

**NAIROBI CITY COUNTY**



**DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS**

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**NAIROBI CITY COUNTY YOUTH POLICY**  
**2024**

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**FINAL DRAFT**

## **FOREWORD**

Governments around the world develop policies that they use to guide their engagement with various segments and sectors of the public. A simple definition of policy is “a framework of engagement between the governed and their government’.

The Nairobi City County Youth Policy 2024 a product of the Nairobi City County Government is no different. It lays out the framework of engagement between the Nairobi City County Government and Nairobi youth currently estimated at 31% of the population. The youth by their sheer numbers are an important constituency for the County. Their numbers coupled with the fact that Kenya’s and indeed the future of the county lies in their hands. This makes it imperative for Nairobi City County Government to engage them in the development agenda of the county.

To underpin the seriousness by which the county holds its youth, this policy makes various commitments that will have far reaching impacts on the participation, engagement and inclusion of Nairobi youth in its leadership, governance and development agenda. First the policy identifies twelve priority areas that will guide its engagement with the youth. The policy recommends that the County Government of Nairobi shall allocate at least 2% of its annual budget to the programs and activities within the department of youth to be implemented at the ward level. The policy for the first time proposes the establishment of a Nairobi Youth Advisory Committee that will act as the voice of Nairobi Youth in the management of youth affairs in the county.

The policy has a monitoring and evaluation framework through which Nairobi youth and stakeholders invested in the youth sector are invited to hold the county and particularly the Department of Youth Affairs in the county accountable for the implementation of youth programmes. This accountability mechanism is not only in the programmes and activities of the department of youth Affairs but cuts across all sectors of the county since the policy also allows for mainstreaming of youth issues in all departments and sectors in the County Government.

There is no greater commitment to a people by its government than the open invitation to partner in the implementation of important programmes and projects that is crystallized in a policy and/or other legal frameworks. Through this policy the NCCG lays the framework of engagement with Nairobi youth, and we trust that this will herald an era of partnership, solidarity and participation of the youth in the management of their own affairs. It is our belief that the youth of Nairobi will accept this invitation by NCCG and consciously and consistently play their roles as equal partners in the implementation of this policy and thus give life to the policy and consequently help the NCCG achieve the vision that the county has for its youth.

**H.E. SAKAJA ARTHUR JOHNSON, CBS**

**GOVERNOR  
Nairobi City County**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Nairobi City County Youth Policy was developed in a consultative and participatory manner in line with the constitutional requirement of citizen participation and stakeholder engagements. A lot of dedication and commitment has gone into the development of this policy and I therefore, would wish to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the Nairobi youth and all the Members of the Technical Working Group for their invaluable contribution towards the development of this policy.

I am grateful to the consultant Mr. Johnstone Kotut for his guidance, candid opinion and commitment throughout the process of developing the policy. Special thanks to the staff of Nairobi City County government especially the Department of Youth Affairs under the leadership of the Chief Officer- Youth, Talent and Sports, Mr. Osacar M. Igaida, Director- Youth Affairs, Mr. Daniel Ngari, Deputy director - Wainaina Muiruri and Assistant Director- Susan Kimani.

Our special appreciation also goes to the non-state actors who contributed to the development of this policy. This include County Governance Watch supported by CREATE programme, Volunteer Services Overseas – Kenya, Volunteer Involving Organizations Society Kenya, Youth in Action, Horn of Africa Youth Network, Plan International – Kenya, PAWA 254, Clivios Organization, Ujana na Ujuzi, and Youth Alive! Kenya among others.

I also wish to thank all the youth and stakeholders who actively participated in giving their inputs during the public participation forums and written memorandum. In addition, I acknowledge the support of Elimika Youth programme (UON) who conducted a study on youth programmes in Nairobi City County and whose report also informed the development this Policy.

The recommendations in this policy and their implementation will require significant financial commitments and technical support. I am confident that all stakeholders will work in partnership to help mobilize these resources as well as

fully participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programs proposed in this policy.

It is our conviction that the policy will serve to facilitate the youth programme in the economic and social aspects for our inclusive growth through Kenya Vision 2030, County Integrated Development Plan(CIDP) 2023-2027, Sustainable development goals(SDGs) and other development frameworks.

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**ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS**

<b>AGPO</b>	<b>Access to Government Procurement Opportunities</b>
<b>AIDS</b>	<b>Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome</b>
<b>CEC</b>	<b>County Executive Committee</b>
<b>CECM</b>	<b>County Executive Committee Member responsible for Youth Affairs</b>
<b>CIDP</b>	<b>County Integrated Development Plan</b>
<b>HIV</b>	<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</b>
<b>ICT</b>	<b>Information and Communication Technology</b>
<b>KEPSA</b>	<b>Kenya Private Sector Alliance</b>
<b>KNBS</b>	<b>Kenya National Bureau of Statistics</b>
<b>NACADA</b>	<b>National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse</b>
<b>NEET</b>	<b>Not in Education Employment and Training</b>
<b>NCCG</b>	<b>Nairobi City County Government</b>
<b>NYC</b>	<b>National Youth Council</b>
<b>PWDs</b>	<b>Persons with Disability</b>
<b>PCVE</b>	<b>Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism</b>
<b>SDGs</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>
<b>SRHR</b>	<b>Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights</b>
<b>STIs</b>	<b>Sexually Transmitted Infections</b>
<b>TWG</b>	<b>Technical Working Group</b>
<b>UNHABITAT</b>	<b>United Nations Human Settlement Program</b>



## **DEFINING KEY TERMS**

### **Kenyan Youth**

The policy has borrowed the definition of a Youth from the Kenya Constitution 2010 which defines Youth as an individual who has attained the age of 18 years but has not attained the age of 35 years.

### **Youth of Nairobi**

The Policy defines a Youth of Nairobi as an individual who has attained the age of 18 years but has not attained the age of 35 years.

The Policy allows the term ‘youth’ to refer to both age and youth–hood. With respect to age, a youth is defined as a person in the age bracket of 18 to 34 years while youth–hood; Is looked at as the specific stage between childhood and adulthood when people have to negotiate a complex interplay of both personal and socio-economic changes to manoeuvre the transition from dependence to independence, take effective control of their lives and assume social commitments. The Policy recognizes youth-hood as a period of transition and vulnerability when the youth have to undergo learning, going to work, staying healthy and safe, forming families and exercising citizenship. Success in this period of transition requires development of human capital of the youth, empowering the youth to take up leadership roles, make informed and competent choices, and develop a sense of wellbeing.

### **Youth Empowerment**

Is both a means and an end, an attitudinal, structural, and cultural process whereby youth gain the ability, authority, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own and other peoples’ lives both now and, in their adulthood, while bearing responsibility for the consequences of those decisions and actions.

## **Youth Development**

The term Youth Development means improving the lives that the youth lead, giving them more freedom and opportunities to live the lives they value. It means developing the abilities of the youth and giving them a chance to use these abilities to flourish.

## **Government**

According to the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the word Government refers to the two levels of government: The National Government and the 47 County Governments. However, with respect to this policy, the government means the Nairobi City County.

## **Stakeholders**

Include private sector, development partners, Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Youth Serving Organisations (YSOs) and individuals.

## **Youth Participation**

Youth Participation refers to the act of youth having influence and shared responsibility on decisions and actions that affect their lives. It also acknowledges the youth within a context that acknowledges and respects their talents, strengths and supports them in finding ways to deal with the issues that affect them.

