



We the people...inventing the future

Siasa Talks Report

Murang'a County





Siasa Talks - Murang'a

12th October 2018

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.

Executive Summary

This report is a compilation of the Siasa Talks training on Public Participation held on the 12th of October, 2018 at Kenya National Library Service (KNLS)- Murang'a Branch. The training was attended by Youth leaders from the different sub counties in Murang'a County. A total of 43 Participants were trained on Public Participation and how they can hold their leaders accountable.

It was evident that Public participation is usually a preserve of a few while the people must be involved in decision-making on issues that matter to them.

What is Politics?

Response 1: It's a dirty game.

- People - Watu, Policy - Sera, Politics - Siasa
- Politics is important because it helps people to express their views.

Effects of Politics to the youth of Murang'a

- Loss of lives and poor economy.
- Youth of Murang'a feel like they aren't involved in county public participation.
- Public participation is initiated by the people. Public engagement is initiated by the government.

What the youth look at when electing a leader

- Money
- Manifesto
- His /Her background (Academic)
- Tribe
- Age
- Religion

Problems in Murang'a County

- Jiggers
- Poor Infrastructure
- Lack of job opportunities
- Poor leadership

Ways to make leaders respond to citizens

- Demonstrations
- Holding them accountable on projects
- Asking for information on County projects

Other notes

- Promote youth talents
- Youth feel they are being used by politicians in negative ways and end up taking advantage of the youth.
- 21 out 44 were confident in going to their MCA as the first point of contact in leadership.

Key Take Aways (*From the training*)

- After the training, The Youth agreed to form a Communication group (WhatsApp) where they'll deliberate and plan on how to tackle issues in the county.
- That the group will choose leaders from amongst them and pay a Courtesy call to the County Assembly specifically to meet the Youth MCAs.
- There was need to bring their Leaders together to have a dialogue on issues affecting them.
- Youth to identify Public Participation forums and attend to give their views.

Comments

The event went on well, the participants were active and participated in the training by asking questions, it was held on a weekday and I think moving forward except for Machakos the trainings should be on weekends. Good social media presence and maybe we should make the trainings a little longer with breaks in between because the time is limiting.

Gallery



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