



KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT YOUTH DIGEST

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**FREE
COPY**



KSG YOUTH CENTRE LAUNCHED; YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN THE NORTH

**Message from the
Director General
Kenya School of
Government.**

PG. 1

**Message from the
Country Director
UNDP
Mr. Walid Badawi.**

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**Isiolo Youth
Innovation
Centre.**

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**Kenya School of
Government Youth
Innovation Centres
Journey.**

PG. 20



KSG at a Glance

The Kenya School of Government boasts of impressive conferencing, video-conferencing, accommodation, workshop and team-building facilities. The school provides opportunities for staff and the youth to nurture their talents through platforms like the award winning KSG Staff Choir and OGOPA Football Club.



A Auditorium at the Convention centre at KSG Lower Kabete



The Award winning KSG Staff Choir.



Video conferencing facility at eLearning & Development Institute



An executive meeting room at the KSG Mombasa Campus



Executive Accommodation at KSG Matuga Campus



KSG OGOPA FC Mens football team gears up for a match



VIP accommodation at KSG Matuga Campus



The DG & Government officials have a feel of the eLDI campus facilities



The New KSG Youth Innovation Centre in Isiolo County



National Symposium on affordable housing at KSG Baringo Campus.



SLDP Class participate in Team Building Activities



The Ultra Modern complex set for completion soon at the KSG Mombasa campus.

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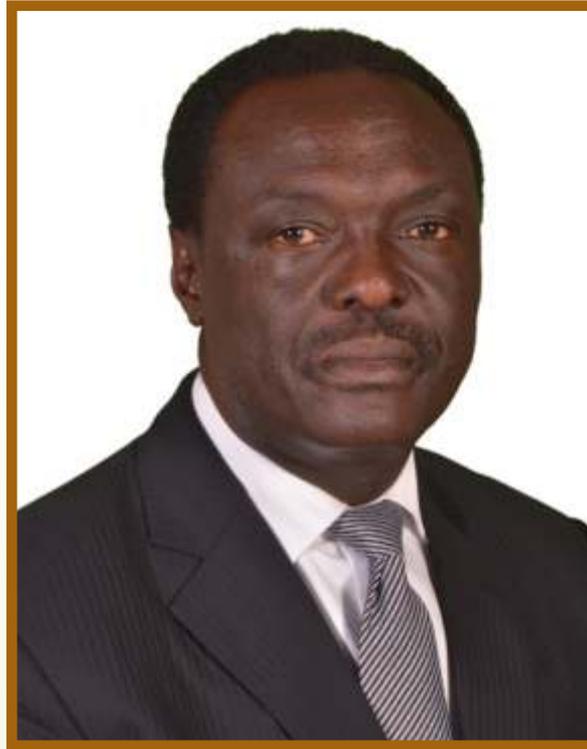
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KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT; CRAFTING TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE YOUTH OF KENYA

The KSG Youth Innovation Centre in Isiolo is a youth capacity development project initiated by the Kenya School of Government in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UKAID/DFID, Isiolo County Government, and the Government of Norway. The Project is part of a bigger program that targets Northern Kenya youth; specifically, from the counties under the auspices of the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC). These include Isiolo, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Turkana, Garissa, Lamu, and Tana River.

In Isiolo, we have successfully piloted the project. We did put up a one-stop youth innovation centre to serve as a training

hub, information centre and also provide space for the youth. The centre has all the essential connectivity equipment, including computers and the internet. We also developed an SMS platform to aid in communication between the county and its youth.

We at Kenya School of Government are committed to not only transforming the public service, the core mandate for which exists, but also aid the government's efforts in different sectors. Kenya School of Government is concerned, particularly with the state of the youth in the country. This project is one of our contributions to the government's efforts in empowering and developing the current generation of young people.

The history of marginalization informs our focus on the region. Besides, the unique challenges young people in those counties are facing, including cattle rustling, radicalization, drugs, and crime, define our jurisdiction.

Out of 47.6 million Kenyans, 13,777,600 of these are between 18 to 35 years. This constitutes 29% of the country's population and 67% of Kenya's adult population. This age bracket, also referred to as the youth, as defined in Article 260 of the Constitution of Kenya - is both a challenge and an opportunity. As an opportunity, Kenya stands to reap huge demographic dividends that come with a youthful population such as an inexhaustible workforce, innovativeness, and ingenuity of the youth, and much more.

The upshot of the above is that the government of Kenya has identified youth empowerment as a key focus area in its development agenda and continues to target resources aimed at empowering them. The youth policy requires government ministries, departments, and agencies to be deliberate in targeting the youth in their core services.

It is in adherence to these policies and programs, that the Kenya School of Government (KSG) - a statutory agency, established by an Act of Parliament with the mandate of transforming the public Service through human resource capacity development, has developed and runs a youth program along with its key mandate.

It is under this program that Kenya School of Government has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to ensure that this program benefits Kenya's youth in the North and beyond.

The project in this phase targets the youth from Northern Kenya, a region that has historically faced marginalization and currently falls within what is referred to as the terror belt, where radicalization and violent extremism is a present and real challenge.

As a result of the project, over 20 youth have started their own businesses - creating jobs and improving livelihoods for their families. The County Government of Isiolo has facilitated the establishment of a youth revolving fund - enabling business start-ups and growth for formerly existing businesses.

I am glad to inform the youth of Isiolo that the County Government of Isiolo has also set aside 30% of the procurement opportunities for the youth, women, and PwDs through the AGPO - Access to Government Procurement Opportunities.

I am grateful to our partners who have made this project successful. I'd especially want to recognize the input from Huawei, Kenya Film Classification, and the National Youth Council.

Kenya School of Government looks forward to the next phase of the project even as we give all the care in midwifing the Centre in Isiolo.

***Prof. Ludeki Chweya,
Director General, Kenya School of Government***



DELIVERING FOR THE YOUTH IN THE NORTH: A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA.

According to the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) Secretariat, youth in the Counties of Isiolo, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Turkana, Garissa, Lamu, and Tana River constitute about 29 percent of the population, with an average unemployment rate of about 53.6 percent. It is estimated that around 800,000 youth enter the job market every year in Kenya. There is potential, therefore, to profitably

harness youth creativity, agility, and entrepreneurship in growing the economies of these counties, which have for a long time been characterized by underdevelopment.

Left un-nurtured and unsupported, the youth can be disillusioned and ultimately engage in alternative support systems and means of livelihood, including crime, drug abuse, and recruitment into radical extremist groups. One approach to engaging communities and creating opportunities for the youth is by dissuading them from militant activities and other crimes.

In 2018, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through funding from the Department for International Development (DFID), began supporting the county governments of the eight FCDC counties through the programme “strengthening devolved governance”. Through this program, UNDP worked with strategic partners, especially government institutions and county governments to transform the lives of the unemployed youth. Notably, UNDP partnered with the

Kenya School of Government (KSG) and County Government of Isiolo to initiate the Isiolo youth program. It aims at building the capacity of youth on entrepreneurship and life skills through the establishment of a youth learning center. This investment provided the program the opportunity to co-create with the youth, opportunities for productive employment and decent work, improving their skills and livelihoods, and the potential for poverty reduction.

The pilot project supported 52 youths from Isiolo County through structured training covering business and entrepreneurship topics as well as life skills which are critical for laying a solid foundation for youth-led wealth creation programs. The first ten-day training was held on 2 - 13 July 2018 at Kenya School of Government Embu. The youth were also provided with information on financing options for businesses, including from the women enterprise Fund, Uwezo Fund, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, AGPO, and Talanta Fund. Additionally, the training included a learning visit to business enterprises and universities in Nyeri (Dedan Kimathi University), and Embu (University of Embu). Further training sessions followed, which covered additional topics such as business startups and management, business registration and operationalization, AGPO (Access to Government Procurement Opportunities), public participation, leadership, and governance.

Gains of the Partnership

- These opportunities have motivated some of the youth to continue with their skills development path.
- The training on public participation and AGPO provided the youth opportunity to meet with the county assembly members (MCAs), who committed to pushing for the youth agenda in Isiolo County.
- Interaction with the county Executives including the Governor also provided an opportunity for youth to appreciate and start accessing the AGPO under which the

County Government has set aside 30% of all procurement opportunities for youth, women, and people with disabilities.

- To enhance communication between the youth and the county government on existing business opportunities and public participation forums, the UNDP-KSG partnership supported the establishment of an SMS platform (sema usisike). The platform is a web-based portal facilitating self and agent-based registration of youths and other stakeholders within the County. It facilitates delivery of bulk SMS messages through which the county government communicate to young people on COVID-19 during these times of the pandemic.

Kenya School of Government Isiolo Youth Learning Centre is a flagship of the UNDP-KSG partnership. The center consists of:

1. A Capacity Building facility with a Computer Lab
2. A talent, innovation, creative and film-making hub
3. One-stop-shop information unit
4. A coaching, mentorship, and counseling services unit

UNDP further supported the center with laptops, desktops, projectors, and furniture as well as the branding of the Centre.

Following the establishment of the Isiolo KSG Youth Learning Centre, to be launched on 8 October 2020, several partners have expressed interest to work with the Centre to support the youth empowerment agenda. UNDP acknowledges the generous support of the Government United Kingdom through DFID and the Government of Norway that was directed towards this initiative. UNDP will continue to invest in national initiatives aimed at supporting the government to meet its long-term development aspirations through the empowerment of its citizens especially women and youth.

Walid Badawi,
United Nations Development Programme
(UNDP) Kenya, Resident Representative



YOUTH CENTRE: ROLLING BACK THE EFFECTS OF MARGINALIZATION IN THE NORTH

BY: PROF. NURA MOHAMMED



Like most of Kenya, Northern Kenya, and for this case Isiolo, is predominantly a young nation with most of the population under the age of 35 years. This population presents both a nightmare and opportunity depending from where you choose to look at it.

