

In the News: Issue 7

In the News 7 highlights a selection of social accountability news articles posted to the ANSA-Africa website during the period 5 - 16 July 2010. This issue covers articles on the themes of service delivery; governance; anti-corruption; and extractive industries.

1. Service delivery

Donors don't dictate but demand accountability - Nyirongo

The Post

Lusaka: United Nations resident coordinator Macleod Nyirongo has said no cooperating partner is in Zambia to dictate to the government but they demand accountability because they are constantly under pressure from taxpayers in their respective countries.

ODI: Practical approaches to the aid effectiveness agenda

ODI

This [paper](#) explores the link between donor aid and recipient budgets, and the role that greater transparency and clearer information about aid can play in improving budget transparency, the quality of budgetary decisions and accountability systems in developing countries.

Aid and budget transparency in Mozambique

PWYP

Transparent budget processes are critical in democratic societies and citizens have the right to know where and how their resources are being invested. In Mozambique, where nearly half of the budget is financed by external aid, aid transparency becomes an important factor in supporting this democratic process. This short [study](#) looks at some of the constraints faced by governments (in preparing and implementing the budget), by the parliament (in their oversight role) and by civil society (in monitoring the budget process) related to lack of transparency of aid and the budget.

MPs advise government to expand tax sources

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: The Parliament Committee on Finance and Economy yesterday advised the government ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs to create new sources of income and to enhance tax collection in efforts to build an independent economy.

Government seeks national guidelines on user fees deployment

The Post

Lusaka: The government is looking at the possible ways of devising national guidelines on the utilisation of user fees collected in health facilities and schools in the country. Mungwi district administrative officer Felix Mungaila on Monday revealed that the government was also updating the national accounts systems as well as developing the national health policy to ensure accountability in the Ministry of Health.

Widening tax bases "key to development and democracy"

Inter Press Service

Paris: African countries should deepen their tax bases to collect more revenues to finance their development, build state institutions and to improve national dialogue and, more generally, their social contracts with citizens. These are some of the conclusions in two new studies on the taxation systems in Africa.

Why enhance domestic resource mobilisation in Africa?

ICTSD

Developing countries that have achieved and sustained high rates of growth have typically done so largely through the mobilisation of their domestic resources. Domestic resource mobilisation at a significant level is essential to solidify ownership over development strategy and to strengthen the bonds of accountability between governments and their citizens. In effect, DRM provides "policy space" to developing countries which is often constrained under the terms and conditions of external resource providers.

ZCTU input into 2010 fiscal review and budget

Nehanda Radio

Harare: While there has been a noted improvement in the performance of key sectors of the economy since the formation of the Inclusive Government in February 2009 that recovery remains generally tenuous and delicate amidst increasing downside risks emanating from the high country risk premium and inherent structural bottlenecks and institutional vulnerabilities.

Leaders pledge end to education crisis

THISDAY

Lagos: Political leaders at the World Cup Education Summit held in Pretoria pledged to end the education crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa, even as UNESCO drew attention to its 2010 Global Monitoring Report, warning that shortfalls in aid threaten to derail efforts to get the region's 32 million out-of-school children into classrooms.

Experts call for total revamp of education systems in Africa

Afrique en Ligne

Brazzaville: Two leading educationists told African education ministers meeting here on curricular reforms that the continent was in imminent danger of being left far behind by others if it did not re-shape its school teaching and learning models to incorporate modern economic and technological dynamics.

Local leaders must take charge of government schools

Daily Monitor

Kampala: In his keynote address to the National Resistance Movement national conference last week, the President commented about service delivery especially in education and health. The President pointed out that those who criticise Universal Primary Education, were not aware about what was going on.

Nigeria spends N1.04trn on MDG projects

THISDAY

Abuja: The Federal Government yesterday disclosed that it had over the last four years disbursed a total of N1.04 trillion on various projects geared towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the country. This is coming amidst concerns that the country might not achieve the goals set by the United Nations given the enormity of work to be done, slow pace of project execution, corruption and political interference in the management of the programme.

UN boost for gender budgeting

The Zimbabwean

Harare: The Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network has received a US\$1.7 million grant from a UN-supported fund to assist in the formulation of gender-based budgeting.

Time to take off kid gloves

Dispatch Online

East London: Yesterday this paper reported that civil service and teacher unions based in Zwelitsha were planning to cripple education in the Eastern Cape using a system of "endless meetings" to shut down head offices and districts.

