

The Youth Congress ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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NOTE:

This annual report, which covers the period from September 1, 2022, to August 30, 2023, has been prepared by The Youth Congress in accordance with policies of the institutions. The Annual report constitute summary of program reports together with accompanying audited financial statements.

Acronyms & Abbreviations

CEREB Central Region Economic Bloc

CFLI Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

FCDC Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC)

JKP Jumuiya Ya Kaunti Za Pwani LREB Lake Region Economic Bloc

KCDF Kenya Community Development Foundation

NAKEB Narok Kajiado Economic Bloc

NOREB North Rift Economic Bloc

NCBA National Commercial Bank of Africa

SEKEB South Eastern Kenya Economic Bloc



Acknowledgment

The Youth Congress is grateful for the contribution of our members, networks, and youth-serving organisations that have worked and inspired us in this period.

We are indebted to the staff, interns, volunteers, and the guidance of the Advisory Council/Board that contributed to the success.

The team at the Secretariat includes;

Raphael Obonyo – Convener and Executive Director Henry Ogola - Co-convener and Programme Coordinator Halima Osman - Programme Officer Christine Osongo – Finance Officer Charles Waweru – Programme Associate

Finally, we are grateful to our partners for their support, especially The Ford Foundation,
Kenya Community Development Foundation (K.C.D.F.),
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (K.A.S.),
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)
National Commercial Bank of Africa (NCBA)
UN Habitat and other partners.



The Youth in Kenya are quite pressed with challenges that are both political and economic in nature. Young people often find themselves excluded from decision-making and economic development.

So this report highlights some of the contribution from The Youth Congress in improving youth condition and position – what the organization has been working especially in the past year to ensure youth inclusion and meaningful development. The Youth Congress has been responding at unprecedented levels to the challenges facing youth in Kenya.

First: Congratulations to The Youth Congress on a recent accomplishment - setting up youth leagues, a networks of youth organisations in all the 47 counties. Now, youth have formidable platforms to at the county level to champion united voices and action - advocating accountability and inclusive development.

Next: Congratulations to The Youth Congress for supporting livelihoods of young people. Youth are the majority among the unemployed Kenyans who have got no source of income. The Youth Congress has been supporting youth investment groups in entrepreneurship create jobs for the young people. There are many positive stories to tell about the role of youth entrepreneurial groups in socio-economic empowerment.

But doing all these is hard without a vibrant organization and strong partnerships. So The Youth Congress has continued to strengthen its operations, mobilize resources and forge partnerships at different levels; local, national and international. The organization has been evolving and growing – and we are glad there are a number of accomplishments some captured in this report, worth celebrating.

Message from the Chairman

A myriad of challenges – economic and political continue to erode youth development and progress. Often youth are excluded and viewed as a problem or people with problems. Fortunately, The Youth Congress has continued to work with youth to enhance their agency and to take on difficult challenges and make a difference.

The view that youth are a solution gives us the motivation to continue writing a new chapter on the potential and power of young people. The Youth Congress has been at the forefront in championing youth inclusion in decision-making and development – ensure that youth are not left behind.

The Youth Congress is working with over 500 youth organization across the 47 counties in Kenya. The organization has developed innovative solutions and approaches to engage with and for youth and to maximize impact. Central to these efforts are our partnerships and convening power which we continue to utilize to extend our reach to realize our shared vision.

Guided by the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan we are keeping focus on our progress and working to become better and a reliable youth agent. We hope to expand and evolve as we continue to champion improvement of youth condition and position in Kenya.





James Smart Chairman of the Board of Directors

The view that youth are a solution gives us the motivation to continue writing a new chapter on the potential and power of young people

Message from the Executive Director





Over the past year, The Youth Congress has engaged with youth to strengthen their agency and ensure their progress in different spheres. The Youth Congress has established youth leagues across the country – in all the forty-seven counties.

Youth inclusion in governance and development remains a crucial priority. The Youth Congress has made efforts in championing meaningful involvement of youth in decision making and development.