Kenya's North could easily pass for a basket case if you consider years of marginalization and attendant effects like biting poverty and religious fundamentalism that found a rich and fertile ground to thrive.

The government of Kenya has over the years employed all strategies available to correct this situation and help the young people in the region catch up with their peers in other areas and together join the match of National Development.

At the Kenya School of Government, besides our core mandate, we intentionally chose to complement government's efforts by establishing a youth specific office to coordinate youth programmes both within and without the institution.

It is this decision that has made the current partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) possible.

The first fruit of this partnership is the Kenya School of Government Youth Innovation Centre in Isiolo. As a build up to the establishment of this Centre, KSG went all out to train the youth in Isiolo and Garissa in preparation for the centre. And this trainings proved to be effective. Besides UNDP, this project has been made possible by other partners like the Norwegian Government, UKAID/DFID and the technology company, Huawei.

Going forward, other partners like the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB), the National Youth Council (NYC) among others commit to help the centre become fully operational. The school is grateful for all these partners and their generous contributions. We at the Kenya School of Government are confident that this Centre will not only change the lives of individual young people, but also change the narrative of the county by opening up opportunities for employment, investment and jobs.

KENYA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



**Raymond Ochieng', Secretary for Youth
Ministry of ICT and Youth Affairs**

INTRODUCTION

Youth issues have been handled by different ministries since independence until the **Ministry of State for Youth Affairs** was established on **7th December 2005** to represent and address youth concerns in Kenya. During MTP II (2013-2017) i.e 2016, the Ministry embarked on a review of the National Youth Policy, to provide a broad-based policy guideline that ensures its alignment to the Constitution 2010, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030, the Commonwealth Youth Charter, and the African Youth Charter under the African Agenda 2063, to fulfill and realize the aspirations of the Kenya Vision 2030, the Big four Agenda for Kenya, and further realize key priorities as set out in medium-term plans. Further, This Policy aligns itself with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) human development perspective which emphasizes the richness of human life and the need for creating fair opportunities and choices for all.

This alignment was to facilitate effective implementation of the youth agenda in Kenya in line with the national, regional, and international goals and commitments. This was to ensure youth are provided with social and economic opportunities to unleash their

full potential while at the same time being protected from any harmful cultural practices and risk factors such as being involved in crime, drugs, and substance abuse and any factors that result in youth being marginalized or vulnerable.

To ensure ownership by stakeholders and proper coordination at the national level, the Ministry established a multiagency Technical Working Committee (TWC) that spearheaded the review process. Thus, the review of youth policy involved youth stakeholders and a majority of the participants and contributors (90%) were youth: so the review process was youth-led. The Policy review, therefore, was a product of broad based consultative processes and advocates for a multi-sectoral approach towards youth empowerment.

The Kenya Youth Development Policy (KYDP) 2019 seeks to provide an opportunity for improving the quality of life for the youth in Kenya through their empowerment and participation in economic and democratic processes as well as in community and civic affairs. It also advocates for the creation of a supportive social, cultural, economic, and political environment that will empower the youth to be active actors in national development.

RATIONALE OF KENYA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The African Youth Charter, states that every State Party is required to develop a comprehensive and coherent Youth Development Policy. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) makes various provisions for the

youth in Article 55, which requires the State to take measures, including affirmative action programs, to ensure that the youth have access to relevant education and training; opportunities to associate, be represented, and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; and to access productive engagement including employment and entrepreneurship.

Youth face various challenges that are supposed to be addressed by the government and various stakeholders. To be able to effectively address these challenges, there was a need for the government to have a policy framework that brings together all stakeholders and spells what needs to be undertaken. Youth is a valuable resource that can be harnessed for the benefit of all. It is for this reason that, the Africa Union recognizes youth as partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries in the attainment of the goal and aspirations of Agenda 2063 and the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Policy focus is to consolidate all initiatives that are being undertaken to empower the youth in Kenya.

YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

There has been a paradigm shift to recognize youth as key in managing change and this has provided the understanding that unless the youth are meaningfully engaged and given opportunities to participate in decision-making processes, then harnessing their demographic dividend for economic and social development shall be a pipe dream. The Kenya Youth Development Policy, 2019 defines youth as defined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 as "individuals in the Republic who have attained the age of eighteen years; but have not attained the age of thirty-five years". The rapid population growth is often associated with high unemployment and this is of great challenge for youth here in Kenya.

Table 1. Shows, in brief, the youth demographics as per the 2019 population and housing census done by Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Total Kenya's Population	47.6M
Total Youth Population	13,618,462
Male	6,504,514
Female	7,113,427

DIMENSIONS OF YOUTH PROFILE IN KENYA

The Policy recognizes the categories of the youth as listed below while being cognizant of their unique diversity, expectations, challenges, and opportunities.

These are:

- i. Male and female;
- ii. Educated and uneducated;
- iii. Formally trained and informally trained;
- iv. Rural and urban residents;
- v. In-school and out-of-school;
- vi. Adolescents and young adults;
- vii. Physically challenged and able-bodied;
- viii. Economically engaged or not;
- ix. Detained and not-detained;
- x. Migrant and non-migrant;
- xi. Skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled;
- xii. Street and vagrant youth;
- xiii. Youth infected and affected by HIV/AIDs;
- xiv. Unemployed youth;
- xv. Incarcerated youth; and,
- xvi. Youth in humanitarian settings.

POLICY GOAL VISION AND VALUES

1. **The Policy Goal:** To promote the holistic empowerment and participation of the youth in socio-economic and political spheres for national development.
2. **The Vision:** A society where youth have an equal and responsible opportunity to realize their full potential in socio-economic and political aspirations, through honest and hard work.
3. **The Values:** The Policy emphasizes on several values, including;
 - ✓ Patriotism
 - ✓ Respect for diversity and ethical values
 - ✓ Equity and accessibility
 - ✓ Inclusiveness
 - ✓ Good governance
 - ✓ Mainstreaming youth issues

The values are anchored on the principles of responsiveness by stakeholders to address youth issues, accessibility, equality, participation, integration, access, diversity, empowerment, and inclusion among the youth.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

- i. **Responsiveness:** governments, private sector, civil societies, Faith-Based Organizations (FBO), and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in all relevant sectors shall respond to the needs and concerns of the youth and act to harness their human potential for sustainable development of the country;
- ii. **Access:** youth shall be supported and encouraged to access quality services while ensuring equality for the opportunity and active participation in society and economy;
- iii. **Participation:** in cognizance of the principle of public participation and constitution youth shall be involved in advocacy, behavior change, communication, planning, and decision-making processes that affect them and wider society;
- iv. **Inclusion:** The main impediment to youth's active participation and political engagement and socio-economic fears shall be addressed and positively taken to support direct and indirect inclusion of youth in various activities;
- v. **Integration:** all stakeholders involved in youth activities including government, private sector, civil societies, faith-based organizations (FBO), and NGOs, among others shall be required to cooperate and coordinate their efforts to create synergy in supporting the development of youth and helping them realize their full potential;
- vi. **Diversity:** in designing the 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;
- vii. **Empowerment:** young people shall be empowered to take control of their own lives and destiny and take full responsibilities for their action while influencing their own future and trigger positive change;
- viii. **Equality:** all youth shall be given equal respect, opportunity, dignity regardless of their experience, ethnic or socioeconomic status, physical and mental capacity, sex, age, vulnerabilities and disabilities; and,
- ix. **Transparency:** Institutions and organizations involved in youth development should operate in a transparent and accountable manner.

POLICY OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY AREAS

The Policy has articulated the youth empowerment and development objectives within the Kenyan context. The ten (10) Policy objectives are:

1. Realize a healthy and productive youth population;
2. Build a qualified and competent youth workforce for sustained development;
3. Create opportunities for youth to earn decent and sustainable livelihoods;
4. Develop youth talent, creativity, and innovation for wealth creation;
5. Nurture value-driven, morally upright, ethical generation of patriotic youth for transformative leadership;
6. Effective civic participation and representation among the youth;
7. Promote a crime-free, secure, peaceful, and united Kenya where no young Kenyan is left behind;
8. Support youth engagement in environmental management for sustainable development;
9. Promote and develop an entrepreneurial culture among the youth through access to subsidized loans, training, mentorship, internships, attachments, business incubation and partnerships and,

10. Support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programs in local languages, as appropriate, with content relevant to different groups of youth.

The associated priority areas for Policy intervention include:

1. Supporting youth development, health, nutrition, and wellbeing;
2. Eradicating drugs and substance abuse among youth;
3. Investing in education, training, and skills development by ensuring that ICT is fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels and also establishing educational networks for sharing educational resources and promoting e-learning at all levels;
4. Institutionalizing and strengthening apprenticeship and internship programs;
5. Addressing youth unemployment, underemployment, and inactivity;
6. Building capacity of the youth to fully integrate them into the Country's technological transformation;
7. Ensuring sustainable financing of youth programs;
8. Transforming agriculture to make it attractive to youth;
9. Promoting entrepreneurship and skills training, mentorship, internships, job attachments, business incubation, and partnerships for the youth;
10. Strengthening frameworks for labor export;
11. Supporting labor management information systems;
12. Supporting creativity, talent identification, and innovative development;
13. Entrenching positive morals, values, patriotism, and volunteerism for transformative leadership;
14. Supporting effective civic participation and representation;
15. Promoting a crime-free, secure, peaceful, and cohesive Country;
16. Promoting mechanisms that support youth engagement in the development, protection, conservation of natural resources and

environment while engaging in eco-entrepreneurship and green jobs;

17. Building capacity of the youth in green processes, technology and waste management; and,
18. Facilitating access to ICT opportunities for the youth.