Labour, state in deal to tackle service delivery together

BusinessDay

Johannesburg: The Congress of South African Trade Unions and the Department of Public Service and Administration will join forces to try to improve delivery in key areas of public service. Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi yesterday announced the formation of a task team consisting of union leaders and the department that would target union members working in the education, health and home affairs departments.

Reforming South Africa's fat cat parastatals for better social ends

SACsis

Johannesburg: The average pay gap between Eskom's top management and workers is 93% to 9%, but it's the workers getting the flack for demanding more. A similar situation prevails in other parastatals. The wage debate is pertinent after the World Cup has made us drink from the fountain of optimism about the potential for mutual solidarity.

Give the government a good reason to perform

BusinessDay

Johannesburg: Now we know. Our problem is not what the government cannot do - it is what it will not do. Hosting the World Cup was not essentially about growing the economy or building the nation: it was about countering a prejudice called Afropessimism, the view that countries run by black people are always inefficient.

Paying for non-delivered goods and services

Sunday Post

Lusaka: Our attitude towards public property and resources must change. There is need for increased respect for that which belongs to the public at large, for public property and resources. We know that it is said "fya boma", "niva boma" but this doesn't mean that public property and resources have no owner. There is an owner and the owner is all who constitute what we are calling boma.

2. Governance

Police on top of abuse list

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: Records from the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance indicate that the police is the leading government institution on human rights violations for the past eight years. The CHRGG director for research and documentation, Ms Epiphania Mfundo, said yesterday that out of 1,265 human rights violation complaints reported by people to the commission since it came into force in 2002, 80% of them involved the police force.

Recruitment in civil service under scrutiny

Tanzania Daily News

Dar es Salaam: For many years nepotism, tribalism, favouritism and corruption have marred the employment processes in government agencies, institutions and ministries. But with the establishment of a secretariat within the President's Office - Public Service Management, the problems could be greatly reduced.

Absentee parliamentarians

Sunday Citizen

Dar es Salaam: There is no disputing the fact that many of those aspiring to become parliamentarians in this country today are basically driven by the desire for economic gain and political power, and not the spirit to serve the people. And we all know that wealth has become the primary qualification for a person to be elected to the august House. The wealthier one was the greater one's chances to be voted into office. The recent legislation on "Elections Expenses" might reduce the problem, but it definitely won't eliminate it.

Kenya's good governance record dips

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

Nairobi: Kenya has been ranked eighth out of 10 member states of the African Union in the fields of good governance and accountability. This is a drop from the seventh position it held in 2004, according to a report released Tuesday.

Kenya cannot be a failed state

Daily Nation

Nairobi: On June 23, the *Nation* reported that *Foreign Policy magazine* ranked Kenya 13th on its annual list of "failed states." We take issue with the ranking which shows how some in the West unfortunately fail to understand or appreciate the political reforms and economic growth in recent years that have made Kenya a more stable nation.

Uhuru must maintain his stand over MPs' demands

Daily Nation

Nairobi: Minister Uhuru Kenyatta has displayed a resolve, boldness and leadership that is all too rare in this government. In shooting down the pay rise that MPs were awarding themselves, the Deputy Prime Minister goes head-on against a very special special-interest group that habitually blackmails the government in the never-ending pursuit of personal gain.

How we'll win pay battle: MPs

Daily Nation

Nairobi: Parliament digs in for its third major money battle against the Treasury, with MPs basking in self-belief that nothing will stop them from getting the proposed hefty perks before the August 4 referendum. Their game plan is straightforward: shoot down all government motions, Bills and policy papers, including the Finance Bill and the Appropriations Bill.

Kenya unions to petition Kibaki over MPs' pay

Daily Nation

Nairobi: Kenya trade unions and civil society groups are planning to petition President Kibaki to dissolve Parliament after the referendum on the Proposed Constitution. They will be joined by professional bodies, students' unions and youth organisations to support the President's move if the MPs decline to pass the Finance Bill.

Nigeria: No right to know

Next

Lagos: Nigeria's Freedom of Information Bill will be eleven years old in October, making it one of the oldest unpassed bills of this democratic dispensation. It took five years of debate for it to scale through to the Senate from the House of Representatives. Passage by the Senate took another two years. By the time the two versions were harmonised and sent to President Obasanjo for his signature in February 2007, his Presidency - only a few months old when the bill first made its appearance - was into its final months.

