



# KENYA YOUTH MANIFESTO

QUEST FOR A BETTER FUTURE,  
**AGENDA NI YETU!**

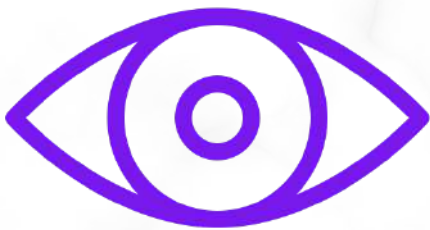


MAY, 2022



## MISSION

The mission of the Kenya Youth Manifesto 2022 is to amplify the voices of young people as active and influential stakeholders in the civic, democratic, and economic spaces in Kenya.



## VISION

The vision is to make Kenya the best country to be in as a young person by bolstering a youth-centric, resilient, sustainable, and inclusive development.

**12**

**DEMANDS,**



**MANIFESTO!**

**A YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR  
KENYA!**

# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

## 12 DEMANDS, 1 MANIFESTO!

### A YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR KENYA!

Our future is promising however, it is beset by a myriad of cultural and systemic challenges. To this end, The Kenya Youth Manifesto contains a list of recommendations that form our asks of the successive government.

The Kenya National Youth Policy 2019 “visualizes a society where youth have an equal opportunity as other citizens; to realize their full potential, productively participating in economic, social, political, cultural and religious engagement equitably.”

It is time for the incoming government to commit to act on young people's demands. As political promises are being made during the upcoming Kenyan elections that will directly impact on young people's future, the key actors ought to listen to and identify the most pressing needs of this generation.

To start the conversation, The Youth Cafe and International Republican Institute collaborated with young people across the country to develop policy ideas that could help them explore their potential limitlessly as we head to the next general elections and asked the youth to rank these challenges in order of priority. The result? Fundamental issues ,ideas and recommendations were raised and proposed on subjects like unemployment, training, and public participation.

Those ideas are inscribed herein, and we are now calling on the next government to study this manifesto, understand the young people’s needs, commit directly to working with young people, and jointly transform their quality of life.

**“ After youth get the opportunity to lead, they should be true to their word and deliver. Youth should believe in themselves to be able to handle the positions they hold and provide alternative leadership.**

- Participant from Nyanza Regional Youth Consultation forum.

**“ We must not only work for youth – we must work with youth. All of us will gain by doing so**

- Jan Eliasson, Former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**“ Africa's greatest resource is its youthful population**

- African Youth Charter.



## KEY DEMANDS

**1. Create at least 1,500,000 new youth employment opportunities annually.**

**2. Involve youth in matters of agro-produce, livestock market exploitation, and value addition.**

**3. Increase youth access to finance, capital, and grants.**

## CALL 1 TO NEXT GOVERNMENT

Free up business capital by investors/financial institutions and create economic hubs such as intercommunity market days for the youth, which provide markets for Small scale businesses. Increase investment in critical sectors with a higher job multiplier effect to create mass employment to spur growth. Enact practicable regulations on businesses.

Provide youth with agricultural machinery, inputs, and equipment. Involve youth in post-harvest operations and improve the marketing of agricultural incentives to motivate the youth to venture into agriculture and green jobs. County Governments should regularly organize annual agricultural training and expos for the youth.

Strengthen local level government-funded credit guarantee schemes expressly targeting the youth to ease access to finance for young people in Kenya.

## CALL 2 TO NEXT GOVERNMENT

Enhance the operationalization of the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) policy by removing existing bureaucracies and bottlenecks to increase market access to the youth-led enterprises (there is a need for a forensic audit of the operations so far. For example, does AGPO reserve 30% of the number of tenders, or 30% of the value of tenders).

Modernize the agricultural sector by adopting climate-smart technology and innovation and enhance access to factors of production, modern technologies, and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

Strengthen the capacity of youth in resource mobilization, financial literacy, savings, and investments through Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs), Chamas, producer cooperatives, and other models.



## KEY DEMANDS

## CALL 1 TO NEXT GOVERNMENT

## CALL 2 TO NEXT GOVERNMENT

### 4. Provide conducive trade and business environments.

Set up the County Industrial Development Authority to oversee SMEs within the County governments based on local opportunities and needs. Reduce the cost of doing business for youth-run entities by subsidizing taxes and licensing fees for the first year of business, and mobilize resources to develop local industries.

Regulate the importation of goods and promote the consumption of locally produced goods through a coherent "buy Kenya, build Kenya" purchase policy that involves state accreditation for the informal sector.

### 5. Deliver inclusive, high quality Education and Training to youth.

Enable equitable access to quality skills and education at all levels through dedicated national funding for Bursary Commissions and youth desks, as well as for increased skills development initiatives (both in-school and out-of-school).

Ensure curriculum review for formal and informal sectors to provide training that addresses skills and market mismatch and incorporates digital skills, soft skills, and emerging 21st-century technical skills through all levels of education (fundamental and technical).