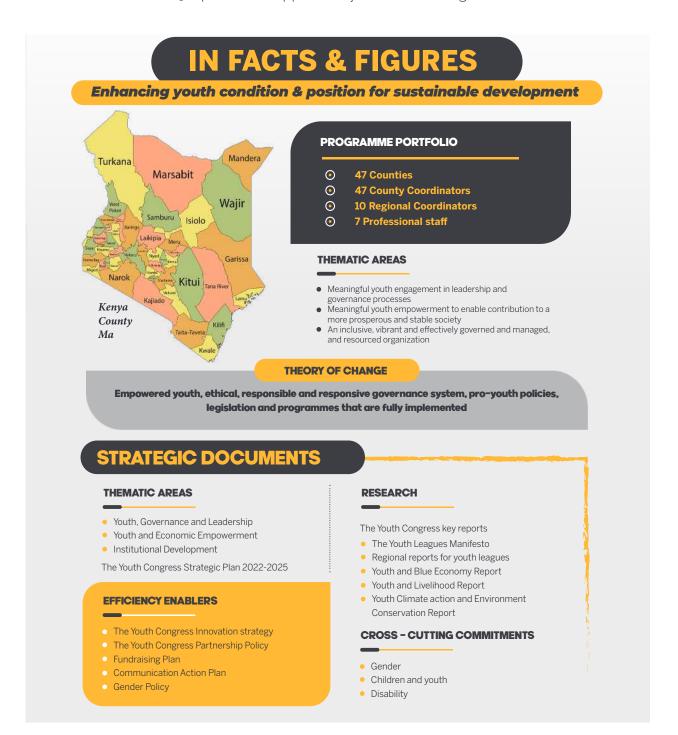
We are encouraged that in addition to mobilizing and organizing youth, The Youth Congress has engaged with key government entities, civil society and diverse stakeholders. The Youth Congress is grateful for strong and steadfast leadership of the Board, and the teams' tireless dedication and hard work, that has seen the organization make remarkable impact.

Thanks to the partners and everyone who continue to support The Youth Congress, in the endeavors to make a difference – improving the condition and position of youth.

Youth inclusion in governance and development remains a crucial priority

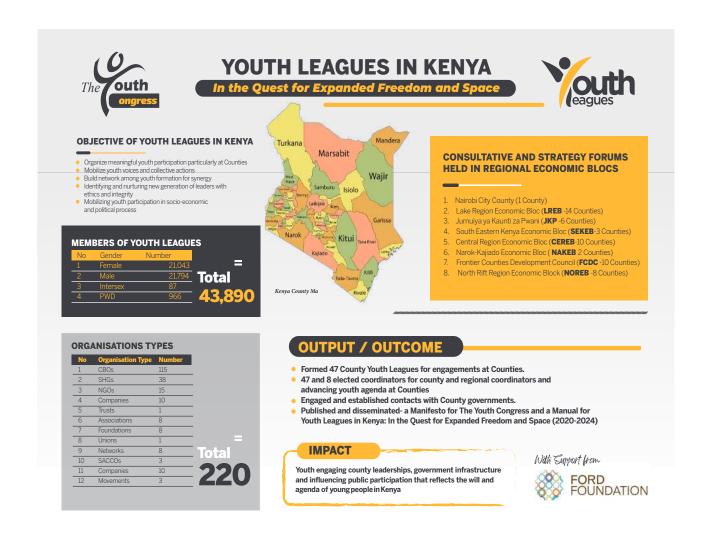
Impactful & meaningful youth development

The Youth Congress contributes to impactful, meaningful youth development results in Kenya. Between 2022 and 2023, operations supported by The Youth Congress have resulted in:



Youth leagues in Kenya: Championing expanded freedom and Space

The Youth Congress in its endeavour to mobilize and organize youth voices and representation and collective action, particularly in Counties, regional economic blocs and nationally, has formed a youth league in Kenya. For consultation and strategy on engagement in decision-making at the Counties, regional economic blocs, and nationally, The Youth Congress held convening forums bundled along Kenya's regional economic blocs in the regional economic blocs for member youth formations in the regions. The regional economic blocs where the convening for youth organizations as indicated in the figures below:



Support election of young people

The Youth Congress embarked on a daunting task of reshaping youth involvement in elective politics following the launch of the Elect Youth 2022 initiative in November. The initiative was designed to identify, drum up and provide diverse forms of support to youths vying for political seats in the upcoming 2022 general election. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission's Data Report of the 2022 General Elections revealed a significant increase in the number of youths who ran for elective seats.

