

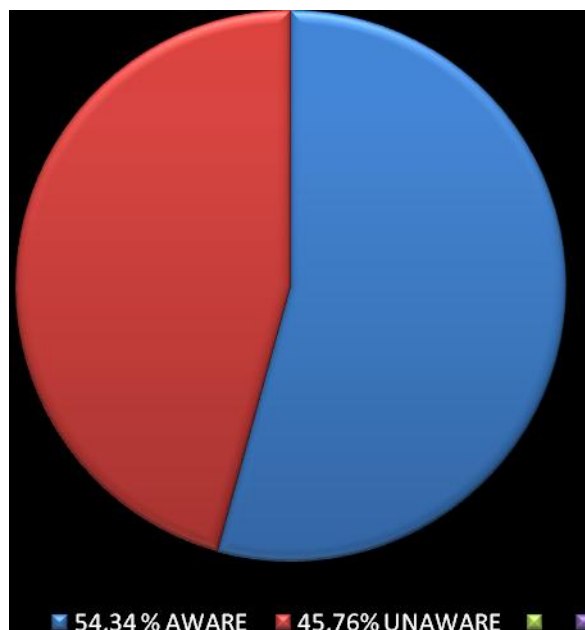
YOUTH AGENDA SMS POLL ON YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN VISION 2030 FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY VISION 2030 PROJECTS IN YOUR COUNTY AND HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED?

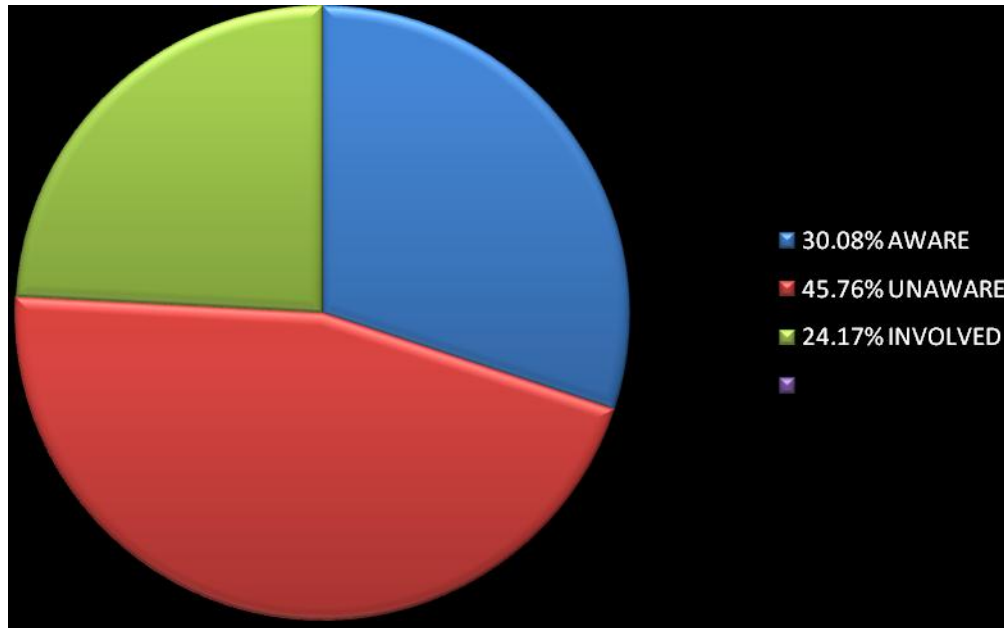
TOTAL RESPONSES: 389

Total Respondents **Aware** but uninvolved in Vision 2030 Projects: **211(54.241%)**

