

A DAY FOR REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION

Red baseball caps bobbed up and down like poppies in a field. They were being proudly and exuberantly worn by the staff of ACT!

They were not only celebrating the 10 year anniversary of ACT! but enjoying a new name and a new look.

From the start of the day excitement levels grew in the Nairobi Head Office as the staff branded themselves in the new colours of ACT! Colleagues from the Mombasa and Mount Elgon offices- always warmly and noisily received- added to the general high spirits.

This was the day for smiles, laughter, joy, and shared stories. Once in a while we all have to momentarily stop, look back on our journey and enjoy the view before setting off on the path ahead.

Hopefully it doesn't sound too pompous to say that the product of ACT! is respected by donors and partners alike. It is not the "what" that is changing it is the "how". We want to be more visible, drive more change, highlight more issues – help be a clear voice for Wanjiku. Our staff know they have the most critical role in delivering these changes.

If energy is one of the key messages from ACT! our staff need little capacity development in that area! Whenever they come together for team days noise and activity levels are high. It's a case of working hard and playing hard. This special day was no exception. The playing of ACT's new song was a special highlight. From the reception it received hopes are high that it will become a long standing anthem to support the future work of ACT!

They listened to CEO Titus Syengo share his decade long reflections on ACT's journey and the impact that has been made on Kenyan civil society from peace building in Sudan to seaweed farming in Mkwiro.

The day was also shared with donors, partners and friends. ACT! Board Chair Chris Ngovi described his enthusiasm for the new brand and his remarks resonated in the comments of Pact Inc Director Steve Sharp and USAID representative Dan Spealman. Congratulations were also voiced from PELUM, WASDA, Kituo cha sheria and Foundation for Women Rights in Kenya. Francis Ang'ila ended the formal proceedings with a characteristic salvo of humour.

It had been a time of unashamed enjoyment and celebration. Everyone at ACT! had stopped momentarily, looked back and enjoyed the view. The journey began again the next morning.