

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY



YOUTH AFFAIRS

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY YOUTH POLICY

2021

FINAL VALIDATED DRAFT

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Abbreviations & acronyms

ADP	Annual Development Plan
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CECs	County Executive Committee Member
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CSO	Community Service Organisations
DCI	Directorate of Criminal Investigation
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GOK	Government of Kenya
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTA	Information and Communication Technology Authority

IEC	Information, Education and Communication
KAM	Kenya Association of Manufacturers
KDHS	Kenya Demographic Health Survey
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KYDP	Kenya Youth Development Policy
KYEOP	Kenya Youth Empowerment and Opportunities Project
KYEP	Kenya Youth Empowerment Project
MDAs	Ministries, Department and Agencies
MTP	Medium Term Plan
NACADA	National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse
NEET	Not in Education Employment and Training
NITA	National Industrial Training Authority
NCCG	Nairobi City County Government
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPS	National Police Service
NYC	National Youth Council
NYS	National Youth Service

PLWDs	Persons Living with Disability
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	Science Training and Innovation
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SWOT	Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Program
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
YSOs	Youth Serving Organisations

FOREWORD

Governments the world over 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 2021 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 ...%* 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 fundamentally makes a commitment to reserve 2% of its annual budget towards setting up a revolving fund to fund youth projects. 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.

Janet Muthoni Ouko

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Defining key terms

Kenyan youth

The policy has borrowed the definition of a Youth from to the Kenya Constitution 2010 which defines Youth as one aged between eighteen and thirty-four years [Kenya Constitution 2010]. Further, the Policy directs that the term “youth” will not be used interchangeably with other terms such as “young people”, “young persons”, “young women”, or “young men”.

The Policy has disallowed use of the other stated terms as substitutes of ‘youth’ because they are relative, ambiguous and normally misdirect focus from the real youth.

Youth of Nairobi

The Policy defines a **Youth** of Nairobi as one aged 18 years and who has not reached the age of 34 years. Further, the Policy directs that the term “youth” will be used interchangeably with other terms such as “young people”, “young persons”, “young women”, or “young men”; terms which are relative, ambiguous, and normally misdirect focus from the real youth.

The Policy allows the term ‘youth’ to refer to both **age and youth-hood**. With respect to **age**, a youth will be defined as a person, male or female, in the age bracket of 15 to 35 years while **youth-hood**; will be 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.

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

Refers to the youth having influence on and shared responsibility for decisions and actions that affect the lives of the youth within a context that acknowledges and respects their talents and strengths and supports them in finding ways to deal with the issues that affect them.

Youth Employment

Is a means of providing youth with opportunities for work that are productive and deliver a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection, 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 build personal awareness and support the social, political and socio-economic empowerment of youth.

Youth Sector

Is any section of institution that deals with youth 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 creation of a supportive social, cultural, economic and political environment that will empower the youth to be partners in 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 the unemployed youth; 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.

Mandate to drive the Youth Agenda

Deriving from the Executive Order of 2013 on Organization of the county Government of Nairobi, the Policy gives the mandate to drive the youth agenda in the county to the Sector of Education, Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services.

This clarity is made necessary given the previous confusion, overlap and duplications of roles around youth empowerment and development interventions in the county.

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. Patriotism and Volunteerism.
- V. Leadership, Participation and Representation.
- VI. Creativity and Talent Development.
- VII. ICT Development.
- VIII. Environment and Sustainable Development.
- IX. Drugs and Substance Abuse.
- X. Crime, Security and Peace Building.
- XI. Radicalization and Violent Extremism.

Under each of the above-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 for Implementation of the Policy

1. The Policy proposes that the county Government of Nairobi allocates at least 2% of the county Annual Budget to facilitate the establishment of a revolving County Youth Enterprise Fund.
2. It is also expected that the Policy will be revised, and when other County Government legal and policy frameworks are revised.
3. 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.

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PART ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Legislative, Policy and Institutional Framework

The Nairobi 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.

