



"The youth can no longer be termed as leaders of tomorrow. They must be seen as today's leaders. Planning cannot continue involving the youth, especially those who are in difficult circumstances, in all the sectors of the economy. The youth have a right to participate in issues that affect their life and to exploit their full potential. They also have responsibilities that must not be relegated to the older generation"

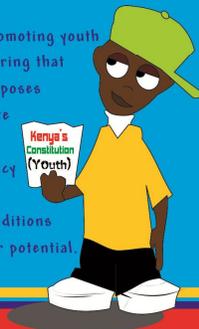
- Kenya National Youth Policy, Document Paper No.2 of July 2007

## What youth policies exist in Kenya?

There are several policies that seek to address youth issues in Kenya.

### ✿ Kenya National Youth Policy.

This policy was developed in 2007 with the goal of promoting youth participation in community and civic affairs and ensuring that youth programmes are youth centered. The policy proposes guidelines and strategies that can be used to facilitate participation of the youth in national development. It was meant to, among others, sensitize national policy makers on the need to identify and mainstream youth issues in national development and create proper conditions for the youth to empower themselves and exploit their potential.



### ✿ National Youth Council Act, 2012:

This is an Act of Parliament to establish the National Youth Council (NYC). The purpose of NYC is to, among others,

- Regulate and co-ordinate activities and initiatives relating to the youth being undertaken by youth groups, youth focused community based organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society movements and other organizations
- Promote and popularize the national youth policy and other policies that affect the youth
- Facilitate the periodic review of the national youth policy in line with other government policy statements
- Mobilize resources to support and fund youth programmes and initiatives
- Lobby for legislation on issues affecting the youth

### ✿ YEDF Bill:

This is a bill that seeks to anchor the Youth Enterprise Development Fund into law by creating a youth centered authority whose main purpose will be to empower youth through borrowing and lending money, acquiring market for goods produced by the youth and reducing employment rates among youths in the local and international labor market. The authority will also create linkages of micro, small and medium youth enterprises with large enterprises provide youth oriented commercial infrastructure and provide enterprise development services.

### What Does This Mean To The Youth Of Kenya?

- ✿ That government is keen to address youth problems
- ✿ Youth problems can be addressed if proper mechanisms and structures are put in place
- ✿ That the formulation and design of effective youth policies and programs require extensive consultation with the intended beneficiaries



## What Needs To Be Improved Or Changed In These Policies?

### ✿ National Youth Policy

- The policy needs to be reviewed immediately
- Definition of Youth needs to be harmonized with that in the Kenya Constitution, 2010
- The policy needs to disaggregate youth according to their needs e.g. the elite, urban, young prisoners and rural youth.
- The policy needs to include an awareness creation strategy to popularize it among youth
- It needs to include a networking strategy with other programs/agencies and actors like religious groups already working with youth and help prevent exploitation of youth
- It needs to include a clear implementation strategy and ways of facilitating inter-generational learning i.e. collaboration between youth and adults



### ✿ YEDF Bill 2012

- There is need to increase the number of youth in the proposed YEDF Board, currently it provides for only one NYC representative.
- The Bill tends to ignore other forms of registration of youth enterprises and gives power to its Board to register Youth Enterprises for purposes of lending.
- The qualifications to join the YEDF's Authority Board need to be reviewed to enable youths become members.

## Why A Change In These Provisions?

- To widen the space for youth participation in decision making processes
- To make the policies more effective and responsive to youth needs and aspirations
- To enable youth take charge of managing their own affairs and ensure that these policies are well popularized among youth
- To ensure that these policies are constantly reviewed in line with feedback from beneficiaries and are fully anchored in law

## What Can You Do As A Youth To Make This Happen?

- Give your views on policy gaps and participate in advocating for their improvement / change by signing the memorandum
- Be vigilant in seeking information on youth policies and programs
- Inform other youths about the need to participate in youth activities that seek to collect views on youth policies and programs
- Elect capable and responsible youth to represent you in the National Youth Council and other leadership positions



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# Youths in Decision Making

What Opportunities?

What Gaps?

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