### **Youth Employment**

Youth employment is a means of providing youth with opportunities for work that are productive in order to deliver fair income, security in the workplace and social protection. It also enhances better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for the youth to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment.

### **Youth Work**

All forms of youth engagement that builds personal awareness and support the social, political and socio-economic empowerment of youth.

### **Youth Sector**

Refers to any organisation or institution that deals with youth related issues.

### **Safe Spaces for Youth**

A space occupied by youth that is co-governed by the youth with rules and norms set by young people. A safe space shall be one that enables young people to experience feelings of love, ownership, learning, growth, freedom, and social hope.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Nairobi City County Youth Policy seeks to provide an opportunity for improving the quality of life for Nairobi youth through their participation in economic and democratic processes as well as in community and civic affairs. It also advocates for the creation of a supportive social, cultural, economic and political environment that will empower the youth to be partners on County development.

In summary the Policy provides a detailed account of various aspects, key of which are highlighted here under.

### **Targeted Youth by the Policy**

This policy targets youth in Nairobi County regardless of their social economic status, education background, health, disability, sexual orientation, faith, race and political affiliation with special attention to marginalized groups of youth because of their specific needs. These special groups include: Youth with disability; Street youth; Youth infected with HIV and AIDS; Female Youth; the unemployed youth; Refugee youth and other youth open to neglect, manipulation and abuse of rights; All youth (Male And female youth); unemployed and underemployed; youth not in education employment and training (NEET); Youth living in informal settlement; homeless youth; youth with underlying conditions; youth in learning institutions; incarcerated youth; youth in conflict situation; and Youth out of school.

In each of the targeted youth groups, the Government and organisations working with the youth will be required to give special attention and affirmative action.

### **Youth Challenges, Strengths and Opportunities**

The policy emphasises that the narrative about the youth of Nairobi should have a positive component. In this regard the document shares the various challenges that face the youth such as: unemployment and lack of employability skills, poor health,

and lack sufficient socio and economic support, drug addiction and crime/radicalization. However, the Policy has also brought out some key strengths and opportunities that the youth present. Some of these positive aspects include: their numbers which presents the highest workforce dividend that needs to be harnessed and optimized; they are highly educated; their readiness to learn and be taught; they easily embrace ICT and optimize its use; they have energy and are available; and they demonstrate high affinity for networking, teamwork and cohesion.

#### **Priority Areas for the Policy**

The policy has articulated the youth empowerment and development priorities within the Kenyan context. The priorities that shall direct programmes and activities are:

- i. Skills Development and Employment,**
- ii. Enterprise Development**
- iii. Health and Wellbeing**
- iv. Environment Management for Sustainable Development.**
- v. Patriotism and Volunteerism.**
- vi. Leadership, Participation and Representation.**
- vii. Safe spaces for Youth**
- viii. Identification and Development of Talent and Creativity**
- ix. ICT and Innovation**
- x. Drugs and Substance Abuse.**
- xi. Crime and Peace Building.**

**xii. Radicalization and Prevention of Violent Extremism.**

Under each of the mentioned priorities, several interventions have been provided to mitigate and transform the youth to improve their well-being.

**Policy Coordination, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanisms**

The Policy provides a well-defined mechanism that will implement, coordinate, monitor, evaluate and report on youth empowerment and development interventions. The mechanism will include like-minded stakeholders, thematic working groups, and the Department responsible for Youth Affairs in the county. Each of the players shall be assigned specific roles to play.

The Policy implementation mechanism will be operationalized through an Action Plan detailing: policy priorities, key actions, indicators, timelines, responsibility, and estimated budget per year.

**Recommended Budget and Implementation of the Policy**

1. The Policy proposes that NCCG shall allocate at least 2% of its annual budget to the programs and activities within the department of youth to be implemented at the ward level.
2. It is also expected that the Policy shall be reviewed in consultation with key stakeholders after every 5 years or when emerging issues arise.

Finally, the Policy avails itself as a credible guide and reference tool for effective development and implementation of youth empowerment and development interventions in Nairobi County.

## **1. PART ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Legislative, Policy and Institutional Framework**

**The Nairobi City County Youth Policy borrows from different legislations both within and outside of the country. Specifically, the policy is informed by the following legislative frameworks.**

#### **(i) The Constitution of Kenya**

**Articles 10 and 27 call for inclusivity, non-discrimination, equality and freedom from discrimination on the basis of age. In addition, Article 55 states that the State shall take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth: access relevant education and training; have opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; access employment, protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation; develop their cultural values, languages and practices; and have reasonable access to water, health services and infrastructure. Article 100 advocates for enactment of laws that promotes representation of marginalised groups. Article 174 provides the objects of devolution to include recognition of the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development; and, to protect and promote the interests and rights of minorities and marginalised communities; among others.**

#### **(ii) The County Government Act 2012**

**This Act is purposed at giving effect to the objects and principles of devolution as set out in the Constitution. Section 97 provides that a county government shall observe the following principles— protection of marginalized and minority groups from discrimination and from treatment of distinction of any kind, including language, religion, culture, national or social origin, sex, caste, birth, descent or other status; non-discrimination and equality of treatment in all areas of economic, educational, social, religious, political and cultural life of the marginalized and minority groups; special protection to vulnerable persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility, violence and abuse as a result of their ethnic, cultural,**

linguistic, religious or other identity; special measures of affirmative action for marginalized and minority groups to ensure their enjoyment of equal rights with the rest of the population; respect and promotion of the identity and characteristics of minorities; AND, promotion of effective participation of marginalised and minority groups in public and political life, among others.

**(iii) The Urban Areas and Cities Act**

The Act is objected at establishing a legislative framework for—governance and management of urban areas and cities; and, participation by the residents in the governance of urban areas and cities; among others.

**(iv) The Public Procurement and Assets Disposal Act 2015**

This Act calls for the protection of youth enterprises. Section 53(6) and section 157 on Reserves a minimum of thirty per cent of the budgetary allocations for enterprises owned by women, youth, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups. Section 61(5) and section 142(3) waive tender securities for youth enterprises.

**(v) The Public Finance Management Act 2012 and County Regulations 2015**

The Act provides the framework for the administration of public coffers in the county level. Section 116 empowers the CECM for finance to establish other public funds with the approval of the CEC and the county assembly.

**(vi) The Nairobi City County Public Participation Act 2016**

This is an Act of the Nairobi City County Assembly with the aim of providing a mechanism for public participation in the governance of the County in line with the objects of devolution.

**(vii) The National Youth Council Act, No. 10 of 2009**

The Act established the National Youth Council to facilitate, co-ordinate, promote, monitor and advocate for youth issues and youth led initiatives under the Ministry in charge of youth.



**(viii) Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019**

The policy aims at ensuring that youth play their role in the development of the country. The Policy goal is to promote youth participation in community and civic affairs to ensure that youth programmes are youth centred. It spells out the strategic areas that must be addressed and implementation mechanisms.

**(ix) Kenya Vision 2030**

The Vision envisages responsible, globally competitive and prosperous youth. Among the specific interventions under the vision are: establishment of youth Centres, Mentorship, development of creative industry hubs and youth enterprise financing.