(ii) **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.

(iii) **The Revised Kenya National Youth 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.

(iv) **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.

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

Nairobi City County together with the UN-Habitat launched the One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre on the 12th 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

(vi) **City Wide Youth Policy**

It was developed in 2007 by the young people of Nairobi to ensure effective coordination of youth related interventions and involvement of the youth in planning, monitoring and evaluation of youth interventions

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).

1.2 Process of formulating the policy

1. Developed a draft youth policy from research findings conducted by University of Nairobi and partners in 2018.
2. Formed a Technical Working Group (TWG) consisting of youth stakeholders in 2021
3. The TWG had a series of review meetings both virtually and in person developed an action plan for the policy development roadmap.
4. Organised youth engagement forums to collect views from Nairobi youth at sub county level both virtually and in person.
5. Had a stakeholder’s workshop with doth state and non-state actors to review and share inputs for the policy

6. The TWG then had a validation meeting to consolidate inputs from youth stakeholders and Nairobi Youth
7. CECM sensitization workshop and garner their inputs for the policy
8. Preparation of the final draft Nairobi youth policy for adoption by the County cabinet
9. Launch of the Nairobi Youth Policy 2021

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 projects 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 take the concerned offices to task. 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 international partners and embassies interested in youth development in the county can find their niche and support the County rather than work in isolation as has been the case previously.

The Policy Goal: To promote youth engagement in democratic processes as well as in community by ensuring that youth programmes involve them and are youth-centred

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 county and country 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

PART TWO

2 YOUTH SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The youth of Kenya are currently estimated at 35% of the total population [Kenya National Bureau of Statistics], 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 Nairobi City County Government has 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 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. 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. Those aged between 15 to 34 years' account for approximately 35.4 percent of the population totalling 13.66 million (KNBS 2009). 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 identifies youth as those between ages of 15-29 years. They represent 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 Nairobi City County Integrated Development Plan 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.

2.2 Nairobi Youth challenges and opportunities

The policy categorizes the challenges facing the youth of Nairobi as follows, Labour market, 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 shows 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 City 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 and working poor youth:** 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 resort to taking 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 and protected youth spaces:** Safe public spaces offer the youth a platform for social recreation and interaction. The youth often do not have the financial means nor 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:** Nairobi gives the youth proximity to markets of drugs and illicit substances.
- **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 KDHS (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 youngmen seek help for such cases.
- **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.

Urban sustainability issues

- **climate change:** Droughts and floods are two common disasters that are associated with extreme climate conditions in Kenya. Inadequate infrastructure leads to poor stormwater management, with effects on the condition of sanitation and access to clean water. This is a global problem where Kenya is not an exemption in experiencing extreme weather conditions. In Nairobi, the situation is worsened by poor stormwater management and pollution. This has far reached effect on the youth in Nairobi

- **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.

- ❖ Accessibility of modern infrastructure and technology enabling the space for innovation, industrialization, and value addition.
- ❖ Proximity to development services facilitating the access to information and involvement in development issues.
- ❖ Access to relevant education and exposure which provides an advantage in skills, creativity, and innovation over youths from other areas.
- ❖ Ease of doing business within the city providing a conducive environment for trade.
- ❖ Readily available human resources owing to the high population of skilled labour.
- ❖ Exposure to cultural diversity eliminating the challenges of discrimination and stigmatization based on ethnicity, race, colour or origin.

2.3 Existence of youth- friendly international and national legal, policy and administrative frameworks such as the affirmative action's funds.

2.4 Target Youth Groups

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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 living 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 living 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 community-based care and positive living for this target group.

4. Female youth

The female youth constitute 52% of total youth according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. 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.

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. In and out of school youth!?!?

The out of school youth have special needs in terms of access to socio-economic and other opportunities. The increasing disparity between the annual output of school leavers and the job creation in the economy has resulted in high unemployment levels among the youth.

