

The Langata Public Forum on Decentralised Funds

2011

Saturday 18th December, 2010
To The Right Hon. Raila Odinga,
Prime Minister and Member of Parliament Langata
Prime Minister's Office
To Mr Philip Kisia
The Town Clerk
Nairobi City council
City Hall
cc The Chief Executive Officer
Board of Management of CDF
Harambee Plaza

Recomendations For Improvement Of Devolved Funds in Langata Constituency

The Nairobi Social Audit commenced in June 2010 with the training of 12 ward representatives from each ward in Langata. The Nairobi Social Audit report was launched in October 2010. This followed 12 ward level meetings to sensitize the local development leaders and PMC's on the findings of the report and obtain public views on how local funds management can be improved in Langata. Almost 2000 community members have been reached through these forums. The forum participants made the following key recommendations:

1. Loss of confidence in the Langata CDFC

We have lost confidence in the Langata CDFC and insist on the immediate dissolution of the CDFC and a reconstitution of a new CDFC for the following reasons:

- They have become inaccessible to residents of the ward they are supposed to represent
- They do not give location development committees regular updates or share information on the progress of projects.

- Suspected financial mismanagement, for instance: Construction of Water tank platform at Raila village (Mugumoini ward) allegedly constructed by LATF (Kshs. 1 million) but community clarified that a youth group contributed funds for the project. We suspect the 1 million has been embezzled by some members of the CDFC.

2. Clarify CDF bursary allocation procedures

Presently the CDF bursary is distributed through the councilors. This has resulted in nepotism and most beneficiaries are relatives or political allies of the councilor. We require that bursary allocations guidelines and procedures be reviewed. Beneficiaries should not be identified by the councilors. Bursary procedures and guidelines should ensure the process transparent and participatory and to ensure the most needy benefit.

3. High tribalism in CDF and LATF Project Committees

We are disturbed with blatant tribalism in the Project Committees implementing CDF and LATF projects most of whom are from one community. We call upon our MP the Right Honorable Raila Odinga, the CDF Board and The Town Clerk to intervene urgently to ensure that CDF and LATF benefits all residents of Langata and are not distributed on tribal grounds.

4. Need to institutionalize Social Auditing in CDF and LATF

It has been very challenging for social audit teams to monitor funds use and progress in Langata. We request that the Member of Parliament and the Town Clerk recognise the right of the public to undertake social audits and avail all project information such as Bills of Quantity and work plans as the New Constitution of Kenya gives citizen both the right to manage their own affairs (Art 174 c and d) and the right to information (Article 35).

We have resolved to establish a citizen monitoring and oversight committee to monitor development projects in Langata between 2011 and 2012 as we await the introduction of county development structure. We propose to develop guidelines to guide the management of this committee. We request a meeting with the Right Honourable Member of Parliament and Town Clerk to discuss this move.

5. Political Intimidation: Address rampant political interference/ intimidation in both funds

The residents of Langata are afraid to speak out on issues of financial mismanagement for fear of intimidation by councilors and supporters of the MP. We request the Right Honorable Member of Parliament and Town Clerk address the issue of intimidation of citizen monitoring efforts in Langata by publicly supporting citizen monitoring and by providing regular forums for the public to air their grievances and challenges, and by taking prompt action on such complaints.

6. Tackle ignorance amongst PMCs, LASDAP reps, community members on guidelines and role in devolved funds

We request capacity building and the sharing of simplified guidelines on the CDF and LATF to enable project committees and monitoring committees perform their role and build citizen understanding of the funds.

7. Low levels of community involvement in both funds leading to poor ownership of projects

We have resolved to form locational development committees as a link between communities and CDFC/LASDAP to build citizen involvement and ownership in local development and will develop guidelines to guide our performance. We request the support of the Right Honorable Member of Parliament and the Town Clerk in this effort.

8. LASDAP Projects 2010-11:

We wish to challenge the final list of LASDAP projects presented by the LASDAP desk at the aborted Consensus meeting of November, Tuesday 16th. Langata ward consultative meeting at Karen Social on 26th October 2010 identified 4 project priorities; However, they were allocated Kshs. 3.5 million for a project they had not prioritized. This is an abuse of the LASDAP Guidelines and we request the urgent intervention of the Town Clerk. We also note that the planned consensus meeting never took place as had been promised by the LASDAP Officer and ask the Town Clerk to confirm the status of the funding for the 2010-2011 financial year.

Given the above substantive issues and recommendations, and with a view to improving relations between the residents of Langata and the CDF and Council (LASDAP), we request a meeting at the soonest available opportunity with the Right Honorable Member of Parliament of Langata Raila Odinga and The Town Clerk Mr. Philip Kisia to discuss the issues raised herein.

Signed on Saturday 18th December.