

### ***In the News: Issue 5***

*In the News 5* highlights a selection of articles posted to the ANSA-Africa website for the period 7 - 20 June 2010. This digest highlights articles on social policy, service delivery and the budget; anti-corruption and procurement; extractive industries and a general section.

#### **1. Social policy, service delivery and the budget**

##### **Mixed fortunes for Uganda's education sector**

*Daily Monitor*

Kampala: Free primary education is widely seen as one of the key achievements of President Museveni's government, but is it a hollow success? By the numbers, the government's effort to focus on primary education has produced impressive results. When the programme started in 1997, only 2.5 million children were attending school. This number has grown to 7.5 million or 82 per cent of the eligible pupils enrolled, according to the latest annual performance report of the Ministry of Education.

##### **cu@school Uganda**

*SNV*

Kampala: Can mobile phones help bringing primary school teachers and pupils back into the classroom? Teachers absenteeism in Uganda is one of the highest in the world, with obvious implications for the quality of education. With absenteeism rates of 20% - 30% varying per districts, teacher absenteeism costs the Ugandan government US\$ 30,000,000m every year for paid services that are not delivered.

### **Is the education budget benefiting?**

*The Citizen*

Dar es Salaam: In 2009, the primary school leaving exam pass rate fell to less than 50 per cent. In other words, half of all the children who make it through seven years of primary schooling are not receiving the expected level of education. In the same year, Form IV pass rates reached an all-time low of 15 per cent. This wasn't a gradual decline in learner outcomes: this year's pass rate almost cut in half that of 2008 and is less than half of the 10-year average of 33 per cent between 1998 and 2008. These results shocked the nation, and their implications are weighing on the minds of the people.

### **FG, 36 states to dedicate 15% budget to health sector**

*This Day*

Abuja: The Federal Government and the 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory have agreed to dedicate 15% of their annual national budget to the health sector, Minister of Health, Onyebuchi Chukwu, has said.

### **What are our priorities?**

*The Post*

Lusaka: "Yes, 45% of Zambian children are stunted! And yes, Zambia is among the ten most malnourished countries in the world! But how is that possible in a country that is experiencing a bumper harvest this year?" Well, that's a question that kept coming in my head last week when I was attending the launch of a new [JCTR](#) study on school feeding programmes in Zambia.

### **Botswana to drive SADC youth agenda**

*Mmegi*

Gaborone: The Southern African Youth Movement, the umbrella body for youth organisations in the region, announced on Friday that Botswana will become the focal point for driving the regional youth agenda at the SADC secretariat, due to Botswana's strategic position.

### **Why this historic budget needs a keener audit**

*Daily Nation*

Nairobi: When Finance minister Uhuru Kenyatta rose to present this year's budget last Thursday, anticipation was high as its Sh1 trillion mark was historic. This is no small amount by all means. With an estimated population of 40 million, were a trillion shillings to be divided equally, each Kenyan would get about Sh25,000.

### **After budget, let's fix our absorption capacity**

*Business Daily*

Nairobi: Looked at from a layman's point of view, Finance minister Uhuru Kenyatta's budget was a near neutral proposition from a path he took last year. He deepened the fiscal devolution agenda, stayed his support to recovery and offered stimulus to key agriculture and small business sectors of the economy aiming to create jobs.

### **ELBAG will empower citizens to monitor government, says Abdu**

*Daily Independent*

Lagos: Dr Hussaini Abdu, country director of Actionaid Nigeria, recently focused on how ELBAG's training would build information and education qualities that would empower citizens to take action and create the desired change in various countries. ELBAG would provide a veritable tool not just for understanding dynamics of resource management, but to re-enforce the citizens on how to critically engage the government in the interest of the poor.

### **NGO lists barriers to education development in Bayelsa**

*Vanguard*

Yenagoa: The flow and management of revenues have been identified as the barriers to effective performance of the Bayelsa State educational sub-sector. A non-governmental organisation, Revenue Watch Institute, which disclosed this in Yenagoa during a public presentation of its report on Social Accountability Plan for Education in Bayelsa State, said that the flow and management of the state revenues were important to educational development.

### **Budget-makers yet to learn the value of transparency**

*Daily Nation*

Nairobi: Last year, there was an uproar when it emerged that there were 'errors' in the budget estimates. The whole episode dealt a major blow to the integrity of budget documents. This year, the estimates came in four huge documents. Reading through them page by page is as dreary as reading through an engineering blueprint. Much more needs to be done to improve dissemination of budget information to the public.

### **Plan prioritises poverty reduction drive**

*The Citizen*

Dar es Salaam: The Sh11.1trillion Budget for the 2010/11 financial year will be channelled towards the implementation of programmes that have potential for accelerating economic growth and poverty reduction, including 'Kilimo Kwanza', the government said yesterday. Presenting Budget Estimates before the parliament in Dodoma, Finance and Economic Affairs minister Mr Mustafa Mkulo, said the expenditure policy will focus on improving management of public funds.