**(x) One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre**

Nairobi City County together with the UN-Habitat launched the One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2003 that brought together Government, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, UN Agencies and the Youth to create opportunities for youth under ‘one roof’ and impart appropriate skills, give relevant & timely information, build networks & meaningfully engage young people in Development

**Other International Conventions and Treaties**

The relevant international and regional instruments providing for governance on youth matters include:

- a. The African Youth Charter, 2006.
- b. Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment.
- c. World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).
- d. Dakar Declaration on Youth Empowerment (2000).
- e. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030)

## 1.2 Policy Formulation Process

The Nairobi City County Youth Policy was developed through an evidence-based and a consultative process with young people and stakeholders. These stakeholders included relevant government ministries, departments, and agencies; development partners, civil society organisations, private sector and youth serving organisations. The need for the policy was initiated by a motion from the County Assembly, the department's intentions to structure its operations, and the need for a framework guiding youth programming within the county voiced by youth of Nairobi. To kick start the process, the youth affairs department identified critical stakeholders for a brainstorming session on policy formulation process. These stakeholders formed the technical working group composed of young people, youth serving organizations and other interested groups to provide leadership, coordination and the technical guidance in the process. The technical working group reviewed the existing policy drafts and various researches on youth issues in Nairobi and developed the first draft.

The draft document was subjected to public participation for the youth and other critical stakeholders to give their input and validate some of the issues raised. The public input was then subjected to technical review and later further consultations with critical youth stakeholders. In all these processes the input was being tracked and recorded as the technical working group ensured it was captured in the subsequent drafts. A further consultative meeting was held with the CEC for their inputs to be captured before final validation by the technical working group. The validated draft was then handed over to the county legal department and further reviewed in a consultative workshop involving representation of the technical working group. The objective of the legal review was to ensure that the draft is in line with existing legal provisions. Finally, the document is expected to be submitted to the CEC and the County Assembly for approval.

### **1.3 Rationale for the Policy**

**Governments all over the world need different frameworks of engagements with the public. The County Government of Nairobi being cognisant of the large number of youths in Nairobi County and the need to engage with this constituency, saw it fit to develop this policy to guide NCCG's engagement with the youth especially since the future of the county is largely dependent on the preparedness, skills, and qualifications of the youth to move the county and the country forward. The policy thus gives an overarching framework for implementation of youth programs and activities in the county of Nairobi.**

**Implementation of this policy will rely heavily on partnerships developed and nurtured over time between the NCCG and youth stakeholders present in the county. The policy will thus be a key reference point for both state and non-state actors willing to partner with the county government of Nairobi in execution of youth programs and projects. This will help in aligning youth work implemented by youth stakeholders with the County's programmes and thus avoid duplication of efforts between partners and NCCG, a situation that was the norm in the past.**

**The policy also provides a mechanism through which the youth of Nairobi can audit the performance of NCCG as far as youth development is concerned and ensure accountability. It is important for the County to be open in its dealing with the youth and this policy provides a monitoring and evaluation framework which Nairobi Youth and other Youth Stakeholders can use to monitor the implementation of youth programmes in the county and even develop a scorecard of the County for the same.**

**Finally, this policy also provides avenues through which partners and stakeholders interested in youth development in the county can find their niche and support in the implementation of the programs and activities as outlined.**

**The Policy Goal: To promote the holistic empowerment and participation of the youth of Nairobi in socio-economic and political spheres for the County's development.**

**The Vision: To have a society where youth have equal and supportive opportunities to realize their fullest potential by participating in democratic, economic, social, cultural, and religious life without any hindrance.**

**Main Objective: To mainstream youth issues in all sectors of the County development within the public private sectors and civil society organizations.**

**Values: The values given emphasis in the policy are Patriotism, respect of cultural belief systems and ethical values, equity and accessibility, gender inclusiveness, participation, integrity, and accountability.**

#### **1.4 Policy Principles**

**The key principles guiding the implementation of the Nairobi City County Youth Policy are:**

**Participation: The views of the youth and their participation in county development must be sought. NCCG and other stakeholders must consciously and consistently involve young people in planning and decision-making processes that affect them and wider society.**

**Good Governance: NCCG and other stakeholders will demonstrate principles of good governance such as accountability, transparency, and integrity.**

**Gender Mainstreaming: NCCG and other stakeholders will actively promote gender mainstreaming in the implementation of all policies and programs.**

**Patriotism: Love for the Country and County should be inculcated as a core value among the youth.**

**Diversity:** in designing implementation of the Policy, the diverse background of the young people shall be recognized and respected including their role in the emotional, social, cultural and spiritual development

**Empowerment:** young people shall be empowered to take control of their own lives and destiny and take full responsibilities of their actions while influencing their own future to trigger positive change

**Equality:** all youth shall be given equal respect, opportunity, dignity regardless of their experience, ethnic or socio-economic status, physical and mental capacity, sex, age, vulnerabilities, and disabilities

## **2 PART TWO: YOUTH SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS**

The youth of Kenya are currently estimated at 35% of the total population<sup>1</sup>, representing the highest workforce dividend that needs to be harnessed and optimized. They should be included into the designing, planning, and implementing programmes and policies that affect them.

The responsibility of ensuring that the aspirations and hopes of the youth are met cannot be left in the hands of a single stakeholder. Everyone in the community, both young and old, must play their role.

Specific to Nairobi, some of the emerging social-economic and political issues affecting the youth include: the role of youth in national cohesion, peace building and conflict resolution efforts; youth radicalization, and the growing influence of ICT development.

This County Youth Policy endeavours to address issues affecting the youth by providing broad-based strategies that can be used to give them meaningful opportunities to reach their maximum potential. It provides a broad framework within which all stakeholders, including the private and public sector and civil society, can contribute to youth development. The document goes further to suggest an implementation mechanism.

The National Government and the NCCG have put in place various strategies to address the issues affecting youth in the country. These include passing legislation and developing policies on youth development. The Government has also established a number of institutions to specifically handle youth affairs.

### **2.1 Nairobi County Youth contextual analysis**

Kenya has a generally youthful population. According to 2015/2016 Household survey Youth (persons aged 18 - 34) constituted 32 per cent of the population up

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<sup>1</sup> 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census.

from 30.4 per cent in 1969 with 49 per cent being male and 51 per cent female. The youth-adult population ratio increased from 62.7 percent of the adult population in 1979 to 66.7 percent in 2009<sup>2</sup>. According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census report, Youth (18-34 years of age) were 13,618,462 or 29 percent of Kenya's population of 47.6 million. The males were 6,504,514 while females were 7,113,427<sup>3</sup>.

Nairobi County has a higher youth population at 49.5 percent compared to the national estimate of 35.4 per cent. The high proportion of the youth to adult population signifies that Kenya is facing a youth bulge. The youth bulge presents Kenya with an immense opportunity of harnessing demographic dividend to invest in sustained development efforts to achieve increased economic, social and political development while at the same time presenting risk and threat to the country's social cohesion and stability if not adequately empowered and supported. According to the Kenya National Population and Housing Census 2009, Nairobi had a labour force of 2,148,605 comprising 1,034,009 females and 1,114,596 males. Out of the 2,148,605 persons in the labour force, 1,832,751 were classified as employed while 315,844 were seeking employment. The youthful proportion of the labour force consists of 561,457 males and 648,756 females.

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018-2022 identified youth between ages of 15-29 years as representing 38.75 per cent of the total population in the County and 56.58 per cent of the labour force within the county (County Government of Nairobi, 2018). According to the CIDP 2018 – 2022, the County Government is working to put more investment in place to ensure more employment is created. The Government is also embarking on building more technical training institutes and youth polytechnics to enable the young people to acquire technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills to enhance their employability.

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<sup>2</sup>Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2015/2016.

<sup>3</sup>2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

## **2.2 Nairobi Youth challenges and opportunities**

The policy categorizes the challenges facing the youth of Nairobi as follows, Labour market, and access to resources, socio-political issues and urban sustainability.

