

ANSA-Africa

Strengthening accountability systems and institutions

One of the challenges of social accountability is bringing in the support of other governments that have an interest in Africa, to assist with the vital development challenges that will help this continent achieve the Millennium Development Goals. A new initiative such as ANSA-Africa must establish its credentials and position its unique mission in the midst of other initiatives across Africa.

As a joint initiative of the World Bank and the internationally respected Human Science Research Council, ANSA-Africa begins with an advantage in approaching international donors and funding organisations for establishing new partnership initiatives. However, the groundwork still needs to be laid. The ANSA secretariat made the first step in this process in October, by sending a team to Europe to introduce ANSA-Africa to key officials in the EU, UK, Ireland and Germany. Their interest in ANSA-Africa was keen and we believe will lead in the next few years to the establishment of additional ventures in social accountability and capacity building for better service delivery.

In addition, the secretariat met with Konrad von Ritter, the sector manager of sustainable development for the World Bank Institute, and Robert Hawkins, the World Bank's South Africa country co-ordinator for education and human development, to present ANSA's progress in its first 10 months of operation. These officials have advised on additional contacts ANSA can make to strengthen the network and involve other organisations with an interest in the same goals and focus areas.

In the month just past ...

- **The desktop phase of Africa's Social Accountability Profile (ASAP) has just been completed** and the ASAP team will be moving its investigation into the field. Malawi's field phase has been completed and that country report will be on the website when it is finalised.

The other six countries involved in this initial phase of ASAP are: Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo.

- **The home page feature on our website** brings you the presentations and results of the recently concluded African Governance Forum: read the “Commitment of Ouagadougou”.
- **The website also now features ANSA’s 20 Latest Postings** so you can quickly find the latest reports as gleaned by the ANSA team.
- **And our news section is now searchable by keywords:** it allows you to track, for instance, comments on Mo Ibrahim’s initiative or articles on the role of parliament in social accountability.

In the month ahead: ANSA-Africa will host a video-conference seminar on the 29th of November on the Maputo Score Card process. Final details will be posted on the website as soon as they are confirmed.

We expect the ANSA-Africa network to grow and strengthen as people like you take the time to share from your own experiences in social accountability – both good and bad. Please contact us, by email or by registering on the website, to let us know what your concerns are for your own community, what social accountability initiatives you have undertaken, and what new initiatives you would like to introduce. Again, you can email us at: ansa@hsrc.ac.za.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours for the growth of social accountability,

The ANSA-Africa Team

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ANSA-Africa website: www.ansa-africa.net
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