



**ON KENYA'S POLITICAL
 ECONOMY OF INEQUALITY,
 CLASS STRUGGLE AND
 THE DEEP STATE**

Karl Marx, branded as The Angry Oracle, writes in The Communist Manifesto that “the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.” This is absolutely true considering that human societies in the course of time have had distinct power relations based on socioeconomic inequality; the rich or wealthy individuals dominating the low-income individuals.

As much as Marx is vilified by the dreaded capitalists, rogue capitalists doubling up as notorious neoliberals for that matter, his contributions to understanding the economic, social and political organization of man is highly regarded. Case in point is an article about Marx’s relevance published by the mainstream The Economist magazine in 2018 while marking the bicentenary of his birth.

The eventual rise of neoliberalism in 1970s and 80s, and thereafter its spread around the world by the Bretton Woods missionaries castigated any policies hinged on Marx’s ideas. The omniscient policy missionaries of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) including the United States’ Treasury Department proclaimed a new age of prosperity by advocating policies such as austerity (cutting government spending and increasing taxes), deregulation, trade liberalization and privatization with market fundamentalism serving as the common

denominator. Kenya is just but one of the states forced to embrace the ideals of neoliberalism by the hawk-eyed and hard-nosed policy merchants shuttling globally to proclaim economic salvation on the surface but imperialistic adventures underneath.

Manufacturing people’s consent is one of the surest ways to exert an entity’s dominance. The neoliberals succeeded in promoting inequality by preaching the relevance of their policy maxim by identifying the ‘Chicago School’ as the benchmark for economics curricula around the world.



Read the rest of the article on our website:
<http://bit.ly/2ktyEXc>

By Sitati Wasilwa

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Youth Personality of the month

TESS NDICHU

YOUTH ADVOCATE AND FOUNDER OF
THE PATRIOTIC AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (TPDI)**Profile**

Tess Ndichu describes herself as a social changemaker who is passionate about advocating for the rights, inclusion and participation of the youth especially in the democratic processes as well as spaces. Driven by this passion she founded The Patriotic and Democratic Institute (TPDI Kenya), which is a youth led and youth serving organization that seeks to empower the youth with civic knowledge to enable them to become responsible citizens who can demand for accountable leadership. She has a background in Political science and public administration with minors in sociology and economics. She also holds a certificate on Moral of politics from Yale University. She is also an alumni of the Young

African Leaders Initiative (YALI-RLC East Africa) and Pacemaker International.

What are you passionate about when it comes to youth matters and what is your message for Kenya?

I am passionate about the participation and inclusion of the youth in the democratic processes of the country. It is a common phrase that being a youth is just a stage in life but the key issue here is that this is a stage that each and every one of us has to go through and what's even more important is that, this is the stage that either shapes or breaks the future of an individual as well as that of a state. Therefore, as a country it is important to come up with policies and development plans that consider the development and empowerment of the youth.

Piasa Place

ON THE MOVE

#SPONLOCATION

**ZIVIK Community Baraza - Kericho**

We held the first Community Baraza Kericho last month in Litein Ward where the public engaged with their leaders on issues affecting them. The Barazas were held in Litein Ward, Waldai Ward and Kedowa/Kimugul Ward from the 20th to 21st August.

In attendance was the Hon. Alex Bett- Member of County Assembly (MCA) Litein Ward, Mr. Mutai Jonathan Sub County Administrator Bureti Sub County among other leaders.

**Governor's RoundTable**

Earlier in August, a Governor's Roundtable was held in Busia County to discuss more on the social audit findings from the KAIP project. The meeting provided an opportunity to release the findings to the County Executive and chart a way forward on the issues raised and how they can be addressed. In attendance is Mr. John Mwami, CEC Education and Vocational Training, who is also the acting CEC Youth, Sports and Culture, Mr. Andrew Oti- Chief Officer Office of the Deputy Governor, 7 Youth leaders from the 7 Constituencies and Youth MCAs represented by their Chairperson Hon. Okademi Nancy.

