

In the News: Issue 4

In the News 4 highlights a selection of articles posted to the ANSA-Africa website for the period 17 May - 4 June 2010. This issue covers articles on the themes of service delivery and budgeting issues, social policy and anti-corruption.

1. Service delivery and budgeting issues

Kenya: Tough rules to shield CDF as kitty set to triple

Daily Nation

Nairobi: Allocations for the Constituency Development Fund are expected to go up three times. A task force formed last year to review the CDF has proposed that the allocations to the fund rise by Sh14 billion per year. That means the CDF component would constitute 6% of the total national revenue, up from the current 2.5%.

Nigerian Procurement Observatory launches

PPDC

Lagos: The Nigerian Procurement Observatory is now live, online real time. The Observatory is a procurement monitoring web portal, developed in consultation with many NGO's and development agencies in Nigeria. It provides free online procurement monitoring training, free legal advice for registered journalists and procurement monitors and a mechanism for online collation and analysis of reports of procurement monitoring based on a standard checklist.

Nigeria: Budget spending "unsustainable"

Next

Lagos: Nigeria's expansionary spending plans this year are "unsustainable" and will drain the OPEC member's windfall oil savings if not controlled, junior finance minister Remi Babalola said on Friday.

We shall attain Vision 2020 goal - Jonathan

Punch

Lagos: President Goodluck Jonathan has stated that the Federal Government will attain the goal of making Nigeria one of the 20 largest economies by the year 2020. Jonathan stated this at the opening of a two-day e-Nigeria Summit organised by the National Information Technology Development Agency, in Abuja.

South Africa: Public finances and the transparency challenge

SACSIS

Johannesburg: How our government manages its finances is an issue that always stirs up a huge amount of emotions and public debate. Unfortunately, for South Africans, improving public finance management adheres to the adage "one step forward, two steps back."

Civil society must anchor a developmental state

Business Day

Johannesburg: Turning South Africa into a developmental state would require much more political mobilisation than the African National Congress has been able to muster so far. This is because the success of a developmental state in the 21st century requires stronger and more effective linkages between the state and civil society, linkages that are at best weak - and at worst nonexistent - in SA.

ANC branches to "warn early" on delivery

Business Day

Johannesburg: The African National Congress hoped to avert service delivery protests by using its branches to give early warning of non-delivery problems, the party said yesterday. It wants to place its branches at the centre of community life, and seeks to encourage them to raise the alarm where there are service delivery problems.

Angola: The impact of remittances from Portugal and South Africa

IOM

Geneva: A [new report](#), part of IOM's Migration Research Series, examines the social and economic impact of remittances sent by Angolans living in Portugal and South Africa and suggest ways to maximize their development effect in Angola.

JK reassures country on Vision 2025

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: President Jakaya Kikwete has reiterated the government's commitment to turning Tanzania into an industrialised nation come 2025, saying the creation of special economic zones puts the country on the right path to achieving the goal.

Tanzania: Government plans Sh11tr Budget

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: The government yesterday unveiled a Sh11.1 trillion tentative Budget for 2010/11. However, members of the Parliamentary Committee on Finance and Economy said the government should scale back tax exemptions to reduce donor dependency.

Officials' arrogance undermines JK government

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: Some top government officials are still reluctant to readily provide information to the public despite the directive President Jakaya Kikwete issued in 2006, *The Citizen* can reveal today. It has now become the norm for government officials, including ministers and senior presidential aides, to undermine President Kikwete's push for increased accessibility of state machinery by unnecessarily withholding information.

Uganda: Taxes may rise amid budget deficit

Daily Monitor

Kampala: The government is expected to raise taxes in the next budget as the gap between available resources and planned expenditure continues to expand. The 2010/11 budget forecast indicates a possible 11% increase in domestic taxes - the highest tax burden ever in the country - as government moves to close a Shs2 trillion deficit in the new budget.

Winners and losers in new budget revealed

The Daily Monitor

Kampala: Education will take the lion's share in the next national budget but most sectors will suffer cuts in monetary allocation, latest figures in the 2010/11 forecast show. The biggest cuts will be in the Works ministry whose budget is expected to reduce from the current Shs1.2 trillion to Shs919.5 billion.

New districts and the paradox of taking services to the people

The Independent

Kampala: Development partners share the concern of Uganda's civil society and media about the increasingly high levels of spending on government's administrative structures. These are resources that could otherwise be invested in infrastructure, basic education, health care, and clean drinking water for the poor.

