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PLACE

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Siasa Talks Report

Busia County





Siasa Talks - Busia

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 training focused on Public participation and it was evident that the Youth felt sidelined in the process either by not getting information or views not taken into consideration.

After the training, the group promised to undertake activities aimed at increasing their participation in public participation and holding their leaders accountable. The one day forum on public participation took place at and DICP Hall in Busia County on the 21st of April.

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;

- To achieve awareness, understanding on public participation, particularly related to effective engagement of youth and women in determining how they ought to be governed.
- 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.
- To achieve a greater understanding on the proper tools of public participation and the benefits thereof.

Participants

The training-workshop was attended by 50 participants mainly comprising of the youth, women and persons living with disabilities drawn from the County.

Key issues on public participation

The following were the key issues from the forums regarding Public Participation;

- Most of the participants have never attended any forum on public participation
- The County always advertises the forums through Church services, burials and by public address rallies
- Most of them don't attend because they have other responsibilities like jobs or hustles
- Some youth wanted handouts or payments so as to attend the forums
- There's a formed opinion about issues thus nothing of value is discussed

Concerns

1. **Training on the Constitution** - this came about after the participants learnt about the many rights enshrined in the constitution.
2. **More meetings about Politics** – the need to have many community forums emerged to equip young people with knowledge.

Gallery



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