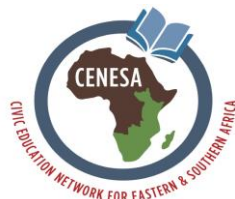


CENESA

Civic Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa



Ollen Mwalubunju(Center) Executive Director of the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Malawi at a Press briefing about the Election Situation Room in Malawi (June 2020)



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VISION

A region with a well-informed, empowered, active and responsible citizenry based on the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and good governance.

MISSION

CENESA works towards providing a regional civic education platform for mutual support, knowledge sharing, capacity building, advocacy and regional cooperation to individuals, Civil Society, private sector, state and other stakeholders

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- **CENESA** has 16 member organizations spread over 18 countries in the region.
- Our Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Continuously Participating in Global Civic Education through strategic partnerships.
- Hosted a Regional Conference on Civic Education in Nairobi.
- Fostered Global Strategic Partnerships.
- Policy Guidelines for the Network Adopted.
- www.cenesa.org is Up & Functional.
- Previously issued two newsletters; check them out on www.cenesa.org

NICE participation in Malawi Elections in the wake of Covid-19

Local observers under the Local Elections Observation Consortium comprising organizations such as NICE Public Trust, deployed members of staff across the 5002 polling centers and reported issues related to the elections including measures to prevent COVID-19. Generally, measures to prevent COVID-19 were adhered to and many voters took heed of prevention messages we had spread ahead of polling.

The information collected on all aspects was automatically shifted through our system that eventually created graphs which was then interpreted by a statistician, political analyst and communications expert. Any incoming reports were vetted by officials from the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) and the Malawi Police that were situated in the Elections Situation Room (ESR). Management of the elections was made easy despite the challenges faced because of great partnerships, especially with the help of CSOs that setup an Elections Situation Room. A very good and innovative way to help monitor elections.

At the time of writing, the new government was planning an inauguration event for the incoming president and his second in command where a mammoth crowd is expected in thousands upon thousands.

COVID-19; HOW WE HAVE RESPONDED



NICE leveraged its well-tested and high impactful civic education network countrywide to reach out to 80% of the Malawi national population through awareness and provision of reliable information on prevention of COVID-19. NICE partnered with health technical institutions such as WHO, Ministry of Health, UNICEF, and others to roll out public information campaign through its country wide structure involving 9000 volunteers.

In addition, NICE translated the messages already developed by WHO and Ministry of Health into local languages and disseminated them through various media outlets targeting those that reach out to greatest number of people such as community radio stations, national radios, Television, Official NICE Facebook and twitter.

NICE further leveraged the public transport system such as bus stations & airports to disseminate the appropriate information packaged into leaflets and posters.

Tanzania Human Rights Report Launch.

CENESA members attended The Tanzanian Human Rights Report 2019.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the launching event was for the first time held virtually on April 29, 2020.

PHYSICAL WELLBEING WITH YUVA



With Gyms & Health clubs temporarily closed, YUVA presents some tips on how to remain physically active during this period. These include.

- Walking,
- Cycling
- Executing Household Chores.

However, care should be taken on the amount of time spent on these activities as well as the intensity to avoid health complications.



Democracy Development Program NPC

www.ddp.org.za

Democracy Development Program's guide on **"How to Make Sense of the Uncertain Times"**