Unemployment, which is mainly because of rapid population growth and increased pressure on land and other resources, is exacerbated by imbalance of skills among the youth caused by the education system and over-reliance by Kenya's industries on foreign technologies.

7. 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, Nairobi City County will have a special focus on this group that will include youth with underlying health conditions such as mental illness and Non-Communicable Diseases.

8. Youth in Employment

The city notes that the majority of youths in employment end up suffering for the infractions of their employers with regards to licensing and related levies owed to the County.

9. 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.

2.5 Policy Mandate and Institutional Arrangement

1. Mandate

The policy further proposes the department of youth affairs to be established and headed by the County Director of Youth Affairs. The mandate entails: coordinating implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the Nairobi County Youth Policy, the County youth Employment programmes, Youth Mainstreaming in county development, Coordination of youth issues in county development, spearheading protection of youth from harmful cultural practices and exploitation and improve the One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre to be a Youth Centre of excellence and domesticate the youth empowerment centres at the sub county levels.

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 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 National Youth Policy thesis document talks 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.

2.6 Rights and Obligations

1. 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

1. **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

2. 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. Provide equal opportunities and access to family to the youth, regardless of their sex
- iv. Meet basic and material needs of the youth
- v. 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
- vi. Train and socialize the youth into different skills
- vii. Provide financial support for youth projects
- viii. Offer room for youth participation at all levels
- ix. Assist the youth to realize their goals and full potential

3. 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. The state shall

- i. Be the lead agent in supporting the implementation of the youth policy. This support should cover all the envisaged 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 a mechanism and opportunities for involvement of youth in internship and volunteerism
- iii. Provide quality education and skills development
- iv. Provide the necessary framework for youth to fulfil their obligations
- v. Ensure that the youth enjoy their state rights
- vi. Ensure the youth in conflict situations are mainstreamed into National 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 cessation family -relationship problems, depression, anxiety, social abuse, violence, among the youth
- ix. Improve access to secure tenure to those in informal settlements.
- x. Create gainful employment

4. Responsibilities of the Private Sector

The private sector shall work with Nairobi City County Government in:

- i. Job creation and employment of the youth,
- ii. Engage in entrepreneurial development,

- iii. Internship
- iv. Apprenticeship
- v. Mentorship
- vi. Provision of information
- vii. Transfer of technology and skills.
- viii. Collaborate and partner with NCCG and other private partners

PART THREE

3 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 concerns

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 intervention

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 Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions
- 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. 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 concerns

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 Intervention

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

- i. Establish County Youth enterprise fund accessible at sub-County level
- ii. Build capacity of youth in enterprise to design, launch and grow sustainable enterprises
- iii. Establish a county trade fair
- iv. Create market linkages for youth enterprises

- v. Fast track the implementation of AGPO
- 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 concerns

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 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 SRHR and access to Youth Friendly Services.

Policy interventions

The Policy ensures that the following are done:

- i. Capacity building of peer educators on SRHR
- ii. Awareness creations and early screening of SRHR
- iii. Strengthening food security and nutrition management systems
- iv. Provision of adequate responsive youth friendly services
- v. Create awareness on mental health challenges
- vi. Strengthening the health management system of the county.

vii. Develop systems and mechanisms to accommodate PWD's in Nairobi County

3.4 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 the City County Government of Nairobi to domesticate the National volunteerism policy.

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:

- 1) Domesticate the National Volunteerism policy through a strategic paper and county youth service.
- 2) Provide a youth volunteerism framework in the county
- 3) Facilitate all stakeholder ownership and support for youth volunteerism
- 4) Educate youth on the value of patriotism, national cohesion and volunteerism
- 5) Mainstream youth volunteerism in all sectors of County Government

- 6) Include *the Nyumba Kumi* and Community Policing Initiatives into the Youth Volunteerism Plan
- 7) Implement a mechanism for monitoring, evaluating and recognizing the youth who successfully accomplish their roles within the volunteerism programmes.

3.5 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 make it effective in serving the youth across the county.