IMPORTANCE OF KENYA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY, 2019

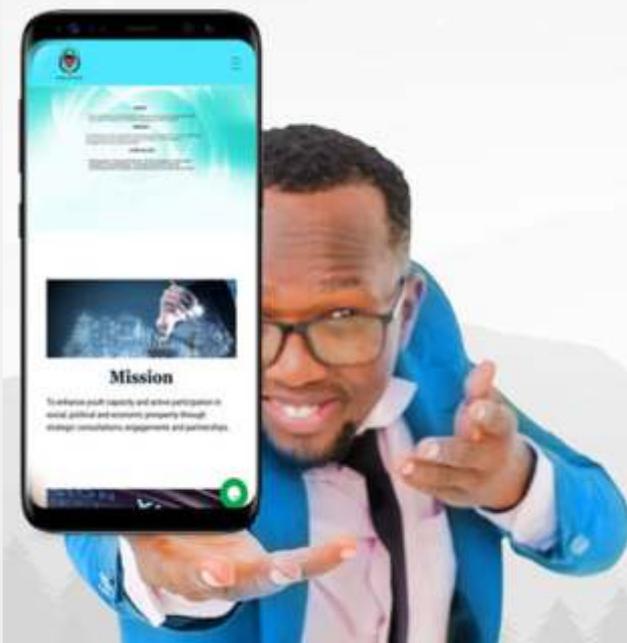
The Policy is based on the existing laws and policy interventions: i.e. anchored within the context of existing national, regional, and international policy frameworks and charter.

1. Has well-defined objectives for articulating youth interventions.
2. Provides integrated strategic priority areas and actions to address the challenges affecting the youth.
3. Well defined guiding principles and values for youth
4. Offers clear and well-coordinated and implementation mechanisms of youth programs
5. Foundation for funding for youth programs; State to allocate adequate resources in the national budget to youth-related programs
6. It offers the appropriate structures, strengthens the institutionalization of youth-focused programming including the mechanism to support monitoring and evaluation of the impact of youth development programs.
7. Synchronize players in the youth workspace
8. Integrated public participation and evaluation of youth programs
9. Establishes partnerships and collaborations mechanisms
10. Holds the Government responsible for youth development; Ministry in charge of youth will timely and periodically monitor and evaluate initiatives and programs and ensure effective implementation of the Youth Development Programmes.

IMPACTS OF KENYA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY, 2019

The impacts are anchored on the following existing Opportunities and Support:

- i. Existing institutional structures that champions youth empowerment: State Department for Youth, National Youth Council, and Youth-Serving Organizations.
- ii. Expansion of space: Devolved structures of governance, the new structures led to new employment opportunities: CECs in-charge of youth. This has led to the expansion of youth training centers in the Counties.
- iii. ICT Advancement-Ajira Digital
- iv. Vibrant social media
- v. Linkages with TVET Sector for modernization and relevant skills development for youth. Expansion of skills development in the KYEOP project.
- vi. Ensuring youth benefits in Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO)
- vii. Youth entrepreneurship, leadership, talent, creativity, arts, and sports
- viii. National Curriculum reforms on education that aim to produce an engaged, empowered, and ethical citizen and offer pathways that enhance equity, access, retention, and transition in education to develop every learner's potential.



KENYA FILM CLASSIFICATION BOARD (KFCB)

Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) is a State Corporation established under the Films and Stage Plays Act Cap 222. The Board is mandated to regulate film and broadcast content at the creation, broadcasting, distribution, exhibition, and possession levels to promote our national values, aspirations, culture, as well as protect children from exposure to harmful content.

Kenya Information and Communication Act (KICA) Section 46H mandates the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) to prescribe a watershed period for programming when large numbers of children are likely to be watching or listening to programs and ensure compliance. The watershed period guidelines apply to all program and non-program matter with the Board monitoring broadcast content during this period as well as imposing age restrictions on film and broadcast content.

The CAK under KICA Act 1998, and the Kenya Information and Communications Regulations (2009) prescribed a Programming Code for free-to-air radio and television services setting out standards for the time and manner of programs to be broadcast by licensed broadcasters under the Act.

The Programming Code seeks to ensure that unsuitable material for children and minors is not broadcast at times when there is likely to be a large audience of young listeners or viewers. The Code further seeks to ensure programs broadcast during the watershed period are



**Dr. Ezekiel Mutua, MBS
CEO, Kenya Film Classification Board
(KFCB)**

suitable for all family viewing and the transition from family-oriented to more adult programming after the watershed period is gradual.

The Films and Stage Plays Act has empowered the Board to:

- 1) Regulate the creation, broadcasting, distribution, exhibition and possession of film and broadcast content by:
 - a) Issuing filming licences to filmmakers intending to make films in Kenya meant for public exhibition.
 - b) Classifying TV and radio programmes as stipulated in the Programming Code for free-to-air radio and TV services in Kenya.
 - c) Classifying all non-programme matter, namely commercials, infomercials, documentaries, programme promotions and listings, community service announcements and station identifications.
 - d) Ensuring that content which depicts, contains scenes or are of the language intended for adult audience are not aired during the Watershed period.
 - e) Giving consumer advice by empowering film and broadcast content consumer with knowledge to make informed choices.
- 2) Registering and licensing film agents, local and international filmmakers, distributors and exhibitors.
- 3) Registering and developing guidelines on film and broadcast content regulation in the country.

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Email: infokfcb@gmail.com



KENYA FILM CLASSIFICATION BOARD

GENERAL EXHIBITION (GE) GUIDELINES
For Film And Broadcast Content

Theme	Themes are suitable for viewers of all ages
Violence	Mild portrayals of violence are allowed. The occasional mild threat or menace is acceptable if justified by context.
Sex	No sexual activity is allowed. Sexual preference of any kind is unacceptable.
Nudity	There should be no nudity.
Language	No coarse language is allowed.
Drug Use	No references to illegal drugs or drug abuse.
Horror	Treatment of horror should be non-threatening, or tinged with humour. Fright scenes should be mild and not psychologically disturbing.



GENERAL EXHIBITION



PARENTAL GUIDANCE RECOMMENDED



NOT SUITABLE FOR PERSONS UNDER 16 YEARS



RESTRICTED TO PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND ABOVE

#IStandForCleanContent

PO Box 44226-00100 Nairobi Kenya Uchumi House 15th Floor, Aga Khan Walk
 Tel No: 0202250600 Cell No: 0711 222 204 / 0777 75 33 55
 HOTLINE: 0748 184 499
 Email: info@kfcb.co.ke Website: www.kfcb.co.ke

@infokfcb Kenya Film Classification Board kfcbkenya



HUSIKA
get involved

Husika is an online and offline movement for social accountability in governance and policy matters.

Husika is a project that aims to train high potential young people in five counties to act as accelerators who will form an online movement for purposes of social accountability.

APPLY NOW
Deadline:
4th November 2020

Requirements

- A resident of Kakamega, Mombasa, Makeni, Nairobi and Nakuru
- Aged between 18 – 35 years old
- Be digitally literate
- Be active on social media
- Demonstrate willingness, availability, and commitment to the program
- Have a track record of community engagement
- public participation enthusiast

Social justice defenders are highly encouraged to apply

Fill this form to apply - <https://forms.gle/JGBUR1jgQetJBLb6>

Collaboration between OJEA & EIF

THE OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN AFRICA  



Know Your National Youth Council

*Roy Sasaka,
Chief Executive Officer, National Youth Council
Follow and engage Roy on Twitter: @NYC_YouthVoice*

The National Youth Council (NYC) is a state corporation in the Ministry of ICT, Innovation, and Youth Affairs which came into being through the enactment of the NYC Act 2009 as the official voice of the youth. The mandate of the council is to advocate for youth opportunities to associate, be represented, and participate in the Political, Social, Economic, and other spheres of life.

In a nutshell, the National Youth Council's mandate includes but is not limited to advocacy and lobbying, research, policy development, registration, and youth sector coordination.

Some of the programmes the council is currently undertaking include;

1. **Utafiti na Vijanaa:** Research on Youth Issues
2. **Greening Kenya Initiative:** To facilitate the faster realization of Kenya Vision 2030 and in support of a National Green Economy, Strategy to achieve a 10% forest cover in 2022
3. **Experiential Skills Program:** Building Youth experience profile
4. **Youth Industrial Program:** Youth participation in manufacturing. Promoting Buy Kenya Build Kenya by Youth by providing opportunities for income generation through manufacturing and value addition agriculture
5. **Fursa:** Joint Programmes Opportunities for the Youth through joint activities with stakeholders

6. **Sawazisha Gumzo:** Inter and Intragenerational dialogues on Youth matters
7. **Uzalendo:** Civic engagement and participation/ Leadership and Governance training/ Support policy development to ensure inclusion of the Youth agenda
8. **Tujengane:** Youth Empowerment Forums (Sports/ Talent shows/ Cultural festival/ Exchange programs/ Challenge Competitions)
9. **Jihamasisho:** Youth sensitization on Matters touching on Youth
10. **Co-ordination and Representation:** Youth nomination to decision-making bodies

Youth Opportunities at the National Youth Council

NYC continues to provide and avail multiple platforms and opportunities for youth engagement and just to sample a few, the 'NYC Creative Challenge' was done to harness youth creativity in writing, reporting, graphic design, and journalism. This was as a result of NYC being intentional in launching an NYC E-Newsletter dubbed "Sauti ya Vijana". NYC received over 7,000 submissions, where twelve winners were awarded.

- NYC E-Newsletter 'Sauti Ya Vijana,' a publication for the youth and by the youth, was launched on 5th October 2020.
- The second phase of the NYC Creative challenge rolled out in September, which is on 'NYC APP' creation.