Elect Youth Initiative

Identified, drummed up and provided diverse forms of support to youths who vied for political seats in the 2022 general election

IMPACT

Increase in number of youths 18-35 years, who run for elective seats. According to Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission; In 2017 we had 3,438 youth on the ballot, while in 2022 we had 4,350.

CONCERNS

- The youth have remained apolitical, failing to appreciate the importance of their active participation in politics.
- Youth may feel marginalised when they view wealth as a strong component in winning elections.
- 80% of Kenya's population is aged 35 and below
- More than half of the registered voters are young
- Youth are single biggest swing vote
- Myth that youth are not interested, not motivated and not willing to vie

ACTIVITIES

- Released report on the youth vying for seats in the 2022 general elections.
- Shared details and intersections of youth across the country who have come forward to vie for seats in the 2022 general elections.
- Documented and highlighted some of the challenges that were facing young candidates
- Pointed out responsibilities of different actors including, electoral body, political parties, government and civil society in promoting youth engagement in politics
- Offered different forms of support to youth who were vying for elections
- Mobilized support for young aspirants to win elections
- Advocated for inclusion of youth in political discourse and debate
- Emphasized the fact that value of youth lies not only in their age, but vision and values

Achievements

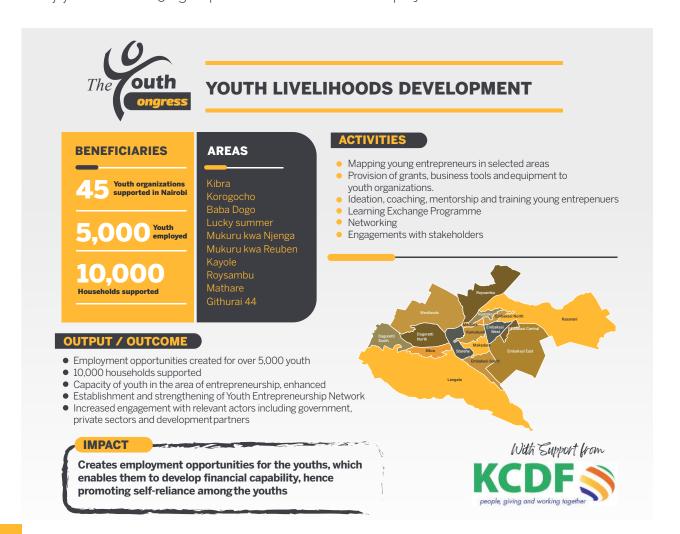
- A number of youths elected and nominated to serve as Members of Parliament, Woman Representatives, Senators and Members of County Assembly. Most youth are in MCA position.
- A number of youths appointed in various positions in national and county governments, political parties and diverse institutions
- More youth joined politics
- Increased inclusion of youth in politics
- Political parties created room and mechanisms for young people as candidates and voters
- Increased number of youths took part in the 2022 elections
- Increased visibility and strength of youth voice and action

Youth livelihoods development

The Youth Congress implemented 3 projects to improve youth and women business for livelihood through access to opportunities and participation in budget processes, whereas the main purpose was to enhance livelihood for economic development to youth affected with high rate of unemployment within informal settlement. The last projects focused on Enhancing livelihood for economic development to Household affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The project targeted youth, young women and people with special needs e.g., people with disability particularly in the informal settlement. The beneficiaries were reached through mapping and open call and support to restore business and livelihood, and new business ideas/innovation.

One of the solutions The Youth Congress have been using and continue using is entrepreneurship incubation to curb high rate of unemployment within the informal settlement. Youth have different strengths and weakness, but they are easily manipulated by using the same strength and weaknesses they have. Entrepreneurship incubation which has really impacted the lives of many youths. About 50 groups have benefited from the project.





Promoting climate action

In a significant push towards environmental conservation The Youth congress conducted tree planting activities in three different areas in informal settlement Korogocho, Mathare and Lucky summer, impacting communities and landscapes with the introduction of 750 new trees. The green movement has flourished across diverse locations within the constituencies, notably in Lucky Summer, Korogocho, and Mathare.