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 derived from different sectors such as a representative from Nairobi County Assembly Youth Caucus and enterprise, representative of the County CEC, representative from Youth Serving Organisations, National Council for Persons with Disabilities, a representative from National Youth Council, Volunteer Involving Organisations , Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), National Agency for Campaign Against Drug Abuse Authority(KEPSA) , two representative from Youth groups in the grassroot areas and Creative Economy Working Group .

Functions:

- i. The committee shall give advice to Nairobi County Government on Youth issues.
- ii. The committee shall support the oversight for implementation of the Youth Policy
- iii. The committee shall be in charge of resource mobilisation
- iv. The committee shall promote research and development
- v. The committee shall advocate for youth and ensure the issues 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/ 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.

3.6 Creativity, Talent Identification and Development

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 Concerns

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. Capacity build creatives on property and intellectual rights

3.7 Information Communication, Technology, 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, through the ICT department, seeks to steer the march towards the digital future that will transform the county to a regional technological hub, raise the county's competitiveness and align the county in line with vision 2030s ICT goals.

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

- i. Development and expansion of ICT Infrastructure
- ii. Capacity building for youth in ICT
- iii. Development of resource centres, youth desks and libraries for youth to access information and relevant educational materials
- iv. Development of incubation and mentorship of youth with ICT skills to start businesses and venture in related enterprises.
- v. Promotion. Protection and development of intellectual property rights of the youth in NAIROBI
- vi. Leveraging ICT for civic participation

3.8 Youth, Environment and 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 the County Government 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:

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

3.9 Drugs and Substance Abuse

Policy concerns

Drug and Substance Abuse is a growing social challenge among the youth today. The Kenya government and the Nairobi County 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 have fallen prey.

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

- i. Availability of productive socio-economic activities to engage the youth
- ii. Provide capacity programs on effective parental guidance and role modelling
- iii. Awareness campaigns for youth in and out of learning institutions on the dangers of drugs abuse, addiction and alcoholism
- iv. Capacity building of families, communities, and caregivers to provide support systems
- v. Strengthen regulatory and enforcement mechanisms to curb ease and access of alcohol and other drug-related substances through the Nairobi City County Liquor Board
- vi. Establishment and enhancement of Counselling stations in the youth friendly centres manned by youth peer educators and counsellors and strengthen engagement between existing institutions such as NACADA
- vii. Creation and enhancement of Youth rehabilitation and treatment centres in all 17 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 implementation of livelihood skills programs and exit strategies for addiction survivors in collaboration with stakeholders.
- ix. Ensure that rehabilitation centres are accessible to persons with disabilities.

3.10 Youth, Crime, Security 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 will 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 security and peace building in the country:

- i. Educating the youth on abiding by the Law and good neighbourliness such as the enhancement of 'Nyumba Kumi', County Peace Committees etc.
- ii. Strengthen engagement between existing institutions, protocols, and conventions such as Regional and County Security Intelligence Committee – RSIC/ CSIC, UNSCR 2250, ICGLR, Peace Clubs in Schools etc.
- iii. Develop programs that will address crime and social behaviours, Gender Based Violence and safeguard the from extrajudicial killings, and extreme ideologies
- iv. Integrate youth in community driven safety and security programs
- v. Involve youth in peace building, conflict prevention and reconciliation initiatives
- vi. Design and implement livelihood skills programs for youth.

vii. Design and implement programs to promote intergenerational dialogue, societal and national values.

viii. Budgetary allocation for more youth focused research on peace and security by the Nairobi City County.

3.11 Youth and Countering 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. Lack of accountability and human rights violations, predominantly by Kenyan security forces have long been a strong impediment to peace in the county. The unfortunate occurrences recently are the recruitment of the youth to support terrorism activities. 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 and relevant National Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to create safety and security for Nairobi residents by addressing and tackling the causes of terrorism among the youth while shrinking the pool of radicalisation through the County Action Plan to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism.

