



## Founder's Message

It has been a year of key milestones. Strengthening the momentum for more national support for the Society and the evaluation profession was of special focus. On this e.g. under Monitoring & Evaluation Department (MED) and World Bank

collaborations a capacity strengthening project on advocacy, rapid evaluations and trainings in 2 pilot counties is underway. ESK consultants are undertaking the assignment.

Ownership of evaluation at the parliamentary level is another focus towards national support. The Society participated in the Parliamentary Caucus re-launch for the 8th parliament and its strategic plan review session at the recent National M&E Week (under CLEAR-AA and the African Institute for Development Policy- AFIDEP) support. Earlier, Kenya under ESK mobilization had strong participation at the IOCE/EvalPartners' EvalColombo 2018 global forum for parliamentarians on evaluation. This reinforced the mid-year gains when the Society organized a panel discussion for parliamentarians at the inaugural African Evidence to Action Conference. The event was organised by the International Center for Evaluation and Development (ICED). Moreover towards more national ownership, jointly with MED an initiative of a standard curriculum and competencies development and professionalization of M&E is underway. It seeks to build-up on previous joint efforts spearheaded by MED/UNICEF towards a standard M&E curriculum for the country. For these efforts, Kenya an "EVALSDGs Spotlight" won the IOCE / EvalPartners "Outcomes global Competition". Notably for promoting the EvalVision (2016-2020) of the evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their linkage to the Vision 2030. Potential new linkages with other partners are emerging e.g. with Results for All and FAO's EvalForward Community of Practice. For the year in review ESK members enjoyed capacity strengthening opportunities offered by other stakeholders. For instance, IPDET, Africa Evidence Network (AEN), European Evaluation Society (EES), American Evaluation Association (AEA) conferences, the

University of Antwerp/IOB's training for strengthening Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluators (VOPEs) and Evaluation Community of India (ECOI). Members participated in the ICED conference and national M&E week. Others are participating in the conference organizing sub-committees of the upcoming African Evaluation Association (AFREA) conference as well as the review of the African Evaluation Guidelines (AEGs). The young and emerging evaluators are proving that they are the future of ESK. Under their stewardship the "EvalVijana" initiative is taking shape and in early 2019 they will be spearheading the organization of M&E learning and networking event. The chair was a runners-up recipient of the Africa leadership Awards. Constitution review is underway and which will inform the upcoming elections. An inaugural ESK conference is another of the key earmarked activities for 2019. All these are geared towards strengthening the Society's institutional and individual capacities/branding as well as its national visibility and relevance. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Read below for details on.....



## Message from chair of EvalSDGs Stakeholders Technical Working

**Group** - *Dr. Samson Machuka, Director - MED*  
The MED values her strategic partnership with ESK. The Vision 2030 Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2018-2022, implementation is underway. The EvalSDGs activities such as the ongoing MED/World Bank and ESK initiative for conducting rapid evaluations in 2 pilot Counties, advocacy and training are part of the joint efforts to align the EvalVision (2016-2020), with the NIMES/CIMES agenda in the implementation of the plan.



*EvalSDGs Technical Working Group (TWG)*

## Standard Curriculum / Comprehensive Development and Professionalization of M&E

*Authored by: Dr. Kabare Karanja, Snr Lecturer, Management Sciences, JKUAT and Member of ESK*

As Kenya progresses in pursuit of entrenching M&E in linking evidence to policy formulation and execution at national and county government levels, certain challenges come to the fore. Key and urgent upon these is the need for a sound human capital base that is competent to deliver the promise of M&E. It is heartening to note that the MED jointly with ESK have set in motion, an engagement with institutions of higher learning together, with other stakeholders in the sector to develop and deploy a standard M&E curriculum, competencies and professionalise the discipline that will contribute towards meeting this need. It is one of the key activities of the EvalSDGs TWG.



*Standard M&E Curriculum Stakeholder Focal Persons Meeting, December 2018.*

I am privileged to be the team leader of this initiative. It even more heartening to see several Universities, both Public and Private rising to this call with enthusiasm.

Once armed with a stock of M&E specialists, Kenya will play a critical role in transforming decision making, especially by government, be evidence based and aligned to the dynamic realities on the ground, not only in Kenya but in Africa and indeed the World at large. armed with a stock of M&E specialists, Kenya will play a critical role in transforming decision making, especially by government, be evidence based and aligned to the dynamic realities on the ground, not only in Kenya but in Africa and indeed the World at large.



*Annual National M&E Week, official opening by PS for Planning, the National Treasury and Ministry of Planning, Julius M. Muia, November 2018.*



*Participants at National M&E Week, November 2018.*

## About the Parliamentary Caucus

by Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu

Parliamentary Caucus on Evidence Informed Decision Making (PC-EIDM) is a Kenyan Chapter of the AFDB-driven, African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE).



*Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu (former ESK treasurer), chair of the Parliamentary Caucus on evaluation, representing Kenya at EvalColombo, September 2018.*

With partnership linkages to the Monitoring and Evaluation Department and the ESK and the EvalPartners Global Movement, the Caucus has enabled increased awareness on the need for evidence, among MPs. The success notwithstanding, it has not been without challenges. Immense resources and more capacities are needed to drive the evidence agenda. Despite the challenges however, the Caucus strives to ensure its goals are realized. Going forward, it calls for increased collaborations, partnerships and networks.