### **Reps demand constituency fund**

*Daily News*

Dar es Salaam: Members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives have appealed to the government to speed up the establishment of Constituency Development Fund, saying the delay would result in mistrust in constituencies.

### **Activists suggest more budget for agriculture**

*Daily News*

Dar es Salaam: The Tanzania Gender Networking Programme in collaboration with other social activists have challenged the 2010/2011 budget, suggesting that the funds should have given priority to the rural women in order to speed up development. TGNP Executive Director Ms Usu Mallya told a joint press conference in Dar es Salaam that the health sector had meagre budget contrary to the Abuja Declaration which requires governments, including Tanzania, to allocate 15 per cent of the budget to health sector.

### **Reflection on civil society budget advocacy**

*Daily Independent*

One of the key attributes of democracy is the participation of citizens in decision making processes. One area that this has usually been weak is the area of budgeting. The budget is a fundamental law of the country since no money may be spent outside that which has been appropriated by the legislature.

### **Angola makes steady progress towards meeting development goals - UNICEF**

*UN News Centre*

New York: Angola has made considerable strides in achieving more than half of the Millennium Development Goals, including those on malnutrition and child health, the United Nations Children's Fund announced today. The finding is based on preliminary data from the first nationwide survey to collect development indicators since the end of Angola's long-running civil war.

### **State looks to technology for efficient service delivery, fight against corruption**

*Business Daily Africa*

Nairobi: James Wekesa, an IT consultant, carries a bulging wallet that often makes acquaintances mistake him for a loaded executive. However, he says the wallet is not home to wads of notes - it houses five important documents that he carries along routinely. They include his national identity card, a medical card, the National Social Service Fund card, a driving licence, and at times a passport.

### **Budgeting for children makes a difference**

*New Era*

Windhoek: Government, civil society and other role players were reminded of their combined responsibility to protect the rights of children and their welfare during the commemoration of the 19th Day of the African Child yesterday. This year's theme is 'Planning and Budgeting for Children: Our collective responsibility'.

### **MPs ask government to "starve" districts that fail to account**

*Daily Monitor*

Kampala: Parliament has asked the government to withhold financial remittances to local authorities that have failed to account for money earlier advanced to them. Debating a government request for Shs2 trillion to finance operations between July and October, when Parliament passes the new Budget, MPs said districts that have been named by the Auditor General as defaulting on accountability should not receive any penny.

### **UN identifies new strategies to accelerate poverty reduction**

*UNDP*

New York: Development models that focus attention on the poor while expanding job opportunities, increased government spending on social services and aid flows from affluent nations are all successful strategies for alleviating global poverty, the United Nations says. Access to low carbon energy and mobilizing domestic capital by, for example, improving tax collection, are the other factors the UN Development Programme identifies in [a new report](#) as crucial factors for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

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## **2. Anti-corruption and procurement issues**

### **GII launches exchange of information forum**

*Ghana News Agency*

Accra: Exchange of Information Forum, a periodic engagement platform for key State accountability institutions to share information regarding their activities, has been launched. The EIF, which is a brain-child of Ghana Integrity Initiative, local chapter of Transparency International, is to among other things help improve systems for increasing transparency and accountability to fight public sector corruption and crime.

### **PPRA and CoST to enhance transparency, accountability in construction sector**

*PPRA Tanzania*

Dar es Salaam: The [Construction Sector Transparency Initiative](#) and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding in implementing activities which will enhance transparency and accountability in construction sector.

### **UN expert calls for independent anti-corruption mechanisms**

*The Post*

Lusaka: A United Nations expert on human rights and extreme poverty has advised the Zambian government to ensure the independence and capacity of anti-corruption mechanisms if the country is to effectively curb corruption.

### **PS's urged to up pace**

*New Era*

Windhoek: President Hifikepunye Pohamba yesterday told permanent secretaries that corruption, either by themselves or their staff, would not be tolerated in his administration. The President held a consultative meeting with permanent secretaries and senior State House executives and warned them that the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Namibian public "are keeping eyes open on your performance."

### **Rules to speed up graft probe in civil service**

*Daily Nation*

Nairobi: Corrupt civil servants and staff of parastatals are the target of new rules meant to speed up investigation into their crimes. The rules stipulate that investigations into corruption be completed a month after a crime is reported. Currently, there are no strict administrative guidelines on how to deal with officers implicated in corruption in the public sector, leaving many cases to go unchallenged, even where there is clear evidence of impropriety.

