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PLACE

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# Siasa Talks Report

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## Kisumu County





## Siasa Talks - Kisumu

### 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.

### Kisumu Siasa Talks

The one day training took place at the Nyalenda Social Hall in Kisumu County on 20th April, 2018. The session began with the welcome address from one of the participants, followed by introduction of participants and facilitators and finally the setting of ground rules to be followed in the engagements. The training was attended by 50 Youth from within Kisumu County. The Youth represented those in business, community work, students, activists, religious groups, persons living with disabilities in the county.

### 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.

## **Background**

Kisumu is among the first counties we visited out of Nairobi for the Siasa Talks in 2018. With a rich history and great political decision makers Kisumu offered an opportunity to engage with Young people while equipping them with necessary information to help them take part in the running of county affairs and holding their leaders accountable.

## **Kisumu**

- Information gap between the County and the Youth regarding Public participation
- The concern that issues raised in the forums were not being implemented makes more youth shy away from the forums
- The forums are usually marred with political battles thus young people don't attend
- The forums are being held in secrecy and between a few chosen people

## **Concerns**

1. Training on drafting of tools of public participation i.e. Petitions and written submissions
2. How to draft bills - the participants felt they needed to learn about drafting bills to enable them push for their issues with the elected leaders.

For more information, please contact us on:

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