

In the News: Issue 2

The content of this second issue is dominated by a range of articles on accountability issues in the governance, development and service delivery sectors. Articles on extractive industries and a general section complete the edition. We would be interested in hearing your [comments](#) on this service.

1. Accountable governance

Emerging accountability in West Africa

PeaceFM

Accra: For long, endemic corruption in West Africa has seen the region engulfed in gruesome civil wars, executions, state collapse, military coup detats and state paralyzes. This made the region Africa's most troubled and most crime-infested area. Whether in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria or Mali, corruption saw the state helplessly spinning in mid air.

Andrew Young: Keeping Nigeria's reform alive

Leon H Sullivan Foundation

Washington: Since its independence in 1960, Nigeria has been an economic and political leader in Africa. Its peacekeepers have been among the world's most effective. Nigerian entrepreneurs consistently rank among the most successful business people wherever they emigrate. However, this West African powerhouse has been caught in a web of recriminations because of the actions of a relative few whose corruption and scams have been so successful that Nigeria is too often seen through that lens even when the scams are created by non-Nigerians. This incomplete view of Nigeria has obscured its successes in making reforms because of successful leadership.

Jonathan signs 2010 budget, promises close monitoring

ThisDay

Lagos: Acting President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday signed the 2010 Appropriation Bill into law with a firm promise to closely monitor its implementation. He also pledged that the budget would accelerate Nigeria's economic recovery through targeted fiscal interventions aimed at stimulating the economy, sustaining private sector growth and enhancing the pace of national development.

Nigeria 2010 budget: N100bn for lawmakers' constituency projects

The Punch

Lagos: Details of the 2010 budget, which the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, signed into law on Thursday, showed that zonal constituency projects of lawmakers amounted to N100bn.

Nigeria: MDAs strategise for execution of 2010 budget

The Guardian

Lagos: For a successful implementation of the 2010 budget, officials of 50 Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the World Bank have fine-tuned strategies for timely execution of projects. The Bureau of Public Procurement, which co-organised the capacity building workshop on public procurement with World Bank Economic Reform and Governance Project, said the government must this time around get value for money.

Committee investigates Lagos LGs' expenditure

ThisDay

Lagos: A committee, made up of members of the civil society, some legislators in Lagos State and National Youth Service Corps members, is currently investigating how local governments in Lagos State have spent their bulk federal allocations for development purposes. The investigation was launched at the instance of the Lagos State Ministry of Local Government, which solicited the Department for International Development (DfID) and the State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI) to help in the exercise.

A bloated cabinet - dont bankrupt the country

Daily Independent

Lagos: The United States of America, with a population of about 300 million, Gross Domestic Product of \$14.441 trillion and per capita income of \$47,440, has fifteen federal ministries. The Federal Republic of Nigeria, in contrast, with a population of about 150 million, Gross Domestic Product of \$207.116 billion and per capita income of \$1,401, currently has twenty nine ministries.

Engage the masses in budget process, say experts

Next

Lagos: Against the background of failing states, increasing lack of transparency in governance and depleting trust in its budget implementation, experts have urged governments at various levels to actively involve the masses in their budgeting and implementation processes if they indeed desire to facilitate the empowerment of the people.

Kibaki: legislature, judiciary should sign performance contracts

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

Nairobi: Public servants must at all times uphold accountability and remain faithful to Kenyan taxpayers, President Mwai Kibaki has said. President Kibaki made the remarks when he officially released performance contracts evaluation results at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre. The Head of State said that performance contracting must be applied uniformly across the entire public sector without exception.

Wako is Kenya's best performer

Daily Nation

Nairobi: The State Law Office is the best performing institution within the Kenya Government, according to a report released Monday. The office is under Attorney General Amos Wako and was the best on the performance contracts evaluation results for public agencies. The Ministry of Livestock Development, under Mohammed Kuti, was rated the worst in efficiency and service delivery closely followed by that of Labour.

Ranking of state organs raises critical questions

Business Daily Africa

Nairobi: Reading through the list of government departments and State corporations that were Monday feted as having put up sterling performance vis-à-vis the targets they signed up for last year does leave one with mixed feelings and lots of questions in mind.