Women welcome Equality Commission

Inter Press Service

Lusaka: The Zambian National Constitution Conference concluded its business recently with the adoption of a clause for the creation of a Gender Equality Commission. This is exciting news for gender activists who did not think the NCC would accept the clause. The women's movement, alongside other civil society groups, had refused to participate in the NCC fearing civil society's voice would not be heard.

World Bank moves to improve e-governance in Africa

Computerworld

In a bid to increase the deployment of electronic systems for governments and promote transparency in government processes in Africa, the World Bank has approved over US\$44 million in additional funding for Ghana's e-governance project.

3. Anti-corruption

Kampala tops new corruption list

Daily Monitor

Kampala: Government officials digging their hand into the till to directly pull out public funds remains the top form of corruption, the Inspectorate of government has said in a new report. At 19.4% of complaints recorded at the IGG, mismanagement and misappropriation of public resources is the most reported form of corruption.

Rupiah's government not serious with corruption fight - TIZ

The Post

Lusaka: The majority of Zambians think President Rupiah Banda's government is less serious in fighting corruption compared to late Levy Mwanawasa, the latest Transparency International Zambia Bribe Payers Index 2009 report has revealed. And Zambia Police Service has continued being ranked the biggest culprit on the incidence of bribery in the country.

Ronnie's opinion on TIZ corruption survey is jaundiced - Lifuka

The Post

Lusaka: Transparency International Zambia president Reuben Lifuka yesterday described Lt Gen Ronnie Shikapwasha's opinion of his organization as jaundiced.

Swaziland: What do people know about corruption?

The Swazi Observer

Mbabane: The Anti Corruption Commission is to do a national corruption perception survey to establish the perceptions of the people on corruption. The perception national survey has been funded by the UNDP and will be undertaken by Salile Consulting. The final report is expected to be out by the end of September.

Judiciary is Nigeria's least corrupt institution

Next

Lagos: The National Bureau of Statistics released its first ever crime and corruption survey last Thursday in Abuja. The report's statistics about bribery and its effects on Nigerian businesses reflected the experiences of many entrepreneurs in the country. For instance, it revealed that 71% of the over 2,200 businesses questioned said corruption was a major obstacle to their operations, second only to crime and political instability.

Anti-graft war: Lagos courts provide succour

THISDAY

Lagos: Failing to get convictions and favourable judgments at Federal High Courts across the country, anti-corruption agencies seem to have devised a new strategy of turning to Lagos High Courts to have their cases against corrupt officials expeditiously determined. And, this seems to be turning Lagos Courts to a place of succour for the anti-graft war.

Muthaura blames Kenya judiciary over graft

Daily Nation

Nairobi: The Executive has blamed the judiciary for being a stumbling block in the fight against corruption in Kenya. Speaking when he appeared before Parliament's Public Investment Committee, the Head of Public Service Francis Muthaura said the courts were the "problem". He said the fight against graft will continue to falter unless the whole judiciary is reformed.

Politicians and the technocrats: who is responsible for corruption?

Uganda Media Centre

Kampala: While handing out his ruling to now beleaguered and former Engineer In Chief of the government of Uganda, Samson Bagonza, the head of the anti corruption court, Justice John Bosco Katutsi, lamented that he was apparently convicting the "tilapias" in the lake and yet the "crocodile" were still at large to enjoy the lake waters. Katutsi's allegory was lucid and defined.

MPs up in arms over PCCB pre-poll raids

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: Reported differences between outgoing members of Parliament and inspectors from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau over alleged harassment by the latter surfaced in the National Assembly. Speaker Samuel Sitta was forced to ask the government to issue a statement in Parliament after MPs apparently raised concern that PCCB investigators were circling in their respective constituencies impounding donations.

Bureau overwhelmed with false asset declarations

Next

Lagos: The Code of Conduct Bureau is presently overwhelmed with petitions from members of the public alleging false declarations of assets against some federal and state public office holders, NEXT has learnt.

Corruption may jeopardise Vision 20:2020

Next

Lagos: Corruption has been identified as a key element inhibiting the economic development and social progress of the country and needs to be tackled if the lofty ideals of Vision 20:2020 are to be achieved. This was disclosed by Olusegun Aganga, the Minister of Finance, during the one day South-West conference organised by the Nigeria Extractive Industries and Transparency Initiative.