The strategic planting alongside rivers and in communal spaces serves more than an aesthetic purpose; it represents a concerted effort to involve youth in ecological stewardship. The initiative has successfully galvanized local youth, encouraging them to engage actively in the care of these saplings. This newfound responsibility has spurred a wave of interest in tree nurseries, signalling a budding commitment to environmental guardianship.

Supporting youth engagement in Blue Economy

The Youth Congress has continued to champion and support youth engagement in Blue Economy. The organization has carried out a number of interventions that have contributed to youth inclusion and progress in the Blue Economy sector. Some of the activities include targeted trainings and support, dialogue with diverse stakeholders, awareness, and information dissemination.







Supporting youth engagement in

Economy

The Youth Congress has carried out a number of interventions to improve youth engagement in blue economy, through targeted trainings and support, establishmentof platforms for dialogue with diverse stakeholders, packaging and dissemination of relevant information, advocacy, awareness creation among others.

IMPACT

- The support to groups created jobs and improved livelihood in the Blue Economy.
- Built contact with development partners e.g. Canadian Embassy (Canadian Fund for Local Initiative) to facilitate youth engagement in Blue Economy.

Engagements

- representatives from Kenya and other countries in Africa, as a precursor to the Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference that was co-hosted by Kenya and Canada. Mapped youth inlitatives in Blue Economy in Mombasa and Kisumu. Held regional multistakeholder's foram on Blue Economy in Kisumu and Mombasa.

- Provided support in form of equipment to youth engaged in blue economy Carried out capacity development programmes on youth and blue economy
- Developed and shared information on youth and blue economy

Achievements

- Developed and submitted ('DeclarAction') on youth demands and
- · Supported youth groups engaged in Blue Economy for livelihood in Kisumu and Mombasa.
- Developed contacts with youth groups and other actors in Blue Economy. Developed and disseminated information briefs and advocacy materials on youth and blue economy.
- Wrote and shared articles in national newspapers engaging youth. duty bears, other stakeholders, and the public on youth and Blue Economy



UN®HABITAT



Engaging with Partners on Shared Priorities

The Youth Congress works with a number of partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, foundation, think tanks, young parliamentarians and members of county assemblies and other stakeholders to address youth needs and concerns, to achieve shared goals. At the county, national and sectoral levels, our partnerships take different forms including dialogue, information and knowledge sharing and operational collaboration.

Enhance Effectiveness and Sustainability of the Organization

The Youth Congress has continued to mobilize resources and implement programs that make a difference – improve the condition and position of youth. The organization makes endeavors to serve in the best interest of the youth – and to remain the best position possible, to be sound and make sure it is moving properly.

Organizational Profile

1.1 Origin & Identity

The Youth Congress is a registered, youth-serving Non-Governmental Organization that provides young people with a platform to articulate their issues, explore opportunities for participation and leadership to address their interests, concerns, aspiration effectively, and engage young people in the social, economic, and political process for development.

The organization emerged in the run-up to the 2007 general elections in Kenya as part of efforts by youth to seek development and emancipation through political accountability. Just before the elections, the youth of the then Kasarani Constituency in Nairobi developed the Kasarani People's Manifesto, which parliamentary and civic candidates had to sign to show their commitment to work with the constituents in bringing about actual development. Subsequent events led to the formation and consolidation of The Youth Congress, which has evolved and is currently present in several informal urban settlements and different parts of Kenya.

1.2 Our Values

Independence	Direction based on internal principles & organs
Integrity	Honesty, accountability, transparency and professionalism in all undertakings
Volunteerism	Reliance on the intrinsic motivation of members
Non-discrimination	Inclusion of and respect for all regardless of natural, political, social, cultural, religion, economic or other distinction
Relevance	Coping with the emerging trends and applying innovation to address them.
Resilience	Determination and passion in all pursuits.

1.3 Our Theory of Change

While unemployment is considered the single most serious challenge facing the youth in Kenya, the capacity to address the problem remains a key concern because of inadequate information, limited support from key actors, poor access to opportunities and exclusion from leadership and decision-making.

