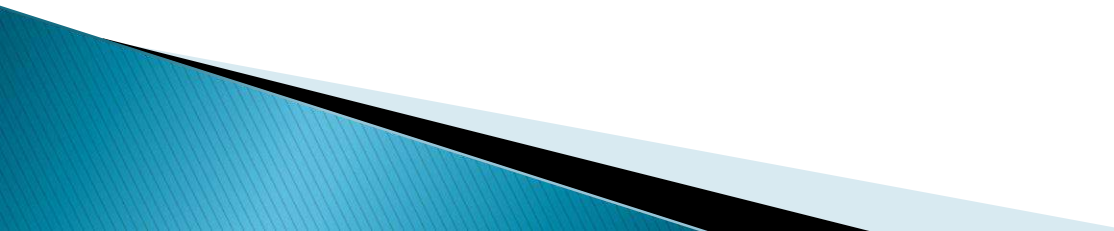# TRANSFORMING CIVIC EDUCATION TOWARDS BRINGING ABOUT MINDSET CHANGE

By
Director: Public Participation and Civic Education
Devolution, Public Service and Administration
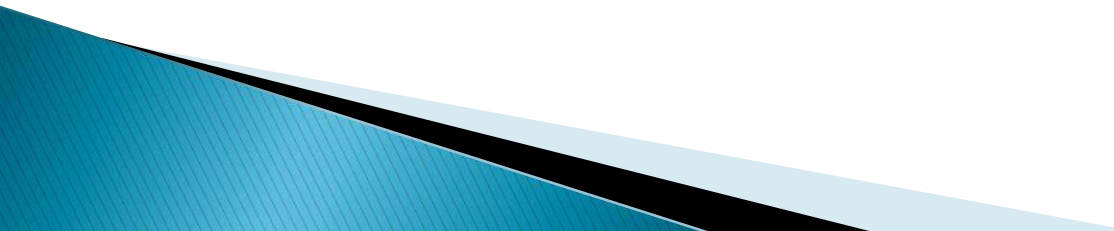Government of Makueni County
@FY2017/18

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

▸ Strengthening Civic Education towards championing mindset change

▸ Understand the concept of mindset change

▸ Facilitating a departure from traditional civic education models/activism/conflict with government and dogmatic criticism to transformational leadership for societal change

▸ Linking civic education to public participation function of the constitution

An Understanding of the Concept of Mindset change

- **Mindset**– habitual/characteristic mental attitude that determines how people interprets and responds to situations

- **Change-** transforming to a new through information

- **Mindset change-** The end result of information in transforming communities into a new mental attitude that determines how they interpret and respond to situations

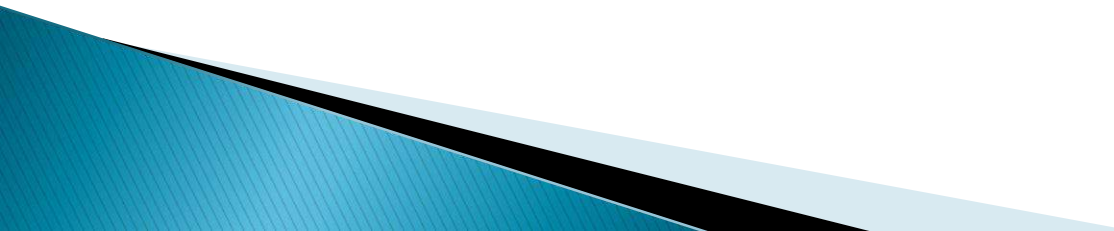- **Civic education** – Creation of civic belief and skills based on knowledge

Indicators of Civic Education (traditional model)

a) **Civic skills~** to communicate, to participate and respond to situations as a result of knowledge

b) **Civic values** – respect to other people's opinions, self respect, valuing others and giving them opportunities

c) **Civic Competence~** the embodiment of right attitudes, ability to participate, gaining an identity and living a reflective life (exemplary)

Indicators of Mindset Change

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c) **Civic Competence-** the embodiment of right attitudes, ability to participate, gaining an identity and living a reflective life (exemplary)

d) **Affective reactions-** potential to exercise civic values to overcome historical injustices and deprivation

e) **Behavioral change-** a new culture/mindset of transformation begins to be seen, replacing 'government should do' with 'we the people should do'

