FACT SHEET
MAARIFA CENTRE

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

1.0 About Maarifa Centre

Maarifa Centre is a knowledge sharing and learning platform for capturing lessons and experiences on Kenya's devolution from the 47 Counties. The vision of the centre is "***To be Kenya's Premier Knowledge sharing and learning Platform for Effective Governance and Service Delivery for Sustainable Development***".

Under Section 20 (b) of the Intergovernmental Relations Act 2012, one of the functions of the Council of Governors is to share information on the performance of Counties in the execution of their functions with the objective of learning and promotion of best practice.

Through the Centre, COG will collate, share and promote the application of best practices, experiences, lessons and innovations from all Counties in Kenya and from other countries, for the purpose of improving service delivery and influencing policies that promote devolution and the welfare of citizens.

Knowledge
- Facts, information and skills acquired by a person through experience or education.

2.0 Justification for Maarifa Centre

Through the leadership of the Excellency Pioneer Governors under the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Counties have made tremendous progress in terms of improving service delivery and creating an enabling environment for development. This investment in the devolved functions since 2013 has resulted in diverse experiences, lessons and best practices that can be harnessed and applied in relevant contexts to accelerate development.

However, a self-assessment conducted in 2016 revealed that there was lack of a structured mechanism for systematic knowledge sharing and organizational learning. This introduced the need to establish a well-resourced one-stop shop for sharing information and knowledge on all devolved functions, consistent with the vision of Maarifa Centre.

Knowledge Management

A discipline that promotes an integrated approach to identifying, capturing, evaluating, retrieving all of the information of an enterprise.

3.0 Maarifa Centre Knowledge Management Model

The Centre adopted from the eight pillars model that World Bank[1] uses for institutional knowledge sharing capacity development, which consist of two components, namely; Enabling Environment and Technical Skills.

Enabling Environment	Technical Skills
1. Leadership and organizational culture conducive to knowledge sharing.	1. Identifying and capturing the organization's operational experiences and learning.
2. Effective Governance mechanisms for knowledge and learning-related issues and a set of policies that guide an institution towards becoming a learning organization.	2. Packaging the experiences and lessons into knowledge and learning products.
3. Financing	3. Sharing them within and outside the institution.
4. Partnerships	4. Monitoring and evaluating these efforts.

4.0 Progress so far

1. Initial Training on Knowledge Capturing and Sharing.
2. A knowledge management strategy in place.
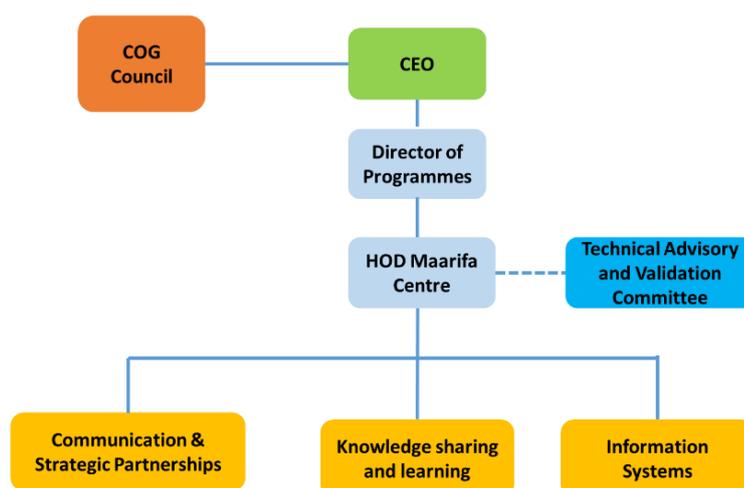3. Draft KM Policy and Operations Manual in Place.
4. Leadership structure has been defined.
5. Formation of Maarifa Centre team is on-going.
6. The Centre is already collating the first round of best practices and innovations from Counties for sharing.
7. Some partnerships and linkages have been established to support initial phases of Maarifa Centre operations, including with Utawala Institute of Strathmore University as well as support from various development partners including USAID-AHADI, World Bank-LLI, UNDP and Big Win Philanthropy, Senate, MODP.

Organogram for Maarifa Centre Revised by COG Snr. Mgt (15.12.2016)

5.0 Next steps and upcoming opportunities for knowledge sharing

1. Formally constitute Maarifa Centre Technical and Advisory Committee.
2. Knowledge Management Systems Audit.
3. Innovations Conference May 2017 (COG, WB).
4. Fourth Annual Devolution Conference 2017.
5. Develop IT Platform, Launch of Maarifa Centre.

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[1] International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2016. Becoming a Knowledge-Sharing Organisation. A Handbook for scaling up solutions through Knowledge Capturing and Sharing. Pg 9.