The Republic of Kenya shall be a multi-party democratic State founded on the national values and principles of governance referred to in Article 10.

Article 132(1)(c)

Provides that the President shall, once every year, report in an address to the nation, on all the measures taken and the progress achieved in the realization of the national values, referred to in **Article 10**.

The President is further required to publish in the Kenya Gazette the details of the report.

Article 174

Provides for objects and principles of devolved governments.

Article 232(1)

Presents the values and principles of public service.

Article 234(2)(h)

Requires the Public Service Commission to evaluate and report to the President and Parliament on the extent to which the values and principles referred to in **Articles 10** and **232** are complied with in the public service.

Article 249(1)(b)

The objects of the commissions and the independent offices are to:-(b) secure the observance by all State organs of democratic values and principles

National Values and Principles of Governance {Article 10}

Article 10(1)

National Values and Principles of Governance bind all state organs, state officers, public officers and all persons whenever any of them:

- (a) applies or interprets the Constitution;
- (b) enacts, applies or interprets any law; or
- (c) makes or implements public policy decisions.

National Values and Principles {Article 10 (2)}

Article 10(2) highlights the following National Values and Principles of Governance:

- (a) Patriotism, National Unity, Sharing and Devolution of Power, The Rule of Law, Democracy, Participation of the People;

- (b) Human Dignity, Equity, Social Justice, Inclusiveness, Equality, Human Rights, Non-Discrimination, Protection of the Marginalized;
- (c) Good Governance, Integrity, Transparency, Accountability; and
- (d) Sustainable Development.



Parliament in session

1. PATRIOTISM (UZALENDO)

- Patriotism refers to love, loyalty and devotion shown to one's country.
- A patriotic Kenyan loves their motherland by e.g. paying taxes, protecting national resources, and working hard to build Kenya.
- We should be proud of our brand Kenya and protect it.



2. NATIONAL UNITY (UMOJA WA KITAIFA)

- Is a state of oneness which results from shared values, vision, purpose and aspirations irrespective of the ethnic, cultural, economic, religious or any other superficial status, while recognizing diversity.
- It is a choice to work as a team in tackling the challenges that face us as a nation. ***"One Kenya, One People, One Destiny".***

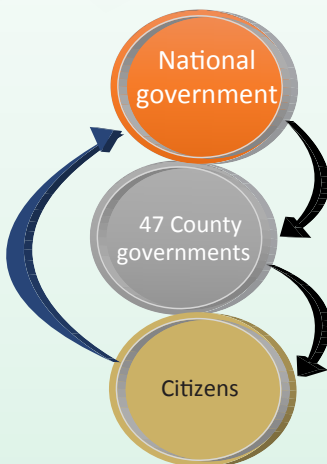


A section of leaders during the National Prayer breakfast

3. SHARING AND DEVOLUTION OF POWER (UGAVI NA UGATUZI WA MAMLAKA)

- Sharing and Devolution of Power is a governance environment in which power, political, economic and social resources are distributed between the national and county levels of government.
- It empowers people at the grassroots to make decisions on matters that affect them.

STRUCTURE



4. RULE OF LAW (*UTAWALA WA SHERIA*)

- Refers to the legal maxim that each citizen and person within the state should respect and observe the law.
- We must all observe the law for an orderly society



5. DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE (DEMOKRASIA NA USHIRIKA WA WATU)

- Democracy is a political culture in which all citizens exercise direct and equal participation in the running of the affairs of their country.
- Participation is the practice of involving all people in making decisions which ensures mutual respect and encourages shared responsibilities.



Citizens queuing to vote for leaders of their choice

6. HUMAN DIGNITY (*HADHI YA BINADAMU*)

Human dignity refers to:

- honor bestowed on individuals and people, and
- the upholding of the individual rights

as spelt out in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights regardless of one's status (**Article 28**).



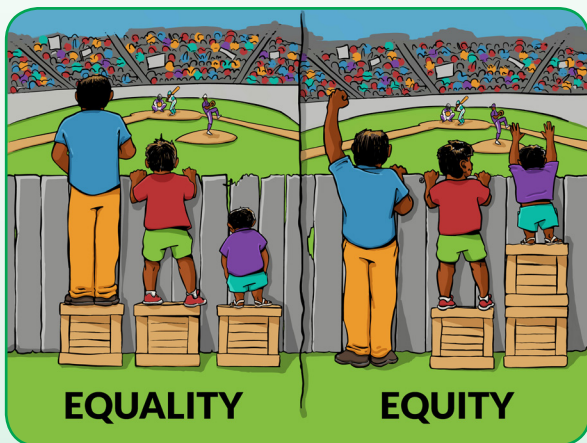
Beyond Zero Mobile Clinic

7. EQUITY (USAWA)

Equity refers to:

- fairness,
- impartiality,
- justice; and
- provision of equal access to national resources and opportunities

regardless of gender, disability, age, race, ethnicity, religion or status.



8. SOCIAL JUSTICE (HAKI YA JAMII)

- Refers to the enjoyment of the rights that enhance the well-being of an individual in all aspects of their interaction with one another and promotes solidarity.
- It is:
 - the fairness in service delivery,
 - distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges

within a society by the Government.

“Huduma Bora Ni Haki Yako”.



Mombasa residents wait to be served at the Huduma Centre

9. INCLUSIVENESS (UHUSISHWAJI)

- Inclusiveness refers to affording all people an opportunity to participate in activities including decision making, that affect their life.



10. EQUALITY (ULINGANO)

- Refers to treatment of everyone with equal measure irrespective of their status such as gender, religion, social class, tribe or race.
- It also refers to being regarded in equal status in all matters involving rights of individuals and people groups.



11. HUMAN RIGHTS (*HAKI ZA BINADAMU*)

- Human rights refer to God given inherent inalienable liberties and entitlements to be enjoyed by all people and upholding of their rights as spelt out in the Constitution.
- They include: The right to life, freedom of expression, right to health, housing, freedom from hunger, social security, education, the right to development and self-determination.



12. NON-DISCRIMINATION (KUTOBAGUA)

- Non-discrimination refers to offering services and taking care of all persons without bias.



A mobile phone technician serving a person with disability.

13. PROTECTION OF THE MARGINALIZED (KULINDA KUNDI LILILOTELEKEZWA)

- Protection of the marginalized refers to safeguarding livelihood of those who have challenges or those that do not have a voice in society.
- National Cohesion and Integration Act No. 12 of 2008 outlaws marginalization.
- Equalization Fund (**Article 204**), YEF, Uwezo Funds, AGPO are some of the key initiatives in Kenya to address the issue.



Pupils learning under a tree

14. GOOD GOVERNANCE (*UTAWALA BORA*)

- Refers to having systems and structures through which the exercise of power and authority can be controlled or held to account.
- It also refers to the prudent management of institutions and resources by those entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing them.



15. INTEGRITY (UADILIFU)

- Integrity refers to adherence to virtuous moral and ethical principles.
- This includes honesty, truthfulness, consistency and moral character both in private and public life.
- It also refers to the quality of being steadfast and consistent about what is right.



16. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (UWAZI NA UWAJIBIKAJI)

- **Transparency** refers to the requirement to share information and act in an open manner.
- **Accountability** refers to being held responsible for one's actions, conduct and management of resources.



17. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MAENDELEO YA KUDUMU)

- Sustainable development refers to the pattern of resource use that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



CONCLUSION

Promotion of national values and principles of governance will lead to socio-cultural, economic, and political transformation, that is key towards the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030 goals.

This booklet is adopted from the Directorate
of National Cohesion and Values

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