

Of importance is livelihoods



The Building Bridges Initiative collected recommendations from 7,000 Kenyans and compiled them in what is now the BBI Report that was released on Wednesday, 27th November 2019 to the public for further discussion.

The taskforce was formed to look into 9 matters and recommend solutions by collecting perspectives from the public: How to end ethnic division, inclusivity, how to solve polarizing elections, safety and security, how to deal with corruption, how to deal with lack of national ethos, responsibility and rights, shared prosperity and enhancing devolution.

The BBI Report raises several concerns that Kenyans have with themselves, with their fellow citizens and with their leaders. On matters youth, because we are an institution that focuses mainly youth, there was mention of a 7-year tax break to support youth entrepreneurship and job creation, setting up business advisors in all Huduma Centers amongst others aimed at ensuring the Kenyan youth are empowered. Also beneficial to young people is the allocation to counties to be increased to at least 35%, it also suggested that parastatals carrying out county government functions be either wound up or restructured. Depending on the county, as a young person it is difficult to find a standardized department that works with young people. Some

counties clump it with information technology, some business, others sports and culture. Due to this young people are often confused when searching for information or resources, while leadership is confused on representation on certain aspects. On that aspect, some counties have developed a County Youth Policy, which is not necessarily in line with the National Youth Policy, too many cooks can spoil the broth.

We need to recognize that the solutions for the problems bedeviling Kenya are not all legal. Indeed, the law is important and the hallmark of any democratic society is the reality adherence to the rule of law. But we cannot forget that a few weeks ago we witnessed the Chief Justice weep about an underfunded Judiciary.

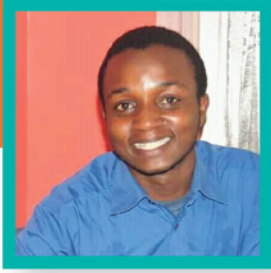
A collective written by Siasa Place

Read the rest of the article on our website:

<http://bit.ly/36j6OPR>

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Youth Personality of the month

ALVIN MWANGI

YOUTH ADVOCATE ON SRHR

#SPYOUTHPERSONALITY

Profile

Alvin is a youth advocate on sexual reproductive health and right issues for the adolescents and young people. He believes in the empowerment of young people with age appropriate information on Reproductive health. This information enables the adolescents and young people to make informed decisions and choices about their lives at present and even in the future in the current challenging space. He creates awareness on sexuality education as well as sexual reproductive health and rights information, and also encourages young people to access youth reproductive health services in youth friendly centres. Furthermore, he works around policy advocacy to ensure that the policies we have are youth friendly and implemented with resources channeled towards their actualisation.

What are you passionate about when it comes to youth matters and what is your message for Kenya?

I am passionate about on youth matters. I am passionate about capacity building and empowerment of the young people towards a healthy nation. Young people are very productive and hard working only with an enabling environment.

Kenya should invest highly in the empowerment of the young people. Young people require information and skills that empower them positively. Young people have untapped resources within them. Let us EMPOWER them!

Siasa Place
ON THE MOVE

#SPONLOCATION



Imara Fellowship Cohort 2

Imara Fellowship Program seeks to invest in Africa's future policy leaders. The Group of 30 Fellows drawn from across the country are completing their residential academy in Kisumu. The Imara Academy Launch held in Kisumu from 1st to 4th December. This group of highly motivated young community leaders are highly motivated and doing amazing work in their areas. It was an eye-opener into the cohort 2 fellows' leadership journeys as they talked about unpacking the role of different stakeholders in the policy design and implementation process, community engagement and gaining practical skills of engaging Government and Driving change in their communities.



SP Member Lead Activities

For the past 4 months, SP Member Leads have held meeting in their community as they discover what problems ail the youth in matters of governance and how to solve together using various tools of public participation.

So far, there have had monthly meetings in Murang'a, Kericho, Kisumu, Kajiado, Busia, Meru, Kiambu, Nairobi and Migori County. The meetings have been an eye opener on how us youth can engage within the community and interact with the county government effectively.

ABNORMAL DEMOCRATIC TIMES WORKSHOP | #ADTW2019

The convening of African Youth themed “Abnormal responses to abnormal democratic times” held in Nairobi on 27th September 2019. Siasa Place in collaboration with Open Society Foundation- Africa Regional Office (AfRO), and Social Justice Centers in Kenya, hosted a regional workshop that drew wide participation from youth across the African continent to share their experiences and perspectives on the future of democracy in Africa with a specific focus on youth civic engagement.

Africa is the youngest continent in the world with an average age of 19. On account of the resulting youth bulge African democracies are presented with unique challenges. On the democracy and governance front

the dominant African narrative was always one of dissatisfied but passive citizens. This now is history following the advent of social media platforms due to increased digital penetration within the continent. These platforms, largely dominated by youth have provided more people with a forum to voice their demands for accountability in government and to express their dissatisfaction with the status quo, which means the African youth has access to information across the continent and feedback mechanisms have improved.

The two-day conference brought together different ideas from the young participants on how to solve the challenges that face these abnormal democratic times.



WISHING YOU
Happy Holidays
THIS FESTIVE SEASON AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
From Siasa Place

Report of the Month



Form ni gani

Kenya in 2030: Young Voices on Future Scenarios and Contraception

Produced by #formnigani Think Tanks

#formnigani is a creative platform for all Kenyans to express themselves, discuss, and make decisions about contraception. The phrase in Sheng, "Form Ni Gani", stands for "What's the Plan?", and aims to reinvigorate public conversations and debate among Kenyans on the crucial role that contraception plays on individual, household, community and national level development.

The future scenarios young Kenyans believe the country is facing and the critical importance of contraception in shaping the future they want. This report captures more on the futuristic scenarios of Kenya in 2030.

Check out this link to download/view the report:
<http://bit.ly/2LFHWtw>

#WritersCorner

CHEERS AND JEERS IN HANDSHAKE

By Kaudo Philip Misoru



The unprecedented and historic handshake between President Uhuru Kenyatta and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga on March ninth 2018 was one event that sent shock waves to not only the political class but Kenyans as well. This is owing to the fact that Kenyan political environment since independence has been characterized by many twists and turns making it difficult for political scientists to predict future realignments. On one hand, the political class across the divide continues to cry foul of the handshake terming it a selfish move and a sense of betrayal while on the other side, some welcomed the two "heroes" move, terming it a show of nationalism and patriotism.

Read full article on this link: <http://bit.ly/2Ppe6dS>

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