The result is a population of frustrated youth who end up in crime, drug abuse, prostitution, early and forced marriages, unplanned pregnancies, sexual abuses such as female genital mutilation and other anti-social activities. These youth cannot realise their potential and apply their talents, skills, innovation and energies. As this happens, the cycle of poverty becomes vicious, and youth continue to be demoralised and dependent as degeneration becomes the norm.

The major causes of this situation include unequal distribution of resources and opportunities; exclusionist policies and practices; ethnically skewed and utilitarian politics; mismatch between formal education and the labour market; non-prioritisation of the youth perspective in development; and employment of wrong approaches to youth rights and development. The ultimate change the Youth Congress envisages is characterised by: empowered youth; ethical governance systems; pro-youth policies and legislation that are fully implemented; and adequate access to relevant information. The key actors required to catalyse this change are the youth, C.S.O.s, the national and county governments, youth-focused institutions, the cooperate sector, research and institutions of higher learning, community-based structures and systems, the mass media and political actors.

As a catalyst of change, the Youth Congress agency lies in influencing policy and legislation, proactivity, generation and adaptation of practical models, knowledge generation and sharing, an extension of frontiers of opportunity beyond national borders, capacity development and inclusive processes. Other meaningful ways of realising the desired change are: working in alliance with like-minded actors; partnerships with the mass media; mentorship; and transformation of youth initiatives into movements.

The initiatives are predicated on the assumptions that: better organisation makes it easier to air youth issues; inclusion of the youth provides an opportunity to raise their concerns, demands and aspirations and develop solutions; networking generates collective strength; information ignites grounded action, and successful youth initiatives provide models for replication.

The Youth Congress is best positioned to champion the change because of several factors. First, it is led by and works with passionate youth determined to make a difference. Second, it has a track record of working in and with disadvantaged communities and hence is non-elitist in its orientation and approaches. Third, it has established youth leagues with elected county coordinators to engage the county governments and regional economic blocs. Fourth, it is well connected to actors that believe in its agency. The firm conviction informs the Youth Congress work that youth are not only a problem or people with a problem but people with immense potential.

1.4 Our Niche

TYC is a self-driven, community rooted and human rights based movement of the youth for the youth. It serves as a reliable youth agent, especially for young people in deprived communities who bear the brunt of exclusion and impoverishment. It addresses the diverse political, social, economic and cultural concerns of the youth through passion, intellectualism, professionalism and role modeling. TYC relies on community-based mobilisers to build its membership and access communities. At the same time, it blends and interacts with the government and corporate world without compromising its focus on needy communities.

1.5 Our Vision

An inclusive society in which the youth enjoy all rights and apply their agency.

1.6 Our Mission

To provide a platform for the youth to improve their status and realize their full potential.

1.7 Our Strategic Objectives

- Meaningful youth participation in leadership and governance processes;
- Meaningful youth empowerment to enable contribution to a more prosperous and stable society and;
- An inclusive, vibrant and effectively governed and managed organisation with adequate resources to achieve its goals across the 47 counties of Kenya.

1.8 Programmes

1.8.1 Youth, Governance and Leadership

The youth are disenfranchised in the country's decision-making, governance and leadership.

The Programme seeks to realise meaningful young participation in leadership and governance processes and to develop the next generation of visionary and value-driven youth leaders. Young in leadership roles and functions, enhanced understanding and capacity to participate in leadership and governance processes, and youth actively supporting ethical leadership are among the intended outcomes.

1.8.2 Youth Economic Empowerment

Youth unemployment is a significant problem in Kenya because of sluggish economic growth and a theory-based education system. This results in perpetual dependency, crime, substance abuse and addiction, and poor living standards.

The objective of the Programme is to ensure that an empowered youth population takes advantage of opportunities and uses their skills and abilities for economic growth. Youth equipped with entrepreneurial skills, youth connected to financial options and markets, youth realising and utilising their talents, and partnerships and alliances formed to boost youth economic development are anticipated outcomes.

1.8.3 Institutional Development

The Youth Congress has survived into its second decade of existence. This attests to its resilience and relevance. However, it still needs to strengthen itself.