IMARA AFRICA GRADUATION

The ceremony was held with pomp and style at the Kingfisher Casa Hotel where 24 young fellows from the first cohort graduated having completed the 12-month program.

Imara Africa is a leadership development program collaboratively convened by Siasa Place (SP), Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF) and Mark Appeal Group (MA).

During the program, SP focused on advocacy through education and capacity building, AYLF targeted program implementation and (MA) strategic alliances and creative collaboration. The 12-month program

competitively recruited participants, took them through a residential facet, field based experiential learning and online based certified learning in public policy.

The program design is with an overarching goal of creating a critical mass of young, networked and well-exposed policy leaders. The program exposes its participants to global practices in policy design and implementation but equally takes them through the rigor of the local challenges where they engage communities, define problems, design solutions and advocate for the policy solutions to be adopted by local authorities."



#SPVISITS

We had the pleasure of hosting Box Girls in our office, we we got to share with the young ladies more on what we do and have an intimate mentoring session.

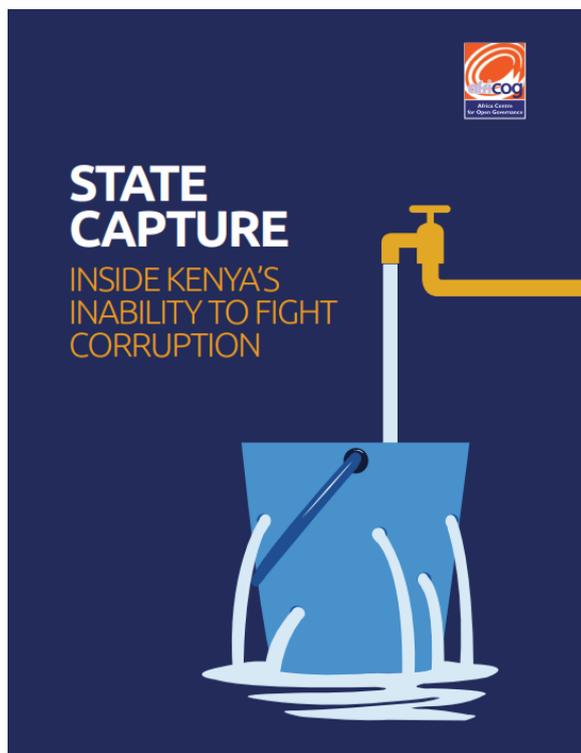
Boxgirls was set up to build on the work started by a boxing coach, Analo Anjere (popularly known as Priest), who had been coaching young men and women in the Eastland's area of Nairobi for many years. They use boxing as an innovative tool, among others, to reach objectives of female empowerment and social change. Boxing is not necessarily the first sport that comes to mind when thinking about women's empowerment.

Check out www.boxgirlskenya.com

Box Girls Kenya



Report of the Month



State Capture Inside Kenya's inability to Fight Corruption by AFRICOG

This is a 'State of the Nation' report by the Africa Centre for Open Governance (AfricOG), explaining why President Uhuru Kenyatta's current anti-corruption efforts are unlikely to work. The problem, the study shows, is state capture; that is, the repurposing of state institutions for private profiteering. The study concludes that publicity-driven prosecutions are likely to deepen rather than undermine corruption, as indictments and prosecutions get weaponised to partisan ends for the 2022 elections.

Check out this link to download report:

<http://bit.ly/2IF8ZLs>

#WhatIWishIKnew

WHY SEXUALITY EDUCATION MUST BE PART OF NEW CURRICULUM

By Grayson Marwa - Program Officer at SP and JIACTIVATE Chairman



Education Transformation is the theme for this year's international youth day. It is concerned with the provocation of a shift of consciousness that alters one's way of thinking and has to do with the experience of a deep, structural shift in the basic premises of thought, feelings and actions. Thus, transformative learning promotes competence by highlighting efforts to make education more relevant, equitable and inclusive for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves.

Read more on this article: <http://bit.ly/2kuCfEA>

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