Museveni outlines 5-year master-plan

New Vision

Kampala: President Yoweri Museveni has directed the Ministry of Public Service to set targets for civil servants. Speaking at the launch of the five-year National Development Plan, the President said human resource efficacy is key to the transformation of the country. The plan was formulated by the National Planning Authority (NPA).

New development plan angers MPs

New Vision

Kampala: The finance committee has embarked on scrutinising the National Development Plan that was launched yesterday, in preparation for its debate and adoption by the House. Chairman Tindamanyire Kabondo, however, struggled to contain members who wanted to boycott the launch, saying the National Planning Authority side-stepped them.

New development plan raises fresh questions

The Observer

Kampala: The government this week launched an ambitious five-year National Development Plan, which some experts acknowledged makes excellent reading but doubt whether it will be implemented.

Uganda's development plan begs some questions

The Observer

Kampala: The NRM government has just launched a development plan which is a fundamental departure from the Washington Consensus or stabilisation and structural adjustment programme that was launched in 1987 and has been praised by the government and donors, state and non-state actors alike, as a "success story" in macroeconomic stability, rapid economic growth, privatisation of the economy, diversification of exports, streamlining public service and reducing poverty etc.

Salary raise for civil servants postponed

Daily Monitor

Kampala: Civil servants should forget about a pay raise soon, after it emerged yesterday that Cabinet had blocked a Shs250 billion kitty to boost their salaries. Junior Minister for Public Service Sezi Mbaguta told the parliamentary committee on Public Service and Local Government that no money for salary adjustments for civil servants has been provided for in the 2010/11 budget as requested.

Guebuza calls for improved services to the public

Agencia de Informacao de Mocambique

Maniamba: Mozambican President Armando Guebuza said on Tuesday in the administrative post of Maniamba, in the northern province of Niassa, that the best protection one can give to the people is to ensure the proper functioning of the various institutions that provide services so that they respond better to people's needs. All those serving the public should strive to work in a transparent manner and satisfy people's needs in the fight against poverty, he declared.

Guebuza promises transparency in district funds

Agencia de Informacao de Mocambique

Tsanganano: Mozambican President Armando Guebuza has promised greater transparency in the selection of candidates to receive financing from the District Development Fund.

Kenya PM speaks against unviable CDF projects

Daily Nation

Nairobi: Prime Minister Raila Odinga has raised concern over white elephant projects being funded through Constituency Development Funds in the country. He said there is need to consult experts before setting up any project, adding that some projects have consumed a lot of tax payers money yet they are not beneficial to residents.

Public service satisfaction waning - Minister

Business Report

Johannesburg: Just over half of South Africans say they are happy with government's delivery of services, Public Service and Administration Deputy Minister Roy Padayachie told MPs. "Only 58 percent of the population is in fact satisfied with service delivery," he said during debate in the National Assembly on his department's budget vote.

Zuma has frank discussion with top management

BuaNews

Johannesburg: The delivery of services to the country's people dominated a discussion between President Zuma and his top management on Friday. The President told his top management in a frank engagement that after two decades of democracy, lack of service delivery to the people could not be blamed on apartheid.

Development stakeholders question MKUKUTA

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: Development stakeholders have expressed doubts over the government's sincerity in involving them in the process of preparation of the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty. They claim that the timetable for drafting and approval of the plan could make the stakeholders' involvement process seem to be overtaken by events.

Sceptics shred Mkukuta, tax havens

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: Participants in the second phase of the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty have criticised the government over the policy. During a consultation process taking place in Tanga stakeholders criticised the government for its tendency to provide tax relief to foreign investors.

CAG report damns local authorities' indiscretions

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: Projects implemented by local governments have turned out to be another avenue for squandering public funds, the Controller and Auditor General, Mr Ludovic Utouh, has revealed.

CAG for performance contracts

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: It has been recommended that the government should enter into performance contracts with boards of directors of public firms. In his recent audit report, the Controller and Auditor General (CAG), Mr Ludovic Utoh, says this will help improve accountability and their operations. Equally, he has directed the boards to set pre-determined goals to be achieved during their office tenure which should be made public.

