

# **Policy Advocacy Training**

**MS-TCDC, ARUSHA**

**PUBLIC POLICY  
PROCESS (B)**

# PUBLIC POLICY AND POWER

- Public policies are generated by the power of political actors
- For a governmental actor, Minister or public servant, public policies generally refer to specific action having an official character, expressed as policy statements, programs or projects, aimed at solving a problem or at fostering progress in a society.
- For the analyst, the definition encompasses anything a government does or does not do as much whatever circumscribes, influences or defines the action itself.
- Policy can be defined as an expression of dominant power relations/interests within a given society.

# PUBLIC POLICY AND POWER

- Public policies are broad statements and regulations that set out broad goals that affect the public
- Public policy advocacy is an exercise in contesting state priorities and resources by laying claims based on clear justifications.
- Public policies fit in a conceptual framework which includes an environment – where it takes place – activities – what – specific purposes - why – structures – what channels – an evolution – how.

# Process

- Public policy is an attempt to bridge a gap between a situation and a norm – norms differ, perceptions of situations differ, actors differ – hence the whole problem of regulating public policies.
- The implementation process of public policies follows, in principle, a series of official procedures but, quite often, crisis situations alter profoundly the order of the stages in public policy making – when they don't annul these outright.

# Process

- Resources or instruments in the hands of decision-makers are numerous – norms, positions, authorities, links & linkages, material means, personnel, information.
- Public policy is an essential form of exercise or expression of power, i.e. the control over decisions impacting on stakes.

# Flows

- Public policies result from three flows – problems (concept of definition), solutions (concept of tool or instrument) and political choices (trends and networks).
- Power relations between stakeholders define the nature of the interactions between the flows and determine the success or the failure of a public policy. Any group of two flows together does not suffice to generate a public policy.
- Indeed, there can be problems for which there are solutions but the policy of the day is not conducive.

# Flows

- The existence of solutions when the political trends are favourable is conducive to the formulation of public policies aimed at resolving a problem.
- Actors : - elected politicians and their entourage; public servants; experts, media, the man in the street.

# Rules

- Rules are directives accepted by those living under these; these directives can be implemented, they are subject to controls and to sanctions in case of failure to submit to them.
- The State, from which rules stem, enjoyed a relative autonomy up to recently in terms of its relationship with Society in view of the close links between the political decision making power and the implementation power of the bureaucracy.
- But the evolution of the international environment has weakened the State at a time when the emergence of an Information Society has transformed the citizen into a more mobilized and more active actor.



# Rules

- Networks and communities have considerably increased their influence and their power as a channel of transmission

## How public policies emerge

- A public policy emerges when a question is put on the government's agenda.
- To go beyond this stage, there must be, right from the beginning, potential solutions and, more importantly, a political will to choose one.
- There must be stakeholders interested in pursuing the debate. .

# Flows, participation, means

| Flows   | Participation                            | Means              |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Problem + political will = emergence<br>Beyond emergence : achievable solutions | Stakeholders and responsible individuals | Norms and statutes |

