



siasa
PLACE

We the people...inventing the future

Siasa Talks Report

Nakuru County





Siasa Talks - Nakuru

Program Overview

Siasa Talks' are forums that are open, diverse and inclusive 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 capacity build and encourage the young people to engage in political processes as a way of promoting good governance and holistic development for the youth. After the training, the group promised to undertake activities aimed at increasing their participation in public participation and holding their leaders accountable.

Introduction

This report is a compilation of the proceedings during the Siasa Talks in Nakuru on 3rd November 2018 at Nakuru Players Theater, Nakuru town. The activity was organized with the financial support from HBS and attended by representatives of various youth organizations based in Nakuru including Tribless youth who were the mobilizers. The activity was attended by 50 youth being 20 female and 30 men.

The Meeting Proceedings

The participants were asked what politics meant to them and here were some of the responses. They perceive politics as a:

- Dirty game.
- Way of life
- Game of ideas
- Business

When asked if they participated in the 2017 elections. 24 out of 48 participants voted while 4 never voted because they were either under age or were officials posted in a different polling station. 22 never voted despite having register as voters because of the following reasons:

- They felt that the government had predetermined the result and hence there was no reason to vote
- Their candidate was denied certificate during the party primary (They had no candidate)
- Politicians are the same whether recycled or changed, they will still behave the same way

When asked if they were going to vote in 2022. Only 4 said they will not vote because of the following reasons

- Government failed to fulfil what they had promised despite them working so hard to ensure that they were elected
- The government will still determine who form the government and not the vote
- The level of corruption in government that they don't deserve their votes
- The electoral body is the puppet of the government

A participant also raised a concern that the electoral body was running the commission without implementing the recommendations of the Supreme Court and that could still compromise the validity of any result from that body.

How Politics affected the Young People

The participants were asked how politics affected their lives and here were their response. They felt that politics

- Disrupted their business during the pole (Some people cannot move to certain areas because of fear that they can be attacked)
- Caused fear and intimidation especially during polls because some people were paid to disrupt certain businesses
- Politicians give promises and don't fulfil them and hence no development (siasa mbaya, maisha mbaya)
- Brought in corrupt leaders who have made life very expensive to ordinary citizen

The facilitator then summarized by explaining that the choice of political leaders will determine growth or stagnation. The choice between development and stagnation is at the ballot. He also noted that failure to participate in the electoral process was like choosing stagnation, theft and lack of accountability because they will have to live with whoever will be elected whether good or bad. He recommended the young people to participate in choosing the leaders so that they don't become part of lamentation

Issues affecting Youth in Nakuru

Participants were asked to enumerate all the issues that they thought were affecting the young people in Nakuru. The list was further subjected to discussion on to identify key issue that when handled could solve various issues that were identified.

All Issues Identified	Priority issues	Issues for follow up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment • Ignorance • Poverty • Drugs and substance abuse • Bad policies • Lack of civic engagement • Youth under-representation in the County assembly • Insecurity • Gender- based violence • Lack of youth participation in political process • Failure by the county government to include youth in their activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment • Lack of civic engagements and public participation • Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic engagement • Unemployment

Participants mentioned that they were never informed of what the county was doing and any public participation forums organized had already predetermined resolutions. The county invited specific people and in most cases the county officials only shared their plans. They were never open for conversation.

The participants suggested that the approach would focus on training them on budget making process and development of county integrated development plan and or analyzing to ensure that the county implement the plan without deviation.

The participants were also concern how jobs within the county could be made available to all, how they could benefit from 30% AGPO and all other youth friendly funds

Challenges

The training venue had to be changed after a group that had booked the hall extended beyond the time they were allocated. We had to opt for an alternative venue hence reducing the training schedule.

The trainees were more interested in understanding the budget cycle and the time could not allow. There is need for training focusing on county budget making process and where the youth can participate in.

For more information, please contact us on:

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