The major challenges under these categories are as follows;

### **LABOUR MARKET**

**Youth Unemployment:** For the youth aged 20-24 years the urban unemployment rate was 19.1 per cent in 2009 and 12.7 percent in 2015/16. The 2019 population and Housing Census show that the unemployment rate for youth aged 18-34 years was 12.1 per cent. Loss of employment was one of the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic experienced in the Country between 2020 and 2021 with higher concentration within Nairobi County and as such the rate is expected to be higher.

**Youth Under-employment:** Some of the working youths are underemployed, on part-time employment, or left idle thereby underutilizing the worker's skills. This poses a risk for the idle youth to engage in deviant behaviours and other social challenges.

**Vulnerable Employment:** Most employed youth are in vulnerable employment which is characterized by informal working arrangements associated with low productivity, inadequate earnings and difficult working conditions.

**High Levels of Youth Inactivity:** The economically inactive population includes individuals who are either employed or unemployed. These include the discouraged individuals who are no longer seeking work and are incapacitated. In Nairobi, inactivity is largely associated with homemaking activities (or engagement in household related chores) and affects female youth more than the male youth. The category also includes those not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

**Youth Skilled Labour Migration:** Many highly skilled young people remain unemployed due to lack of economic capacity to properly address the growing



youth labour force. Often, they seek jobs abroad and, in some cases, engage in vulnerable activities.

**Skills Mismatch:** There is a disconnect between the courses offered in the higher institutions of learning and the needs in the job markets. Higher education institutions still offer courses which may not be relevant to the current job market. Even those who offer courses that are practical to the current dynamics, do not properly guide the youth on the career selection and therefore they end up being unemployed for several years even after training.

### **ACCESS TO RESOURCES**

**Lack of Collateral and Bureaucracy in Accessing Loans:** Youth especially those from poor backgrounds have no collateral to get finances from the financial institutions. The bureaucratic ways on the detailed proposals for the Government funds clearly locks away potential youth.

**Limited Access to Safe Youth Spaces:** Safe public spaces offer the youth a platform for social recreation and interaction. The youth often do not have the financial means or legal standing to own private spaces, and thus are dependent on access to public spaces for a range of activities such as creativity, sports, recreation and talent development. However, such spaces are scarce, and where they exist, they are sometimes not accessible and are at risk of being encroached.

**Limited Access of Information:** The insufficiency of spaces and bureaucracy inhibit the dissemination of information to the youth on available resources and emerging opportunities. Without the information, the youth seldom benefit from the youth programmes.

## SOCIO-POLITICAL ISSUES

**Limited Participation in Social and Political spheres:** Despite the high proportion of youth in the county, youth are the least represented in political and economic spheres due to societal attitudes, socio-cultural and economic barriers, and lack of proper organization, orientation, and empowerment.

**Unplanned Pregnancies:** The median age at first sexual intercourse in Kenya was 18.2 years for women and 16.6 years for men in 2015/16. This exposes youth to unplanned pregnancies, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and Reproductive Tract Cancers (RTCs) which often disrupt their participation in education, training and empowerment activities, and raises the risk of morbidity and mortality.

**Health Related Challenges:** Based on the self-reported illness, at any given time, about twenty per cent (19.3 percent) of the Kenyans population is with some sickness and therefore require health services of which 12.5 per cent and 16.1 per cent are aged between 15-24 and 25- 34 years respectively. In 2017, the HIV prevalence rate was 4.8 per cent and new HIV and AIDS infections among the youth constituted 33 percent of the 52,767 new cases.

**Crime and Deviant Behaviour:** Due to inactivity and negative influence, youth are vulnerable and at a high risk of engaging in crime and joining organized criminal outfits.

**Drugs and Substance Abuse:** Drugs and substance abuse is rampant and readily available in Nairobi.

**Youth Radicalization:** Nairobi's very nature as a symbol of modernity and a place of active mobility predisposes the youth and opens chances of interaction with possible and suspected violent extremist individuals and organizations. Nairobi also presents a myriad of predisposing factors, such as real and perceived socio-economic inequalities, to radicalization which leads to violent extremism.

**Mental Health:** With the prevalence of social media and a generation change towards virtual contact instead of physical/face-to-face, the youth have been exposed to vices such as cyber bullying which has brought with it high cases of depression and suicides.

**Sexual and Gender Based Violence:** Owing to their vulnerability, the youth are exposed to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). According to the Kenya Demographic Health Survey (2014), over 10 per cent of young people aged 19 -35 years have ever experienced sexual violence. The survey further indicates that only 33 percent of young women and 20 percent of young men seek help for such cases.

**Climate Change:** The National Climate Change Action Plan 2018-2022 recognized that the key factors of the Kenyan economy that is to say tourism, agriculture among others are most vulnerable to the effects of rising temperatures and abnormal weather patterns. With Nairobi being the capital of Kenya, much of these economic factors are centred within the city which vulnerability is further enhanced by urban problems of waste management, sewer systems and storm water management. The youth of Nairobi have the advantages of being in the 'green city under the sun' known for being the only city with a national park but the reality on the grounds screams of problems with pollution from dumpsites, rivers and heavy machinery.

**Absence of Social Values:** A critical role of values and principles is to bind individuals and institutions in exercising their powers to achieve shared goals. However, the country faces challenges of weak social fabric, weak cohesion, threats from negative ethnicity and corruption. This has adversely affected the youth hence loss of opportunities and poor values.

**Limited and Poor Housing:** Many youths in Nairobi, especially those who live in informal settlements, do not have access to decent housing, healthy environments, and waste management.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

The policy identifies available opportunities for the youth of Nairobi as follows.

- i. Accessibility of modern infrastructure and technology enabling the space for innovation, industrialization, and value addition.**
- ii. Proximity to development services facilitating the access to information and involvement in development issues.**
- iii. Access to relevant education and exposure which provides an advantage in skills, creativity, and innovation over youths from other areas.**
- iv. Ease of doing business within the city providing a conducive environment for trade.**
- v. Readily available human resources owing to the high population of skilled labour.**
- vi. Exposure to cultural diversity eliminating the challenges of discrimination and stigmatization based on ethnicity, race, colour or origin.**
- vii. Existence of youth- friendly international and national legal, policy and administrative frameworks such as the affirmative action funds.**

### **2.3 Target Youth Groups**

This policy document is a basis for developing opportunities for all the youth in Nairobi. However, in addressing the needs of the youth, special attention shall be paid to certain groups because of their specific needs. In each of the targeted youth groups, the county Government and organisations working with the youth will be required to give special attention and affirmative action:

### **1. Youth with Disability**

For many youths a disability leads to rejection, isolation and discrimination, hindering their psychological, emotional, social and economic development. Youth with disability require specific strategies to ensure they participate fully in society. Special measures will be put in place to ensure that their needs are adequately addressed. The policy adopts a developmental approach to youth with disability where their human rights, participation and inclusiveness are promoted. The policy advocates greater awareness of the issues faced by youth with disabilities.

### **2. Homeless/Street youth**

Due to the breakdown of the social fabric, street families have continued to increase in our cities and towns. From street boys and girls, we now have street youth and families. These are people who live and/or work in the streets, many of them due to homelessness. The street youth are especially vulnerable as they lack protection, supervision or direction from responsible adults. The policy advocates reintegration and rehabilitation of street youth in the communities and strengthening of family systems.