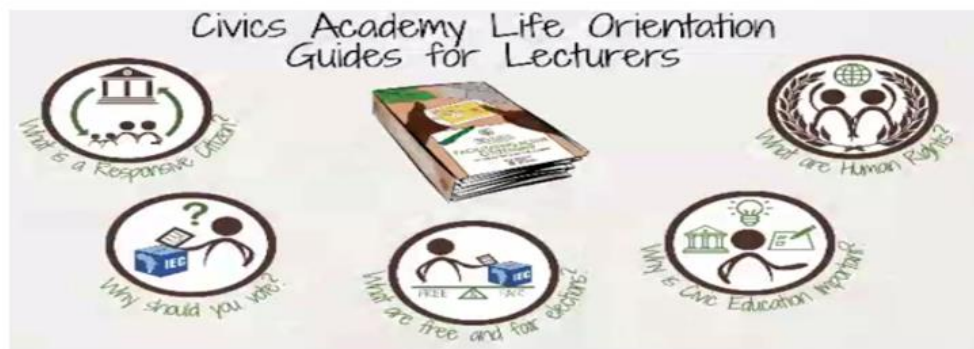
1. **Recognizing** the reality that the virus is our midst and is deadly. This means that we have to remain vigilant and adhere to the different health guidelines in place to slow down the spread as well as not overwhelm the health system.
2. **Fostering partnerships** with the organizations working with communities to ensure adoption of guidelines set to prevent exposure to the virus. In addition, community influencers such as the teachers, the church clergy, and community policing forums can be used to communicate and ensure adherence to these guidelines.
3. There is necessity to look into **economic activities** that do not pose a threat to the public health guidelines such as public gatherings and also make sure there is adequate protection according to the health guidelines. This aims at protecting all parties involved from exposure to the virus.
4. **Proactive use of data for evidence-based decision making.** This is core to the government sectors that are heavily involved in setting and implementing policies.
5. **Publishing of information** creates trust in government and also makes implementation of the spread prevention guidelines much easier while reducing on panic and anxiety from false information.



In the beginning of the lockdown in South Africa, Civics Academy was running an online quiz series based on its educational videos to keep the youth and everyone else engaged and active on civic education matters.

Every second day we posted on FB/ Twitter / email / WhatsApp one of our videos with a short simple online questionnaire (via SurveyMonkey) and asked people to participate. Of all the correct answers we received, we drew 5 winners and they received each 500 MB of data from us to keep themselves online and be able to do their work/ school etc. during lockdown.

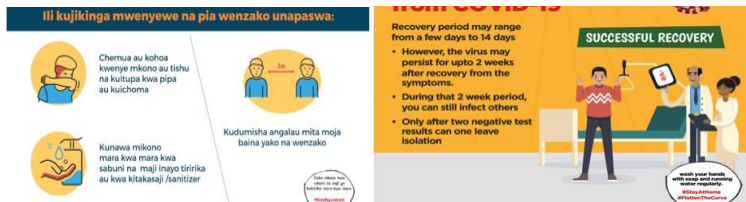
We also attached these quizzes as QR codes to food parcels which one of the Hanns Seidel Foundations partners gives out to their students (HSF funding the food parcels, Civics Academy providing an incentive for civic education).



Civics Academy in partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training developed and launched a lecturer guide for TVET Life Orientation (LO) teachers on how to use Civics Academy's educational videos in their lessons on Citizenship earlier this year. To continue the roll out of the learning material despite the ongoing restrictions so far 100 LO teachers received online-training in the use of the guide and in conducting alternative assessments which respond to the Covid-19 epidemic. The trainers – LO lecturers themselves appointed as LO Champions for their region – previously received training on how to conduct workshops online and on modern methods to keep in touch with their students during these trying times.

Uraia

Kenya's National Civic Education Programme



From the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic in Kenya, Uraia shifted its civic education programming to focus on a public education campaign on COVID- 19. Due to restrictions on public gatherings the campaign is largely conducted through social media and in the form of online posters and audio comedy clips addressing the various social and public health aspects of the disease. These activities are being undertaken in collaboration with Uraia Trust sub grantees spread across the country and the Kenya Medical Association (KMA). The messages target women, PWDs and the youth. These are also translated into local languages and disseminated at the village level to expand the reach and thereby enhance awareness.



The [Democracy Works Academy](#), an initiative run in partnership with the [In-Transformation Initiative](#) (ITI) to develop and support young leaders, has moved all its training seminars online and developed virtual, interactive learning approaches.

The [Southern African Political Parties and Dialogue](#) programme, a USAID-funded initiative aimed at strengthening the ability of political parties and key actors to respond to community water and resource management needs is collecting data remotely for its Social Inclusion Audits to ensure political parties increase participation of women and youth. They are also planning a virtual conference around democracy and elections in the region.