Potential of a Mindset Change Approach

➢ It enables communities to wake up from the position of handouts, dependency and facilitation to 'it is our right but also our responsibility'

➢ The real turn around starts with the people's resolve to shape their own destiny (shift from an earlier mindset into a new)

➢ Emanates from a shared vision- Vision 2025 **"a prosperous and value based county with high quality of life"**

Building Blocks of Civic Education

Civic knowledge/ understanding
- Body of knowledge

Civic Skills
- Expression

Civic Values/identity/disposition
- Moral authority

Civic Action
- Taking responsibility
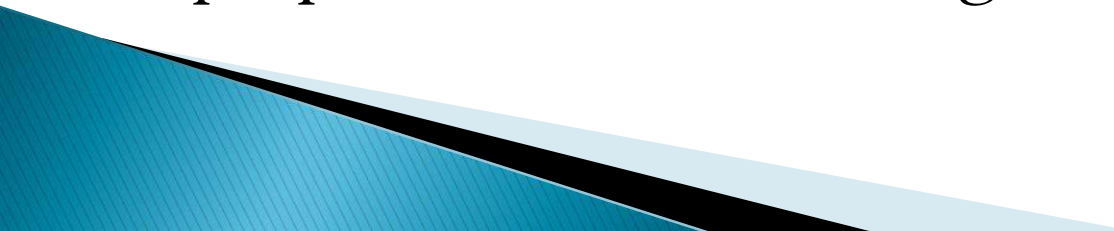
Good Citizenship
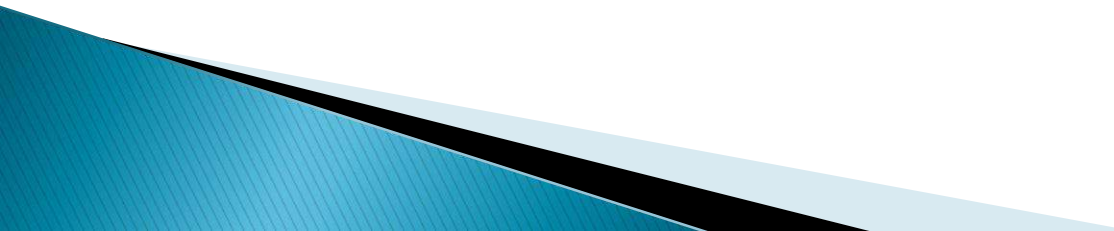- A personality of responsible citizen

Within a perspective of mindset change

- The building blocks of civic education becomes an embodiment – emanating from individual
- One is first transformed before transforming others
- New indices emerge:
  - ✓ Community mobilization
  - ✓ Empowerment
- The behavior we demonstrate in any given situation is as a result of our attitudes and mindset combined with knowledge and skills
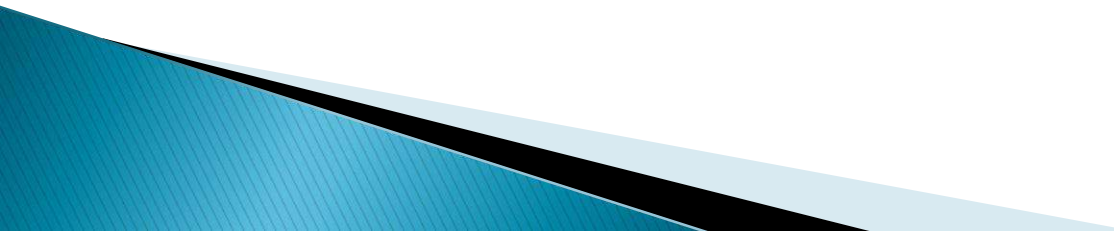
Elements of Mindset change

❖ **Communicating brand-** how you communicate to the public and colleagues tells about the directorate/department/government

❖ **Acts of recognition** –increasing positive acts of recognition makes others create a working environment for you

❖ **Linking attitudes to results** –taking responsibility seriously and positively

