

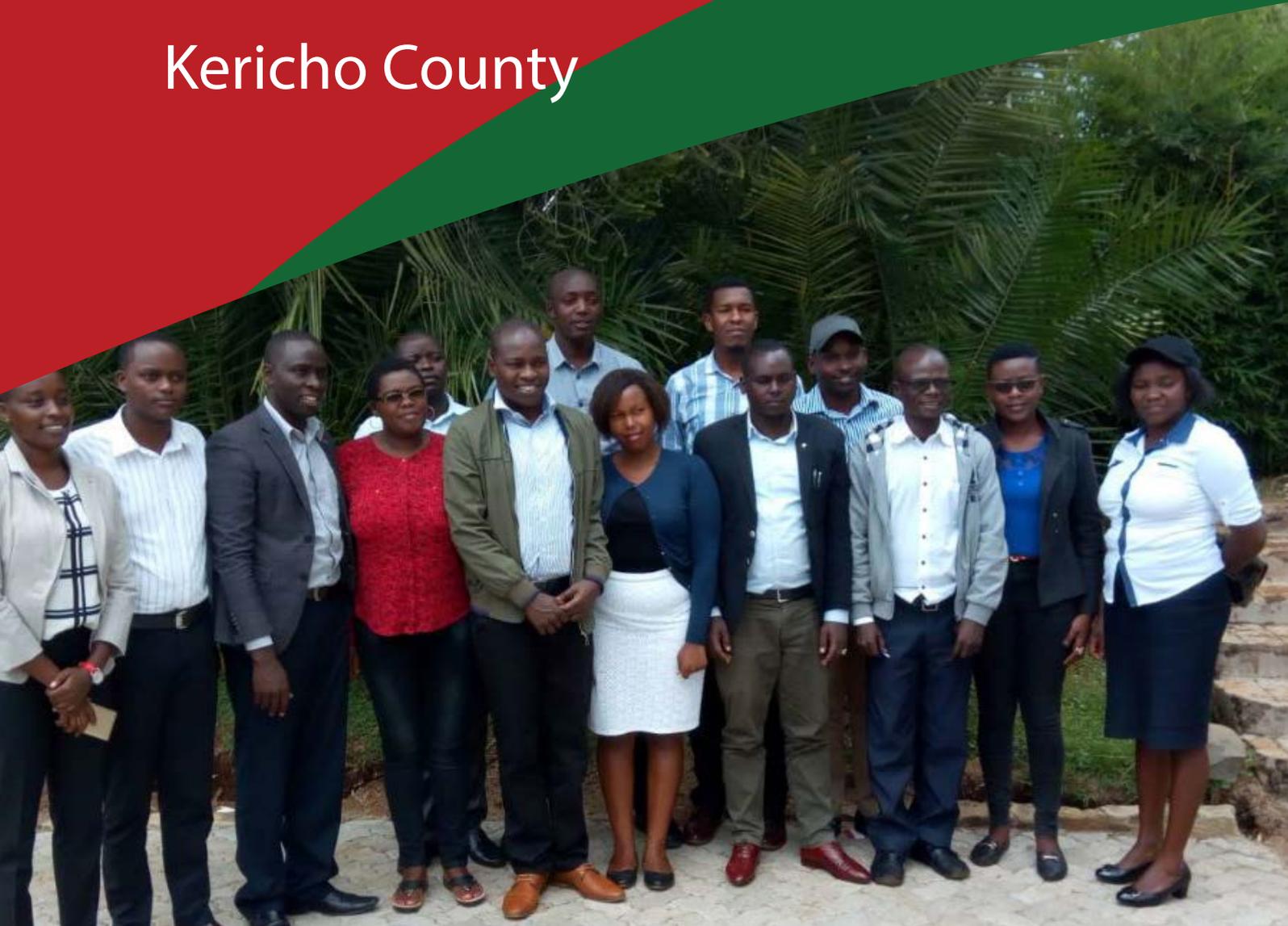


siasa
PLACE

We the people...inventing the future

Siasa Talks Report

Kericho County





Siasa Talks - Kericho

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.

The one day forum on public participation took place at quick service restaurant in Kericho County, on the 26th of May, 2018.

Agenda

The overall objective of the training is to educate the youth and women on the greater importance and need for them to actively engage in public participation as a means of solving problems and playing a key role in decision making on matters governance. Major immediate objectives are;

1. To achieve greater awareness , understanding on public participation , particularly related to effective engagement of youth and women in determining how they ought to be governed,
2. To achieve a greater understanding on their role as citizens and the need for them to hold the leadership to account of various decisions affecting their lives.
3. To achieve a greater understanding on the proper tools of public participation and the benefits thereof.

The sessions begun with the welcome address from one of the participants, followed by introduction of participants and facilitator and finally the setting of ground rules to be followed in the engagements.

Participants

The training-workshop was attended by about 30 participants mainly comprising of the youth, women and persons with disability. Towards the end of the session the facilitator and participants had a chance to ask questions, present the outcomes and suggest recommendations.

The Training Workshop

Ms. Diana Korir (the mobilizer) then opened the session by welcoming the participants, asking the participants and the trainer to introduce themselves and establish the ground rules, she then went on to welcome the facilitator to begin the training, the training-workshop commenced with an ice-breaker that required the participants to explain what they understood as public participation in their local languages. The session established that public participation could be defined differently and there was no agreed standard definition but it was agreed that the different definitions resulted in the same meaning which is involvement of the people in decision making,

Summary

The landscape of public participation and community engagement is changing through

- Rapid developments in technology
- Rampant economic and political changes across the country
- Widespread use of social media
- Decline in public trust have created new challenges for government, organizations, and institutions.

In addition to that the growing desire of citizens to participate in building the democratic architecture of their country and communities, and it is obvious that a proven framework for public participation has never been more essential. People want and need to be engaged as decisions are made.

As civil society organization involved in community engagements our main aim is to ensure that public participation processes happens in a respectful, positive, and effective way that creates the best possible outcomes for all concerned. As Siasa Place we seek to support youth and women and equip them with necessary skills and knowledge on how to apply the law in order to enhance quality public participation outcomes in various counties.

Through Siasa Talks sessions we offers a perspective on how public participation has been integrated into the overall governance system. We examine the benefits of public participation, discuss when and why it's important to involve the public in decision making, and emphasize the importance of both the decision being made and the promise to the public about their involvement in that decision process.

Finally, the session provides an overview of what the decision maker should know about their public participation role as a means of fostering accountability and strengthening devolution.

Outcomes of the Training-Workshop

The Following were views as expressed by the participants:

- For Siasa Place team to establish and sustain partnerships with local organizations i.e. both women and youth groups and CBOs to enhance its reach to the grassroots.
- Campaign and advocate for legislation and policies that are favorable to youth empowerment.
- Plan for more Siasa Talks forums involving both the leaders and the citizens in the county.
- To create a mechanism and framework on how to access progress.

Recommendations

Based on a brief and informal assessment of the training, i present the following recommendations:

1. To make it a point to plan and communicate to participants 3-4 days early before the date of the actual event.
2. To consider use of flip charts and projectors.
3. To consider involving a representative from the county leadership in the forums.
4. To have a mechanism for follow-up on the outcomes of the Siasa Talks trainings.

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