Interference cause of parastatal woes

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: The performance of most public corporations is wanting. The consequence of this is wanton wastage of public resources and failure to discharge the duties for which they were established. This is why, though belated, Parliament's amendment of the Public Corporation Act, Cap 257, early this week, is a step in the right direction.

Public enterprises

Business Day

Johannesburg: South Africa's major infrastructure industries in electricity, transport and telecommunications are dominated by state-owned enterprises. Few would express satisfaction with the prices, reliability and quality of these infrastructure services. What can be done to improve performance and to position these sectors to contribute more effectively to economic growth and development?

Examine the efficiency of the health budget

The New Vision

Kampala: With only five years left to 2015, civil society organisations are pressing African governments to honour the Abuja declaration which mandates them to commit at least 15% of their national budgets to health. This is in the hope that with increased financing, countries may realise improvements in health indicators like maternal health which has globally been accepted as the mirror for the state of any health system.

Ministers call for boost to funding

Daily Nation

Nairobi: Education ministers in Eastern Africa are lobbying their governments to increase funding for the sector. The ministers, who are attending a meeting in Nairobi, said education was the key to social and economic development. Led by Kenya's Sam Ogeri, who is also the chairman of the Conference of the Ministers of Education for the African Union, the leaders called for increased spending on education - at least six per cent of Gross Domestic Product or 20 per cent of the public expenditure.

WHO urges African governments to invest more in health sector

Angola Press

Luanda: The World Health Organisation (WHO)'s regional director for Africa, Luis Gomes Sambo Sunday here reiterated his call on the African governments to allocate adequate resources to the health sector, with a view to improving the interventions in the communities.

African Finance Ministers dismiss development declarations

Pambazuka News

After two heated debates during the recent African ministers of finance meeting in Malawi, national delegations from South Africa, Rwanda and Egypt succeeded in deleting any reference to budgetary targets for education, health, agriculture and water in the Common Position on MDGs and the conference report and resolutions.

IMF/World Bank Development Committee communique

IMF/World Bank

Washington: The following is the text of the IMF/World Bank Development Committee Communique, issued Sunday:

No sacred cows in anti-graft war - Jonathan

Daily Independent

Abuja: Acting President Goodluck Jonathan at the weekend told the United States that he is strengthening the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission as well as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the two main anti-graft agencies, to enhance probity and accountability in governance.

Kenya: Government to track corruption within its ranks

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

Nairobi: The government will launch a system of tracking corruption within its ranks and making public its findings as part of the war on graft. Prime Minister Raila Odinga said Tuesday that the numerous anti-corruption agencies in the country do not focus on systematically monitoring corruption within the government and naming and shaming public institutions overwhelmed by the vice.

Erkki wants a Vision 2030 Soe

The Namibian

Windhoek: The ambitious Government Vision 2030 development plan requires a fast and pro-active approach, and a fulltime director general, a secretariat and a board of directors should be appointed, Works and Transport Minister Erkki Nghimtina proposed on Tuesday. Vision 2030 was adopted six years ago and contains projects that are to transform Namibia into a fully industrialised nation by the year 2030, with a flourishing economy, unemployment reduced to a minimum and prosperity for all.

Tanzania challenged to emulate Chinese economic strategies

Tanzania Daily News

Dar es Salaam: Failure by Tanzania to emulate Chinese economic growth even after decades of strong bilateral ties between the two countries remains a puzzle even to the highly educated class.

2. Extractive industries

The NEITI shocker

ThisDay

Lagos: It is difficult to believe that six years after Nigeria adopted the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, order and accountability are yet to be achieved in its strategic oil industry. The absence of both qualities has created a culture of mediocrity and sheer criminality leading to the sad reality that a sector that ought to benefit the country and its people has become a source of intense controversy.

Nigeria mulls sovereign fund for oil wealth: Minister

AFP

Abuja: Nigeria said Tuesday it is considering setting up a sovereign wealth fund to enable the west African country to manage its huge oil revenue with greater efficiency and transparency. "The National Economic Council is considering the idea of setting up a national sovereign wealth fund," Finance Minister Olusegun Aganga told reporters following a meeting of the council in Abuja.