❖ **Breaking out of the box** –Kitengo mentality/unifying people rather than dividing
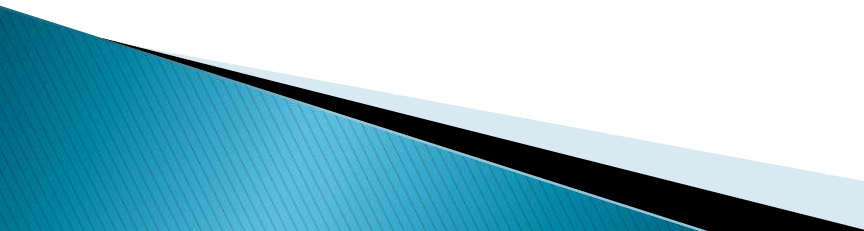
Elements of Mindset change cont:

- **Building determination** –identify ways to become more determined
- **Changing perceptions and emotions**-perception influences behavior (unhelpful thinking)
- **Emotional intelligent** – self awareness (management of ones emotions is a skill of emotional intelligence)
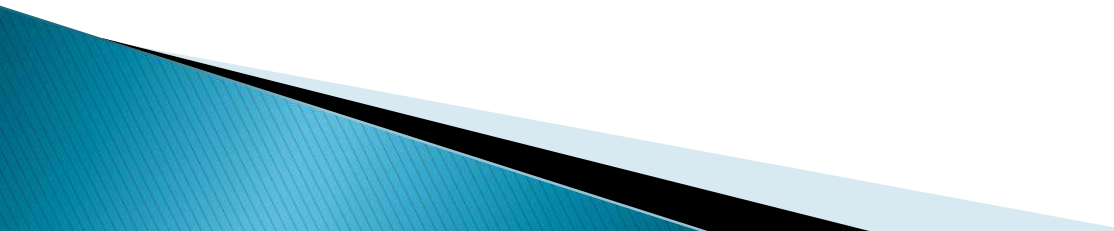- **Building engagement-** strategies for taking control

Community psychology

Statistics on how communities learn:

▶ 1% through taste, 2% through touch and 3% through smell.

▶ 11% through hearing, 83% through sight, and what we remember.

▶ 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear, and 30% of what we see.

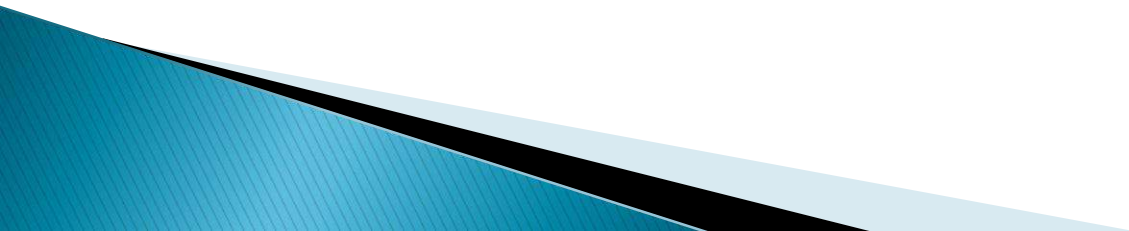▶ 50% of what we see and hear, 80% of what we say, and 90% of what we say and do.

So who makes up communities and how does that help the educator

1) **Reflectors**~are not satisfied with one perspective and always look for alternatives.

2) **Activists**~plunge into action for immediate results. They are driven to act and believe that the end justifies the means.

3) **Theorists**~seek to fit everything into existing paradigms of knowledge. They provide the stuff that energize activists.

4) **Pragmatists**~are problem-solving, apply and experiment with ideas. They do not fear failure and take it as a learning experience.
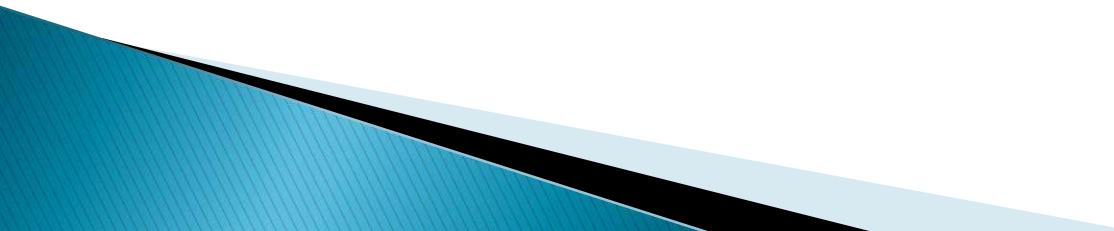
Cont…

5. **Jokers**-do not take things seriously and are pre-occupied with creating mirth.
6. **Silent ones**-are quiet and could easily be ignored since they do not volunteer information.
7. **Blockers**-think their ideas are the best and will not allow others to share theirs. For them, there is nothing new anyway.
8. **Know-it-all**-give all the answers all the time and dominate.

