



## **AFRICITIES SUMMIT**

**NAIROBI - KENYA, 18 – 22 September 2006**

**« Building local coalitions for effective implementation of the Millennium Goals in African Local Governments »**

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### **THEMATIC SESSION**

#### **STAKEHOLDERS SESSION 03- AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RULERS**

##### DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Abuja meeting of the African traditional rulers in preparation for Africities 4 Summit in Nairobi recognised the importance of the pre-colonial traditional system of governance. Today citizens at the grassroots level still closely identify with their traditional rulers. Local Authorities operate within the domain of these traditional rulers. Therefore it is necessary to have an effective collaboration between the traditional authorities and local governments in the development of the grassroots.

To that end it is recommended that :

- **TO THE MINISTERS**
  1. Central Governments in consultation with local governments and the communities should devise formal means of reviving the institutions of traditional rulers
  2. Central governments must provide appropriate legal instruments that recognises traditional rulers and local governments as partners as partners in development.
  3. Policies engender a healthy developmental relationship between local governments and traditional rulers.
  4. Central governments should collaborate with traditional rulers in capacity building to ensure primary education for all.
  5. Appropriate policies to assist in building the capacity of the local governments to engage in a joint action with traditional rulers to promote equality of all sexes and women empowerment be formulated.
  6. Appropriate policies should be formulated to facilitate collaboration between local governments and traditional rulers in efforts to reduce mortality rate of infants of less than five years of age and improve maternal health.

7. Appropriate policies to be jointly implemented by Central governments and to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases be formulated.
8. Forward looking policies through the involvement of traditional rulers and local partners be put in place to ensure sustainable environment.

- TO THE MAYORS

1. Local governments must formally devise strategies and design a systematic framework for continuous dialogue with traditional rulers in local development planning.
2. A healthy relationship should be nurtured with traditional rulers within their jurisdiction based on respect for their cultural symbolism.
3. Traditional rulers should be recognised as intermediaries for implementing poverty alleviation programmes as agents of change to provide moral suasion to their local subjects in the effort to achieve a reduction of extreme poverty and hunger at the local level.
4. The moral authorities of traditional rulers should be applied to enable the local communities to appreciate the value of formal education in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal of formal primary education for all.
5. Policies and actions should be undertaken to encourage enforce the elimination of all traditional and cultural practices which impede the promotion of equality of all sexes and women empowerment.
6. The services of traditional rulers should be utilised as intermediaries for implementing family planning, immunisation and nutritional programmes, elimination of child marriages, unwholesome traditional maternity practices and superstitious beliefs.
7. Traditional rulers should be involved in their overall strategies for combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases within the local communities.
8. Local governments should replicate their collaborations with traditional rulers as templates for forging local development alliances within the context of the Millennium Development Goal of establishing a global partnership for development.

- TO THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

1. Development Partners should refrain from equating the validation of traditional ruler-ship as an auxiliary means of building local coalitions for development with a relapse into the monarchy or a reversal of democratisation.

2. Development Partners should recognise traditional rulers as credible and accountable local partners in the considerations of parameters for funding development projects at the local community levels.
  3. Development Partners should provide aid in support of local programmes for the rehabilitation of African traditional institutions, buildings and other cultural regalia and paraphernalia in order to preserve the cultural heritage of the African peoples as part of world heritage and sustainable economic value addition to the local community through tourism.
- **TO MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**
    1. The MDP should continue to initiate and support studies into modern techniques for the positive engagement of traditional rulers in developmental strategies at the local government level.
    2. The MDP should devise a broad based programme for building the capacities of traditional rulers to take local initiatives in support of local governments.

The MDP in conjunction with central governments, local governments and development partners should develop a comprehensive charter for African traditional rulers to provide a codification of the local best practices into an international agenda for the elimination of the negative aspects of cultural practices and wholesome reformations of the cultural milieu without denigrating traditional cultural heritage.