



Press Release – Kenyan Women Parliamentarians Offer Substantive Value

Nairobi, 07 October 2015 – Women Parliamentarians – whether elected, nominated or selected under affirmative action provide just as much value as their male counterparts Mzalendo Trust can now authoritatively reveal.

An in-depth look at Women Parliamentarians contributions as captured in the Hansard published from March 2013 to 30th June 2015, shows they did not solely focus on Family Bills (The Marriage Bill, The Children’s Bill, The Protection against Domestic Violence Bill and The Matrimonial Property Bill) but went ahead to contribute to other areas including; security, finances, water, health, devolution, infrastructure, waste management, environmental issues and mining among others depending on either their counties, constituencies or national interest.

Findings presented in our “[Debunking Myths: Women Contributions in Kenya’s 11th Parliament](#)” report and [infographic](#) disprove biases, stereotypes and accusations against women Parliamentarians by showcasing their actual contributions,” said Jessica Musila, Mzalendo’s Executive Director.

Contrary to public opinion, Women County Representatives (WCR), in particular, do not represent women’s agenda only but all the challenges faced in their counties including problems that affect men. In fact, those from the Northern Region of Kenya were outstanding in their articulation of the security challenge their counties face and the solutions the government should consider. Our analysis also revealed women MPs contributions are also greatly influenced by their level of education, professional background, work and life experience.

In the report Mzalendo has grouped counties into six climatic zones as presented in the Socio-Economic atlas and then ranked the women MPs based on the potential impact of their contributions on their regions and the nation. Leading legislators in the regions follow: Florence Kajuju (Mt. Kenya Region) Joyce Emanikor (Northern region), Zainab Chidzuga (Coastal Region), Rachael Nyamai (South Eastern), Millie Odhiambo (Western Region), Joyce Laboso (North Rift), Amina Abdalla (Nominated MNAs) and Agnes Zani (Nominated Senators). Each region had 3 nominees, for more details visit our dedicated [women page](#).

With an extended August 27th 2016 deadline for the full implementation of the two thirds gender principle, Mzalendo hopes the findings presented in this report will help change Kenyan’s attitudes towards women Parliamentarians and inform the election of more women as political leaders. This particular research has been conducted and presented with the generous financial support of Heinrich Boell Foundation, East and Horn of Africa.

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