FURSA VS. VIRUS CHALLENGE

'FURSA Vs Virus Challenge' entailed Youth submissions of their economic recovery solutions with a focus on Youth engagement for touching on 6 major themes pillars:

- ❖ Food Security
- ❖ Environment and Energy
- ❖ Government Support
- ❖ Business and Economy
- ❖ Social Welfare
- ❖ Education

This challenge entailed a series of workshops; webinars culminating with a 72 hour Fursathon, in which Youth from all the 47 counties in Kenya, participated. NYC will be rolling out Cycle 2 in October.

In conclusion, NYC remains committed to working with State Corporations, Private Industrial Partners, YSOs, the Youth, and the Public, towards empowering the Kenyan Youth as they are our greatest resource and have the potential to turn our continent into a frontier of growth innovation and opportunities.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A SOLUTION TO YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

The high rate of unemployment among young people is not a unique problem for Kenya. It is one of the most pressing challenges facing governments and policymakers across the globe. According to statistics from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the highest proportion of the unemployed has remained between ages 20 and 24 and 25 and 29 with respective unemployment rates of 22.8 and 21.7 percent. Furthermore, the education system releases an approximated 800,000 youth to the labor market every year.

The lack of job opportunities and struggle to find jobs has led to discouragements, dissatisfaction, and disappointments amongst our youth. The consequences are increased crime, corruption, drug abuse, and high dependency, among others.

It is well established that the government as well as the private sector cannot provide adequate job opportunities for the youth. Entrepreneurship then becomes a viable alternative solution and a substantial reason to nurture it among our young people. Entrepreneurship means more jobs and increased youth participation in the economic growth of the nation.

Our experience working with the youth is that they are resilient, hardworking, and determined. The youths want to be self-employed. They want flexibility and want to retire early. It is, therefore, incumbent to encourage them to look beyond the white-collar office jobs and leverage on an enabling environment to create employment for themselves and employ others.

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) is one of the strategies established by the government of Kenya in the year 2006 to promote entrepreneurship among young people. The YEDF provides affordable financial and business development services to youth interested in pursuing the same for a living.

The kitty provides loans for startups, business expansion, asset financing, agribusiness, talent development, and LPO/LSO financing. Besides, it offers market support and linkages, entrepreneurship training, and mentorship as well as facilitates youth to take up job opportunities abroad.

To date, the endowment has **supported 1.9** million youth with loans worth Shs. **13.5 billion**, made possible by revolving the Shs.4.5 billion allocated by the National Treasury. At least 585,058 youths have received support with business development services. In the last six months (March-August 2020), the YEDF has disbursed Shs. 281 Million benefiting 31,680 youth beneficiaries across the country. The average national loan repayment rate currently stands at 70%.

The beneficiaries have been able to grow their enterprises, thus creating value and job opportunities for themselves and others. Also, the fund has enhanced the confidence of young people to borrow, with many of them graduating to borrowing from commercial banks.

Despite the achievements, the kitty faces challenges in offering loans to the youth. The demand for YEDF services, both financial and nonfinancial, has grown tremendously, putting a strain on budgetary allocations. Working with the youth compares to offering extension services. It requires a close face to face interaction between the youngsters and our field officers, especially in the rural areas. Therefore adequate workforce and mobility are absolute, though not within our budget.



Furthermore, youths are mainly at the rudimentary stage in entrepreneurship, meaning that some of the businesses may fail while others may struggle with repayments. However, the Fund at times finds itself in a dilemma between being very strict and therefore making its loans inaccessible, or being very lenient and losing money. It is a tough balancing act. This has been more so during the Covid-19 pandemic when many youth-owned enterprises have been financially distressed.

Fostering entrepreneurship among young people requires concerted efforts from all players in the youth space. As an institution, we continue to engage the youth to review our programs in line with their changing needs, creativity, and potential. We are actively seeking meaningful engagements with development partners, both in the private and public sectors for greater impact and sustainability of our programs.

Let us continue to support our young people as they establish themselves in life, help them gain confidence as they grow businesses, and create jobs.

Mr. Benson Muthendi,
CEO – Youth Fund



Affordable Credit for The Youth!

Are you a young entrepreneur looking for affordable credit to start or expand business?

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund is a government agency that provides easy and affordable financial and business development support services to entrepreneurs aged 18-34. Youth can access loans to start or expand businesses as individuals or in registered groups.

OUR LOAN PRODUCTS			
Group loans	Kshs. 100,000 to 500,000	0% interest	3 months grace period
Individual Start up loan	Kshs. 100,000 to 500,000	6% interest	1 month grace period
Business expansion loan	Kshs. 100,000 to 5Million	6% interest	1 month grace period
Agri Bizz loan	Kshs. 100,000 to 2Million	6% interest	1 month grace period
Talanta Loan	Kshs. 100,000 to 2Million	0% interest	1 month grace period
LPO financing	Kshs. 100,000 to 5Million	1.5% interest	charged after 90 days

- In addition to loans youth can access, free of charge,
- Entrepreneurship training, business coaching, and mentorship services
 - Market Support and Linkages
 - Facilitation to access jobs abroad



Visit us at youth offices located at county headquarters across the country and apply today!

For more information contact us through:

- ☎ 020-2211671/2, +254 723 522841
- ✉ info@youthfund.go.ke, complaints@youthfund.go.ke
- 🌐 www.youthfund.go.ke





Norwegian Embassy
Nairobi



KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT YOUTH INNOVATION CENTRE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF ISIOLO



YOUTH GET INNOVATION CENTRE

By Samwel Kumba



H.E. Dr. Mohammed A. Kuti
Isiolo County Governor

Hundreds of youth, drawn especially from the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), are set to benefit from a pioneer innovation centre established by the Kenya School of Government. The School in partnership with the County Government of Isiolo, supported by a number of development partners including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Department for International Development (DFID) and the Norwegian Embassy launched the maiden Youth Innovation Centre in Isiolo County targeting youth from eight counties

comprising Isiolo, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Turkana, Garissa, Lamu and Tana River.

Available research indicates that youth from the said counties constitute about 29 per cent of the population and suffers unemployment rate of about 53.6 per cent. The Council of Governors Chairman Mr. Wycliffe Oparanya who led a host of other governors in commissioning the KSG Isiolo Youth Empowerment Centre, observed that the promising youth bulge from the area, if harnessed and engaged in profitable ventures, has the potential of growing the economy of the counties that have for a long time been marginalized.

The Kakamega County Governor is also aware that if left untapped, youth can become disillusioned and engage in criminal and social ills. Indeed, Mr. Oparanya disclosed that already most of the counties within the northern region are grappling with drug abuse, radicalization, crime and cattle rustling, Isiolo not being an exception.

He commended the School, Isiolo County and development partners for the move towards ensuring that the youth in FCDC are adequately engaged and facilitated to contribute their human capital to the wellbeing of their respective counties. "I am aware that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, through the integrated support to the devolution project in partnership with the Kenya School of Government and other partners collaborated with the FCDC counties and trained youth from Isiolo County. This should be replicated in all the FCDC counties in the North Eastern Region of Kenya," said Mr. Oparanya. The Council of Governors Chairman who was accompanied by his counterparts including Governor Mohamed Kutu (Isiolo), and



Governor Alfred Mutua (Machakos) observed that with the launch of the Youth Centre, one of its kind, other counties should replicate this initiative across the country. "Especially now that county funds have been released, we have to emulate Isiolo which goes into history as the first to host a Youth Innovation Centre. I am glad because this is an indication that devolution is working," said Governor Oparanya. Noting that the program brings together national and county government and helps development to be realized very quickly, the CoG Chair affirms that devolution is playing a critical role in the fight against poverty thus crusading for more funding from the national government to support such initiatives. "I appeal to all of you to support devolution. Talent is all you need. To the youth, my appeal is for you to realize that this Centre will help you discover your talent. It will nurture those talents which will become a source of wealth. Indeed, Kenyans need a conducive environment to generate their wealth. I am, also, impressed by the market the County Government is constructing which can serve over 2000 people," stated Mr. Oparanya. Machakos County Governor Dr. Alfred Mutua said that the time has come for the young people to stand and be counted. Dr. Mutua, who loves and appreciates talent, said that the youth form 60 per cent of the population in Isiolo County, and they do not need handouts but facilitation to generate their own wealth. "This initiative warms my heart. Youth in Kenya do not need handouts they need hand ups. All it takes is respect not leaders abusing one another. Leaders should learn to listen to the youth. That is when we will facilitate them to exploit their talent and create wealth. Otherwise, we will

remain asking the question: Why have other countries developed and we have been left behind," said Dr. Mutua. The host, Isiolo County Governor Dr. Mohamed Kuti, was positive that the Innovation Centre will go a long way towards dealing with the challenge of unemployment which has been identified as a major reason that many young people are lured into violent extremism and radicalization as well as other harmful practices such as drug and substance abuse. Governor Kuti gave an assurance that the recruitment exercise for beneficiaries will ensure a fair chance for both gender as well as those with disability, calling upon local youths to exercise patience as the Innovation Centre cannot handle all the interested youths at once. He explained that the Centre will only handle 50 youths at a go, with those completing their free courses paving the way for another cohort. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Innovation, and Youth Affairs Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Ms. Nadia Ahmed Abdallah observed that Governor Kuti is passionate about youth and talent search. "To my fellow youth, you should take the initiative of getting financing from Uwezo Fund, and Youth Enterprise Development Fund to help you finance your projects and talent utilization. This Youth Innovation Centre will assist you to create your own jobs," she said. The CAS observed that the Civic Education Program earlier mounted at the Centre by the National Youth Council should be maintained so that youth from the region can know and appreciate their role in development.

KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT YOUTH INNOVATION CENTRE'S JOURNEY

By Peter Quest

Kenya School of Government Youth Innovation Centre is a youth-oriented initiative based in Isiolo Town, Isiolo County. The Centre is an outcome of a joint partnership between the Kenya School of Government (KSG), United Nations Development Program, Foreign, Commonwealth Development Office, and the Isiolo County Government.

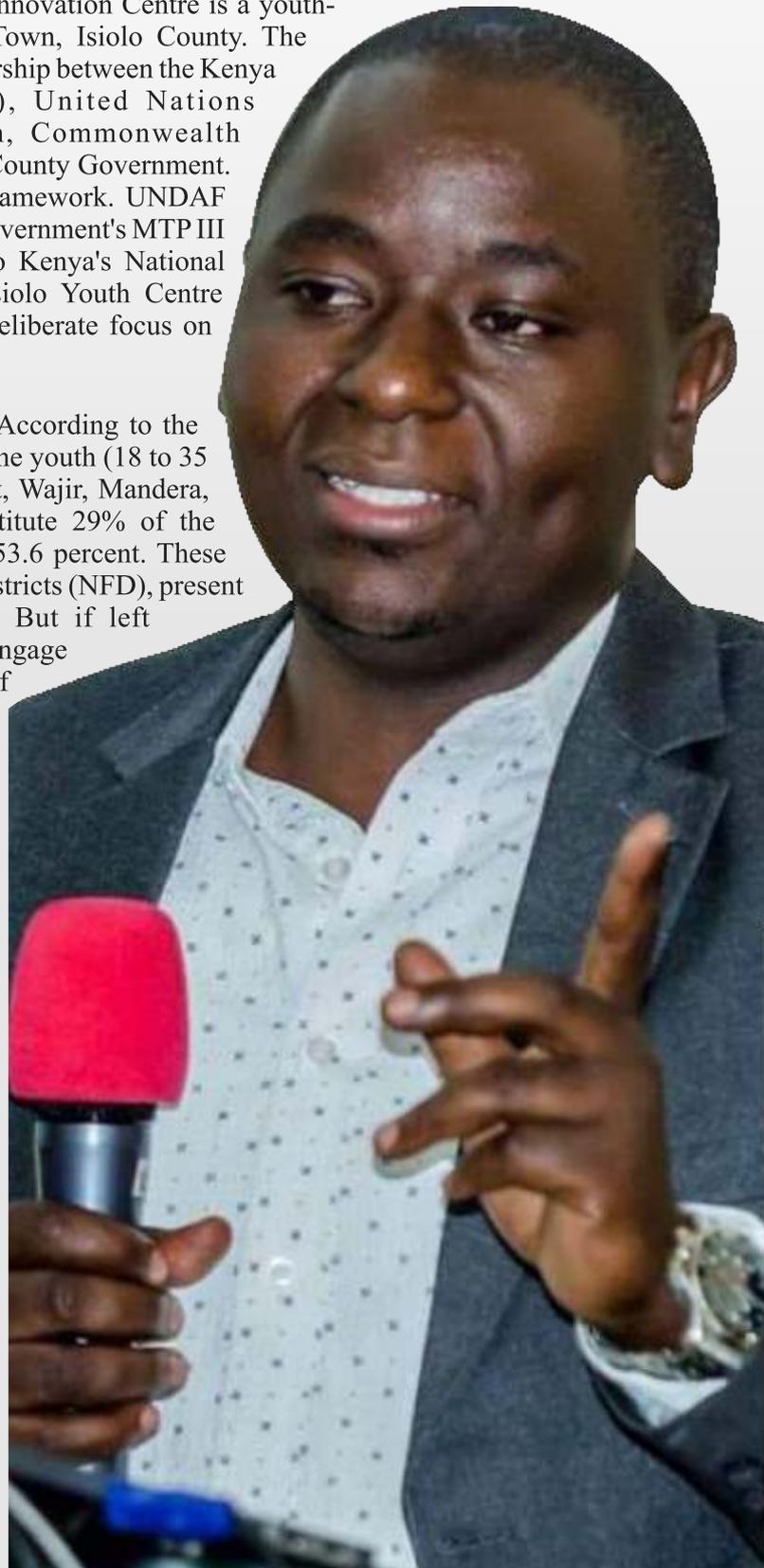
UNDP funds the initiative through its UNDAF framework. UNDAF offers the three SRAs a strategic alignment to the Government's MTP III and Vision 2030. Also, the project contributes to Kenya's National Development Agenda through UNDAF's link. Isiolo Youth Centre Intervention is one of the outcomes of UNDP's deliberate focus on empowering the Kenyan youth.

The intervention runs on data-driven need areas. According to the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), the youth (18 to 35 years) in the 8 - FCDC counties - Isiolo, Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Turkana, Garissa, Lamu and Tana River - constitute 29% of the population, with an unemployment rate of about 53.6 percent. These young people from the former Northern Frontier Districts (NFD), present an opportunity to stimulate economic growth. But if left untapped, the youth can become disillusioned and engage in crime and social ills. Suffering from the effects of drug abuse, radicalization, crime, cattle rustling, and other challenges, the Northern Frontier Counties exemplify an underused youth.

UNDP recognizes the potential for investing in youth and the associated immense possibilities in the creation of productive employment and decent work, improving human capital, livelihoods, and poverty reduction in Isiolo County. It is for this reason that UNDP collaborates with the Government of Kenya through strategic partners such as the Kenya School of Government (KSG) and Isiolo County Government to address the youth challenge which, as earlier on inferred is part of the UNDP's core agenda. UNDP Kenya through the Integrated Support program to the Devolution Process in Kenya project in partnership with the Kenya School of Government (KSG) collaborated with the Isiolo County Government to implement a youth program in Isiolo County aimed at:

1. Building the capacity of youth on entrepreneurship and life skills.
2. Establishing a youth learning center.

The pilot project supported 52 youths – through a capacity-building initiative that combined targeted



training, mentorship, and coaching, and advocacy with County Governments.

Key Results

1. Over 20 youths have started their businesses – creating jobs, improving livelihoods for their families.
2. The County Government of Isiolo has facilitated the establishment of a youth revolving fund enabling business startups and growth for formerly existing businesses.
3. County Government has also set aside 30% of the procurement opportunities for the youth, women, and PwDs through the AGPO – Access to Government Procurement Opportunities

The development objective of the Youth Innovation Centre is to increase employment and earnings opportunities for targeted youths. The project comprises four components. The first component, improving youth employability will address the skills mismatch of youth by engaging training providers and private sector employers to offer training and work experience to targeted youth. This component will contain two subcomponents:

- i) Provision of training and work experience in the formal sector and
- ii) Provision of training and work experience in the informal sector

The second component, support for job creation responds to the need for job creation with initiatives to help launch new businesses, improve the productivity and job creation potential of existing micro-enterprises and among self-employed youth, and support innovative approaches to improve job and earning opportunities among the hard-to-serve youth. This component is structured into two subcomponents, jointly implemented by Kenya School of Government, Kenya Film Classification Board, National Youth Council, and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO:

- i) Support for the self-employed and
- ii) Catalytic interventions for job creation

The third component, improving labor market information plans to improve access to and the quality of labor market information (LMI) to help public and private actors make decisions and formulate policies; The fourth component, strengthening youth policy development and

project management will support capacity building for the Centre Coordinator, the assistant admin officers, IT Specialist and the innovation hub manager for coordination and management of the overall Project. It includes three subcomponents:

- a) Building youth employment policy development and coordination capabilities
- b) Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of youth employment policies and funds; and
- c) Project management and coordination.

Way Forward

Kenya School of Government Youth Innovation Centre aims to establish a one-stop youth information Centre within the Centre that could have various youth empowerment-related information, Innovation Hub, and also art and theatre Centre for youths to access information and other developmental materials. The County Government of Isiolo has initiated a Youth revolving fund within the county to enable the youths to acquire capital for their business ideas and implement their entrepreneurship ideas. The desire for the youth for inclusion and participation in county government decision-making processes, policy formulation, and prioritization of project as part of their public participation has been realized through the launch of the Bulk SMS platform called Sema Usikike. This will help them understand the county government governing processes and keep them informed of upcoming opportunities in the county for their utility.

The County Government of Isiolo is geared to create more job opportunities for the youth by implementing and actualizing the 30% Constitutional provision for the youth access to procurement opportunities(Tenders), creating less bureaucratic county laws on setting up and operating businesses by youths and also offering business incentives to youths interested in starting and running businesses in Isiolo county.

There are more desires and interests from various government line ministries, parastatals, and agencies to utilize the Centre in offering the youth skill-based training through education and research, as well as art, theater, music, and poetry. Kenya School of Government will continue to give strategic coordination of the Centre and will continue to market the Centre for sustainability.

my story



Kamal Jarso Ibrahim - A Young Entrepreneur in Isiolo County -

“After being trained by KSG on access to government opportunities (AGPO), I managed to register a company and I am now actively pursuing government tenders. I am also awaiting KFCB's film project at the KSG Youth Centre in Isiolo to sharpen my film making skills.

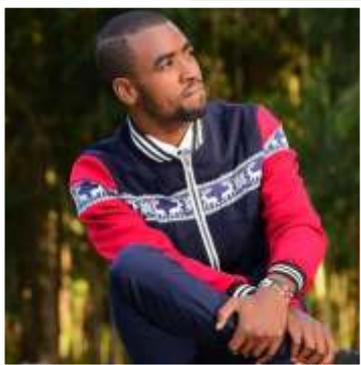
Harun Hussein - A Young Entrepreneur in Isiolo County -

The training by KSG opened my eyes. I have since registered a company to provide services that are lacking in the area. I have also been awarded tender of supplying bee hives in promoting youth groups. Through the center I am looking forward to be a youth mentor and guide my colleagues in youth empowerment programs.



