DESIGNING A PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB)

Jez Hall

Kenya Participatory Budgeting Initiative

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Jez Hall

Founder/Director of NGO that is working to empower citizens

- Supporting new ways of doing PB
- Community engagement specialists

UK PB Network Coordinator:

Advocating for PB across the UK

www.pbnetwork.org.uk

World Bank Employed PB Designer Trainer

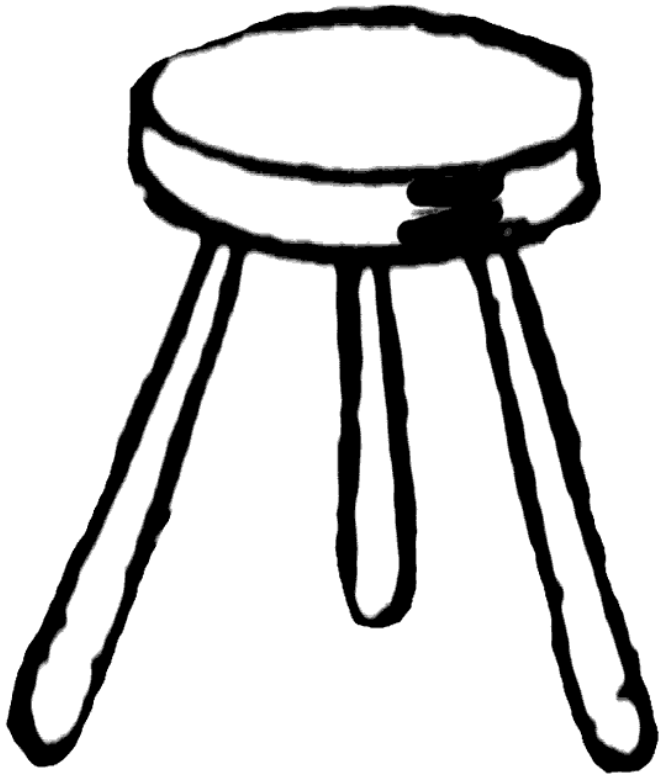
Citizen, community activist, father.

The One Thing to Know

There must be a convincing story to tell for:

- Politicians
- Officers
- Citizens

What's in it for you?



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PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

'PB directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget.'

Or…
'Local people deciding on how to allocate part of a public budget'

Or……

'If it feels like we have decided ---- it's PB.

If it feels like someone else has decided, it isn't.'

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HEALTH WARNING!

Only a percentage of any public budget will be allocated using PB

The PB process is always formally mandated and 'signed off' by the elected legislature

1. **Supporting Representative Democracy**
2. **Improving the way public money is spent**
3. **Building Community**

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ORIGINS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1980s – city of 1.5m people

Spread across the world

Over 3000, always DIFFERENT, experiences

Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa
Australasia

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DEVELOPMENT OF PB

Identified as good practise by international institutions, including World Bank, UNESCO, OECD, UN's Habitat programme, and UK's DFID

175 + examples of UK 'pilots'

Links closely with the Kenyan 'Devolution' agenda

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DEVELOPMENT OF PB

PB as an example of Subsidiarity:

Subsidiarity is an organizing principle that matters ought to be handled by the smallest, lowest or least centralized competent authority.

Political decisions should be taken at a local level if possible, rather than by a central authority.

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THE CONTEXT IN SCOTLAND

- The Community Empowerment Act
- The Commission for Strengthening Democracy

Desire for a greater devolution of powers

Post the independance referendum

(PB as a tool to help do this??)

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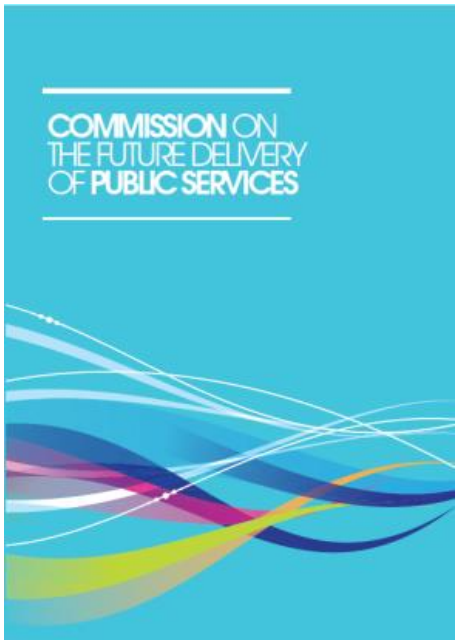
THE CONTEXT IN SCOTLAND 2

Scottish Government's response to the Christie Commission –



Four P's'

- a decisive shift to **Prevention;**
- continually improving **Performance**
- working in **Partnership**(nationally and locally)
- engaging and developing our **People**

How does this relate to Kenya?

