

# Be active in graft war, NGOs advised

Non-governmental organisations have been challenged to help fight corruption instead of "merely waiting to blame the Government."

Deputy Speaker Anne Makinda told a seminar organised for MPs by the Foundation for Civil Society that NGOs should not just stand aside and criticise when things go wrong.

"People, including NGOs are complaining that this country is being plundered. But the question is why are we hiding while some individuals plunder our country's resources.

We must come together- NGOs, MPs and the public- to fight against malpractices and give corrupt individuals (mafisadi) no room to breathe fresh air," she said.

The deputy speaker added that it was not enough blaming the Government for not using state organs to stop corrupt officials from plundering the country's resources.

The war against graft requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders, not just state organs and the legislature, she said.

Meanwhile, Ms Makinda implored NGOs to actively participate in improving the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) bill by forwarding their recommendations to

the relevant organs.

The august House is yet to pass the bill, which, once enacted into law, would be used to facilitate the implementation of various development programmes in all constituencies.

A number of NGOs are at the forefront of various development projects in mostly rural areas.

But some of them have recently been complaining that MPs were not doing enough to help their people, despite having the means to do so.

And speaking at the seminar, Bariadi East MP (UDP) Mr John Cheyo urged the Government to allocate budget funds to assist NGOs in implementing the development projects.

Mr Cheyo said it would help improve accountability in NGO activities if they were locally funded instead of leaving the burden of financing to foreign donors.

Recently, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Parliamentary Affairs and Co-ordination), Mr Phillip Marmo also urged NGOs to adhere to their Code of Ethics.

He said this would help authorities identify bogus organisations.