### **3. Youth Infected with HIV & AIDS**

The youth continue to be the most affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic. The youth are exposed to HIV and AIDS due to biological, socio-cultural and economic factors. The high rate of teenage pregnancies, abortions, school drop-out and sexually transmitted diseases confirm that the youth are engaging in sex early, increasingly being exposed to HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. The policy advocates for community-based care and positive living for this target group.

### **4. Female Youth and Boy Child**

The female youth constitute 52% of total youth according to the KNBS. Sexual activity among the youth begins quite early in their life. Over 44% of girls between 15-19 years old have had sexual intercourse. Sex at this age has adverse effects on

health, besides other socio-economic consequences. Studies have shown that most adolescent pregnancies (around 90%) are unplanned. High levels of unprotected sexual activity exposes the female youth to the risk of contracting STIs, including HIV and AIDS.

The lower level of education for girls, coupled with retrogressive social and cultural practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced early marriages, put the female youth at a disadvantage. These factors have led to low participation and representation of youth in decision-making. Traditional gender roles overburden the female youth, limiting their opportunities for progression and self-development.

Young men lack strong support systems, role modelling and mentorship. Research conducted by the National Gender and Equality Commission found that the over-focus on the girl child through selective programmes and interventions was pushing the young men to lose confidence and develop low self-esteem. The impact of the boy child being excluded in the gender equality agenda is likely to manifest itself in increased conflicts with the law, increase in crime leading to violence, truancy and Drug and substance abuse.

The policy therefore identifies policy interventions that are focused on empowerment of both young men and young women.

#### **5. The Unemployed and Underemployed Youth**

Unemployment brings along with its social ills such as crime, alcohol, and drug abuse, as well as radicalization and violent extremism. Both the Government and non-governmental agencies must address this problem. The unemployed youth should be provided with empowerment opportunities, in addition to access to services, support programmes and opportunities for further training.

#### **6. Youth with Underlying Conditions**

There is a noted increasing number of youths under treatment within the city. Mental illness has also been on the rise over the years due to economic and social

issues that are unbearable. Therefore, NCCG will have a special focus on this group that will include youth with underlying health conditions such as mental illness and Non-Communicable Diseases.

## **7. Youth in Conflict Situations**

Nairobi acts as a transition of refugees to safer zones. They are placed within the city for some time as their documentation is processed. Therefore, they use the existing social amenities like any other youth.

### **2.4 Policy Mandate and Institutional Arrangement**

The Policy adopts its mandate from other reference mandates such as:

#### **(a) Global Context**

The World Programme of Action for Youth identifies ten priority areas that aim at improving the situation and well-being of young people. According to priority 10 of the programme, full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making should be promoted in design and building of future progress. Hence this initiative seeks to promote the total participation of young people in economic development, as well as minimize the obstacles that affect their full contribution to society.

#### **(b) Regional Context**

With the havoc of Africa's and present situation catapulted by extreme and abject poverty, Africa has just awoken from its abyss and has realized the need for youth contribution as a prerequisite of development. Political structures such as the Africa Union are currently focusing on participation of Africa's young people in the realization of development goals. New development frameworks such as The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) emphasize public, especially youth involvement in poverty eradication. In the strategic framework for youth, NEPAD

affirms the importance of participation by young people in economic policymaking, programme design, and implementation structures that affect not only young people, but also society at large. Therefore, this initiative can be seen in the light of promotion of youth employment creation efforts.

**(c) National Context**

The Kenya Youth Development Policy advocates about involving the youth in planning, implementation, and evaluation of programmes that affect and that gives them a sense of belonging and ownership. This results in sustainability and success of such programmes. To achieve this, it further suggests that youth should be involved at all levels of governance and in decision-making processes. Ensure that affirmative action for youth participation is in place at every level including the political, social and economic realms. This initiative is therefore borne to complement the national youth policy through participation of young people in the country's economic development while assuring them of possible and practical opportunities.

**Policy Mandate**

The policy derives its mandate from article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. This policy proposes that NCCG shall establish a fully-fledged Department of Youth Affairs which shall ensure that youth issues are mainstreamed across all sectoral plans and oversee the overall coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Youth Policy. The Department of Youth Affairs shall also play a key role in development of necessary legal and institutional framework for effective implementation of the policy.



## **2.5 Rights and Obligations**

### **Rights of Youth**

The Policy recognizes youth-hood as a period of transition and vulnerability when the youth must undergo learning, going to work, staying healthy and safe, forming families, and exercising citizenship. It also recognizes the importance of youth to enjoy their youthfulness respectful of social status, ethnic origin and sex. These rights as stipulated in Chapter 4 of The Kenyan Constitution 2010 in Articles 10, 27, 55, 100 which are:

- i. Good Health**
- ii. Right to life**
- iii. Quality Education**
- iv. Marriage at the legal age of consent**
- v. Freedom of speech, expression and association**
- vi. Protection from social, economic and political manipulation.**
- vii. Seek decent and fulfilling employment**
- viii. Adequate shelter, food clothing and basic services**
- ix. Protection from harmful conditions, cultural practices and exploitation.**
- x. Ownership, secure tenure and protection of property**
- xi. Participate in making decisions that affect their lives**
- xii. Protection from abuse, sexual exploitation, and trafficking**

### **Responsibilities of the Youth**

The Policy seeks not only to safeguard the rights of the youth, but also help them to understand and fulfil their responsibilities for the development of society. Towards

this goal, the responsibilities and obligations of the youth have been identified as follows:

- i. **Be Patriotic and loyal to Kenya and promote the country's well being**
- ii. **Contribute to socioeconomic development at all levels, including through volunteerism**
- iii. **Create and promote respect for humanity, sustain peaceful coexistence, national unity and stability**
- iv. **Protect the environment**
- v. **Help to support and protect those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable**
- vi. **Promote democracy and the rule of the law**
- vii. **Take advantage of available education and training opportunities**
- viii. **Develop a positive attitude towards work and entrepreneurship**
- ix. **Lead healthy lifestyles and shun harmful/negative habits like gambling, misuse of social media, drugs use and substance abuse**
- x. **Avoid indulging in careless and irresponsible sex and risky sexual behaviour**

### **Responsibilities of Parents, Guardians and Caregivers**

The strong family ties inherited from our traditional societies, which called for mutual respect between the various age groups, have weakened. As a result, signs of rebellion are visible among several youths. The policy spells out obligations for parents and guardians. Parents shall

- i. **Promote responsible parenting**

- ii. **Provide positive role models for the youth**
- iii. **Meet basic and material needs of the youth**
- iv. **Provide guidance and counselling to the youth against harmful habits and practices including gambling, misuse of social media, irresponsible sexual behaviour, drugs and substance abuse**
- v. **Train and socialize the youth into different skills**
- vi. **Provide financial support for youth projects**
- vii. **Offer room for youth participation at all levels**
- viii. **Assist the youth to realize their goals and full potential**

#### **Obligations of the Nairobi City County Government**

**It is the obligation of the Government to ensure that all its citizens are served to their expectation. It should carefully plan and be involved in developing the youth to be responsible and available to contribute to the current and future nation-building efforts. NCCG shall -**

- i. **Be the lead agent in supporting the implementation of the youth policy. This support should cover all the envisage initiatives and programmes including creation of sufficient employment opportunities for the youth, education and training and setting up friendly health facilities and rehabilitation centres**
- ii. **Create mechanisms and opportunities for involvement of youth in internship and volunteerism**
- iii. **Provide quality vocational education and skills development**