Public service delivered through:

- Improvement
- Co-production
- Asset-Based Approaches

PB a tool to deliver:

- Power more equally balanced between communities, individuals and professionals
- Seeing all people as citizens, as neighbours and as co-producers of development.

POSSIBLE PB MODELS ARE ENDLESS

Neighbourhood resource allocations
Capital Investment
Budget Consultation
Strong Civic Society
Transparent budgets
Anti-corruption initiatives
Digital democracy

And a million things in between.

No Right Way to do it...
Good Process is everything

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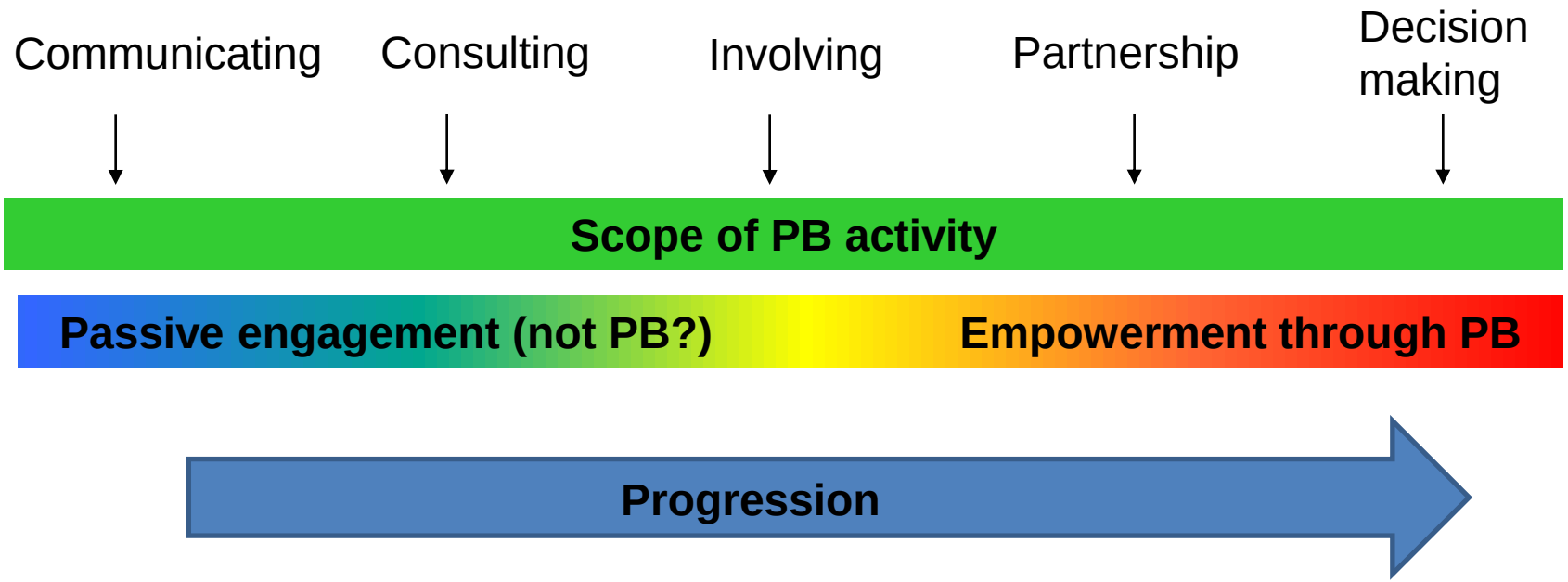
The Empowerment Line

PB works in different ways, but should be meaningful and change how money is spent