Uganda's health budget: little money poorly spent

Daily Monitor

Kampala: The health sector still has funding gaps even though it's not making the most of the money it has. In our continuing Budget Review series, Evelyn Lirri analyses the health budget.

MPs told to focus on budget funding

The New Vision

Kampala: A senior budget expert has advised MPs to pay attention to the source of the money for the budget, rather than focusing on what is in the budget for their constituencies. Dr Anthony Tsekpo, a senior budget expert of the Parliamentary Centre in Accra, said in some parliaments, MPs focus on the expenditure side of the budget, leaving the revenue side least discussed.

Why is Uganda's leading economic sector lagging?

Daily Monitor

Kampala: Uganda has fertile soils and flat lands favourable for farming, but agricultural production in the country remains low, threatening the government's entire plan to transform the nation into a middle-income country. Why?

COMESA urges better quality statistics for policy makers

The Post

Lusaka: COMESA assistant secretary general Stephen Karangizi has said there is a need to enhance the quality and availability of statistics needed by policy makers to make decisions which will help the region to grow economically. During the opening session of the second COMESA committee on statistical matters, Karangizi said an ever-changing global environment continually seeks an equally dynamic statistical system as statistics continue to underpin the basis of decision making processes among policy makers.

Delivering service indicators in education and health in Africa: a proposal

World Bank

Washington: Access to quality services, in particular in health and education, has been recognized as fundamental for wellbeing and economic development. However, in Africa and other developing countries, service delivery is often poor or nonexistent: schools and health clinics are not open when they are supposed to be; teachers and health workers are frequently absent from schools and clinics and, when present, spend a significant amount of time not serving the intended beneficiaries; equipment, even when available, is not used; drugs and vaccines are misused; and public funds are expropriated.

World Bank supports government on public expenditure management

The Swazi Observer

Mbabane: The World Bank has offered assistance to government for the strengthening of public expenditure management. Government has been under fire for a long period of time due to its inefficiency in effectively managing the national purse, and it would seem she has now opened up to international criticism and sought to improve on its controls.

To meet the Millennium Development Goals, think governance

Brookings

On May 4, 2010, the Belgian Development Cooperation convened its [2010 "States General" Conference](#), which focused on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Brookings Senior Fellow Daniel Kaufmann provided the [keynote address](#), emphasizing the achievements and challenges in meeting the goals' targets, and focusing on governance as a constraint to accelerated progress. This commentary summarizes Kaufmann's key findings.

Ghana: Donors cut support

Peace FM

Accra: Government may not be able to implement some specific projects this year, as development partners have announced plans to cut budgetary support to Ghana. The country received \$525million in 2009, but would only get \$451 million this year, Ghana's development partners have said, citing assessments for 2009 as basis for the decision.

Africa should eye tax hikes on resource firms - study

Reuters

Dakar: African states should consider renegotiating unfavourable contracts with multinationals to ensure they get a fair return on their natural resources, a joint OECD/African Development Bank study urged on Monday. The growing presence of companies from China and other emerging countries on the continent also gives governments the chance to reap higher rewards from mineral, energy and other resources by putting them to competitive bidding, it said.

EU: Budget support and MDG performance

EU DGDEV

Brussels: This [study](#) analyses the relationship between the provision of general budget support and MDG performance, by disaggregating countries into "high" and "low" budget support recipients and assessing the extent to which selected MDGs have improved in each of these groups.

2. Social policy

Gender, poverty and environmental indicators on African countries

AfDB

Tunis: The [Gender, Poverty and Environmental Indicators on African Countries Report](#) is published by the Statistics Department of the African Development Bank Group. The publication provides some information on the broad development trends relating to gender, poverty and environmental issues in the 53 African countries.

Gaps increase in gender economic empowerment

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: Tanzania's performance in gender economic empowerment and advancement has been deteriorating since 2006. A Gender Gap Index report has indicated that the country dropped from the 23rd position in 2006 to the 73th in 2009 out of more than 100 countries surveyed.

Lesotho enacts free compulsory education

afrol News

Maseru: The government of Lesotho has enacted the Education Act 2010, legalising the right to free and compulsory education. The act is hailed as "a historic landmark for the children of Lesotho" and will boost school enrolment.

