



**JIACTIVATE REPORT
COUNTY EDITION**

*The voices of the
youth*

SIAYA | BUSIA | KISUMU

SP

**siasa
PLACE**

We the people...inventing the future

Siaya County

Siaya County boasts of the brilliant minds that come from the county such as James Orendo, Otiende Amollo, Barack Obama's father, etc. They truly believe that the people from their area are well educated and they are proud.

However, youth of the county feel voiceless - in fact one of the attendees mentioned that he himself is not a youth, but these things "young people need to be guided" The representatives are not within the youth bracket and they somehow feel that it is accepted. That they actually wait to turn of age, which is above 35 years of age to reach for leadership.

Some of the major issues that they outlined were high teenage pregnancies and new cases of HIV. Speaking with Impact Research, which is a Sexual Reproductive Health organization who focuses on the ages of 15- 24 year olds, they mention that there is indeed a rise of infections. Another issue that arose was unemployment and lack of opportunity for the youth - they lack the resources to even start up businesses. And they seemed to feel that their county is too political, people in leadership belong to different sides and certain families have better chances to opportunity than others.

The issues;

1. Unemployment

- The few employment opportunities at the county are given based on either nepotism or who can give the highest bribe.
- The technical training institutions are underfunded, lack teachers and training materials.
- The ECDE have been constructed but the county failed to employ the teachers.
- Youth are not aware of youth money given by the government.

2. Food security

- The food produced cannot sustain the region until the next harvest.

- Residents routinely farm maize and beans on the same farm hence affecting yield

3. Diseases

- Most of the youth are infected with HIV/ AIDS
- The youth are lured into sex to meet their basic needs like buying sanitary pads.
- Some women are asking their daughters to bring home food items like sugar despite being jobless

4. School dropouts

- Many teenage girls drop out due to pregnancy and lack of school fees.
- The boda boda riders are claimed to be the people responsible for most of the teenage pregnancies.

5. Poor leadership

- Youth are not included in decision-making.
- Youth are getting into alcohol and drug abuse for lack of alternative means of survival.

6. Corruption

- Jobs are given to relatives of politicians or to highest bidding bribers.
- Bursaries are allocated to relatives of the politicians while people deserving are marginalized.

Recommendations;

- Create modern youth centres, which promote talent and entrepreneurship.
- County to allocate enough resources to technical training institutions, employ teachers.
- Employ the ECDE teachers.
- Government to invest in educating the youth on the available funds, which can help youth start business.
- County to allocate more resources to cultivate the available farms.



- The county needs to educate locals on other options to boost yields.
- Need for civic education targeting both the boda boda riders and schools.
- Need for establishment for youth centres to promote both talent and entrepreneurship.

Busia County

The meeting in Busia was well represented by county representatives who took their time to engage youth. The main issues in the county were corruption, unemployment, and lack of good will in leadership, political sycophancy and insecurity.

The youth felt that the only way to be rewarded by county is by being involved in the election campaigns. Most youth who were active in their parties managed to secure a county job. Additionally, politicians have placed relatives in influential positions, stories of being put in the county office with absolutely no experience, and family members of politicians have occupied major seats and boards.

There was a participant who stood to complain about the construction of roads, how without consent from the community, trees were destroyed, gates and even latrines. To where one of the residents had to walk in human waste the day before to get out of his household.

When the county representatives asked which ward the participant was from, the audience encouraged him not to share that information. They were worried that his life may be in danger for spreading such information.

If an individual is to complain, they are viewed as a mole. The sycophancy is so high that sensible conversations about matters are difficult to have with youth. They have picked sides and will do anything to support their leadership. There are very few youth who take part in the county public participation. Several of them were unaware of their constitutional rights.

The issues;

1. Corruption

- Only people who either campaigned for the current regime or their relatives are considered for tenders, board appointment and job opportunities within the county.
- Politicians mostly give jobs to their relatives, sycophants or selling the available positions hence majority of the youths are left outside
- Youth resort to theft hence the insecurity within the county.
- Youth are not aware of the youth funds

2. Poverty

- Transition from Primary to secondary is very low because parents are not able to pay for secondary school fee.
- Most of the youths do not have

employability skills because they lack required skills for the job market

3. Disconnect from leaders

- The youth are not involved in the activities of the county
- The youth could not even identify the county official's in charge of the youth affairs.
- Youth seem to have lost hope with the county claiming nothing is possible

4. Insecurity and youth victimization

- Political leadership work with a few sycophants (youth) who are always given handouts.
- Youth who oppose handouts are victimized, frustrated, assaulted and others threaten with death.
- A lady claimed that she was asked to go and seek job from the people she supported during the election.
- People who were sharing their complaint refused to disclose their identity for fear of victimization by the agents of the current County government.

5. Lack of public participation

- The county demolished houses, felt down trees without informing the people who were affected
- Nobody in the meeting knew how much was the County budget or what the county was doing in youth development.
- Only 3 youths out of 100 indicated to have attended budget hearing.
- The budget document is given on the same date of participation and therefore youth are not able to scrutinize the details.

Recommendations;

- Build youth centres and promote talent.
- Come up with education framework for the youth funds to help youth understand how they can benefit from the funds.
- Promote agribusiness among the youth because there is market for the produce.
- County to invest in the technical training

institution to help the youth have employability skills.

- Need for establishment of an engagement framework between the county leadership and the youth.
- Youth to use the various groups to establish an engagement platform with the county.

Kisumu County

The issues

1. Bursary allocation Government appointment

- Very needy students from poor families are not considered while student from able families are considered.

2. Government appointments

- Youth have not been considered for the appointments in the current county government.

3. Unemployment

- Youth do not have the required skills in the job market
- Some youth were helped to secure job in a supermarket but left
- Some of the youth don't want to work they left jobs that were offered to the people with qualification but very limited chances to accommodate them.
- People at the county government either give available chances to their relatives or selling available chances for employment.
- Employers are asking for much more experience that most youth don't have.

4. Insecurity and alcoholism

- Youth attacking people to get money for alcohol
- Sachet alcohol is killing most youths and destroying families
- Most of the people using the sachet alcohol cannot work
- School going children are introduced into alcohol

5. Early pregnancy

- Clinics procure abortion for the school going children
- The boda boda people are accused for being responsible for the most of the early pregnancy cases

6. Lack of information

- The information from the county government hardly reaches the youths.
- Decisions affecting youths are made without involving them

Recommendations

- Make the bursary allocation process more open and the residents should vet beneficiaries.
- Open and finance talent centres as source of employment for youth.
- Educate the youth on government funds like youth and women fund respectively.

- Promote technical skills training among the youth and help them understand the importance.
- Allocate resources for supporting the sporting activities within the county.
- Diversify sports by supporting more than soccer
- Encourage a human centred approach towards policing so that people can work with security agencies on local level.
- County needs to make a law controlling alcohol sale and look carefully sachet alcohol.
- Provide comprehensive sex education to the adolescent.
- Bursary should target the most vulnerable to avoid being taken advantage of.
- County needs to invest in public education.
- The county government needs to improve the resource centres.





E: support@siasalpace.com
www.siasalpace.com