The Program seeks to establish a wellgoverned and managed organisation with sufficient resources to implement its Program. Its expected outputs include adequate resources for the smooth and efficient implementation of activities; a staff complement that is competent, passionate, determined, and responsive to youth values and agenda; functional partnerships and networks; an inclusive, gender-responsive participatory, and programme; developed and implemented management systems, auidelines. policies, and inclusive management and governance systems.

1.9 Our Strategic Approaches

- Capabilities approach youth rights.
- Mainstreaming of youth in all processes.
- Community-based work focused on the root causes of poverty and marginalization.
- Information sharing, generation of knowledge, and nurturing of skills.
- Partnership with individuals, groups, and organizations with a shared vision.
- Reliance on unity, social cohesion, and collective action amongst the youth.
- Promotion of equity and equality.
- Inclusive and gender-responsive Programme and practices.



1.10 Our Organizational Structure

Level	Implementation Mandate
The General Assembly	The General Assembly consists of representatives of the various organs of The Youth Congress. These include: Secretariat, Advisory Council, Youth Assembly and partners. The General Assembly defines the overall direction and mandate of The Youth Congress
Youth Assembly	This consists of representatives of the various youth organisations, forums and networks that work with The Youth Congress Youth Leagues. It facilitates mobilization, organization and communication within The Youth Congress and beyond.
The Advisory Council	The Advisory Council serves as the Board to The Youth Congress. it consists of selected persons with expertise in defferent fields and who provide strategic advice, guidance, mentorship and oversight to The Youth Congress on behalf of the General Assembly
The Secretariat	The Youth Congress has a core human complement of staff namely: Convener/Executive Director, Co-convener/Programme Coodinator, Finance Manager, Programme officer and assitsants, Administration staff and other team members. The secretariat is responsible for the management of the organisation's routine affairs and reports to the Advisory Council and the membership. Inclusion, gender balance, commitment to gender equality and technical expertise on gender issues are considered in the recruitment of staff and consultants.
Reference Teams	These are ad hoc teams constituted to provide technical services and assistance to The Youth Congress and specific matters. They consists of specialists, interest groups and selected individuals.
Partners and Networks	These are individuals and organizations that share and support The Youth Congress. They include; NGOs, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), governments, private sector and development agencies.







Partnerships & Collaborations

The Youth Congress worked in partnership and received technical and financial support from state and non-state actors. We are grateful for their support in the 2021/22 financial year.

Partners	Project / Initiatives
Ford Foundation	Developing Next Generation Leaders: Growing youth to be leaders and active citizens
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)	Youth participation in governance
Kenya Community Development Foundation (K.C.D.F.)	Improving Livelihoods of Young Women and men, and Access to Opportunities for economic development
Our Youth Networks	Conceptualization, planning, implementation and monitoring, and evaluation of programs of The Youth Congress
UNFPA	Partnership to help young people participate in decisions affecting them and strengthening their ability to advance human rights and development
NCBA	Partnership to support inclusive growth and development that addresses inequalities, and supporting youth to and society to thrive
UN Habitat	work with youth for better urban future
CFLI	Promote youth engagement in blue economy





Fiscal Responsibility

THE YOUTH CONGRESS REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

Page 5 of 13 Kibe & Associates P. O. Box 7426 - 00200, Nairobi

TO THE MEMBERS OF: THE YOUTH CONGRESS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements set out on page 6 to 13 of The Youth Congress which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 September 2023, the income and expenditure statement, statement of change in capital funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: The Management Committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with generally accepted non-profit accounting principles and applicable international financial reporting standards, the Kenya Society's Act. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY: Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and significant estimates made by the by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provides basis for our

OPINION: In our opinion, except for the going concern matter mentioned above, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of financial position of the Society as at 30th September, 2023and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted non-profit accounting principles and applicable international financial reporting standards.

EMPHASIS OF MATTER: As discussed in Note 3, to the financial statements, the Youth Congress did not secure any new funding during the financial year ended 30 September 2023. Several funding proposals have been made to mitigate the matter as described in Note 3. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

The Engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report was CPA Samuel N.

Kibe Practicing Certificate No. 1338.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (K), NA RUBI KEMPA Sociates
30 JANUARY 2024.

P. O. BOX 7420

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Income and Expenditure