Emmanuel Lolel Ng'olia - A Farmer in Isiolo County -

I learned entrepreneurs skills with Kenya School of Government in Isiolo, I have inculcated the skills into my farming and I'm now fully into agribusiness. Using the knowledge, I formed a group and we have, as a group received KES 500,000 from a programme known as climate smart funded by world Bank in partnership with county government of Isiolo.



MERU COUNTY GOVERNMENT LEADS THE WAY FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN COUNTIES



**H.E Kiraitu Murungi
Meru County Governor**



**Juliana Babu
CEO - Meru Youth Service**

Upon his election in 2017 as the Meru County boss, one of Governor Kiraitu Murungi's priority was to ensure that his government gives youth empowerment and development the seriousness it deserves. The governor whose favourite humour line is, 'I am not as stupid as I look,' is an avid believer in education and the possibilities it presents. Among a host of initiatives Meru County Government has instituted in response to the youth challenge, Meru Youth Service (MYS) - an analogue of the National Youth Service (NYS) stands out as a bold and innovative approach to youth empowerment in counties.

In 2018, Governor Kiraitu ascended to the Meru Youth Service Bill paving way for the establishment of the Meru Youth Service commonly referred to as MYS. MYS is by far, the boldest attempt by any county government in giving effect to Article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

The Meru Youth Service exists to;

- (a) give effect to Articles 55 of the Constitution;
- (b) to inculcate a culture of self-worth and dignity, hard work, diligence, self-reliance and entrepreneurship among the youth;
- (c) Reduce youth poverty,



- unemployment and helplessness;
- (d) promote participation of the youth in development programs including agriculture, health, forestry, urban development, and environmental rehabilitation;
- (e) provide for the maintenance of a database of all trained Meru youth;
- (f) provide necessary training to facilitate increased employment of the youth in the county government and county government projects;
- (g) to ensure participation of the youth in youth empowerment programs;
- (h) provide for coordination and collaboration with other government agencies and to support implementation of national policies on youth in the county;
- (i) to facilitate employment of the youth in the private sector;
- (j) inform and educate the residents in Meru county on the need to empower the youth and the harmful economic and social consequences of their alienation;
- (k) facilitate and enhance community participation in youth related matters;
- (l) to conduct research and implement effective measures to empower the youth in the county;
- (m) to provide awards, scholarships and prizes to deserving youth;
- (n) to provide a mechanism for addressing unique youth needs; and,
- (o) to give effect to the constitutional values and principles in so far as affirmative action for the youth is concerned.

Establishing an agency of MYS's nature called for not only goodwill from the different actors including the Meru County Assembly but also commitment and resources galore. The agency has already successfully undertaken its first intake where one thousand youth across Meru County were recruited taken through training; including paramilitary training, regimentation, and skills training and their after embedded in relevant spaces to gain experience and livelihoods.

This year, MYS will through its flagship programme give priority to children and the youth in the streets of various towns in Meru. This is informed by the county's policy of leaving no young person behind.

According to the Acting Chief Executive Officer Ms. Juliana Babu, 'the County Government of Meru through Meru Youth Service will this year undertake a special intake where we will in partnership with the Catholic Church in Meru recruit street children and youth, rehabilitate them, train them and provide them with tools and other start up facilitation.'

“We have also lined up various programmes including trainings for the youth in business on various topics including Access on Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) and agriculture where in partnership with KCB Foundation, we intend to do hydroponic farming with the youth in the county, we also will be starting a poultry project where MYS will hatch chicks, train youth on poultry, issue the chicks to the youth for free, provide extension services and market support to the selected youth in the project. Other trainings include life skills, leadership training and mentorships,” added Ms. Babu.



HUAWEI IN ISIOLO

BY IAN KORIR

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2019, Kenya has 13,777,600 people aged 18 to 34, which is 29.0% of the country's population.

Huawei believes universal access to the digital world is possible. Helping individuals, organizations, and homes exploit connectivity to improve their lives is one of their core objectives. And Isiolo is a good example. Residences sparsely scatter the expansive county. You would expect to experience low mobile coverage in the region.

But thanks to this multi-national Telco, Isiolo boasts a robust mobile network, despite the remote towns being underpopulated. Through *Safaricom's RuralStar innovation in 2017*, Huawei helped to transform the region's mobile connectivity.

This solution guarantees a successful, cost-effective deployment of rural coverage. A recent visit to the county shows the residents were happy with the initiative. They're now able to host their livestock market every two Tuesdays in a month, as well as using the internet for trade, learning, and health benefits.

Also, Isiolo has recently been identified among the lucky counties where the Communication Authority's Universal Service Fund installed more base stations.

More base stations have also been installed in the county through the Communication Authority's Universal Service Fund. We see that there will be more opportunities for the residents of Isiolo to access the internet and use their mobile devices to better their lives. Technology is always changing. But for the residents of Isiolo, it's an eager wait for the infrastructure to be laid so that they enjoy the benefits of stable cell signal and internet connection.

From education to health, all sectors will reap the benefits of good connectivity. It will bring better services in the hospitals and clinics, help the health workers submit their reports with ease and efficiency, and improve the day-to-day running of the clinics.

Isiolo and Garbatula towns also connect to NOFBI, the government fiber infrastructure that was deployed by Huawei. Institutions, especially hospitals, can take advantage of the infrastructure to pioneer concepts like telemedicine in this part of the Sahara. This will subsequently improve the delivery of health services in the county.

The youth should never be left behind. They are the future. And for this, Huawei will always seek to empower the young generation with technology for a better future. With the coming up of the Youth Innovation hub, this brings more opportunities to Isiolo youths, opening up the horizons for them to create opportunities for themselves as well as develop solutions for others. From the past innovation competitions and success stories of Isiolo residents, the county is not short of talent in all ways.

The innovation hub will open up spaces for young adults to come and improve their skills and talents. It will go a long way to create digital solutions to problems that are specific to the residents of Isiolo since they will be coming from the residents of the county themselves. With Huawei's internet supply, the hubs will be a big chance for the youth to research and learn, leverage the gig economy through online jobs, and even participate in 4IR.

So, let's work together to make Isiolo a fully digital, interconnected village.

DO YOUR PART BE CYBER SMART

Think. Check. Connect.



Kenya's information and communication technology (ICT) sector has witnessed a dramatic turnaround. In the mid-1990s, the sector was an irritant to the political system which saw emerging ICTs as an affront to challenge its leaders' power and control over information flow. In such an environment, the Internet was only for brave non-governmental organizations (NGOs), technologists, and small companies with international business interests. However, concerted advocacy changed the tide, and by 1997, the government promulgated the Telecommunication and Postal Sector Policy recognizing ICT's contributions to development, and by 1999, passed the Kenya Information and Communication Act, a new telecom law establishing a multi-operator environment followed shortly thereafter by official recognition of the Internet. Fast forward to today, the internet evolution has propelled Kenyans to the edges of a knowledge society and empowered them in profound ways in how they relate and conduct business. The turning points in this evolution has always revealed passionate individuals out over the stumbling blocks ahead, whether they were of a regulatory nature or the suffering of their fellow citizens caused by lack of services especially as we have seen with the #KoT (Kenyans on Twitter) who have been a force of change. This combination has been instrumental in

disrupting business processes and technologies that did not address societal needs, thereby releasing the power of innovation. On the hindsight, with the evolution of the digital enterprise, this has presented significant challenges of the day, including new competition, changing customer engagement and business models, unprecedented transparency, privacy concerns, and cybersecurity threats.

According to a recent report by Serianu, Kenya's economy lost more than Ksh. 29.5 billion from cyber-attacks in 2018. The Communications Authority of Kenya further reported that Cyber threats rose over 10% in the first quarter of 2019. The National Cybersecurity Centre in the period 2018-2019 detected 51.9 million threats as compared to 2017-2018 where 22.1 million threats were recorded. Cybercriminals know that the best time to turn a phish into a catch is when life gets overwhelming. For example, now they see COVID-19 as a gold mine - in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the volume of fraudulent emails and text messages spiked by more than 667%. And as long as COVID sticks around, scammers will try to use it to their maximum advantage. This then makes cybersecurity a very pertinent issue not only in Kenya but worldwide.

Despite being governed by various provisions of the law including Article 31 of the constitution of Kenya 2010, the Kenya



Communication Act No.2 of 1998, the Computer Misuse and Cyber Crimes Act No.5 of 2018 and the Data Protection Act No.24 of 2019, we still have a long way to go, given the scanty local judicial pronouncements on the various breaches of cybercrimes. With the month of October being the Cybersecurity Awareness Month where collaborative effort among businesses, government agencies, colleges and universities, associations, non-profit organizations and individuals commit to doing their part by implementing stronger security practices, raising community awareness, educating vulnerable audiences or training employees in order to ensure a more safer and more resilient interconnected world.