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 VE and radicalization in Nairobi County
- ii. Reduce vulnerability of students, teachers and support staff in learning institutions by identifying early warnings signs and response to violent extremism
- iii. Create linkages between law enforcement agencies and community security structures for effective P/CVE in Nairobi County.
- iv. Counter divisive and antagonistic narratives and ideologies that steer VE and radicalization from all avenues among most at-risk groups while providing alternative narratives and ideologies
- v. Address rampancy of political and socioeconomic grievances resulting from politically created wedges amongst most at risk groups by promoting inclusive and participatory politics
- vi. Embrace sports and cultural events as tools of fostering diversity, tolerance, brotherhood and inclusion to prevent radicalization process and recruitment of youth by extremist groups.
- vii. Advocate for the prevention of violent extremism through media platforms – social, mainstream, and digital
- viii. Mainstream and implement the Nairobi City County Action Plan to prevent and counter violent extremism across all the county departments and agencies.
- ix. Mainstream PCVE into county government departments and agencies while ensuring budgetary allocation for PCVE activities.

- x. Establish a PCVE officer within the sector of Education, Social Services, Youth, Sports, Gender and Youth Affairs

3.12 YOUTH SAFE SPACES

INTRODUCTION

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 reclamation, identification, establishment, development and protection of safe spaces for the youth of Nairobi.

In this regard, the Policy will ensure:

- xii. Develop mechanism for identification and reclaiming public spaces

- xiii. Protect safe spaces where the youth of Nairobi generate, nurture, develop, showcase their ideas, engage in skills building and networking.
- xiv. Build strategic partnerships with the state and non-state actors like the private sector, civil society, media among others to enhance the operation, maintenance and continuous improvement of these spaces and ensure they are youth friendly.
- xv. Establish, rehabilitate, and equip youth safe spaces in all Sub-counties

PART FOUR

4 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.

The Government of Nairobi allocates **2% of its Annual Budget** to the revolving County Youth Enterprise Fund.

4.1 Institutional Framework for Policy Implementation (mainstreaming youth issues within the county) or

- Formation of a County youth directorate
- Lead implementer of this policy
- Youth and ICT to be one sector for it to speak directly on youth affairs
- Engage youth stakeholders in youth programming
- Constitute a Youth advisory committee of not less than 7 and not more than 15 members who will be appointed by the CEC in charge of Youth within a guided criterion -

The CEC to come-up with a framework that will be used in selecting the members. This includes formal and informal institutions and bodies

- Establish a sub-sector implementation committee that will support policy implementation, resource mobilization and advice on youth mainstreaming
- Merging of related priority areas to form the six standing implementing committees' sectors such as priority (1 and 5) (3 and 4) (6 and 7) (2 and 9) (10 and 11) and 8
- Engagement of CECMs as an entry point towards influencing youth mainstreaming
- Establish a biannual youth briefing CECM forum/CECM sector working group chaired by the youth CEC

Youth mainstreaming statement

The policy provides a 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 responsible for youth affairs to compile and provide an annual youth statusreport.

The Coordinating County Government Department

- The CECM in charge of youth docket will be the coordinating body/office

Non-State actors

- Support the implementation of the policy
- Collaboratively raise resources towards supporting implementation of the policy
- To support their priority of interest
- Provide technical expert in their areas of profession or interest
- Support progressive monitoring of the policy
- Ensure the document is fully implemented

State -

- Provide County's youth status report in every IYD

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The policy will be monitored and evaluated through the sub sector committees, advisory board and the annual report provided by the CECM.
- Development of a monitoring and evaluation tool that will check on the progress to inform changes and interventions for adoption