*Participants at MED/World Bank-led stakeholder workshop for the Comprehensive Public Expenditure Review (CPEP), October 2018*

## Strong Kenya Presence at EvalColombo Global Parliamentary Forum

Through various funding support, Kenya was represented at the forum by MPs and Senators (Hon. Makali Mulu, Hon. Bunyasi Sakwa John. MP, Nambale, Hon. Obara, Eve Akinyi, MP, Kabondo Kaspul, Hon. Gachobe, Samuel Kinuthia, MP, Subukia, Sen. Margaret Kamar - Uasin Gishu, Sen. Fatuma Dullo - Isiolo, Sen. Enock Wambua - Kitui, Dr. Samson Machuka, ESK founder and parliamentary support staff), Director of Monitor Monitoring & Evaluation Department (MED), Dr. Samson Machuka) and ESK founder, Jennifer Mutua. Dr. Maria Nzomo and some parliamentary support staff.

*See link: <https://www.facebook.com/EvalSocietyKE/> and @ESK\_Kenya on twitter.*



*Some of Kenyan Participants of EvalColombo2018 with Hon. Kabir Hashim, Minister of Highways and Road & Chair - Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation, among others, September 2018.*

## Institutional and Individual Members Capacity Strengthening / EvalVijana Initiatives

The ICED conference was an institutional and individual professional development opportunity for ESK. The Society organized and moderated a panel discussion on *“Role, Opportunities and Challenges in Evidence-Policy Influencing in Kenya”*. The Society was one of the exhibitors. Members attended pre-conference workshs and networked.



*Participants: ESK-organized parliamentary panel discussion at ICED Conference, July 2018*

The three ESK members in the EvalPartners EvalYouth Taskforces have continued to be empowered to towards adding value to ESK. They have participated in online seminars and a virtual conference. With this empowerment they have mobilized other young and emerging evaluators under the banner of “EvalVijana”. Under this some like Benjamin Masila, Leonard Odiga, Wanjiku Kariuki and Abigail Rachel have provided immense support to the voluntary work of ESK. On this some of the activities that they have supported include: projected-related activities, constitution review, management of the Society’s stand at the ICED conference and social media presence. In the 1st quarter of 2019 “EvalVijana” will spearhead the organisation of an inaugural M&E learning and networking event.

## ESK Board Member Attends the Prestigious IPDET Training

This year, the Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK) was honoured to have one of its members attend the much coveted International Program for Development Evaluation training (IPDET 2.0). James Nyanchoka Maraga, who is the Civil Society Representative (CSO) in the ESK Board, attended the prestigious IPDET training through a generous scholarship from GIZ. The training, which was held in the beautiful city of Bern, Switzerland, from July 16, 2018 to July 27, 2018, was attended by evaluation professionals from over 67 countries in the world. The University of Bern (Switzerland) and Centre for Evaluation (Germany), partnering with the World Bank / IEG, are the new implementing partners for IPDET. This was the first time the training was being held in Europe, having been previously offered in Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.



*IPDET 2.0 2018 Graduates.*

James notes that the new IPDET team led by Dr. Stefanie Krapp of the University of Bern and who is the IPDET Program Manager was wonderful. The team worked round the clock to ensure that everything was running smoothly. This made the course more exciting and enjoyable too. James notes that the training not only provided an opportunity for networking among the professionals but also provided an opportunity to savour the beauty of Switzerland as the timing of the training coincided with summer season.

For those wishing to acclimatize themselves earlier for the 2019 training, they can visit the IPDET web link

(<http://www.ipdet.unibe.ch/>).

*Article by Dr. James Nyanchoka Maraga; CSO Representative, ESK Board.*



*Dr. James Maraga with IPDET Program Manager, Dr. Stefanie Krapp.*

## Widening Stakeholder Partnerships: Results for All Workshop

Results for All is an initiative of Results for America. As an evidence champion in the continent, the chair was one of the participants in a P2P learning workshop organized by them for government policy makers under the theme of “Using Evidence to Improve Policy Implementation”. The event had diverse participation from 9 African and Latin American countries (Uganda, Mexico, Nigeria, Kenya, Chile, Malawi, Rwanda, Ghana and South Africa). It provided a platform to discuss and explore ways towards more inculcation of national cultures and practices for evidence-driven socio-economic growth. Creation of incentives and sanctions were key highlights towards potentially achieving these.



*Participants at the Results for All Workshop in Nairobi, July 2017.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | ESK constitutional revision ratification and elections - December and 1st quarter of 2019.                           |
| 2. | Joint MED/World Bank/ESK 2 pilot Counties advocacy, training and rapid County Evaluations - underway until May 2019. |
| 3. | M&E learning and networking event organized by ESK's EvalVijana - 1st quarter of 2019.                               |
| 4. | ESK Inaugural Conference – slated for 2019   |
| 5. | ESK/Evaluation Community of India (ECOI) P2P mentorship collaboration.   |

## In Pictures



*ESK Exhibition at ICED Conference, July 2018.*



*ESK members at ICED Conference, July 2018*



*Breakfast to re-launch of Parliamentary Caucus for new Parliament, July 2018*



*Parliamentary Caucus' Strategic Review Session at Annual National M&E Week, November 2018*