- iv. Provide the necessary framework for youth to fulfil their responsibilities**
- v. Ensure that the youth enjoy their rights**
- vi. Ensure the youth in conflict situations are mainstreamed into county youth initiatives**
- vii. Assist the youth to access subsidized loans to enhance and improve the economic and entrepreneurial development potential through Government Affirmative Action Programs and Initiatives**
- viii. Put in place mechanisms for provision of psychosocial interventions and initiatives to address issues of social disorder, substance abuse, family -relationship problems, depression, anxiety, social abuse, violence among the youth.**
- ix. Improve access to secure tenure to those in informal settlements.**
- x. Provide an enabling environment for Private sector to create employment opportunities for youth**

### **Responsibilities of the Private Sector**

**The private sector may work with Nairobi City County Government in:**

- i. Job creation and employment of the youth,**
- ii. Engage in entrepreneurial development,**
- iii. Internship, Apprenticeship and Mentorship**
- iv. Provision of information**
- v. Transfer of technology and skills.**
- vi. Collaborate and partner with NCCG and other private partners**



### **3 PART THREE: POLICY PRIORITY AREA**

#### **3.1 Skills Development and Employment**

The increasing youth population offers the county an opportunity to turn the demographic dividend into jobs and economic growth by developing appropriate skills through quality and relevant job-market specific training opportunities.

##### **Policy Concern**

Mismatch of skills and labour demands, coupled with uncoordinated efforts to address youth unemployment and underemployment creates a need for concerted efforts to understand youth dynamics amidst socio-economic spheres, the key players and the value of collaboration, networking and partnerships.

##### **Policy Statement**

The Nairobi City County Government seeks to create an enabling environment for youth in Nairobi to achieve economic self-reliance through skill development and decent employment.

##### **Policy Interventions**

The Policy provides the following interventions for creating decent employment for youth in Nairobi:

- i. Mainstream industry relevant competency-based education and training**
- ii. Strengthen and increase Vocational Training Centres (VTCs)**
- iii. Develop and implement a labour market information system to provide youth with real time information on employment opportunities**

- iv. **Recognize structured work exposure opportunities as relevant work experience in the labour market**
- v. **Invest in shared infrastructure between industry and learning institutions with a capacity building programme for lecturers, tutors and instructors**
- vi. **Streamline internships and apprenticeship opportunities in public and private sectors within Nairobi County in collaboration with relevant authorities**
- vii. **Establish and equip One Stop Youth information centres at sub-county level with relevant infrastructure as Employment Placement Centres to cater for youth competencies and skills**

### **3.2 Enterprise Development Initiatives**

**With the high levels of unemployment, the youth can be encouraged to venture into enterprises as a source of livelihood and ultimately creating employment.**

#### **Policy Concern**

**Enterprise development is a promising choice for sustainable livelihoods for youth in Nairobi. Yet, an entrepreneurship ecosystem conducive for youth to start, grow, and sustain their businesses is still lacking. Youth businesses collapse in the initial stages or are never launched at all due to lack of start-up capital, lack of market information, lack business development services, inefficiencies in AGPO.**

#### **Policy Statement**

**The county government shall put in place measures to support youth enterprise development through capacity enhancement, funding, linkages, and facilitation. .**

## **Policy Interventions**

**Based on the challenges faced by the youth in this area, the Policy provides the following Intervention:**

- i. Establish a County Youth Revolving Enterprise Fund accessible at sub-county level**
- ii. Build capacity of youth in enterprise to design, launch and grow sustainable enterprises**
- iii. Conduct Annual Youth Market Fairs to showcase youth innovations and products**
- iv. Create market linkages for youth enterprises**
- v. Ensure fair implementation of AGPO within Nairobi City County**
- vi. Review and subsidise business licensing fees for youth enterprises**

### **3.3 Health and Wellbeing**

**A healthy county is a wealthy county. Implementation of this policy is largely dependent on the healthy status of the youth. It is important for the county therefore to prioritise health issues of the youth both at the curative and preventive levels.**

#### **Policy Concern**

**Today, Health has become a major issue among the youth of Nairobi. Apart from the traditional health problems like tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, spread of HIV, new challenges like cancer, access to reproductive health, non-communicable diseases and drug abuse have become issues of major concern. Mental health is increasingly becoming a common problem among the youth. Depression, anxiety, propensity to suicide, psychosis and substance abuse are mentioned by medical experts as factors relating to youth mental health problems.**

#### **Policy Statement**



**The County Government of Nairobi shall develop appropriate programmes to mitigate health challenges facing the youth including Sexual and Reproductive Health, Non-communicable diseases and access to Youth Friendly Services.**

### **Policy Interventions**

**This Policy proposes the following interventions;**

- i. Capacity building of peer educators**
- ii. Awareness creations and early screening**
- iii. Strengthening food security and nutrition management systems**
- iv. Provision of adequate responsive youth friendly services**
- v. Create awareness on Non-communicable diseases and mental health challenges**
- vi. Develop systems and mechanisms to support Youth with Disabilities in Nairobi County**

### **3.4 Environment Management for Sustainable Development**

**Cities occupy just 3% of the earth's land but account for 60 - 80 % of energy consumption and at least 70% of carbon emissions. Nairobi is no exception and thus the need for safeguarding the environment and actioning for sustainable development.**

### **Policy Concerns**

**Nairobi County recognises the need for a sustainable environment. Issues to do with pollution of Nairobi River, Solid Waste Management, air pollution, congestions within the informal settlements, greening of the town and protections of City Forest requires considerations.**

## Policy statement

**The Nairobi City County Government shall ensure there are mechanisms that support youth engagement in the development, protection, conservation of the natural resources and environment while engaging in eco-entrepreneurship / green jobs.**

The Policy therefore acknowledges the critical role the environment plays and encourages NCCG to take leadership in creating partnerships and networks, including the youth, to scale up and strengthen environmental programmes in the country. Some actions that will be taken to achieve this are:

- i. Build capacities of youth on green energy, waste management and general environmental conservation/ management**
- ii. Develop and implement the human resource training strategy in green processes and technologies**
- iii. Invest in the conversion of waste to wealth initiatives**
- iv. Re-launch and implement the 1 million tree planting campaigns with youth taking an active role**
- v. Identify high potential value chains in green energy, waste management and alternative prudent natural resources utilization**
- vi. Educate and support youth to take advantage of green jobs and carbon credit opportunities**
- vii. Empower youth as environment ambassadors across the county**

### **3.5 Patriotism and Volunteerism**

The Capital City of a country is the epitome of the image of its people. Given that the National Government and the County Governments are mandated to work in

cooperation, there is a need for NCCG to customise the National volunteerism policy for implementation in Nairobi County.

### **Policy Concern**

Youth have the energy, skills and time that can be harnessed to support national socio-economic and political development through volunteerism opportunities. In such opportunities, the youth find a rare chance to make a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens.

### **Policy Statement**

The County Government of Nairobi shall put in place measures that encourage patriotism by developing a Nairobi City County youth volunteerism strategy paper.

### **Policy Interventions**

This is an initiative that the Policy strongly advocates for and hence encourages all stakeholders to undertake the following actions to embed the culture of volunteerism among the youth:

- i. Customise the National Volunteerism policy through a strategic paper
- ii. Establish a Nairobi County Youth Service
- iii. Provide a youth volunteerism framework in the county
- iv. Facilitate all stakeholder ownership and support for youth volunteerism
- v. Educate youth on the value of patriotism, national cohesion and volunteerism
- vi. Mainstream youth volunteerism in all sectors of County Government
- vii. Enhance Youth volunteerism in community and neighbourhood associations
- viii. Establish a mechanism for monitoring, evaluating and recognizing the youth who successfully accomplish their roles within the volunteerism programmes.