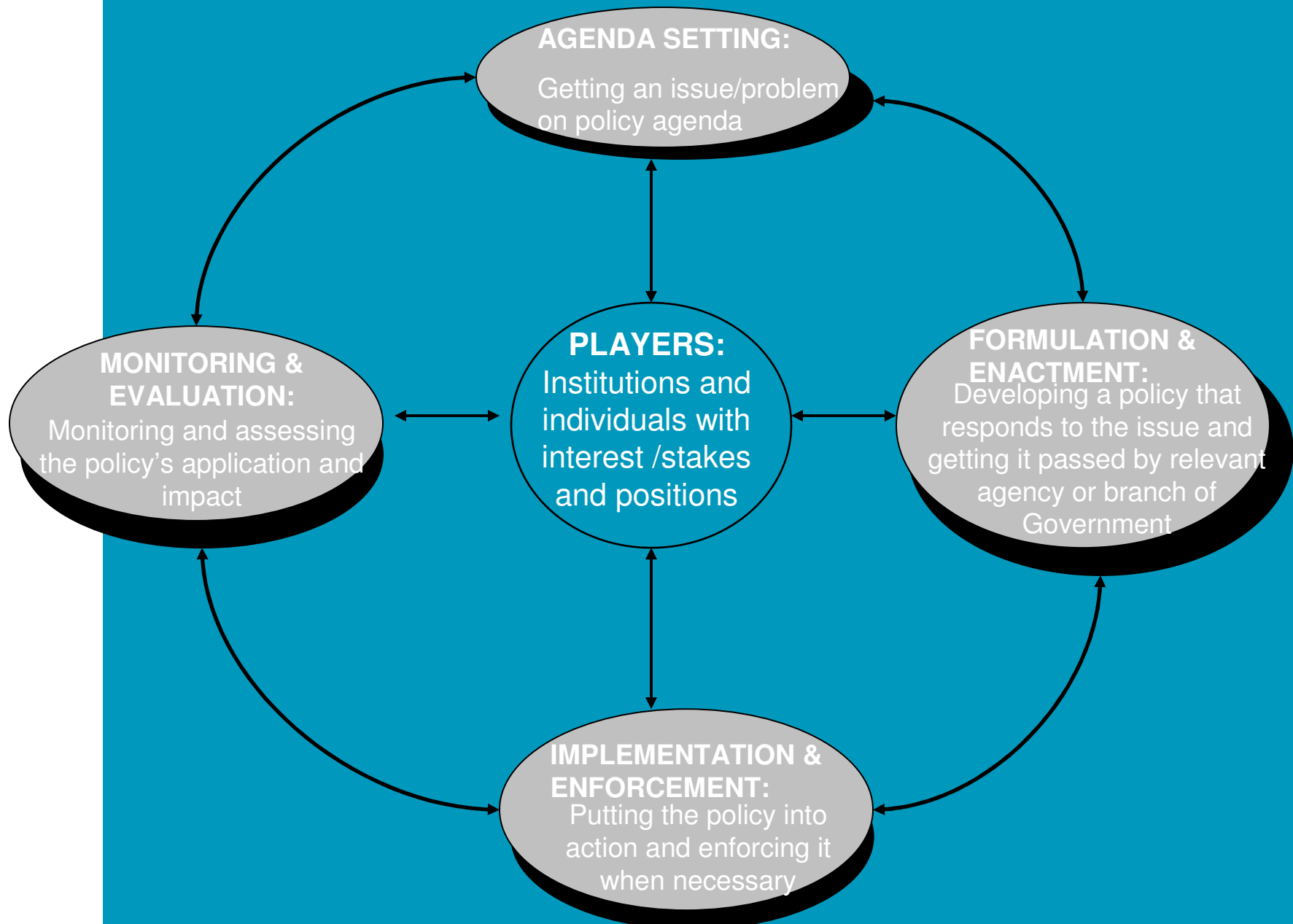
# Flows

- Policy making systems help establish the rules that govern states and societies and are made up of institutions and people with different understandings of their society's problems and different stakes in the policies that address them.
- Changing and dynamic, these systems vary from country to country. Each operates in a particular political and cultural context with differing characteristics and players.

# Flows

- Public policy process involves a combination of stages that include:
- agenda setting;
- formulation and enactment;
- implementation and enforcement, and
- monitoring and evaluation

# Phases and Players in Public Policy-Making Process



# Public policy formulation

- Formulation = coupling between political will (power flow) and Solution flow
- Important role of agents – bureaucrats, technicians, particularly when they form alliances between themselves
- Decisive role of the responsible people, leaders: non policies without a political decision

# Flows, participation, means

| Flows  | Participation                                 | Means  |
|--|---|--|
| Problem + solutions :<br>formulation and possible adoption of the suggested policy | Mainly agents and responsible decision makers | Norms and statutes<br>Information<br>Interpersonal relationships |



# Implementation of public policies

- From the adoption of a public policy to its implementation, there is often a wide gap or a circular flow between emergence, formulation, and implementation
- Implementation = problem flow + solution flow
- Much more critical role of individuals in the implementation has, particularly if they combine to become real stakeholders groups
- Implementing agencies have a more important role than decision makers unless there are failures or a change in direction demanding a political decision

# Flows, participation, means

| Flows   | Participation  | Means  |
|---|--|--|
| Problem + solutions + frequent reformulation with recurrent insertion of the political flow | Individuals, groups, Agents and background role of decision makers | Norms and statutes<br>Command and control levers (authority) and support |

# Public policy formulation in trying times: globalization

- Impacts of globalization include
- information revolution, world economic culture, technological competition
- competing value systems and questions regarding civilization differences
- erosion of state power: sub-state level entities or emerging supra-nation powers – international agreements, multilateral obligations – erosion of national borders and boundaries, regionalism, strengthening of local governments

# Public policy formulation in trying times: globalization

- transformation of social relations – winners and losers
- world competition at the level of individuals
- international markets for human capital; brain drain
- different modes of expression of influences over decision making processes – new partnerships ( e.g. NGO power)
- uncertainty regarding norms

## Ethics and Good Governance

- The political space for political leaders has narrowed. The image competes with reality. Transparency is the norm but the media are feared
- The public servants are often in a fishbowls
- From rules and procedures to results and efficiency – a long way to go