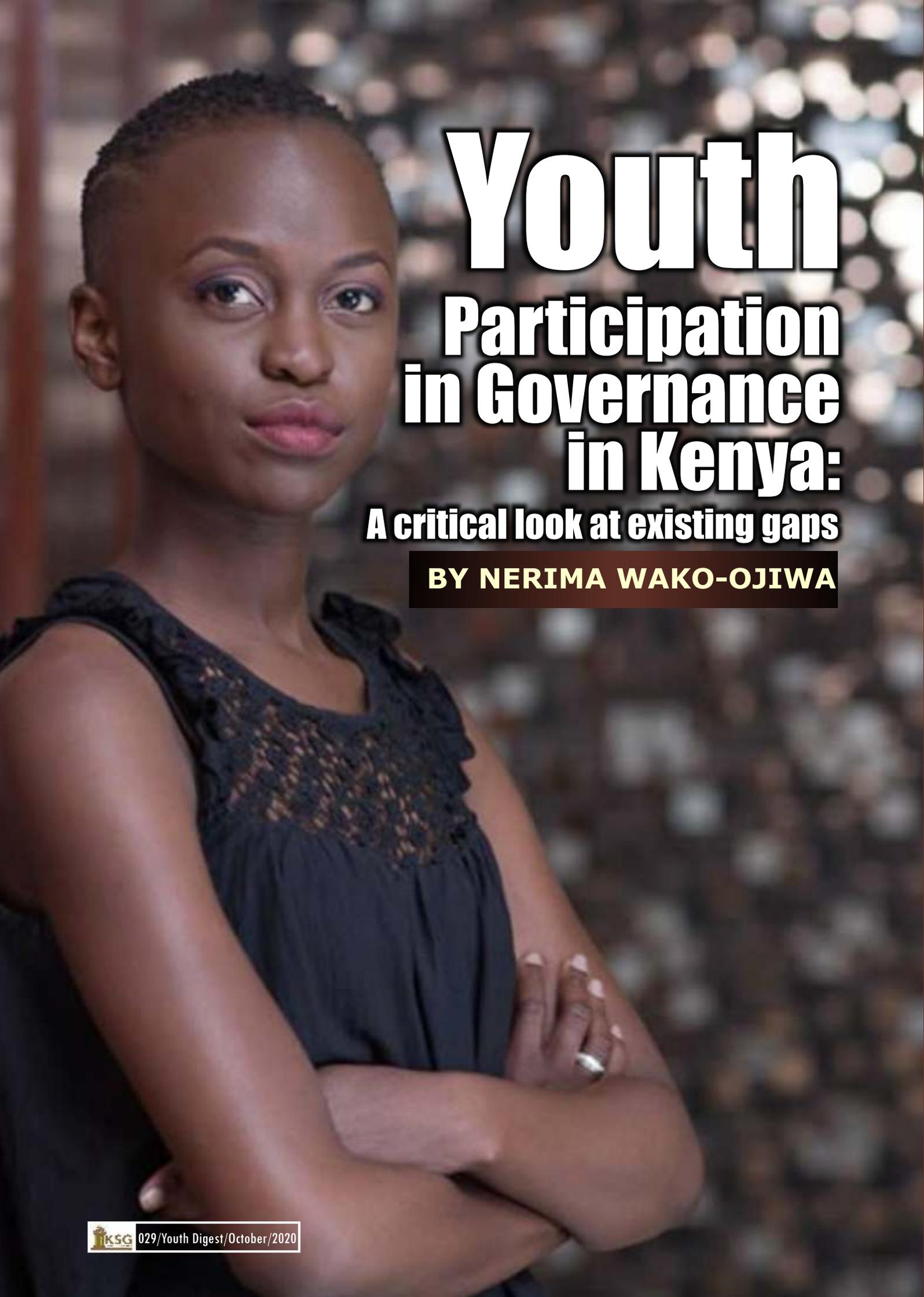
Increasing cyberattacks in the country can be attributed to vulnerable systems and lax cybersecurity practices. Additionally, cybersecurity is considered as a luxury, not a necessity not only in the country but also in the continent. Its importance has not yet been sufficiently appreciated or acknowledged in the continent. Cybersecurity budgets in many organizations are reported to be less than 1% and many organizations continue to have a zero-budget allocated to cybersecurity.

With Kenya being a youthful country (out of 47.6 million Kenyans, 35.7 million are under the age of 35), and approximately 800,000 young Kenyans entering the labour market

every year, cybersecurity can contribute immensely to the creation of quality employment opportunities for Kenyan citizens. One of the gaps that exists is the lack of skills among Internet users in Kenya to protect themselves from rapidly rising cyber-threats. Just like in other developing countries, many African Internet users are inexperienced and not technically savvy. A high proportion of them are getting computers and connecting to the Internet for the first time. Additionally, the continent faces a severe shortage of cybersecurity manpower and it is estimated that Africa will have a shortage of 100,000 cybersecurity personnel by 2020.

In conclusion, as a cybersecurity champion, my rallying call to the youth is to 'Do Your Part - #BeCyberSmart' because keeping the digital world secure requires all of us to be proactive and diligent.

BY: EDWARD KIPKALIA
#BeCyberSmart



Youth Participation in Governance in Kenya:

A critical look at existing gaps

BY NERIMA WAKO-OJIWA

Oftentimes when we think about governance concerning young people; we quickly jump to leaders that we consider youth or youthful in government, and these individuals are frequently politicians. Governance, however, is a lot more than politicking, there are multiple functions in the running of a nation. In Kenya for example, youth in governance is inclusive of those who work for the national government's ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) including those in disciplined forces. Kenya has an estimated 700,000 strong work-force in public service.

The recent developments due to the COVID - 19 pandemic demonstrated just how devastating and glaring statistics of youth participation and youth representation in Kenya is minimal. On 16th July 2020, in the Star Newspaper, it was reported, the Ministry of ICT, Innovation, and Youth Affairs headquarters was shut down for 10 days after one employee died of COVID - 19 related complications.

This was not unheard of, for companies to shut down in both the public or private sectors. But what was eye-opening is the fact that the Public Service Commission(PSC) says 35% of the national government employees are aged between 51 and 60 years. Statistically, this is the age group deemed highly vulnerable to the virus. The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the truth on how only a few young people work for the government. Truth is, Kenya's civil service is an aging one with a paltry 17.4% of them being youth.

Out of the 17.4% youth comprising Kenya's civil service, only 0.03 percent occupy senior positions. Given, Kenya's constitution is one of the most progressive in the world, - we even have a youth-specific article. We also have affirmative action clauses contained in the constitution, but not fully or well implemented. COVID-19 allowed us to see the gaps in the country's governance. Especially, when work from home was nearly impossible because most of the government's systems are still old-fashioned and a big chunk of its workforce are not tech-savvy.

Away from government institutions, the constitution gives the people direct power in the management of public affairs through processes such as public participation. In these processes, young people are often the minority or hardly engaged meaningfully. Communication with young people is wanting, leaving them with minimal understanding of their responsibility to participate. Also, intentional maneuvers by political leaders to omit certain engagements, lack of resources for public participation, limited information when it comes to the times the meetings occur, further reduce youth engagement in critical decisions concerning their future.

The youth should spearhead initiatives that provide solutions to problems of the future because let's face it, "we are dealing with new challenges in many aspects." A recent pandemic was one of them, and the utilization of technology had government officials engaging in national high-level meetings virtually for the very first time. For years, the Public Service Commission has not recruited youth even when 75% of Kenyans are age 34 years and below. That is an area that they are grappling with. And it will be a challenge for years to come, considering that our population continues to be young. Also, young people in Kenya hardly view public service as an opportunity for employment, when governance can be a major opportunity for the many educated youths languishing in unemployment.

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Fact Box **Did you know?**

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 defines "youth" as 'the collectivity of all individuals' in the Republic who
(a) have attained the age of eighteen years; but
(b) have not attained the age of thirty-five years.

1. Article 260 (q) CoK, 2010



KENYA'S BLOSSOMING YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

Every generation has an assignment and that assignment often presents itself as a challenge. For the present generation of Africa's youth, the most pressing challenge is unemployment. This challenge exists amidst the best-educated and globally connected generation the Continent has ever had, with Sub-Sahara literacy rates (15-24 years) at 75.4% according to the UNESCO 2017 Institute of Statistics Fact Sheet and 94.4% in Kenya according to the 2015/2016 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey Report.

This generation of young Africans is blossoming in a continent where they are free to explore the just signed African Continental Free Trade Area-AfCFTA; an African market of 1.2 Billion people (projected to reach 2.5 billion people by 2050), with a current joint Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2.5 trillion dollars. More so, Africa is a fast-growing market offering enormous opportunities and brimming with potential for more. According to the Africa Development Bank, consumer spending in Africa will double to \$1.4 Trillion by 2020, treble to \$2.1 Trillion by 2025. By 2030 food demand in Africa's urban areas will treble to

\$1 Trillion and an additional 2 billion people will need food and clothing by 2030.

It is upon this premise that youth-led job creation is quickly gaining ground as a sustainable solution to bridging the disequilibrium between the supply and demand of labor in Kenya. A study by Aga Khan University revealed that even though unemployment was a major concern among the youth, the majority (48%) preferred to go into business. The same study further revealed that the young Kenyan is optimistic about the future with 77% of them believed that Kenya will be richer materially and 67% convinced that society would reward merit and hard work. It is therefore not surprising that micro-enterprises where most youth-owned enterprises fall create 83% of the jobs in the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector, the sector that employs over fourteen million (14,000,000) Kenyans.

Leveraging modern technology could further spin-off industrial transformation in Kenya. According to Kenya's Industrial Transformation Programme, revitalizing our industrial sector and transforming Kenya

into an industrial hub is vital to realize sustainable employment creation particularly through the growth of domestic companies.

The President has time and again acknowledged the role of the youth and micro, small and medium enterprises as the engine of national growth. The government's commitment to an inclusive model of growth that will create one million new jobs in the near future. On top of that, it has poised to double the number of manufacturing jobs which could see a rise in purchasing power in a country full of great abundance in both natural and human resources.

A country that develops innovative solutions for both regional and global markets while maintaining its rich heritage of cultural and environmental diversity; A country that excels in both academia and research propelled by an enabling futuristic policy environment that ensures socio-economic prosperity for both present and future generations.

