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PLACE

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Siasa Talks Report

Kiambu County





Siasa Talks - Kiambu

13th October 2018

Program Overview

'Siasa Talks' are forums that are open, diverse and inclusive forums bringing youth and the public together to discuss everyday issues that affect them and to unpack how these issues are politically related. It's a forum where we educate people on constitutional provisions, such as their right to engage in governance issues and why it is important for them to not shy away from Political participation- but in fact to throw themselves into it. Only through citizen participation can we start to hold our leaders to account and strengthen devolution. For devolution to work the people must be involved in the decision-making and oversight functions.

Public Participation

- Kiambu youth understand the structure of the county government but not specific individuals heading the offices in the county government.
- MCA is the person the people talk to because they are available / easily accessible. In the event of a broken bridge (for example) the MCA is the best placed person to advise on when the bridge can be fixed and how much money will be allocated.
- There was good understanding of Public participation as giving views on key projects.

What is Politics?

Responses:

- Fighting/Violence
- A dirty game
- Field where people engage in representing the people and government of the nation

Do you think Politics affects our daily life? (As a young person)

- Tax and Revenue, where most basic commodities are highly priced.
- Politics causes divisions because politicians incite people against each other
- Bad policies
- Tribalism, nepotism and bad ideologies

- Allocation of resources, health care, loans
- Inclusivity - When making appointments
- Inflation, Violence, Division

How many voted in 2017?

50/52 Voted in 2017 General Election, two of the participants did not because they had not attained the voting age.

Why did they vote again on 26th October?

- To make sure the election was done well.
- For peace. There was tension so one person had to be voted in.

How many will not vote in 2022? And why?

(5 out of the 52 Participants said they'd not vote again in 2022 and gave their reasons.)

- One mentioned, that they wasted time, woke up early but their votes did not count. They will not vote because they have not benefited in any way specifically from CDF funds. They had qualified for it but have never received the money till today.
- One mentioned that they will not vote because of the dirty nature of politics and the lies.
- One also mentioned that they will not vote because bad people got into office.
- Another reason is the run-away corruption in the Governments today.

What is Public Participation?

- The public taking part in decision making
- People being given a chance to consult, communicate and collaborate with leaders
- 7 Participants have attended Public Participation forums before.

Problems affecting Kiambu County Youth

- Job opportunities
- Poor Education standards
- Drug abuse
- Poor leadership

Group work session

Main Problem - Drug abuse

Group 1

Alternatives - Create awareness and link up with National Agency for the Campaign against Drug Abuse (Kenya).

Decision – Rehabilitation for the addicts.

Group 2

Drug abuse is a major problem in Kiambu County. It affects productivity because we cannot employ young people who aren't sober.

Challenges youth face in public participation

- Information barrier
- Time
- Lack of Information
- How and Where to participate
- Process of participation
- Youth don't have a voice as certain elders set the agenda
- Ignorance - Don't care attitude towards youth participation
- Lack of allowance
- Some individuals dominating the event
- Public views aren't incorporation or consideration
- Ignorance
- Public participation is viewed as political and not need based
- Political jargon - Monopoly of information with the elites. This information isn't broken down in a way that everyone understands
- Views not considered
- Not aware of the importance of Public participation
- Fear of the unknown - very suspicious and fear of being arrested
- Language barrier - Not everyone speaks mother tongue and meetings are conducted in mother tongue.
- Leaders are unavailable when invited to public participation meetings

Other Notes

- Kiambu county youth know how the county government works but they don't know how to make the county government work for them.

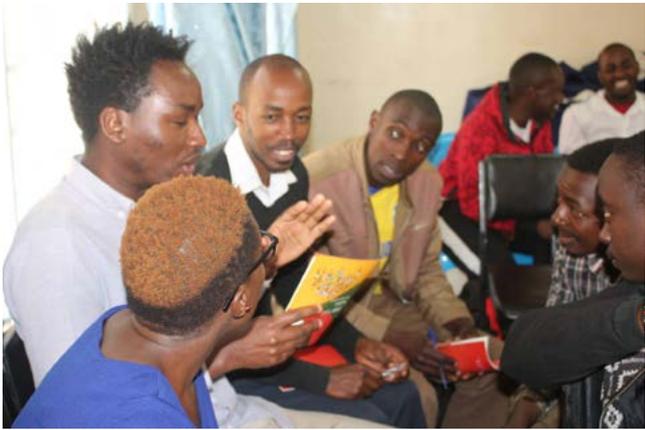
Key Issues

- The Kiambu Youth agreed to come up with a structure on how they will address the issue of Unemployment among the Youth using an already existing platform (Jijenge Fund)
- The team agreed to research and find out more information on the Jijenge fund and see how they can be involved in the Board or the selection panel.
- The group is already going through the Jijenge act to identify gaps that exist and how they can improve on it to have more Youth benefiting from it.

Comments

The training was great since it was in the Morning and the turnout was 100% with majority of the Youth being from the rural areas of the County. Good social media presence and interactions.

Gallery



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