

Lets remind ourselves of public participation

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Citizen participation is a requisite for strengthened devolution, for devolution to work the people must be involved in the decision-making and oversight functions. The objects and principles of devolved government according to Article 174 are to; (c) give powers of self-governance to the people and enhance their participation in the exercise of the powers of the state and in making decisions affecting them, (d) Recognize the rights of the communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development.

Public participation is ideally based on belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process. A mantra that has fuelled disability rights movements over the years 'Nothing about us, without us' James Charlton, the author of a book by the same title expresses the conviction of people with disabilities that they know what is best for them any decision that is made without them is not for them.

The whole purpose of citizen involvement through public participation is to give citizens power to have a say in all matters. This ensures governments achieve key milestones in democracy; improved performance as citizens gets involved in identifying their needs, priority areas and increased sense of ownership. Citizens become partners with their

governments in a manner that promotes good governance and human rights. To trickle down a sense of ownership on the citizen's part in development is crucial in minimization of wastage from governments. Without treating citizens as partners there is danger that policies, programmes and interventions implemented at community levels will simply be imposed upon them.

Why public participation?

Public participation leads to better decisions by improving quality of decisions made in a community.



Read the rest of the article on our website:
<https://goo.gl/XXfdNy>

By Samwella Lerno

Co-founder of Bright Future Foundation
 and Election Safari Participant

IN THIS ISSUE:

Youth Personality - Kenya	2
Siasa Place on the Move	3
SP Event of the Month	3
Book of the Month	4
Writer's Podium	4



Youth Personality of the month **WAITHERA GAITHO**

KENYA

**FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALTERNATIVES AFRICA**

Profile

Alternatives (Home of the Youth Economic Dialogues), is an Accelerator for youth-owned micro and small enterprises, focusing on young entrepreneurs and skilled youth in both rural and urban areas.

Established in 2014, our mission is to accelerate youth-owned enterprises by providing affordable financial and non-financial business development and support services that ensure increased productivity and profitability, for business growth, improved livelihoods and job creation, not forgetting their contribution to economic development (at national and county level),

towards the realization of the Big Four Agenda, Kenya Vision 2030, Africa's Agenda 2063 and the global Agenda 2030(SDGs)

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

My undying passion and enduring faith is in the young entrepreneur. "The future we want shall not be given to us; we must create it."

I believe that this is the generation that will socio-economically liberate our country and continent from the shackles of poverty and dependency. Africa's prosperity is long overdue!

Siasa Place ON THE MOVE

#SPONLOCATION



SP Members Lecture

In light of the 8th year celebrations since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, the theme of our most recent members lecture was "Implementation of the Kenyan constitution 2010, 8 years' after Promulgation". In attendance was the Former Chief Justice Willy Mutunga, and lawyer Steve Ogolla who shared their views on the progress of our Constitution, and also engaged with the Young people on matters related to public participation, education, moral values, and leadership.

PULS (PAN-AFRICAN UNIVERSITY LEAGUE FOR STUDENTS)



The role played by university students in the liberation of Africa is undeniable. Footprints for Change seeks to reignite the fire for civic engagement and active citizenship among university students through the Pan-African University League for Students (PULS). Siasa Place plays a role as mentors to these University leaders.

Digital Literacy Workshop, in partnership with DW

Siasa Place in partnership with DW Akademie held a Digital Literacy Workshop in Nairobi, on 31st August 2018. The purpose of the workshop was to equip women with information on Digital literacy; Content creation; Digital storytelling; tools, skills and impact; Understanding digital ecosystem; Citizen Journalism, as well as online security. Beyond just educating the women, the workshop enabled those present to engage

rigorously on the overall challenges that digitally literate women face, and most importantly, share their different experiences, as well as perspectives. During some of the interactive sessions, it was clear that regardless of the women's line of work, some of the online encounters they faced were comparable.

Follow the hashtag **#WomenAtWebKE** for more updates.



#SIASATALKS

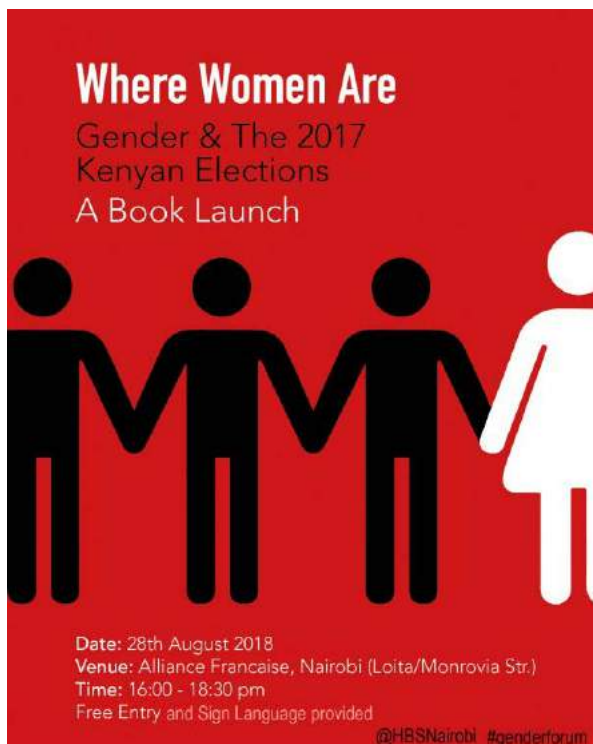
Siasa Talks seeks to promote public participation in the community. Public Participation is an action or a series of actions a person takes to involve themselves in affairs of government or community.

Patrick Wabwire from legal was present as a facilitator to the people from the community of Samburu about Public participation.

SP Talks Samburu



Book of the Month



Where Women Are: Gender and the 2017 Kenyan Elections

Edited by Nanjala Nyabora

The book comprises various in-depth scholarly studies carried out in various parts of the country, reflecting different aspects of how women participated in the 2017 elections. References given here are on the electoral system process, composition and Parliament, county governments as well as rights and fundamental freedoms.

Writer: Nanjala Nyabola/ Marie-Emmanuelle Pommerolle (co-editors)

Publisher: Twaweza Communications, 2018

Pages: 208

WRITER'S PODIUM

GOVERNMENT; FOR US OR FOR WHOM? *By Maroko Nyachio*



In the wake of the report on the mistreatment of Kenyan workers, in the railway sector by foreign contractors, the government, through its spokesman dismissed the allegations as self-centered activism that it has no tolerance for. I have always been confused about the real essence of government in relation to its people. I do not know if I should attribute this to my limited education or whether it is occasioned by the confusion one draws from observing day to day government operations.

Read more on this article: <https://goo.gl/K45wSb>

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