



**JIACTIVATE
REPORT COUNTY
EDITION**

*The voices of the
youth*



**siasa
PLACE**

We the people...inventing the future

Makueni County

8th February 2018

Raising awareness among young people on the need to be always vigilant all the time in as far as political, social and economic issues touching on their lives and managed on their behalf by politicians is concerned.

It is common knowledge that politicians in Kenya and the larger third world countries can never be trusted to manage political, social and economic affairs effectively without watchdog groups, hence the need to stimulate young people to be on the guard at all times in so far as their interests (which may not necessarily be the interests of the political class) is concerned.

The young people were divided into 3 main groups, in which we asked them to share/write down key issues of concern to them in relation to the challenges they experience in Makueni County, as well as recommend possible solutions.

The groups were divided as follows:

- **Real Makueni,**
- **Current Makueni**
- **Ideal Makueni**

Real Makueni, the group members identified the following:

Negatives:

- They cited lack of educational institutions in the county,
- Lack of adequate water supply,
- Lack of affordable living standards,
- Obstacles in employment opportunities which hindered them from getting employed by the county government,
- Lack of equity in award of tender allocation to the youth and women as clearly spelt out by law,
- Rampant corruption,
- Unfinished infrastructural projects,
- Rampant insecurity.

Suggested Solutions:

- Increased investments in education and educational institutions in the county,
- Proper well organized water and sewerage supply systems
- Removal of obstacles in employment opportunities,
- Increased county security personnel to curb increased cases of insecurity,
- Full Implementation of affirmative action to protect the youth and other vulnerable groups in the award of tenders,
- Proper mechanisms of reporting and dealing with corrupt county officials.

Under current Makueni, the following observations were made:

Negatives:

- Rampant unemployment,
- Increase levels of social ills among the youth e.g. drug and substance abuse,
- Rampant corruption in county offices,
- Lack of efficiency in county service delivery
- Extreme dry climate in Makueni county that hindered practice of agricultural activity

Suggested solutions:

- Laying out of proper frameworks by county government by heavy investment in agricultural infrastructure so as to enable practice of agriculture in the hot and dry climate,
- Ensure increase in the number of security personnel to counter increased levels of insecurity,
- Ensure employment of more youth to provide cleaning services to the county, so as to improve on general levels of county cleanliness,
- The youth noted that Makueni county people were the most generous and hospitable people and hence need for increased investments in hospitality related institutions and colleges,

Kajiado County

12th February 2018

- They also noted that Makueni county was the leading county nationally in terms of implementation of devolution as such, ought to be recognized and appreciated,

Under ideal Makueni, the following observations were made

Desirables:

- Sufficient and adequate water supply,
- Need for corrupt free Makueni,
- Need for Food Secure Makueni,
- Need for improved youth sensitization activities such as the one undertaken by both Siasa Place and Ji Activate teams,
- Need to ensure adequate job opportunities for Makueni youth,
- Need for proper strategic plan for development (fully funded by the county government),
- Need for improved county infrastructure,



The occasion was also graced by the area MCA and chair of the committee of youth and sports – Kajiado county Hon. Ole Nkusi who shared the roles of the county government of oversight, legislation and implementation.

During the activation exercise, the youth of Kajiado identified a number of concerns that according to them were negatively affecting public service delivery from state actors both at county and national levels which included:

Identified Challenges:

- Rampant corruption
- Lack of social amenities
- Open bias in employment opportunities
- Lack of fully stocked and functional health facilities
- Lack of proper roads
- Lack of properly coordinated waste disposal system
- Serious hurdles in accessing youth funds
- The high cost of living
- Increased levels of poverty
- Increased levels of drug and substance abuse among the youth
- Lack of information and resource centers.

After highlighting the challenges faced by young people in the county, the youth were divided into groups that deliberated on possible solutions to the challenges faced:

Possible Solutions Suggested:

- Establishment of Youth resource and an information centres for purposes of empowering the youth with relevant information on matters of interest to them,
- Establishment of proper and reliable systems of relaying information and shaming individuals involved in and perpetrating corruption activities while at the same time protecting the whistle blowers

- Streamlining employment systems and making it more open and transparent, (including but not limited to publishing the list of individuals employed as well as the criteria used in employing them and not others)
- Establishment of proper waste disposal systems that would not only serve the purpose of waste disposal, but also create numerous employment opportunities to young people in waste management exercises
- Construction of proper functional health institutions and centers to handle any health related concerns from the residents
- Streamlining and establishing more transparency in bodies charged with issuing loans and tenders to the youth, so as to protect young people from exploitation and discrimination
- Ensure proper agitation, protection and implementation of Affirmative action to the youth and vulnerable groups to ensure equity in service delivery
- Ensure increased agitation to the country roads and infrastructure department, to ensure increased road and related infrastructure construction
- Agitate for increased employment of young people by the county security docket to provide security related services so as to curb the rising cases of insecurity in the county
- To agitate and petition the county government to step in and counter the high cost of living by coming up with initiatives aimed at minimizing the high cost of living
- Agitate for construction of social amenities such as sports and cultural facilities so as to nurture youth talent for political, social and economic activities.