The [Civil Society Organisations' Participation in Provincial Legislatures](#) (CSPPL) programme, implemented with technical support from the [Westminster Foundation for Democracy](#) (WFD) and co-funding from the [European Union](#) (EU), is using WhatsApp to learn about the challenges and the resilience in vulnerable communities and piloting online learning events for provincial legislature staff.

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM 2019

Convention on Civic Education in Nairobi; Kenya



Mr. Israel Illunde, CENESA Interim Steering Committee (ISC) member from Tanzania (red shirt) chats with delegates attending the CENESA convening on 1st August 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya

On 31st August 2019, CENESA in partnership with the Southern Africa Civic Education Coalition (SACEC) with support from Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) and GIZ – South Africa convened the 2nd regional conference on civic education in the region. Under the theme *'What is Civic Education?'*, the convening was attended by a total of thirty CENESA members from eighteen countries in the CENESA region. The conference was graced by both academicians and practitioners who interrogated the subject sharing various views on civic education. The space provided members with a platform to develop a common understanding and working definition of “civic education” and to explore the role of national initiatives as well as the possibilities for cooperation between CENESA and SACEC and potential regional civic education projects.

The convention further provided an opportunity for members of the CENESA Interim Steering Committee (ISC) and the Steering Committee of SACEC to hold annual face-to-face planning meetings.

ISC Face to Face- Nairobi



The CENESA Interim Steering Committee meeting in Nairobi, Kenya at Hilton Garden Inn Airport on 31st July 2019

During the ISC meeting.

- ✓ A Progress report from the host (FHRI) on CENESA since its founding in 2017 was discussed.
- ✓ Policies & Documents critical to CENESA's foundation were adopted including CENESA's own definition of Civic Education; Mission, Vision, Objectives and Values; Scope and character of CENESA; Role, function and mandate of Steering Committee as well as Coordinator; Membership, Country-specific focal points and Strategies and activities.
- ✓ New members were further admitted to the network.
- ✓ CENESA resolved to prioritize information sharing & knowledge management, research, lobbying and advocacy, membership recruitment, and network coordination as key strategies of the network.

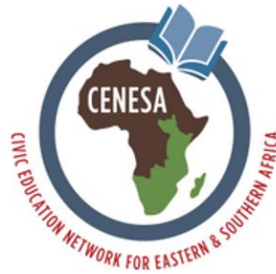
CENESA AT NECE 2019; GLASGOW UK



CENESA at Networking European Citizenship Education (NECE) 2019. Ms Grace Maingi, CENESA ISC member presenting the CENESA regional project at NECE, 2019 in Glasgow, UK

- ✓ **CENESA was represented at Networking European Citizenship Education (NECE) 2019. Ms Grace Maingi, CENESA ISC member presented the CENESA regional project concept at the conference.**
- ✓ **CENESA was also represented at the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) regional representatives meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. Presentations on the CENESA structure & programs were delivered by Sheila Muwanga.**

CENESA's Agenda 2020

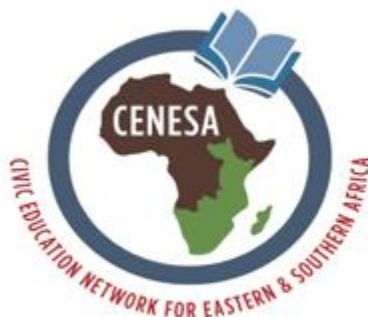


In February 2019, the CENESA ISC adopted the CENESA 2020 program titled:

"Providing a regional civic education platform in Eastern and Southern Africa for mutual support, knowledge sharing, capacity building, advocacy and regional cooperation."

The program is underpinned by these broad strategies and activities.

- ✓ Information and knowledge sharing
- ✓ Lobbying and Advocacy
- ✓ Research and publications
- ✓ Study visits, fellowships and exchange programs.



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