LINKING CIVIC EDUCATION TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Public participation involves the **direct** or **indirect** involvement of stakeholders in **decision-making on matters that concern them** (including policies, plans, budgets and in the actual implementation of the decision outcomes

- Public participation intersects with numerous other key concepts in governance such as ensuring the **accountability** and **transparency of government, people centered development,** the **people's government, bottom up development** and **citizen control** over all affairs concerning their wellbeing

Purpose of Public Participation

- Enhancing understanding of community problems, needs and concerns and exploring potential solutions;
- Producing policies, plans, budgets and projects
- Means to economic development and equity in the distribution of resources
- Demonstrates mindset change –as communities take responsibilities over decisions on issues that concern them
- Leads to project ownership, management and sustainability
- Improves transparency and accountability between government, non-state actors and the communities
- Advancing social justice

IDENTIFYING THE LINK

- ✓ Empowerment of the community leads to active participation
- ✓ An informed community participates effectively
- ✓ Civic education promotes knowledge, information and competence which is critical for effective Public participation
- ✓ Mindset change is a prerequisite to destroying dependency syndrome, political handouts and mounting a new people who actively participate in their development
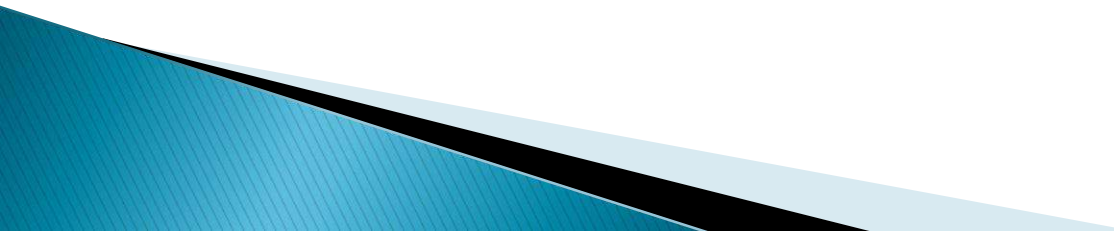
How do we implement both

‣ Program based budgeting and implementation approach

Civic Education
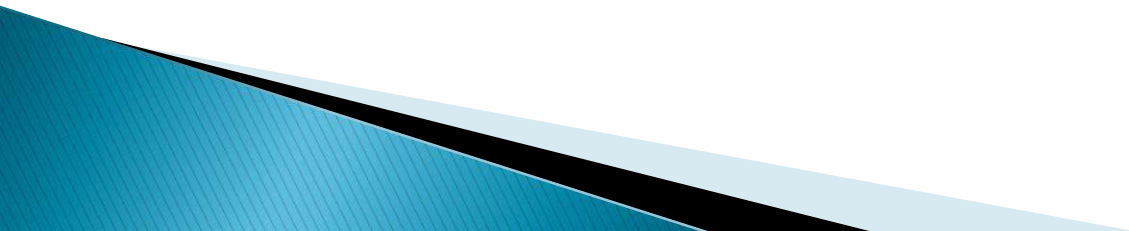
‣ Maximum of 4 civic education programs per year- a minimum of 2 dependant on budget