4.2 Review of the Policy

This policy shall be reviewed after every five years

4.3 YOUTH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

SRN	Policy priorities	Key Actions	Indicators	Timelines	Lead Actor	Budget
	Skills Development and Employment	I. Mainstream industry relevant competency-based education and training	# Of trainings conducted Increased acceptance in mainstreami ng competency -based training	June 2022	NCC Youth affairs department Non-State Actors Learning institutions Private sector	

		ii.Strengthen and increase Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions	# Of gap analysis conducted	November 2022	NCC Department of TVET	
			# Of training modules developed /revised			
			# Of trainees enrolled			
			# Centres of			

		iii.Develop and implement a labour market information system to provide youth with real time information on employment opportunities	excellence established # Of labour market systems developed # Of youth accessing the labour market systems # Of incentives	June 2022	Youth affairs NCC ICT department	
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		iv. Recognize structured work exposure opportunities as relevant work experience in the labour market	<p>created</p> <p># Of opportunities recognized</p> <p># Of awarding ceremonies conducted</p> <p># Of linkages established</p>	December 2022	<p>NCC Youth affairs department</p> <p>Non-State Actors</p> <p>Learning institutions</p>	
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		v. Invest in shared infrastructure between industry and learning institutions with a capacity building programme for lecturers, tutors and instructors	# Of career fairs /week held		Private sector	
			# Of evaluations conducted on the capacities of the lectures, tutors and instructors	December 2022	Youth affairs	
			# Of internships		NCC Department of TVETs	

		<p>vii. Streamline internships and apprenticeship with relevant authorities</p> <p>viii. Equip One Stop Youth information centres at sub-county level with relevant infrastructure as Employment Placement Centres to cater for youth competencies and skills</p>	ps created			
	Youth, Health	i.Capacity building of peer				

	and Wellbeing	<p>educators on SRHR</p> <p>ii.Awareness creations and early screening of SRHR</p> <p>iii.Strengthening food security and nutrition management systems</p> <p>iv.Provision of adequate responsive youth friendly services</p> <p>v.Create awareness on mental health challenges</p> <p>vi.Strengthening the health management system of the county.</p> <p>vii.Develop systems and mechanisms to accommodate PWD's in Nairobi County</p>				
	Youth Patriotism and Volunteerism	<p>1) Domesticate the National Volunteerism policy through a strategic paper and county youth service.</p> <p>2) Provide a youth</p>				

		<p>volunteerism framework in the county</p> <p>3) Facilitate all stakeholder ownership and support for youth volunteerism</p> <p>4) Educate youth on the value of patriotism, national cohesion and volunteerism</p> <p>5) Mainstream youth volunteerism in all sectors of County Government</p> <p>6) Include <i>the Nyumba Kumi</i> and Community Policing Initiatives into the Youth Volunteerism Plan</p> <p>7) Implement a mechanism for monitoring, evaluating and recognizing the youth who successfully accomplish their roles within the volunteerism programmes.</p>				
	Youth Leadership,	<i>Establishment of a Youth</i>				

	Participation and Representation	<i>Advisory Committee:</i>				
	Youth Enterprise Development Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establish County Youth enterprise fund accessible at sub-County level ii. Build capacity of youth in enterprise to design, launch and grow sustainable enterprises iii. Establish a county trade fair iv. Create market linkages for youth enterprises v. Fast track the implementation of AGPO vi. Review and subsidise business licensing fees for youth enterprises 				
	Creativity, Talent Identification and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Development and implementation of a Youth Talent Identification and Nurturing Policy ii. Development of mechanism for monetization and commercialization of 				

	<p>artistic and sports talents</p> <p>iii. Establishment of tax incentives and waivers for the players in the talents, arts and sports industry</p> <p>iv. Safeguarding youth safe spaces</p> <p>v. Creation of a database on the participants in the creative sector to facilitate networking and referral and data-driven interventions</p> <p>vi. Engagement with the private sector and the civil society for transfer of skills in creative, talent, arts and sports, as well as showcasing opportunities</p> <p>Establishment and rehabilitation of creative talent hubs in all Sub-counties</p> <p>Sensitization on the value of talent and talent development</p> <p>Establishment of a</p>				
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		<p>comprehensive talent scouting system in all sub- counties for continuous identification of talent</p> <p>Liaison with stakeholders in talent identification and development</p> <p>Capacity building of creatives on property and intellectual rights</p>				
	Youth and ICT Development	<p>i.Development and expansion of ICT Infrastructure</p> <p>ii.Capacity building for youth in ICT</p> <p>iii.Development of resource centres, youth desks and libraries for youth to access information and relevant educational materials</p> <p>iv.Development of incubation and mentorship of youth with ICT skills to start businesses and venture in related</p>				

