

## **Improving Governance through ICT**

### **I Action- Enforcing Event**

*In order to improve youth participation within governance, emerging economies warrant a structural shift in the dissemination of government policies and legislation through information communication technologies (ICT). The youth within a developing country plays a pivotal role in formulating good governance policies by providing checks and balances to illicit government policies. Kenya presents an ideal circumstance in which to promote youth participation through text messaging services that provide reliable information on a variety of topics within government public policy.*

### **II Background & Analysis**

*In the past, Kenya has experienced a political crackdown on media outlets with newspapers and television stations having shut down as well as journalists detained by government officials.<sup>1</sup> There have also been reported armed assaults on citizens as well as the resignation of Kenya's Finance, Energy and Education ministers.<sup>2</sup> According to the central bank of Kenya, there exist 6.5 million cellular customers within Kenya with a monthly increase of 100,000 subscribers.*

### **III Recommendation**

We recommend collaborating and enforcing a policy with an existing NGO in order to create an information network aimed at improving participation within citizens on legal and public policy issues. University students with a focus on law and public policy can help sustain these information networks by updating subscribers on

- Current policies of the government based on user requests

The NGO would then publish feedback through an online portal and would utilize user feedback through advocacy and lobbying practices. Through a set of marketing tools, the services would be promoted throughout communities. Although operational and labour costs are low, additional income can be sustained through online advertisements that can provide further expand services. One must note that the value and reliability of the information network remains to be proven as political elites could exercise control and lead to inefficiencies within the system.

### **IV Groups Role**

Each member can effectively contribute to the impartiality of information sent out to subscribers.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4765250.stm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=58301>

*I. Action-Forcing Event:*

*(The main event/events which warrant action. Why should we consider new policy?)*

*II. Background/Analysis:*

*(The logical progression of the above event, the current state of the affairs, the different sides to the issue, problems faced in resolving the issue, previous attempts at resolution, their outcome etc.)*

*III. Recommendation:*

*(What the group would propose as a solution. The arguments in favor. Possible problems in implementation, how to minimize the impact of such problems, how to get funding and/or support for the proposal, which other entities should be involved etc.)*

*IV. Group's Role:*

*(Suggest a role for your group and/or individual members of the group)*