

Title: MP DEVELOPS SYSTEMS TO HELP RESIDENTS IDENTIFY PROBLEMS

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A legislator has come up with an innovative method which utilizes various information and communication technology (ICT) tools to map out the problems and concerns in the constituency, to find solutions.

In order to mainstream geo-information in community management and development, Emuhaya legislator Dr Wilbur Ottichilo, has developed the Emuhaya Constituency Development Information System (CDIS).

According to Dr Ottichilo, the establishment of the constituency development fund (CDF) in 2003 by the government calls "for sound planning and management at constituency level".

Making a presentation recently during the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST) meeting organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Uneca) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia recently, Dr Ottichilo said that upon his election as MP, he prepared the 2008-2015 Strategic Plan Emuhaya Constituency.

The role of CODIST is to review challenges and issues pertaining to ICT, geo-information, science and technology sectors; formulate policies and strategies to address Africa's development challenges.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr Ottichilo, who is the second MP to represent the constituency in the Tenth Parliament following the election of Mr. Kenneth Marende as House Speaker, said that upon his election as MP, he prepared the 2008-2015 Strategic Plan for Emuhaya.

In order to meet the objectives of the Strategic Plan, the MP realized that geographical information (GI) technologies would be used leading him to embark on the process of developing what he terms the "first ever CDIS in Kenya".

The Emuhaya CDIS, which was meant to serve as a model for other constituencies, was meant to create a 'smart system' that stores, manages, analyses, manipulates and displays constituency spatial data for improved development planning and management, food security and poverty alleviation.

Its other objectives was to create a geo-information system at constituency level that comprises administration and political boundaries and their attributes (population, voters etc); polling stations and other attributes and a detailed GIS database (including geo-referenced photos and videos) of key infrastructure and amenities in the constituency (roads, bridges, schools, hospitals/ clinics, churches etc).

Other information provided by the CDIS include land use/ land cover types and changes over time; a food security early warning system at sub location level.

"Through the CDIS, we have created an internet map service on www.emuhaya.org" he said.