### **3.6 Leadership, Participation and Representation**

Effective participation of the youth in leadership and governance is necessary for the realization of the County Integrated plans, Big Four Agenda and Vision 2030 aspirations. In addition, the county Government in partnership with key stakeholders have an obligation to provide a supportive environment where youth leadership abilities can be nurtured, ideals of volunteerism and community service upheld, and national values entrenched among the youth.

#### **Policy Concerns**

Youth inclusion and engagement is one challenge that many Governments and other decision-making organs including NCCG will have to contend with. In many situations involving youth development that ordinarily should be driven by the youth, the opposite is true. This scenario has therefore made it necessary for the inclusion of affirmative action plans to get the youth to be part of decision-making processes. This policy will therefore make deliberate attempts at bridging the gaps of youth inclusion, participation and engagement in the implementation of this policy.

#### **Policy Statement**

**The County Government of Nairobi shall establish the Nairobi City County Youth Advisory Committee to provide advisory services to the County on youth participation and representation.**

#### **Policy Interventions**

##### **Establishment of a Youth Advisory Committee:**

County government shall establish a Nairobi County Youth Advisory Committee. The committee shall be composed of a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 15 members representing different sectors namely; Nairobi County Assembly Youth Caucus, CECM in-charge of Youth, Consortium of Youth Serving Organisations, National Council for Persons with Disabilities, National Youth Council, Volunteer

Involving Organisations , Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), National Agency for Campaign Against Drug Abuse Authority(NACADA) , two representative from Youth groups in the grassroot areas, Creative Economy Working Group among others.

**Functions of the committee:**

- i. The committee shall give advice to NCCG on Youth issues.**
- ii. The committee shall support the oversight for implementation of the Youth Policy**
- iii. The committee shall advise on resource mobilisation for youth programmes**
- iv. The committee shall promote research and development**
- v. The committee shall advocate for youth issues and ensure they are mainstreamed in all County Functions including Policy Making & Budgeting Processes**
- vi. The committee shall provide mechanisms for youth representation in the county affairs**

This Policy also acknowledges that there are several youth serving and youth led organizations in the county that are championing the youth agenda and must be included actively in collaborative networks with county Government in realizing the objectives of youth empowerment and development programmes.

### **3.7 Safe Spaces for Youth**

A space occupied by youth that is co-governed by the youth with rules and norms set by young people. A safe space shall be one that enables young people to explore and nurture their unique, creative talents and natural endowments in an atmosphere in which they receive guidance, encouragement and affirmation for them to self-actualise as productive, self-reliant members of society.

### **Policy Concern**

Safe public spaces offer the youth a platform for learning, recreation, networking and social interaction. The youth often do not have the financial means nor legal standing to own private spaces, or the technical know-how to manage them. They are therefore dependent on access to public spaces for a range of activities such as talent development and creative expression, sports, recreation and more. However, such spaces are scarce, and where they exist, they are often inaccessible to them, and at risk of being encroached.

Platforms should be created where youth of Nairobi will have safe and protected spaces. It is important that the County Government creates an enabling environment where key stakeholders are incentivised to provide safe spaces for the youth of Nairobi.

### **Policy Statement**

The Nairobi City County Government shall ensure appropriate mechanisms enabling the identification, reclamation, establishment, development and protection of safe spaces for the youth of Nairobi.

In this regard, the Policy will ensure:

- i. **Develop mechanism for identification and reclaiming encroached public spaces for the youth**
- ii. **Protect safe spaces where the youth of Nairobi generate, nurture, develop, showcase their ideas, engage in skills building and networking.**
- iii. **Build strategic partnerships with the state and non-state actors to enhance the operation, maintenance and continuous improvement of these spaces and ensure they are youth friendly.**
- iv. **Establish, rehabilitate, and equip youth safe spaces in all Sub-counties**

### **3.8 Identification and Development of Talent and Creativity**

The youth possess a wealth of creativity and the energy which, when properly harnessed, have the potential to enable generation of meaningful, dignified incomes. By mainstreaming the engagement of youth and their creativity in all spheres of county development, the county would be providing opportunities for their meaningful contribution, participation and exercising their civic duty, while ensuring the self-actualization and fulfilment of the individual.

The Creative and Cultural Industries are those industries that have their origin in individual creativity, skill, and talent, and which have a potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property and demonstration of unique ability.

#### **Policy Concern**

The creative economy in Nairobi has potential which is yet to be optimally harnessed. The youth of Nairobi have talent which needs to be nurtured and encouraged, platforms should be created where youth of Nairobi will have safe and protected spaces where they can express and showcase their creativity. It is important that the County Government in concert with stakeholders provide this conducive environment for harnessing the creative talent and potential inherent in the youth of Nairobi. The adoption, promotion and protection of the creative and cultural industries should be mainstreamed across all aspects of county development.

#### **Policy Statement**

The Nairobi City County Government shall ensure appropriate mechanisms enabling the identification, development, showcasing and commercialization of skills and talent in youth participating in the creative and cultural industry.

In this regard, the Policy will ensure:

- i. **Develop a strategy for youth talent identification and nurturing.**
- ii. **Develop mechanism for monetization and commercialization of artistic and sports talents.**
- iii. **Establish tax incentives and waivers for the players in the talents, arts and sports industry.**
- iv. **Protect safe spaces where the youth of Nairobi generate, nurture, develop, showcase their ideas and engage in skills building and networking.**
- v. **Create a database on the participants in the creative sector to facilitate networking, referral, and data-driven interventions.**
- vi. **Build strategic partnerships with the state and non-state actors like the private sector, civil society, media among others to create a vibrant ecosystem for creativity to enable a thriving creative and cultural industry.**
- vii. **Establish, rehabilitate, and equip creative talent hubs in all Sub-counties.**
- viii. **Sensitize on the value of talent and talent development.**
- ix. **Establish a comprehensive talent scouting system in all sub- counties for continuous identification of talent.**
- x. **Liaison with stakeholders in talent identification and development.**
- xi. **Capacities build creatives on property and intellectual rights.**

### **3.9 ICT and Innovation**

**Science and Technology is undoubtedly the engine for economic growth. Some of the innovations and inventions of Kenyan youth, such as MPESA, have earned the country a top ranking as an ICT hub in the Region and internationally.**

#### **Policy Concern**

**With the on-going revolution in the ICT sector, many opportunities are available for the youth and many youths possess modern technological skills to enable them to set**



up ICT-enabled businesses. The increasing interest in the concept of business processing outsourcing that comes with the ICT revolution presents even more opportunities for youth employment.

### **Policy Statement**

**The Nairobi City County Government shall put in place mechanisms to support youth innovation and engagement in ICT.**

The Policy ensures creation of a conducive environment for youth to access ICT through effective infrastructure, knowledge and skills, through the following commitments:

- i. Develop and expand ICT Infrastructure**
- ii. Capacity build youth in ICT**
- iii. Develop resource centres, youth desks and libraries for youth to access information and relevant educational materials**
- iv. Develop incubation and mentor youth with ICT skills to start businesses and venture in related enterprises.**
- v. Promote and enhance awareness on intellectual property rights among the youth of Nairobi**
- vi. Leveraging ICT for civic education and public participation**

### **3.10 Drugs and Substance Abuse**

#### **Policy Concerns**

Drug and Substance Abuse is a growing social challenge among the youth today. The Kenya government has recognised the seriousness of the drug problem and initiated the National Campaign against Drug Abuse (NACADA) in early 2001. The problem is caused by a variety of reasons, some which include: peer pressure; pressure from academics and unemployment; poor parenting; easy accessibility to drugs, alcohol and prescription medications like codeine and diazepam; poor parenting; lack of responsible role models in society; and negative social media influence.