### **Watch out for creeping devolution of corruption**

*The East African*

Nairobi: Except for a couple of things, there is nothing much about this year's budget to remark on - and no news is sometimes good news. It is Kenya's largest-ever budget - with the assumptions about how to raise the revenue to match it apparently being linked to expanded tax collection and the possibility of reverting to the International Monetary Fund.

### **List of workers to be published**

*Daily Nation*

Nairobi: A list of civil servants in ministries and parastatals will be published as a way to curb nepotism in public employment. The National Cohesion and Integration Commission said it had received complaints that only people from certain communities were being employed in government agencies.

### **Powers of parliament grossly under utilized - CHRAJ**

*Ghana Web*

Accra: The Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice says that the powers of Parliament in exercising oversight responsibilities over state institutions were grossly under utilized.

### **Nigeria needs fresh anti-corruption approach, says Ribadu**

*Next*

Lagos: The federal government will introduce a fresh approach to tackle corruption which remains a source of insecurity to the nation, Nuhu Ribadu, former chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission, said yesterday.

### **Nigeria: The Procurement Act and other tiers of government**

*Daily Independent*

Lagos: The civil society sensitization forum on the Procurement Act organized by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre gave me an opportunity to reflect on this important law which was signed in 2007 but whose application is currently limited to federal government and joint state/federal government procurements. As it is, the bulk of procurement by state and local governments is not regulated by the Procurement Act.

### **Capacity building will ensure transparent governance - Rafsanjani**

*Daily Independent*

CISLAC executive director, Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, at the capacity building workshop of the civil society organisations on public procurement law recently in Ibadan, focused on transparent project procurement and execution processes that can effectively advance economically and environmentally sustainable growth, that would address the political, economic and public health deficits associated with extreme poverty.

### **Corruption: Jonathan warns contractors, public servants**

*This Day*

Abuja: President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday identified greed as the major stumbling block to the nation's development, warning that Nigerians engaging in corrupt practices would no longer have a field day. The President spoke at the first Presidential Retreat on the Implementation Plan for Vision 20:2020 and Public Private Partnership Framework for Infrastructure Development in Nigeria at the Banquet Hall, Presidential Villa Abuja. At the event, he promised that contractors and public servants engaging in corrupt practices would soon meet their Waterloo.

### **Namibia: Let's take ownership of fight against corruption**

*New Era*

Windhoek: The United Nations Convention Against Corruption, which is the first legally binding global instrument in the fight against corruption, entered into force on December 14, 2005. The State Parties to this Convention signed the Convention in recognition of the fact that corruption is not just a local evil, but a transnational phenomenon that affects all societies and economies. Therefore, international cooperation to prevent and fight corruption is essential.

### **Parties must account: ACC**

*New Era*

Windhoek: The Anti-Corruption Commission has, in its latest annual report, urged Parliament to pass legislation that would compel all political parties funded by taxpayers' money to start accounting for that money.

### **Human rights body lacks resources**

*The Swazi Observer*

Mbabane: The Swaziland Human Rights, Public Administration and Integrity Commission still does not have enough resources to effectively carry out its work, Chairman Reverend David Matse said yesterday.

### **WB, Switzerland call for action against asset theft and corruption**

*Financial*

The World Bank Group and the Government of Switzerland have called for concerted action against plundering of developing countries. Much of the money stolen from them finds safe haven in international financial centers. Failing to stem and reverse these criminal flows contributes to the impoverishment of the world's poorest countries.

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### **3. Extractive industries**

#### **Kepsa roots for minerals cash initiative**

*Daily Nation*

Nairobi: Kenya Private Sector Alliance wants the government to subscribe to a system that will facilitate full disclosure of money earned from minerals. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, says the alliance, will promote transparent use of revenue from oil, gas and mining sectors. Kepsa's quest for embracing EITI before Kenya finds commercial crude oil deposits is aimed at avoiding the mentality of over depending on oil (Dutch syndrome) that distorts other key sectors of the economy.

#### **Chamber of Mines expresses commitment to industry transparency**

*The Herald*

Harare: The Chamber of Mines has endorsed the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative established to encourage and assist countries rich in natural resources to report all payments being made by extractive companies to the Government, as well as all payments the Government has received from these companies.

#### **E-governance could make oil business transparent**

*The Daily African*

Lusaka: E-governance could help Ghana's higher authorities to deal responsibly with its new-found oil wealth, a leading scientist has said. In 2007, UK firm Tullow Oil announced the discovery of about 600 million barrels of offshore light oil in Ghana - the biggest recent oil discovery in Africa. But the country must develop new ways of interacting with its citizens and be more open to the public on activities within the oil industry to avoid conflict, said Akua Appiah-Akuramaa from the Geological Survey Department of Ghana.

#### **The curse of oil**

*The Nation*

Professor Assisi Asobie - the Chairman of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative last week undertook what has become the perennial dissection of the nation's affliction of the Dutch Disease - described as the curse of oil.