Nyeri County

19th February 2018

Invited youth from various groups gathered at the Kenya Red Cross grounds in Nyeri on 19th February early morning, geared up and excited to learn about public participation. The youth of Nyeri are full of zeal and enthusiasm ready to answer questions that were hurled their way. Grayson Marwa made a presentation in the opening session and asked the audience if any of them were trained and unemployed. A few raised their hands while a majority of those present were university students.

As we went into gathering their thoughts on the election, it was interesting to see that a number of them shared that they would not vote again. They thought that the election was a miserable and draining process. As one participant responded, "what is the point of standing long hours to go and vote and the decision has already been made for you?" Grayson also asked whether any of them belonged to any political party, interestingly out of 100 youth in the room - none raised their hand.

Hon Julia Wanjiku, nominated MCA attended the event speaking about how she began as a personal assistant to the area MP and learnt about politics and now at 28 is serving in the locality that she cares for. Then we had Steve Nderi who ran for an elective seat in 2017 and hopes in the future to vie again, specifically Senate. Both shared inspiring stories on how they worked hard to reach where they have and youth should not limit you. In fact Steve said, "youth is not about age but a state of mind. You can be physically young but have the mentality of a mature person" and that is what is important.

The youth were broken up into groups to discuss some of the issues in their county.

There was a bit of a tussle when it came to agreeing what the main issues in the county were. Some mentioned that they believe that their roads need to be improved; there is a lack of infrastructure. While others chimed that there is a lack of leadership in the county.

Summary of Issues:

This report summarizes the issues from the Jiactivate Dialogues held in the five counties. Our Session "Jua County Yako" focuses on imparting knowledge to the PEOPLE on their Rights, Roles, Duties and Responsibilities to make them active citizens and have meaningful participation. In the session, we focus on Devolution and how they can take part in decision-making and governance issues. It also provides an opportunity for the PEOPLE to speak about their issues once they know about their rights and available opportunities as enshrined in the Constitution.

Key Issues Per County

- **MACHAKOS**
 - Exclusion from key Government activities
 - Lack of adequate water supply,
 - Obstacles in employment opportunities which hindered them from getting employed by the county government,
 - Talents are not nurtured
- **MAKUENI**
 - Lack of affordable living standards,
 - Inequality in distribution of resources
 - Insecurity
 - Unfinished infrastructural projects
- **KAJIADO**
 - Animal - Human Conflict
 - Water shortage
 - Lack of adequate tertiary institutions
 - Corruption
 - Lack of social amenities
- **MURANGA**
 - Health issues - lack of access (financial and structural)
 - Youth fund access and sensitization
 - Communication gap between the youth

- and the leaders
- Lack of access to leaders/leadership
- Waste Management
- Drugs and substance abuse

- **NYERI**

- Unemployment
- Locals lack communication with their leaders
- Nurturing of talents
- Promotion of agriculture
- Environmental degradation

Proposed Solution (Per County)

- **MACHAKOS**

- Youth wanted the County Government to involve them in the activities and projects run by the County.
- County to work to ensure availability of adequate water for the residents of Machakos
- Free and fair processes during job opportunities or job hiring
- Creation of talent nurturing centres

- **MAKUENI**

- Measures to make living standards affordable
- Equitable distribution of resources
- County to work to improve security
- County to complete started project

- **KAJIADO**

- KWS and County to work together and tame wild animals from residential areas
- Build dams to get water to the people
- Create tertiary institutions especially vocational training
- Improve on existing social amenities

- **NYERI**

- Creating job opportunities for the Youth
- Improve leaders accessibility to the youth
- Creation of talent centers to nurture talents

- **MURANGA**

- Come up with rehabilitation centers and guidance and counseling centres
- Proper waste management
- Accessibility of their leaders
- Creation of job opportunities for the Youth
- Access to government funds



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