### 6. Promote and protect Young People's Health and well-being.

Sustain solid political will and commitment around robust and free Universal Health Coverage through the National Hospital Insurance Fund for the unemployed youth, and catalyze increased modern domestic and external investment towards health systems strengthening, especially at the community level.

Provide and implement an affordable and accessible high-quality health insurance scheme that will enable youth to access quality healthcare with the inclusion of mental, sexual, reproductive, and sanitation services.

### 7. Increase action towards achieving social protection.

Promote youth empowerment through creating programs like: cash transfers, access to credit facilities and provision of food subsidies that can reduce youth vulnerability to poverty and poor living conditions, especially among young women and girls.

Enact social protection laws that address the custodial and co-parenting plight of single parents and establish County Government Kitty and empowerment programs to assist young single parents in taking care of their children.



## KEY DEMANDS

## CALL 1 TO NEXT GOVERNMENT

## CALL 2 TO NEXT GOVERNMENT

### 8. Increase financial support in the sport and creative economy.

Increase and diversify funding and investment in sports and the innovative economy by increasing funding for the Sports, Art, and Social Development Fund by at least 25 percent. County and National Governments to establish modern sporting facilities and streamline the Sports Regulations to promote the equitable participation of youth regardless of gender, ethnicity, income, disability or any other characteristic.

Establish a mechanism to train, streamline, equip, manage, and monetize the sports and creative economy by using sport for civic engagement at all levels of the community. Streamline funding channels to ensure allocated funds successfully reach the targeted recipients.

### 9. Increase youth representations and inclusion in government and its agencies.

Formulate an allocation matrix for political party funding so that 30% of public funds are allocated to youth leagues and the implementation of capacity-building programs that specifically target youth. This initiative is to be spearheaded by The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties.

Advocate for 50% of party-list slots to be reserved for youth. Ensure that 50% of nominees for party tickets are youth. This will require the goodwill of political parties, particularly their leadership.

### 10. Ensure systematic coordination of the youth function.

Devolve the youth function to have a stand-alone Youth Department at the County, Sub-County, and ward level and champion for full implementation of youth policies at the national and county levels.

Form a stand-alone ministry for Youth Development at The Office of the President to ensure the mainstreaming of youth issues across all sectors of the economy and all ministries of government.

### 11. Inculcate a culture of civic citizenship by the youth.

Create Youth Development Centers within the functions of the National Youth Service to ensure the incorporation of high school graduates for the first six months to train them on various skills, including technical skills, to prepare them for post high school and national responsibilities.

Include and promote ethics, anti-corruption, and general civic education in the Kenyan educational curriculum at all levels of education for informed citizenship.

### 12. Entrench active public participation.

Restructure regulations in political parties to accommodate and encourage participatory democracy that is upheld by merit and increases the slots of representation of youth in key decision-making organs in political parties.

Mainstream digital media is a space to enhance public participation and articulate issues.

# DID YOU KNOW?

**6.5%**

ACCORDING TO RESEARCH FROM A 2019 SURVEY BY THE NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY AND MZALENDU TRUST, YOUNG PEOPLE COMPRISE ONLY 6.5% OF KENYA'S PARLIAMENT BUT 29% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION.

**14.2%**

ACCORDING TO THE 2021 KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS REPORT, YOUTH AGED 20-34 ACCOUNT FOR 14.2% OF SKILLED BUT UNEMPLOYED KENYANS.

**17.4**

ACCORDING TO AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF 2021, THE NUMBER OF YOUTH EMPLOYED IN KENYA DECREASED FROM 18.1 MILLION IN 2019 TO 17.4 MILLION IN 2020, WITH ROUGHLY 14.5 MILLION WORKING IN INFORMAL SECTORS AND ONLY 2.9 MILLION BEING EMPLOYED IN FORMAL SECTORS.

**16.9%**

THE SHARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15 TO 34 WHO ARE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING STOOD AT 16.9% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021. THE RATE DECREASED FROM 18.1% IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

**12%**

ACCORDING TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR), THERE IS ONLY ONE DOCTOR FOR EVERY 33,000 PEOPLE IN THE RURAL AREAS IN KENYA AND 1,700 IN THE URBAN AREAS, AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONLY 12% OF THE HEALTH FACILITIES ARE YOUTH-FRIENDLY.









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### **The Youth Café:**

The Youth Café is a multi-award-winning, pan-African, youth organization that strives to enrich the lives of young people by modeling and advancing youth-led and rights-based approaches to foster young people's civic efficacy, community resilience, sustainable development, and equitable society, as well as proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress, and inspiring transformative change by utilizing innovative research, policy, and advocacy actions.

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### **International Republican Institute (IRI):**

The International Republican Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, non-governmental organization that advances democracy and freedom worldwide. IRI links people with their governments, guides politicians to be responsive to citizens, and motivates people to engage in the political process.

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