Equatorial Guinea ejected from oil and mining industry clean-up body

Financial Times

Lagos: A pioneering initiative aimed at cleaning up the oil and mining industries has ejected Equatorial Guinea from its ranks following a board meeting seen as a test of its credibility.

Holding chiefs accountable

Public Agenda

Accra: The Ghana EITI multi stakeholder's steering committee has been urged to request the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands to make public disclosures of royalty disbursements to traditional authorities in mining communities to enhance citizens' demand for transparency and accountability in the use of these resources. The call was made at an evaluation workshop of a mining revenue and expenditure tracking project sponsored by the KASA initiative and implemented by the Integrated Social Development Centre and Publish What You Pay Ghana.

Uganda oil revenue will 'significantly' fund development plan

Bloomberg

Kampala: Uganda's anticipated oil revenue will "significantly" help finance the country's five-year, \$26 billion national development plan, the National Planning Authority said. The East African nation may begin producing oil later this year when Tullow Oil Plc starts output at its Kasamene field. The UK-based explorer has found about 700 million barrels of oil in Uganda and believes about 1.5 billion barrels are still to be discovered.

Sierra Leone discloses mining revenues for first time

VOA

Freetown: Two years after Sierra Leone signed up to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, the government has submitted their first report on mining revenues.

3. General

Getting community consultation right

Inter Press Service

Gaborone: The Lesotho Highlands Water Project will move into its second phase in 2010. The first phase has been praised as a shining example of transboundary water sharing in Africa, but community dissatisfaction may mean a rough ride for its extension.

Children help to assess water health

Inter Press Service

Cape Town: "Miss, Miss, there are tiny creatures here in the water!" a Grade 7 pupil shouts excitedly, trying to draw attention to his water sample. At first, the liquid looks clear, but upon closer examination, one can make out a tiny aquatic invertebrate.

APRM: Deteriorating Lesotho has a steep mountain to climb

Business Day

Johannesburg: Rockets are reverberating around the mountains of Lesotho over reports in SA that it is about to lose its sovereignty and become the 10th province of SA. The event that gave rise to these reports was a discussion about the outcome of Lesotho submitting itself for assessment under the African Union's African Peer Review Mechanism.

Key MDGs 'not likely to be met'

The Citizen

Arusha: With only five years left, Tanzania is not likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in maternal mortality reduction and improvement of maternal health. Maternal mortality stood at 578 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008, nearly three times the 133 that the country had targeted to achieve by 2015 under the MDGs set by the United Nations.

World Bank frees up development data

World Bank

Washington: The World Bank Group said today it will offer free access to more than 2,000 financial, business, health, economic and human development statistics that had mostly been available only to paying subscribers. The decision, part of a larger effort to increase access to information at the World Bank, means that researchers, journalists, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), entrepreneurs and school children alike will be able to tap into the World Bank's databases via a new website, data.worldbank.org.

You don't "do" or "deliver" development

IDN

Paris: The 'aid effectiveness agenda' provides a framework for 'donors' and developing countries to work together in the most effective way possible. There are essentially two dimensions to do so.

Aid beyond prejudice and pride

IDN

Paris: "Africa is drowning in aid money." "Too much aid goes to the private pockets of corrupt regimes and towards a bloated development industry, when much more should be spent on the private sector." "Aid is a useless distraction given the impact of issues like trade, investment etc on development." "Aid is not nearly growing quickly enough."

NSHR reports deteriorating human rights situation

New Era

Windhoek: The [National Society for Human Rights Report 2009](#) concludes that the general human security situation in Namibia has "continued to deteriorate".

AU embarks on an audit of universities

The East African

Nairobi: Efforts to foster quality education in universities have been scaled up with the African Union now choosing to subjecting the institutions to a fresh scrutiny. The survey being conducted in AU-member countries will seek to establish the quality and relevance of the degree courses being offered at universities in the continent.

ANSA-Africa contacts: Mario Claasen (Project co-ordinator), Richard Humphries (ANSA-Africa web content)

Website: www.ansa-africa.net | E-mail: info@ansa-africa.net

ANSA-Africa is funded by the [World Bank Institute](#). It is a project of the Economic Governance Programme, [Idasa](#)