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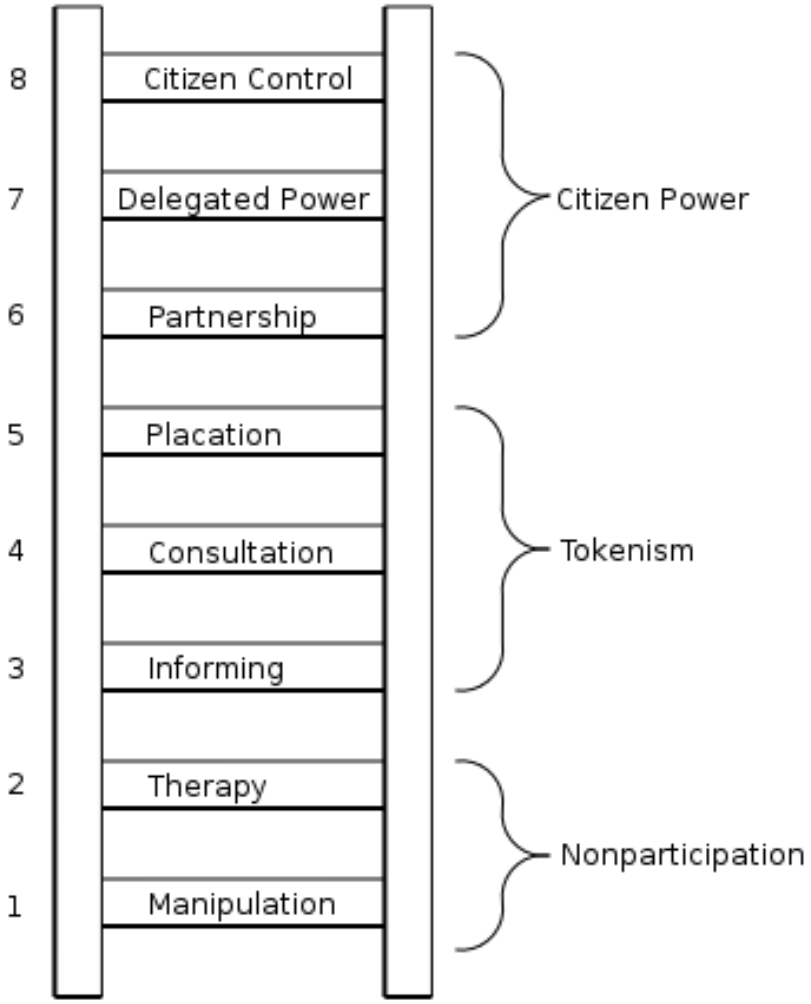
The Ladder of Participation



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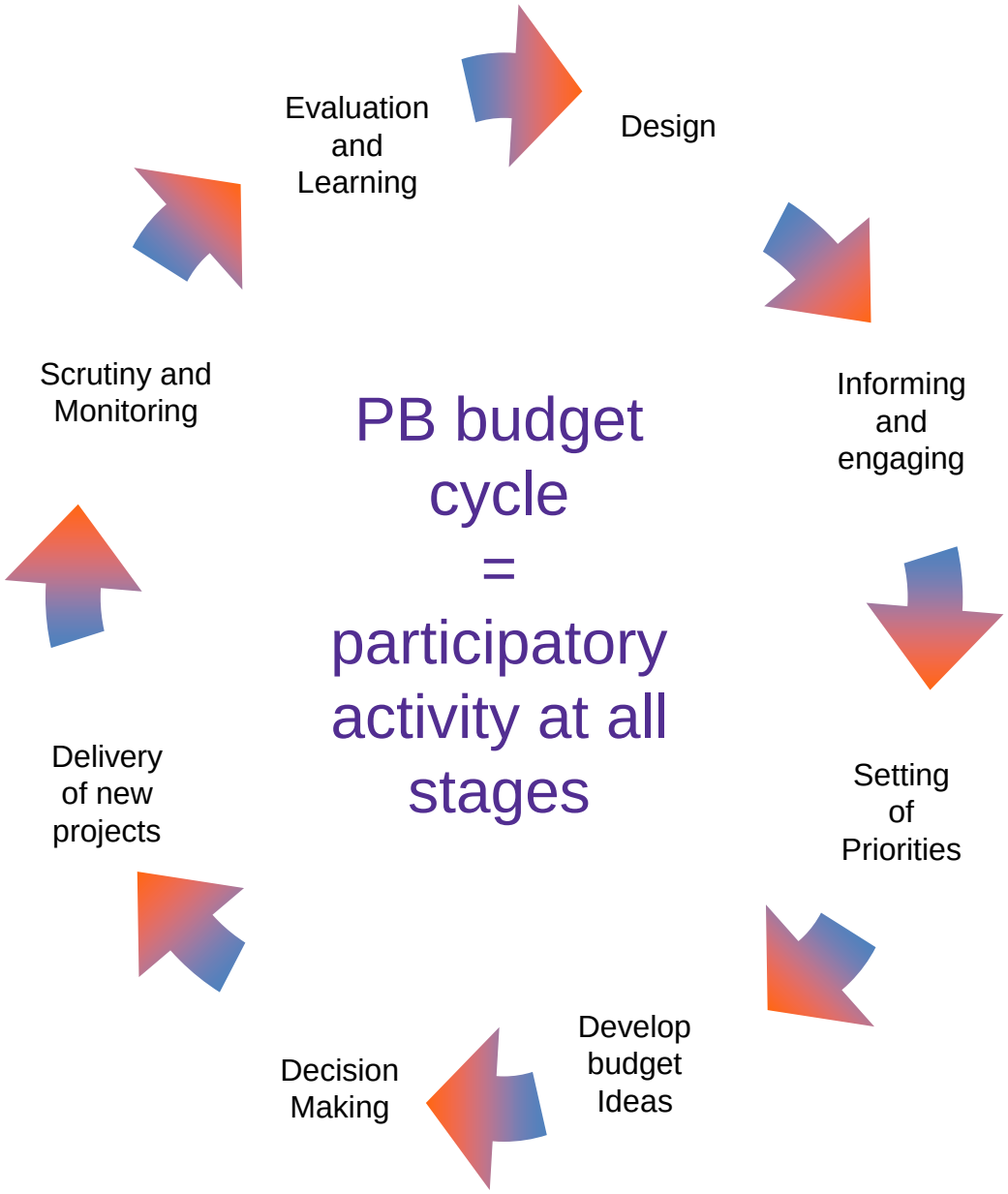