# Ethics and Good Governance

The 8 « rules » of public policies :

- political commitment
- legal framework
- accountability mechanisms
- codes of behaviour
- professional socialisation
- favourable work conditions
- ethical oversight
- engaged civil society

# Example: Policy Making in Kenya

## Type

## Development

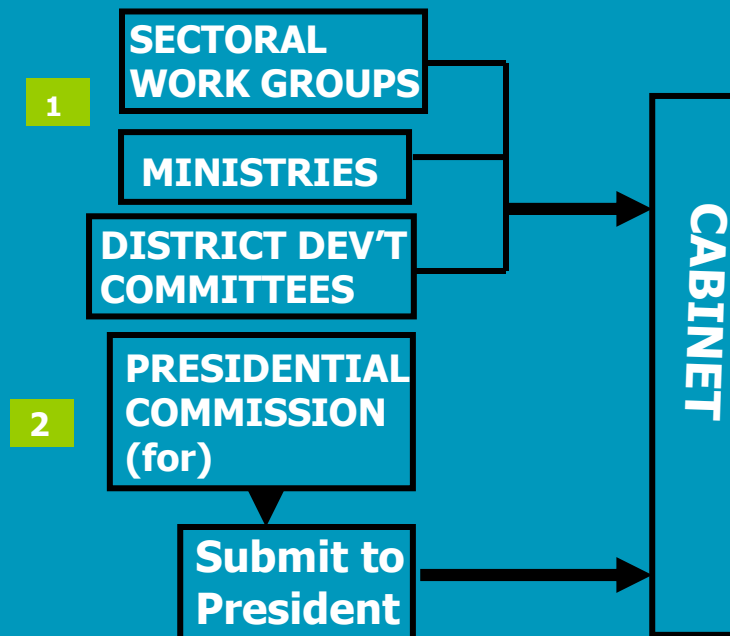
Purpose

Broad Statements

Examples:

National Development Plans,  
master Plans, Sectoral Plans

Formulation  
Process



# Example: Policy Making in Kenya

## Type

### Regulation

Purpose

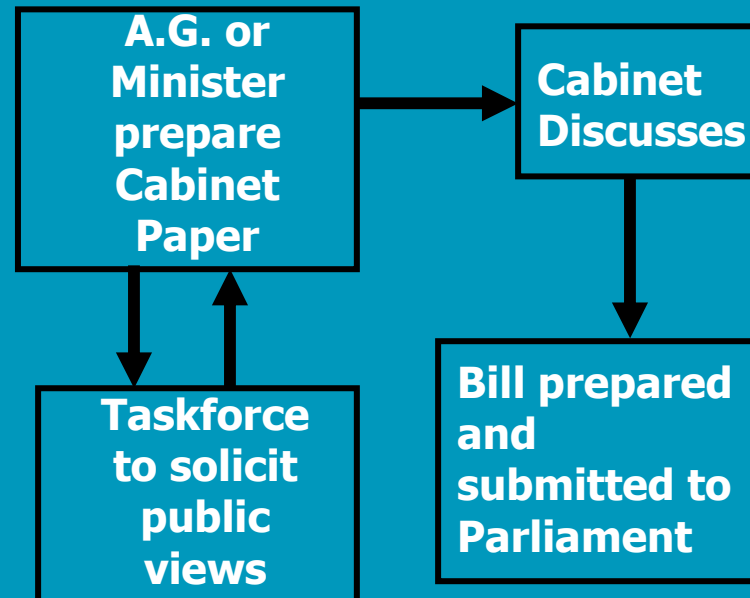
Controls Individual and institutional Behaviour

Examples:

Laws, Acts of Parliament, Sessional Papers

Formulation

Process





# Policy Making

- Public policies come in different shapes – e.g. a law, poverty reduction strategy, statement by a government official, budget, programme or strategy. They are for example used to:

|   |                                   |  |                                   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| provide primary education                               | control inflation                 | prescribe how public officials should behave | regulate safe building methods    | guide and manage donor relations         |
| give people access to clean water                       | categorise and regulate medicines | protect children from abuse                  | combat the spread of HIV and AIDS | set development priorities               |
| regulate foreign lending and borrowing                  | attract foreign investment        | keep account of public finances              | control pollution levels          | coordinate public spending               |
| provide support to farmers                              | promote equality and equity       | coordinate different policies                | regulate who has access to credit | advance cooperation with other countries |
| give roles and responsibilities to government officials | regulate imports and exports      | procure goods and services                   | protect endangered species        | combat corruption                        |