#### **Policy Statement**

**The Nairobi City County Government shall develop appropriate programmes to prevent, mitigate, against drug and substance abuse, treat and rehabilitate to restore the wellbeing of youth who are affected.**

The Policy therefore encourages adoption of the following interventions to mitigate against the negative effects of abuse and misuse of drugs:

- i. Support productive socio-economic activities for the youth**
- ii. Provide capacity programs on effective parental guidance and role modelling**
- iii. Create awareness for youth on the dangers of drugs abuse, addiction and alcoholism**
- iv. Build the capacity of families, communities, and caregivers to provide support systems**
- v. Strengthen regulatory and enforcement mechanisms to control alcohol, drug and other substances**

- vi. Establish and enhance Counselling units in the youth friendly centres manned by youth peer educators and counsellors; and strengthen engagement between existing institutions**
- vii. Creation and enhance Youth rehabilitation and treatment centres in the sub-counties while involving drug abuse survivors as mentors in the community for an easier re-integration of ex-addicts and users in collaboration with the department of youth affairs.**
- viii. Design and implement livelihood skills programs and exit strategies for addiction survivors**
- ix. Ensure that rehabilitation centres are accessible to persons with disabilities.**

### **3.11 Crime and Peace Building**

Young people are the key drivers in maintenance and promotion of peace and security in any given jurisdiction. There is a need to increase, as appropriate, the youth's political, financial, technical and logistical support that takes into account the needs and participation of youth in peace efforts, in conflict and post conflicts situations including those undertaken by relevant actors at the county level.

#### **Policy Concern**

Increased incidences of crime across the county are becoming a matter of grave concern. Of even greater concern, however, is the growing number of youths who are taking to crime, especially in the informal settlements. Probable causes of this increase in youth's involvement in criminal activities include high poverty levels, idleness and disillusionment occasioned by increased unemployment rates despite more youth having access to education. Peer pressure and use of drugs add to the long list of causes of youth crime.

## Policy Statement

**The County Government of Nairobi may work with multi-agency, families and communities to engage the youth in promoting peace and secure crime free neighbourhoods**

The Policy therefore encourages the following interventions to prevent crime and promote peace building in the county:

- i. Educating the youth on abiding by the Law and good neighbourliness such as the enhancement of Neighbourhood Association, County Peace Committees etc.
- ii. Integrate youth in community driven safety programs
- iii. Design and implement programs to address gender based violence
- iv. Involve youth in collaboration with the National Government in peace building, conflict prevention and reconciliation initiatives
- v. Design and implement livelihood skills programs for youth.
- vi. Design and implement programs to promote intergenerational dialogue, societal and national values.
- vii. Budgetary allocation for more youth focused research on peace and crime prevention by the Nairobi City County.

### 3.12 Radicalization and Prevention of Violent Extremism

Kenya has been beset by terrorism since 1998, and it is now the biggest security threat facing the nation. Most of these attacks have been executed in Nairobi County due to its strategic location as the Capital City of Kenya; its high-volume infrastructure and installations that also include government offices, Embassies and High Commissions and equipment.

## **Policy Concern**

The County also has a high number of informal settlements that present a breeding ground and recruitment haven for violent extremism organizations. Due to high unemployment rates, cultural orientation and limited livelihood options, Nairobi youth play a significant part in conflict, making up the majority of frontline fighters, also because they have limited space to make their voices heard in the political sphere. Access to justice, especially with the long history of perceived political and economic injustices in the County are a key factor in the underlying causes of conflict. Although the Constitution of Kenya (2010) enshrines the right of all citizens to seek redress using the justice system, in reality, this is hindered by a number of factors including the lack of infrastructure, the high costs associated with the process, poor information about the system, as well the length of time it takes for resolution of cases. The poor and marginalized segments of the population in Kenya and largely in Nairobi, (with 5.4 M people during the day and 3.7 during the night), are particularly affected by these factors. Nairobi City County has put in place an Action Plan drawn from the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE) and following a Presidential Executive Order that all County Governments put in place a plan to prevent and counter violent extremism within their contexts.

## **Policy Statement**

The Nairobi City County Government shall collaborate and cooperate with National Government agencies to promote National Values and Principles and create safe spaces for use by the youth of Nairobi in order to address and tackle the causes of radicalisation and violent extremist views in an effort to reduce the pool of radicalised youth and implement action plans and strategies on PCVE.

To counter such challenges, the following strategies are being proposed:

- i. Enhance ease of access to, capitalization on and protection of livelihood options for at-risk groups to reduce their vulnerability to Violent Extremism and radicalization in Nairobi County**
- ii. Reduce vulnerability of youth, county officers and support staff in County institutions by identifying early warnings signs and response to violent extremism**
- iii. Create linkages between law enforcement agencies and community structures for effective Prevention measures in Nairobi County.**
- iv. Promote national values to counter divisive and antagonistic narratives and ideologies that steer violent extremism and radicalization from all avenues among most at-risk groups while providing alternative narratives and ideologies**
- v. Promote inclusive and participatory governance, to address rampant political and socio-economic grievances caused by incitement of at risk groups.**
- vi. Embrace sports and cultural events as tools of fostering diversity, tolerance, and inclusiveness to prevent radicalization and recruitment of youth by extremist groups.**
- vii. Mainstream and implement the Nairobi City County Action Plan on prevention of violent extremism**

#### **4 PART FOUR: IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

The Policy implementation mechanism will be operationalized through an action plan detailing policy priorities, key actions, indicators, timelines, responsibility, and estimated budget per year.

##### **Policy statement on Youth programs and activities funding**

The County Government of Nairobi shall allocate a significant portion of its annual budget to the programs and activities within the Department of Youth to be implemented at the ward level in accordance with the Policy Implementation Matrix.

##### **4.1 Institutional Framework for Policy Implementation**

##### **4.2 The following structures and institutions will support the implementation of this policy;**

- 1. The CECM in charge of youth docket shall be the coordinating body/office**
- 2. County Department of Youth Affairs be responsible for day to day operations**
- 3. County Youth Advisory Committee to provide advisory support to NCCG on matters pertaining to Youth**
- 4. Creation of a Sub-Sector implementation committee**

##### **Youth Mainstreaming Statement**

The policy directs the CECM responsible for youth affairs to develop framework for collective actions and coordination of strategies for youth mainstreaming across County sectors, Government institutions, Civil Society, and Private Sector. It further directs the CECM to compile and provide an annual youth status report.

### **The role of Non-State actors**

- i. Support the implementation of the policy**
- ii. Collaboratively raise resources towards supporting implementation of the policy**
- iii. To support their priority of interest**
- iv. Provide technical expert in their areas of profession or interest**
- v. Support progressive monitoring of the policy**
- vi. Ensure the document is fully implemented**

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The policy will be monitored and evaluated through the sub-sector committees, Youth Advisory Committee and the annual report provided by the Chief Officer responsible for Youth affairs shall develop a monitoring and evaluation tool that will check on the progress to inform changes and interventions for adoption.

#### **4.3 Review of the Policy**

This policy shall be reviewed externally after every five years. Internal reviews shall be done annually based on the annual work plans and the policy implementation matrix.