Democracy at 11: Assessing the education sector

Daily Independent

Lagos: Nigeria celebrated her 11th year of democracy anniversary at the weekend with mixed reactions trailing the development of its education sector. Some of the observers are of the opinion that the sector has grown tall in terms of expansion and the number of private schools at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Stakeholders make case for Children Commission

This Day

Ilorin: Over 70 stakeholders across the 36 states of the federation at the national conference on the Status of Child Rights in Nigeria have called for the creation of a Children Commission with budgetary allocations by the Federal Government in order to address the alleged infringement on the rights of children in the country. This, they said, would assist the nation's children, attain their right status among the African countries and the world in particular.

Social protection in Africa: where next?

ODI

Has social protection in sub-Saharan Africa lost its way? There have been dramatic and impressive achievements in the past decade, but a review of country experiences reveals that there is still a long way to go in many countries, while in others progress appears to have stalled, with no clear consensus among domestic and external stakeholders on the way forward.

William Easterly: Was Africa set up to fail on the MDGs?

Aidwatch

Africa has had some successes and good news in the last decade, and has made much progress on some social indicators over a longer period. Why isn't that reflected in this drumbeat of universal failure on the MDGs? The answer is that Africa was set up (probably unintentionally) to fail on the MDGs.

Is the good governance agenda being overrated?

Daily Nation

Nairobi: In the past few years, "good governance" has become a priority policy agenda among donors, multilateral organisations and civil society. A great deal of money is being poured into promoting issues such as democratic accountability, the rule of law, transparency, and stable property rights, particularly in developing countries. In fact, it would be hard to find a government or an NGO in Africa that does not have a good governance element embedded in its policy documents.

Women, politics and the Zimbabwe crisis

Kubatana

Harare: The Research and Advocacy Unit, in collaboration with Idasa, the International Centre for Transitional Justice, and the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe recently launched a report titled [Women, Politics and the Zimbabwe crisis](#). The report was the first of a set of findings from a survey taken in November and December 2009.

UN expert urges legal reforms to boost right to food

UN News Centre

New York: The right to food has gained significant recognition in Africa, Asia, Latin America and South Asia, but more national institutional reforms are needed to ensure that the fight against hunger is rooted in legal mechanisms, a United Nations expert has said.

Angola's small-scale farmers welcome investment, urge careful targeting

Inter Press Service

Luanda: Think small to overcome big problems - that was the message to African governments being urged to do more to increase food security and reduce hunger and malnutrition on the continent. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, told delegates at the regional conference for Africa staged in Luanda in the first week of May that there needed to be a focus on "small producers" and "family farming".

Disabled people remain poor and marginalised in Johannesburg

JacarandaFM

Johannesburg: A Johannesburg-based research study on poverty and disability had found that despite governmental commitments to the human rights of people with disabilities, most remain poor, are less educated and are not able to earn a livelihood.

Mozambique typifies aid dilemma

Financial Times

Maputo: Using an empty wine bottle and a plastic box of sand, Jose Antonio is busy trying to explain the principles of solid state physics to a class of rowdy 16-year-olds. But with 68 pupils squeezed into a classroom designed for half as many, he is struggling. "It is not easy. You need to explain things individually, but with so many it is impossible," he says, shouting to be heard above the din.

3. Anti-corruption

Peter Henriot: Lessons from convictions of prominent people

The Post

Lusaka: This column is written with great caution. Caution for juridical, political and personal reasons. To speak of the recent convictions in Zambia of highly prominent former government officials and business executives surely does require that caution. So in the conclusion to the column, I will attempt to balance my understandably cautious remarks this week with some pastoral remarks that apply not simply to those convicted but to all public servants.

Corruption fight comes under global spotlight

The Post

Lusaka: Professor Richard Calland has said global 'eyes' are on Zambia to see how it is dealing with corruption in the construction sector. Zambia is one of the pilot countries for the World Bank and DFID funded Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST) project which is aimed at improving transparency in the construction sector.

Stop the rot

The Post

Lusaka: The work of the Auditor General risks becoming useless, a waste of public funds, if nothing is done to ensure that those found wanting are brought to book. We say this because the Auditor General has been producing and making public reports of her audits every year. And in her reports, glaring irregularities are highlighted in the various government ministries, provincial administrations and foreign missions, among other public institutions.

There's lack of political will in corruption fight - SACCORD

The Post

Lusaka: Southern Africa Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes executive director Lee Habasonda has observed that the Swedish government's firing of Sida director general over Zambia's corruption record is a judgment on the country's political will to fight the vice.

New anti-corruption unit to monitor public servants' offences

Business Day

Cape Town: The anti-corruption unit to be established in the Department of Public Service and Administration would work closely with anticorruption agencies such as the Special Investigating Unit to ensure that action was taken against offending public servants, the department's acting director-general, Collette Clark, said yesterday.

