

# Youth key to Kenya's future

The government is now facing stiff opposition from young people, who have emerged as a formidable force for good governance since the Gen Z protests in June.

Today's youth are far from passive. They have refused to remain mere spectators and are instead determined to break free from the taboos and practices that have kept the nation divided and hindered progress. Young Kenyans are making their voices heard, asserting their inherent dignity and their right to shape their own future.

Attempts to silence young people have only made them more resolute. They remain vocal, consistently standing up against the issues that have plagued Kenya for decades. Make no mistake: young people have a vital role in shaping a better Kenya. The government must resist the temptation to suppress dissent and opposition from the youth.

A thriving democracy depends on allowing young people to speak up, criticise bad governance, challenge underperformance, and commend positive initiatives.

The youth are not merely leaders of tomorrow, nor are they waiting in the wings. Through their words and actions, they have demonstrated that they are here, fully engaged, and determined to shape Kenya's future. When young people criticise or oppose

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the government, they must not be labelled as unpatriotic. The youth are not agitators or terrorists; they are citizens striving to build a stronger, more united nation. The Constitution acknowledges the role of the people in governance.

This recognition includes young people and their active participation in decision-making and development. While opposition parties, civil society, trade unions, and religious organisations have either lost momentum or aligned with the government at various points, young people remain the only genuine opposition force. Kenyans should be grateful to Gen Z and the youth at large for their insistence on accountability.

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