With high literacy levels, human capital, a growing consumer market, and technological development, this is, therefore, the generation with the potential to transform Kenya-and Africa by extension, from the century-old raw unprocessed materials market, into a thriving industrious, sustainable and inclusive globally competitive economy.

This is the new thinking of Africa's budding generation of business leaders-a generation that is re-positioning the continent through

innovation and an insatiable hunger for progress and prosperity. Indeed, it is the dawning of the new Continent as African innovation continues to grab headlines across the globe, and swiftly becomes home to the world's fastest-growing economies.

It is therefore imperative that adequate investment be made into the creation of a supportive and enabling environment for the next generation of Africa's budding business leaders, popularly known as Innovators or Startups. Startups in other parts of the world have been lauded for their contribution to employment creation.

BY: WAITHERA GAI THO
YOUTH AND WOMEN ENTERPRISE EXPERT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALTERNATIVES AFRICA

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL
"Sauti Ya Vijana"
Our Vision
To be the premier institution championing youth empowerment, skills and education for National Economic and Social Development.

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

NYC OPPORTUNITIES
"Sauti Ya Vijana"

The National Youth Council is a state corporation domiciled in the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs which came into being after the enactment of National Youth Policy (NYP) (2007) and the National Youth Council (NYC) Act (2008).

Engage with Us

- NYC_YouthVoice
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- Youth Council Tv

Our Available Opportunities

- NYC CREATIVE CHALLENGE- CYCLE 2 "APP CREATION"**
An NYC mobile-app will create an online platform for youth to direct voice and be heard on all youth matters. This will be an interactive platform for all Kenyan youth to participate and engage.
<http://nyc.nyanza.ac.ke/nyc-app-creation/>
- FURSA MASHINANI**
Continues youth engagement in the counties. Youth are encouraged to continuously share innovative ideas. Existing book-ups await you from business coaching, bank loans to cash grants.
<https://kenya.gov.ke/app/mashinani/>
- EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAM**
Cross proliferation of ideas and skills! Build your experience portfolio for productive employment.
<https://nyc.nyanza.ac.ke/ep-program/>
- GREENING KENYA PROGRAM**
Youth implementing presidential directive to attain 10% forest cover and attain food security through value addition.
<https://nyc.nyanza.ac.ke/nycp-kenya/>

www.nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke

State of Youth Sector in Kenya

BY RAPHAEL OBONYO



With over 75 percent of Kenya's population under the age of 35, the country has a large youth population that presents immense growth potential. Moreover, it depends on how we look at the large youth population; is it a glass half full or half empty. We should not look at the number of young people as a challenge or a problem to be managed.

With the largest youth population in history, the country has the greatest opportunity in history, because, with each young person, we have new ideas and new energy. We have a common responsibility to review the place of young people in the country by putting in place practical actions to improve their position and condition.

Since independence, the Kenyan youth population has suffered a myriad of problems despite its huge proportion to the total population. This large proportion has over the years not been reflected in the social and economic structure of the nation. They occupy the lowest echelons of the hierarchy and suffer serious exclusion.

Successive governments have failed to create sound policies to improve the condition of youth in the country.

The group remains in appalling conditions. It's also the reason most of them are victims of unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, and are political under-representation. Today, seven out of every ten jobless people in Kenya are youth. It is most unfortunate that Kenyan youths are still waiting for the government to afford them the necessary platforms for enhancing essential economic and social development skills.

The country enacted a very progressive constitution in August 2010. Forming Kenya's biggest voting bloc, the youth overwhelmingly endorsed the document in a historic referendum that year. It was a clear indication that passing the new constitution was more than an ordinary voting process. It marked a new dawn in promoting the dignity and fundamental human rights of all Kenyans.

For example, the new Constitution under Article 55 provides that; "The State shall take measures, including affirmative action to ensure that the youth have access to relevant education and training; are accorded an opportunity to be represented and participate in political, social, and other spheres of life; have access to employment and are protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation."

To realize the aspirations envisioned under the Constitution, the State is supposed to create an enabling environment and formulate effective policies that will support the implementation and sustainability of youth initiatives.

But the new constitution is not a panacea for youth development. Although the country has seen a raft of fundamental reforms since the promulgation of the Constitution, there is still a lot that needs to be done to protect and realize the full gains created by that document.

Also, over seven years ago, the country mooted the idea of a National Youth Council (NYC) anchored in the National Youth Council Act 2009. The drafters of the law intended to create formal mechanisms and structures to remedy the lack of proper engagement, which youth blames for their low participation in all the national matters. Strengthening the administration of youth programs through meaningful participation at all levels was supposed to encourage robust, youth-oriented policies.

Looking at NYC's performance, the organization inevitably needs strengthening to create a safety valve that will see more youth get representation in all spheres, including governance. There can be no doubt that a revitalized NYC will also allow the youth meaningful economic participation.

Another important development in the country is the review of youth policy. After five years of waiting, the country has finally given birth to the Kenya Youth Development Policy. As implementation begins, we expect it to transform the lives of our young people for generations to come. The policy forms a credible guide and reference tool for effective development and implementation of youth empowerment and development interventions in Kenya, in line with the Constitution and development goals at the county, national and international levels.

The policy is an expression of mutual understanding among concerned stakeholders. It seeks to harness and optimize immense strength and opportunities the youth in Kenya harbor, which they have failed to tap as they navigate difficult, personal, and structural barriers.

The framework offers an unclouded mechanism of implementation and coordination at national, county, and sub-county levels, down to youth at the grass roots— a component that has been missing in the past.

The new policy emphasizes the need for strong partnership and coordination among different actors including, government at both county and national levels, non-governmental organizations, youth-serving organizations, private sector, development partners, and others.

Although we've had some mechanisms for the coordination of youth interventions in the country, meaningful collaboration and engagement among stakeholders and mainstreaming of youth affairs in all the sectors of the economy remain elusive. The two missing links have negatively affected government-sponsored youth empowerment programs.

Young people's social, economic, and political rights cannot be met entirely by youth empowerment strategies. Youth mainstreamed policies complement the focus of discrete youth policies managed by the youth.

It gives forth a proactive youth sector, with effective, results-based management and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that influence national and sub-national planning. The country needs to create an independent Ministry for Youth Affairs to improve the welfare of the youth, since integrating their affairs in various ministries has not worked out well. Also, now is the time for meaningful collaborations and engagements among stakeholders plus mainstreaming of youth affairs in all the sectors of the economy is now.

In 2016, the Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Sicily Kariuki, appointed a Youth Sector Working Group (YSWG) drawn from the National and County Governments, private sector, youth organizations, philanthropists, and development partners. The platform was constituted to provide a framework for the coordination of the numerous youth employment initiatives at both the National and County level. The constitution of the Youth Sector Working Group was to work together towards a common goal of the youth agenda.

Noteworthy, YSWG worked together to finalize the Youth Empowerment Strategy and facilitate wider public engagement on the National Youth policy review process. Thanks to that process, we now have a widely-acceptable Youth Policy that prioritizes the concerns of the youth while aligning itself to the constitution and the sustainable development goals.

Make no mistake. Young people are critical to the success of development plans in Kenya - the success is contingent on how youth are engaged, organized, and coordinated.

Assessments show if well-organized, youth can change and shape Kenya's socio-economic and political processes. If the youth can be made to believe that they can dictate their destiny, the country could embark on a trajectory towards good governance.

For example, Kenyans aged between 15 and 34 years form about 36 percent of the total population, where 80 percent of them are under 34 years. Out of the 14 million registered party members in Kenya, a paltry 27 percent constitute the youth.

The Youth Congress, a local NGO that mobilizes and supports young people in marginalized areas, launched "Youth Leagues" in each of the 47 counties. These are essential platforms to rally and inform young people on active participation in political processes.

We need to see non-state actors, especially the development partners and civil society, supporting more of these initiatives to prevent ill-intended political infiltrations.

As former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan once said, "Any society that does not succeed in tapping into the energy and creativity of its youth will be left behind." Indeed, young people have a vital role in the country's progress and must be well organized, coordinated, and engaged for Kenya to progress.

Mr. Raphael Obonyo is the author of Conversations about the youth in Kenya. Email:raphojuma@hotmail.com

Youth & Environment

Plant a tree today,
for a shade tomorrow

BY: SOINA ANITA



Youth are the leaders of today! In conservation, we are often told, "we are doing it for the next generation." But I refuse to go that way. We are doing for our present and that of the next generation. Why our present? According to a March 2019 article by the UN, we are 11 years away from preventing irreversible damage from climate change. That is ten years from this year, 2020. For example, I will be 30 in ten years! I'll still qualify as a youth.

We all agree that young people are known to have lots of ideas and are more optimistic about change. They also tend to embrace change. Young people have proved to be genuine and aggressive when it comes to implementing and challenging environmental policies.

We're likely to achieve more if we invite more youths into the environmental conservation dialogue. The question is how? I'd suggest Environment entrepreneurship. It's easy to educate a young person to make money out of conservation than telling them to support a cause as volunteers. However, those already participating often complain about government entities taking tenders meant for the youths! Suffice to say it is the reason many young people, especially those in business, are cold to conversations about conserving the environment. It is unfair for young people to own tree nurseries, for example, and lack the market for their trees. It's often because a government institution grabbed their opportunities in the name of "we will deliver 100%," when youths can also deliver.

Youths are more aggressive and are always genuine and sincere when demanding change in climate change policies. We are the same people who are always ready to be the change the world is yearning for! We know what it feels to see our parents, friends, neighbors, and relatives back in the village unable to produce food. And it's not because "God has not provided sufficient rain" but because we humans have damaged the earth. Not because it didn't rain when we expected but because the change in weather patterns is a result of Climate Change.

Many times youths are locked out of essential Environment conservation dialogue.



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