		enterprises. v.Promotion. Protection and development of intellectual property rights of the youth in NAIROBI vi.Leveraging ICT for civic participation				
	Youth, Environment and Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build capacities of youth on green energy, waste management and general environmental conservation/management ● Develop and implement the human resource training strategy in green processes and technologies ● Invest in the conversion of waste to wealth initiatives ● Re-launch and implement the 1 million tree planting campaigns with youth 				

		<p>taking an active role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify high potential value chains in green energy, waste management and alternative prudent natural resources utilization ● Educate youth on how to take advantage of green jobs and carbon credit opportunities ● Empower youth as environment ambassadors across the county. 				
	Drugs and Substance Abuse	<p>i. Availability of productive socio-economic activities to engage the youth</p> <p>ii. Provide capacity programs on effective parental guidance and role modelling</p> <p>Awareness campaigns for youth in and out of learning institutions on the dangers of drugs abuse, addiction and</p>				

	<p>alcoholism</p> <p>iv.Capacity building of families, communities and caregivers to provide support systems</p> <p>v.Strengthen regulatory and enforcement mechanisms to curb ease and access of alcohol and other drug-related substances through the Nairobi City County Liquor Board</p> <p>vi.Establishment and enhancement of Counselling stations in the youth friendly centres manned by youth peer educators and counsellors and strengthen engagement between existing institutions such as NACADA</p> <p>vii.Creation and enhancement of Youth rehabilitation and treatment centres in all 17 sub counties, while involving drug abuse survivors as mentors in the community for an easier re-</p>				
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		<p>integration of ex-addicts and users in collaboration with the department of youth affairs.</p> <p>viii.Design and implementation of livelihood skills programs and exit strategies for addiction survivors in collaboration with stakeholders.</p> <p>ix.Ensure that rehabilitation centres are accessible to persons with disabilities.</p>				
	Youth, Crime, Security and Peace Building	<p>i.Educating the youth on abiding by the Law and good neighbourliness such as the enhancement of ‘Nyumba Kumi’, County Peace Committees etc.</p> <p>ii.Strengthen engagement between existing institutions, protocols and conventions such as Regional and County Security Intelligence Committee – RSIC/ CSIC, UNSCR 2250, ICGLR, Peace</p>				

	<p>Clubs in Schools etc.</p> <p>iii. Develop programs that will address crime and social behaviours, Gender Based Violence and safeguard the from extrajudicial killings, and extreme ideologies</p> <p>iv. Integrate youth in community driven safety and security programs</p> <p>v. Involve youth in peace building, conflict prevention and reconciliation initiatives</p> <p>vi. Design and implement livelihood skills programs for youth.</p> <p>vii. Design and implement programs to promote intergenerational dialogue, societal and national values.</p> <p>ix. Budgetary allocation for more youth focused research on peace and</p>				
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		security by the Nairobi City County.				
111	Youth and countering violent extremism	Enhance ease of access to capitalization				
		Identifying early warning signs in schools				
		Create linkages between law enforcement agencies and the community				
		Counter divisive and antagonistic narratives and ideologies				
		Advocate for the prevention of violent extremism through media platforms – social, mainstream and digital Mainstream				
		Mainstream PCVE into county Government departments and agencies				

		Address rampancy of political and socio-economic grievances resulting from politically created wedges amongst most at risk groups				
		Establish a PCVE officer within the sector of Education, Social Services, Youth, Sports, Gender and Youth Affairs				