#### **Monitoring conflict minerals: Who's accountable?**

*NPR*

Washington: The term "conflict diamonds" may sound familiar - that is, diamonds mined in a war zone and often sold to buy weapons. But how about "conflict minerals"? That is what activists are calling elements like gold, tin and tantalum, used in computers and cell phones. These minerals also come from mines in war-torn countries.

## **EITI's evolution from CSR to governance standard is the key to emerging economies**

*EITI*

**"East outmanoeuvres west over Africa"** was the heading of a contribution by Patrick Smith to a series in the Financial Times on the competition between East and West. If it is true that companies from in particular China are gaining an upper hand in the race to control Africa's oil and minerals, does it come at a price with a race to the bottom of standards? There are reasons to believe why this is not the case. The experience of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative indicates that level playing fields can be created. More could be done to learn from this experience.

## **Presidency, states, set up panel on sovereign wealth fund**

*This Day*

Abuja: The Presidency and governors of the 36 states of the federation on the aegis of the National Economic Council has set up a committee to work out modalities for the establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund. The sovereign fund will serve as a reserve facility for the country's future needs.

## **Auditing the Federation Account**

*This Day*

Lagos: The Federal Government's decision to allow the Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative investigate how crude oil earnings have affected the lives of Nigerians is bound to make very profound revelations. President Goodluck Jonathan approved the audit of the Federation Account by the body recently to confirm that the revenue accruing to the country from petroleum and solid mineral sectors are fully remitted. Also the audit is to ensure that monies allocated to the various tiers of governments actually got to the people.

## **Congo mining contract proposes 35% state share**

*Reuters*

Kinshasa: The mines ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo says it wants state-owned mining firms to hold a 35 percent stake in all future mining joint ventures, in contrast to a wide range of shareholdings in existing ventures. A new proposed contract, written in May and awaiting government approval, will serve as a basis for negotiation, said Valery Mukasa, interim chief of staff at the Ministry of Mines.

## **Congo steps towards a better future**

*The Guardian*

Kinshasa: Today, eight in every 10 people in Congo will try to live on 10p, according to NGO research for the Jubilee Campaign on debt relief. And yet a company listed on the London stock market has just tried an £800m takeover. Congo is at last enjoying a modest measure of stability and reform, following the election in November 2007 of Joseph Kabila as president.

#### **4. General**

##### **Mo Ibrahim: Why no one got a prize this year**

*The Independent*

London: Ten years ago, The Economist told its readership that Africa was "The Hopeless Continent". It expressed a sentiment that was pervasive - that Africa was economically backward and that its political leadership was at best corrupt and at worst murderous. As the publication has been gracious enough to admit since, it was wrong.

##### **The oldest living things in Africa are its leaders - why?**

*Daily Monitor*

Kampala: A good friend in Kampala, who I will only call Mr K, to protect him against the cane-wielding Kiboko Squad that seems to have been unleashed to whack anyone with "unpatriotic" views in Kampala, sent me a nice and cheeky riddle on Monday. First, the list of some of the presidents of the leading African economies, mixed in with those who have been around long enough to qualify to be called elder presidents.

##### **NSACC calls for entrepreneurs' participation in public policy formulation**

*The Independent*

Lagos: Pro-chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Pan African University, and the first indigenous Executive Chairman, Cadbury Nigeria Plc, Ambassador Christopher Kolade, has called on business leaders in the private sector to take part in shaping government policies, noting that politicians and policy makers did not have the correct business information that could be used to legislate on issues that could transform the business community.

##### **Army is "Uganda's most trusted public institution"**

*The Citizen*

Kampala: The majority of Ugandans say the UPDF is the best performing institution in the country over the past four years and rate fighting the Lord's Resistance Army rebels as NRM's top achievement. Asked in an opinion poll to rate the performance of 11 randomly selected institutions on a scale of 1-10 - with lower digits denoting worse show - one in every pair of 2 000 respondents vouched for the army.

##### **Uganda: Government jobs not fairly distributed - poll**

*Daily Monitor*

Kampala: A majority of Ugandans feel that government jobs are not distributed proportionally, a Daily Monitor opinion poll shows. Of 2,000 respondents across the country interviewed between April 19 and May 6, 65 per cent answered "no" when asked for their view on "whether national jobs are allocated fairly and proportionately to all Ugandans."

## **Changing the face of politics**

*Inter Press Service*

Johannesburg: The face of politics is changing in the southern African country of Malawi. And civil society is making plans to ensure that it changes even more. Fresh from a dramatic increase in the number of women representatives elected into national government last year, the NGO Gender Coordination Network is already implementing plans for the Malawi's "50/50 campaign" to ensure that more women than ever before sit in local government seats after the November elections.

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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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