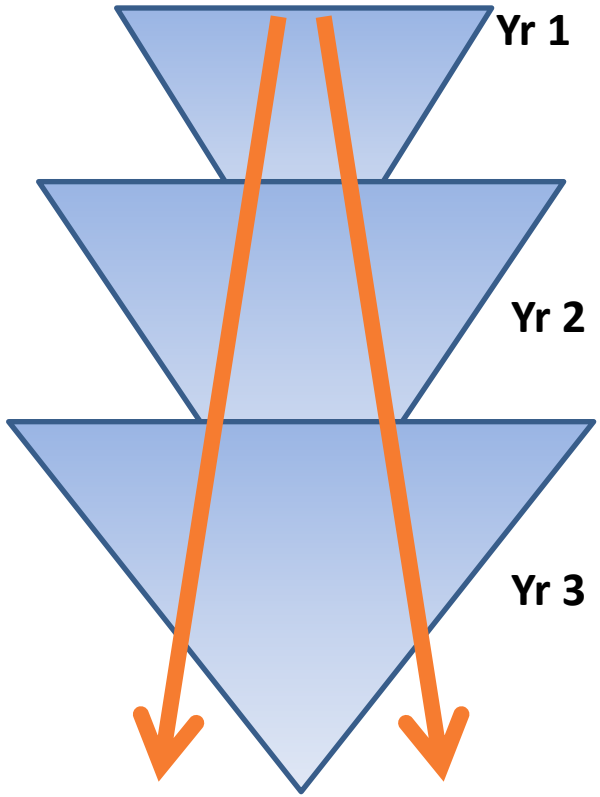

Building participation through repeated cycles of PB

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The participatory budget of Icapui, Brazil.

Left column reads Where the money comes from…

One on the right reads What the money is spent for…

Below it says: *When the administration is transparent, everything works smoothly…*