Auditor-general's water affairs findings are damning

Business Day

Johannesburg: A tangled web of tender rigging, illegal awarding of contracts without going to tender, and arbitrary extension of contracts beyond what the law allows - involving more than R300m - has emerged from an investigation of the Department of Water Affairs by the auditor-general.

Educating for integrity

Transparency International

Nearly half of the world's population (almost 3 billion people) is under the age of 25, according to the World Population Foundation. The importance of engaging youth in anti-corruption cannot be overestimated. It can help change attitudes and mores and build zero-tolerance for corruption where the problem is seen as an acceptable fact of life. No one is too young to be affected by corruption.

4. Extractive industries

Ghana: Transparency Initiative and Environmental Governance, to collaborate

Public Agenda

Accra: Government and civil society are working together to fashion out possible areas of collaboration between the Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Natural Resource and Environmental Governance programme.

Don't spend oil money without development plan - CSOs

Public Agenda

Accra: The Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas has said that no spending from petroleum revenues should be effected until government, "as a matter of urgency," has developed "medium and long-term development plans for the country through public consultations."

Resource governance summer school opens

Sierra Express

Accra: The second Regional Extractive Industries Knowledge Hub Summer School on governance of oil, gas and mining revenues, started on Monday 12th July 2010 at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration in Achimota, Accra. Jointly organized by the Revenue Watch Institute, GIMPA and Good Financial Governance, the two-week long summer school attracted participants including policy makers, civil society activists, lawyers and journalists from host country Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Tanzania and Uganda.

Only the state to mine diamonds - Zimbabwe Minister

Times Live

Harare: Zimbabwe Finance Minister Tendai Biti said Wednesday that the government had agreed that all alluvial diamond mining would have to be undertaken by the state, and that all revenue would have to go into the national treasury. Biti was referring in parliament to the controversial Chiadzwa alluvial diamond fields, regarded as the wealthiest find in a century, but shrouded in corruption, smuggling and violence.

"Sovereign wealth fund must have safeguards"

This Day

Lagos: Nigeria risks repeating patterns of weak economic governance and volatile spending, unless its new Sovereign Wealth Fund features certain safeguards to promote sustainable economic development for which the fund is to be created. This was contained in a press release this week by the Revenue Watch Institute in partnership with Nigeria-based think tank, the Centre for the Study of Economies of Africa.

Without a transparent deal on sharing oil wealth, Sudan will revert to war

The East African

Nairobi: The Comprehensive Peace Agreement that brought an end to the North-South conflict in Sudan - Africa's longest-running civil war - contains an innovative oil wealth sharing agreement that changed oil from a commodity fuelling the war into a commodity that has helped secure the peace. The \$8 billion that have flowed from Khartoum to Juba since the agreement was signed in 2005 have played a large part in keeping the peace agreement intact.

Reliance on commodities makes Africa vulnerable to next crisis

Engineering News

Johannesburg: While the economic downturn seems to have bottomed out, there is a risk of a double-dip recession, the African Economic Research Consortium warned this week, urging African countries to reduce their dependence on commodities and crude material production.

5. General

Malnutrition robs the nation of 650bn/- annually

Tanzania Daily News

Dar es Salaam: A recent report has revealed that malnutrition is becoming one of the serious threats to the national economy with updated cost benefit analysis indicating it is causing more than 650bn/- in lost revenue each year. Most of those losses are within the agricultural sector where it is also estimated more than 400bn/- is lost annually as a result of reduction in physical stature and body strength that are critical to productivity.

30% of Zimbabwe under-fives malnourished: survey

The Zimbabwean

Harare: More than a third of Zimbabwe's children aged below five are malnourished, according to new data released by the government and the United Nations Food and Nutrition Council on Friday. The Zimbabwe National Nutrition Survey carried out in January 2010 revealed a worsening problem of chronic malnutrition, posing long-term survival and development challenges for the southern African country that is battling to shake off the effects of a 10-year recession and political strife.

UN agency opens up access to largest database of hunger statistics

UN News Centre

New York: The world's largest and most comprehensive database on food, agriculture and hunger is now open to the public, free of charge, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization announced today. Previously, it was possible to download a limited amount of information from, but access to large amounts of data required a paid annual subscription. The database contains over one million data points covering more than 200 countries and territories.

Keep up to date with:

- **new postings** on social accountability issues (toolkits, research reports and more)
- **ANSA-Africa news feed**

Organisations 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.

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, [ldasa](#)