

Kenyan Policies

1. Kenya National Youth
2. Kenya Vision 2030
3. Education and training
4. Human rights
5. etc

The Kenyan National Youth Policy (NYP)

The policy is a blue print for youth development initiatives. It contains the definitions, aspirations and vision of Kenyan youth. It recognizes youth as people between the ages of 15 and 35 years. It addresses itself to the main issues impinging on the youth and suggests logical solutions to these issues through its action plan. The policy further identifies itself with the priority target groups: among whom are youth at high risk, street youth, and youth with disability, youth infected with HIV/AIDS, out of school youth, and female youth. Most importantly, the policy identifies the eight thematic areas of great concern to youth thus simply the complex process of youth emancipation.

Why the policy?

The policy itself comes in the face of myriad challenges facing the youth in Kenya; although the number of organizations dealing with youth issues has increased over the years, the lack of comprehensive policy makes it difficult for these groups to effectively address these challenges.

Challenges

- Unemployment and under employment;
- Health related problems;
- Increasing school and college drop-out rates;
- Crime and deviant behavior;
- Limited sports and recreation facilities;
- Abuse and exploitation;
- Limited participation and lack of opportunities;
- Limited and poor housing;
- Limited access to information and communication technology (ICT)

The Vision

The National Youth Policy visualizes a society where youth have an equal opportunity as citizens to realize their fullest potential, productively participating in economic, social, political, cultural and religious life without fear or favor.

The Goal

The overall goal of the policy is to promote youth participation in the democratic processes as well as in community and civil affairs, ensuring that youth programs involve them and are youth centered.

Objectives of the policy

1. To sensitize national policy makers on the need to identify and mainstream youth issues in the development
2. To emphasize, support and partner with positive and effective initiatives and programmes set up by associations, no-profits groups that help the youth to fulfill their expectations, and meet their needs
3. To create proper conditions for the youth to empower themselves and exploit their potential
4. To identify ways of empowering the youth
5. To promote a culture of volunteerism among the youth
6. To explore and suggest ways of engaging the youth in the process of economic development
7. To identify constraints that hinder the Kenyan youth from realizing their potential
8. To propose ways of mentoring the youth to be just and morally upright citizens
9. To promote honest hard work and productivity among the youth

Principals and values underlying the national youth policy

1. Respect of cultural belief systems and ethical values
2. Equity and accessibility
3. Gender inclusiveness
4. Good Governance
5. Mainstreaming youth issues

Rights, Responsibilities and Obligations of the Youth

Rights

The youth have a right to:

- Life
- Meaningful education
- Good health
- Marriage at the age of consent
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
- Seeking meaningful employment
- Adequate shelter, food and clothing
- Freedom of speech, expression and association
- Participate in making decisions that affects their lives
- Protection from social, economic and political manipulations
- Ownership and protection of properties

Responsibilities

- Be patriotic and loyal to Kenya and promote the country's well-being
- Contribute to social –economic development at all levels including through volunteerisms
- Create and promote respect for humanity, sustain peaceful coexistence national unity and sustainability
- Protect the environment
- Help to support and protect those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable
- Promote democracy and rule of law
- Create full employment
- Take advantage of available education and training opportunities
- Develop a positive attitude towards work
- Avoid careless and irresponsible sex
- Take responsible charges of their lives

Obligations

Parents to the Youth:

- Promote responsible parenting
- Provide positive role models for the youth
- Provide equal opportunities and access to family to the youth regardless to their sex
- Meet basic and material needs of the youth
- Provide guiding and counseling
- Train and socialize the youths into different skills
- Provide financial support to youth projects
- Offer room for youth participation at all levels
- Assist the youth realize their goals and full potential

The state to the youth:

- Be the lead agent in supporting the implementation of youth policy
- Ensure that the youth enjoys their state rights
- Provide necessary frame –work for young people to fulfill their obligation
- Create a mechanism and opportunity for involvement o f youth in internship

The Private sector to the youth:

- Take part in the overall job creation and employment of the youth
- Engaging them in entrepreneurial development
- Provision of information and transfer of technology and skills
- Avoid exploiting young people as their employers

Priority strategy areas

- Employment creation

- Health
- Education formal, informal and non-formal
- Training: Vocational, colleges, Technical etc
- Sports and recreation
- Environmental issues
- Art and culture
- Youth and media
- Youth empowerment and participation in National life

The NYP - Target groups:

- Youth with disability
- Street youths
- Youth infected with HIV/AIDS
- Female youth
- Unemployed youth
- Drop-out youth

Youth structures

1. National Youth Council

- The council will be established through an act of parliament, it's mandate will include coordination with youth organization, designing and continuously reviewing National youth policy and developing an integrated youth plan
- Act as an advisory, research and policy institution on youth affairs
- Promote and popularize the National youth policy
- Establish structures developed for effective implementation of the policies
- Design key performance and indicators mechanisms to ensure adherence to the policies

2. Ministry of Education

3. Ministry of Gender

4. Local Government

5. Ministry of Youth, Sports and social affairs

6. International Labor Organization

7. National Council of Churches of Kenya

Youth initiatives:

- 8. NGOs:** World youth alliance, Youth Agenda, African Youth Trust,

9. CBO: KCODA

10. Youth Trusts: Kidyot

11. SHG: Hamlet

12. The private sectors: Activists - OSCAR Foundation etc

Functions of the NYP

- Promote relations between youth organizations and other bodies inside and outside Kenya with similar objectives or interests
- inspire and protect spirit of unity, patriotism and volunteerism
- mobilize , sensitize and organize the youth under one umbrella for political, economic and social-cultural activities
- act as a voice to ensure that the government and other policy makers are kept informed of the views and aspirations of the youth
- mobilize resources to support and fund youth programmes and activities
- involve the youth in activities that are beneficial to them and National at large
- liaise with development organization to ensure access to resources, services and programmes

Youth Information Systems

- **Media;**
Print- Kibera Journal, Electronic- Cyber cafe, internet, Community radio – Pamoja FM, Radio Jambo etc
- **Web-sits**
- **Youth one stop centre**
- **youth Vocational centre**
- **Counseling institutions**
- **Youth workers, etc**

Implementation

Once adapted by parliament as a youth bill, there will be established a National Youth Council (NYC) that will ensure effective implementation of the NYP. The National Youth Council will also facilitate, co-ordinate, monitor, advocate and promote youth issues and youth led initiatives, under the ministry in charge.

The Institutional Framework will minimize duplicity and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery to the youth.

The council shall be managed by youth elected from all over the republic.

Partners within deferent organizations will play a key role in achieving the policies objectives.

The youth policies shall be reviewed at least once in every five years and in line with other government policies statements

In conclusion, planning cannot continue without involving the youth in all sectors of the economy, they have a right to participate in issues that affects their life and exploit their full potential.

The youth also have responsibilities that must not be relegated to the older generations, the policy seeks to provide an opportunity for improving the quality of life for Kenyan youth it will cater for all categories of youth, promote participation in democratic processes community and civic affairs.

Advocate creation of supportive social, cultural, economic and political environment that will empower the youth to the partners of development.