BENEFITS OF PB – INCREASING TRUST AND IDENTIFICATION

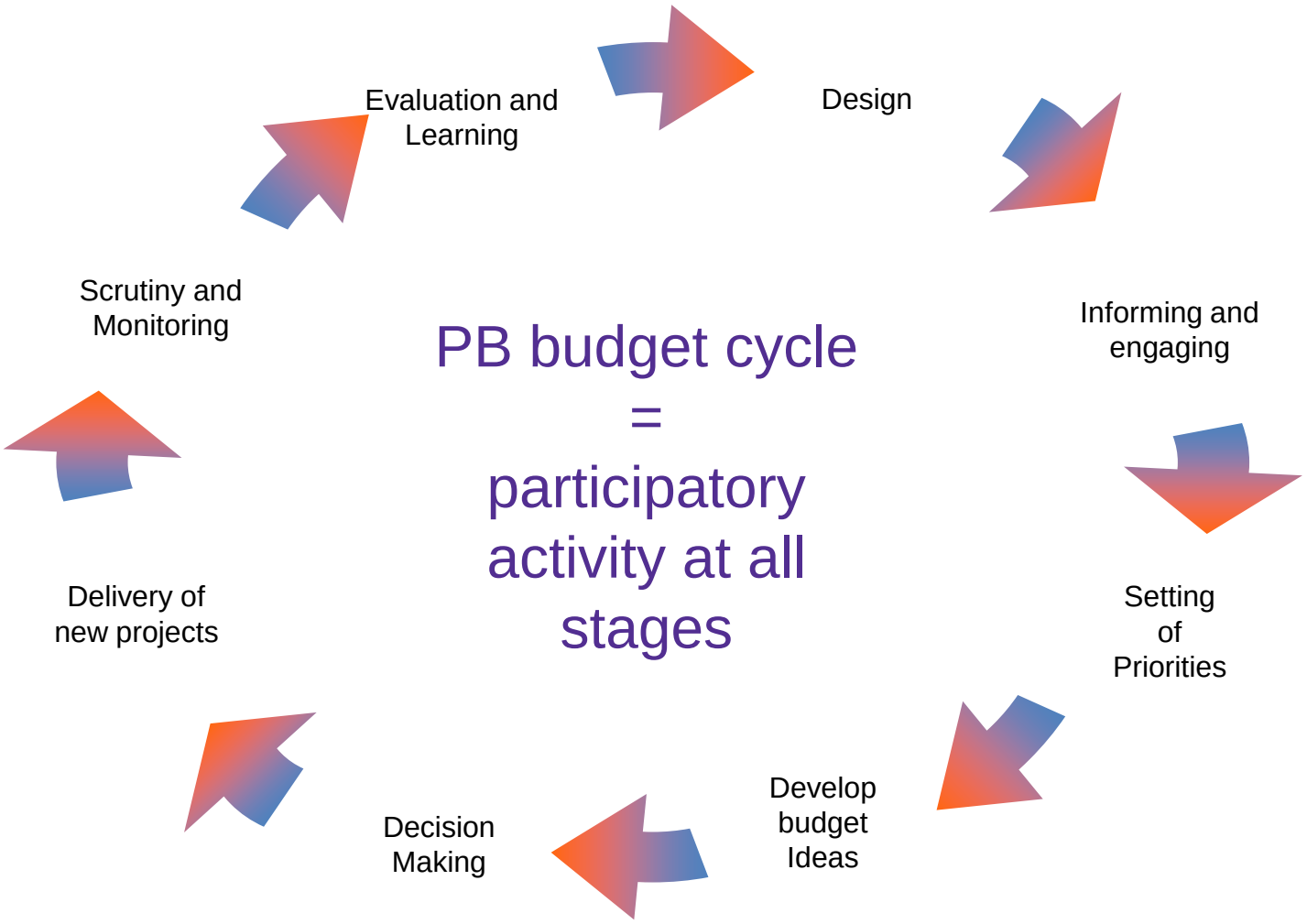
In Porto Alegre, the 'birthplace' of PB, participation in democratic processes increased,

with evidence that residents were also more willing to pay their Council Tax

In Chicago, Alderman Joe Moore directly attributes using his discretionary funding for PB for his repeated re-election

Elected Members and other fundholders - please note!

The three legs of the firm stool of PB – THE ANNUAL CYCLE



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A NEW CITIZEN CHARTER

Devolution of greater powers in practice

- Local Governance
- Widening of participation
- Co-producing development
- Rights AND Responsibilities

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THE BUDGET MATRIX

Geographic Area	Priority total	Need total	Population total	Total Score	% of total county score	Resource available (4,100,000 KES)
Area A	6	6	9	21	12. 9%	531,400
Area B	3	9	6	18	11%	454,400
Area C	12	12	6	30	18. 4%	758,100
Area D	3	2	2	7	4. 3%	177,200
Area E	12	2	2	16	9. 8%	403,800
etc	~	~	~	~	~	~
Total for all areas of the county				163	100%	4,120,000 KES

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STATISTICS EH?... Who Cares

30	24	6	0	**78**
30	17	7	6	**58**
30	12	11	7	**47**
30	12	10	8	**46**
30	12	8	10	**44**
30	11	11	8	**44**
30	11	8	11	**41**
30	9	10	11	**37**
30	7	15	8	**36**

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Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts
Gor Mahia	30	24	6	0	**78**
Ulinzi Stars	30	17	7	6	**58**
Sofapaka	30	12	11	7	**47**
Bandari	30	12	10	8	**46**
Tusker	30	12	8	10	**44**
Muhoroni Youth	30	11	11	8	**44**
AFC Leopards	30	11	8	11	**41**
Ushuru F.C.	30	9	10	11	**37**
Mathare United	30	7	15	8	**36**

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