Public Participation entails

a) Operationalization of participatory development units
b) Public participation forums
c) Participatory project management and sustainability
d) Participatory development review, peer review mechanism and score card development
e) Non-state actors' engagement
f) Complaints management system
g) Community feed back mechanisms
h) Community resource volunteer strategy
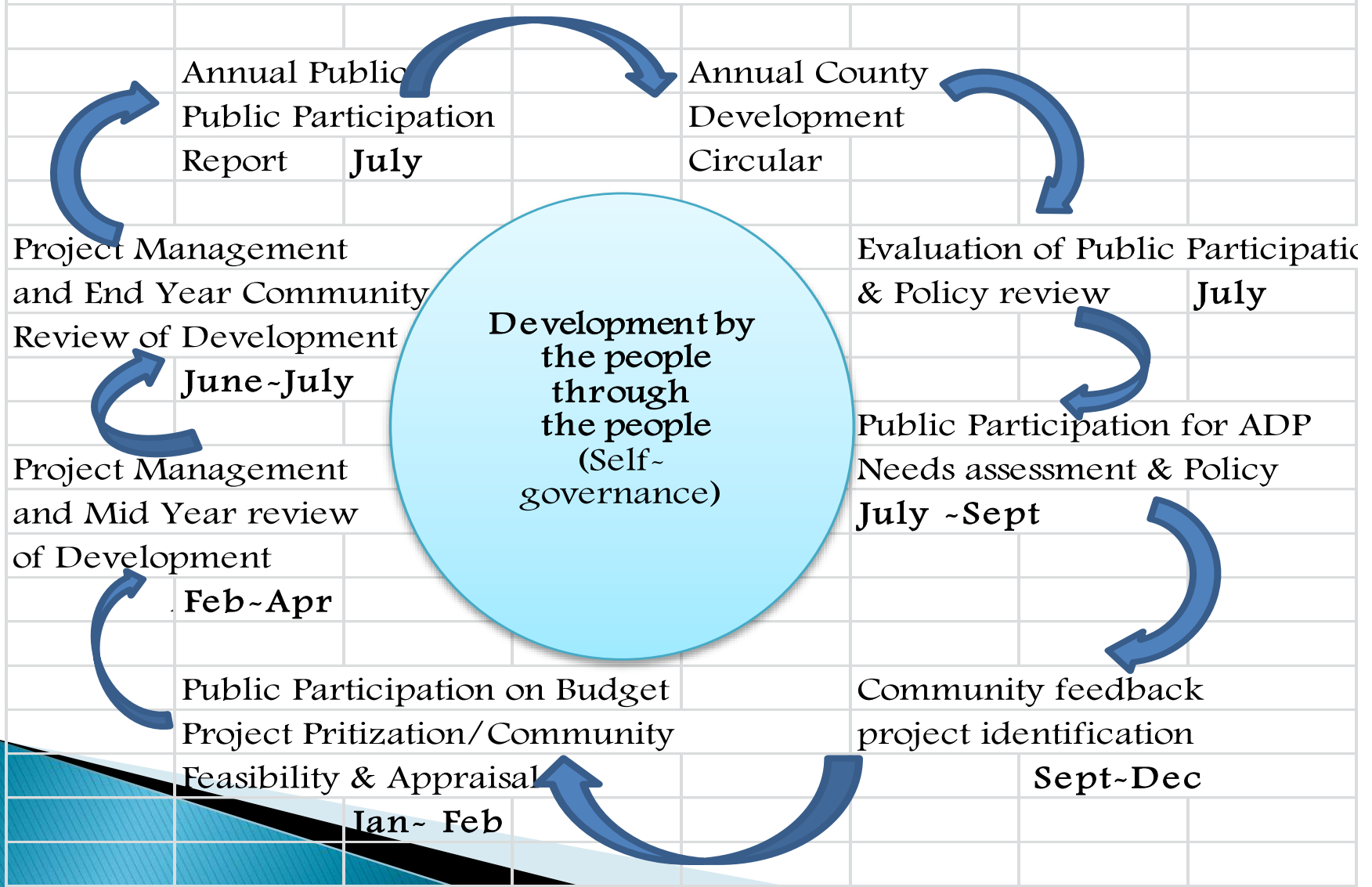i) Capacity building for PMCs and Development committees

Functions of development committees

- Identification, prioritization and Management of development at various levels

Public Participation

ANNUAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CYCLE

Annual Public Public Participation Report **July**

Annual County Development Circular

Project Management and End Year Community Review of Development **June~July**

Evaluation of Public Participation & Policy review **July**

Development by the people through the people (Self~governance)

Project Management and Mid Year review of Development **Feb~Apr**

Public Participation for ADP Needs assessment & Policy **July ~Sept**

Public Participation on Budget Project Pritization/Community Feasibility & Appraisal **Jan~ Feb**

Community feedback project identification **Sept~Dec**

End