Uganda: Government has exhibited the will to fight corruption

Daily Monitor

Kampala: The NRM government has been accused of lack of a political will to fight corruption. First the criticism has been on lack of the use of institutions. It's the NRM government that created the institution of inspectorate of government. At first it had no powers to prosecute, dismiss people or take any corrective action against officers found wanting. The powers of the IGG have now been strengthened to enforce non-compliance with the Leadership Code. The office has also powers to prosecute its own cases.

CHOGM: CID moves on VP, top ministers

The Observer

Kampala: Police are weighing and piecing together evidence against Vice President Prof. Gilbert Bukenya and ministers implicated in the 2007 CHOGM related impropriety, weeks after the donor community got assurances from Government that all implicated officials will be prosecuted before October, this year.

Uganda: Managers train in procurement

New Vision

Kampala: Managers are training in procurement to improve their knowledge of the sector. The training will expose the senior and middle managers to procurement laws to enable them fight corruption, which has plagued the sector.

World Bank urges FG to publish contract details in fight against corruption

BusinessDay

Lagos: For Nigeria to tackle the menace of corruption in the awards of contracts, the World Bank has called on the Federal Government to take decisive measures by entrenching transparency in the process of contract execution by publishing details of all contracts awarded for various stakeholders including the media and civil society to monitor the process.

Waziri: Other nations appreciate our anti-corruption model

Daily Sun

Lagos: The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Mrs Farida Waziri has drawn the attention of her critics to the fact that other countries are coming around to understudy the EFCC model. "Countries are coming around to understudy the EFCC model. Do people copy failures and never-do-wells? So, we have done enough for our admirers to commend us and far enough to make our critics green with envy."

Tracking the oily deals at NNPC

Daily Independent

Lagos: President Goodluck Jonathan has ordered a full probe of the accounts of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Correspondent, Adeola Yusuf reports that the probe, if concluded, may bring to the fore, some heart-rending revelations in many oily dealings in the country's crude industry.

New open space public offices to tame corruption

Daily Nation

Nairobi: Government ministries and parastatals are to spend billions of shillings to open up their offices in a new system aimed at fighting corruption. Head of Public Service Francis Muthaura has directed that all institutions funded by the Exchequer remove interior office partitions and adopt the modern work station model. The system, where staff in an office sit in an open space and can see one another across the full length, is expected to limit underhand dealings.

Tejan-Cole's resignation and the complexities of corruption

Concord Times

Freetown: Back in 2002, a summit of the African Union on corruption clearly highlighted just how serious this evil is within African societies. The statistics for the cost of corruption to the continent was an estimated 148 billion dollars annually. In Sierra Leone, the legacy of corruption had already seen the Athens of West Africa become the laughing stock of the world.

Ghana launches pocketsize whistleblower booklet

Ghana News Agency

Accra: President John Evans Atta Mills' commitment to make the penalty for corruption so high and eradicate it was given an impetus with the publication of "User's Guide to the Whistleblower," booklet. The 34-page sea-blue pocketsize booklet with the effigy of a frightening, shivering bald-headed old man on a phone imbued on the front page was produced by the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition in collaboration with the British High Commission in Accra.

Oxfam and quiet corruption

World Bank

Washington: Barbara Stocking, the Chief Executive of Oxfam GB, sent me [Shanta Devarajan] a letter about the Africa Development Indicators [essay on "Quiet Corruption."](#) In order that others may join the conversation, I include here [her letter](#) and [my response](#).

Using GPS to monitor school performance and accountability

WBI

Manila: Efficient and effective operation of public school systems is a challenge for governments around the world. Many struggle to establish transparent performance monitoring systems that allow citizens to hold school officials and governments accountable for performance. The public school system in the Philippines is no exception.

4. General

Voters seek powers to recall weak MPs

The Citizen, 04 June 2010

Dar es Salaam: Members of civil society yesterday launched a national campaign in Dar es Salaam to push for electoral reforms, including the enactment of a law allowing the recall by voters of MPs for poor performance. During the launch of their '2010 Election Manifesto', the activists, meeting under the auspices of FemAct at the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme headquarters at Mabibo grounds on the city's outskirts, also called for the MPs' tenure to be limited to only two-five year terms.

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 - * **Organisation involved in social accountability work are encouraged to [submit their reports to ANSA-Africa](#) for posting on our website - thereby reaching a much wider audience in Africa and internationally.**
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