Total Respondents **Unaware** Of Vision 2030 Projects: **178 (45.758%)**



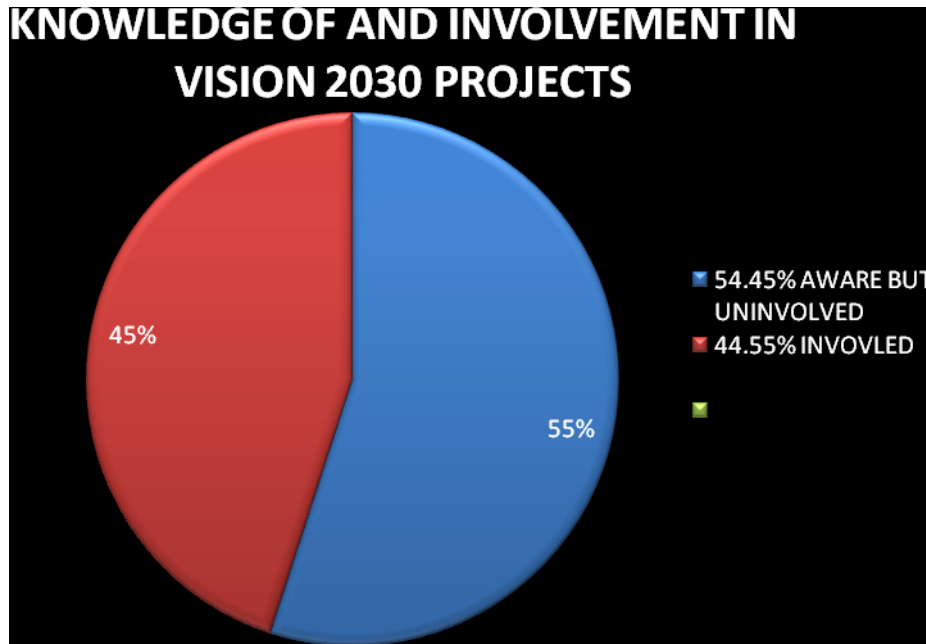
As part of the Youth Agenda's continued involvement in the Vision 2030 Development Plan, YAA undertook an SMS poll of the Youth's involvement in ongoing flagship projects countrywide. The SMS data analysis revealed a rather troubling state of affairs on the ground as 45.76% of the respondents were totally unaware of any Vision 2030 projects in their respective counties. This however may be viewed in contrast to the majority 54.34% who said they know of various Vision 2030 projects locally as well as nationally. Of those that were knowledgeable however, only 94 respondents were actually involved in Vision 2030 projects which therefore constituted 24.165% of the total surveyed group and 44.55% of the 211 respondents who knew of the Vision 2030 projects. This therefore means that although the majority of respondents were aware of Vision 2030 projects, 76% of the respondents remained uninvolved in them.



YOUTH UNAWARE OF VISION 2030 PROJECTS – 45.76% (178 respondents)

The second largest group of respondents was constituted, rather discouragingly by those who were unaware of any Vision 2030 projects both within their respective counties as well as in the entire country as a whole. A portion of the respondents claimed they did not even know what the Vision 2030 Development Plan was. In light of the numerous public campaigns and international popularization drives geared towards the realization of Vision 2030, this seems to demonstrate that while the Government has managed to engage numerous investors from the international community most notably the Chinese government amongst others, it has failed to engage the most important stakeholders in the realization of the Development Plan, the Kenyan citizen. Many of those who stated that they had been unaware of the flagship projects in their areas expressed their interest and willingness to be involved in the implementation of the various projects in their areas. It therefore appears that by failing to reach these interested youths, the Vision 2030 Development Plan is failing to utilize able young individuals who could contribute substantively to the realization of the plan and the implementation of the various flagship projects.

YOUTH AWARE OF VISION 2030 PROJECTS – 54.241 % (211 respondents)



The most populous group constituted those who were aware of local and national Vision 2030 projects. Of those who were aware of the projects, 55.45% of them remained uninvolved in any Vision 2030 projects in their areas. This group constituted 117 respondents accounting therefore for 30.08% of the total surveyed group. Most of these respondents seemed to be aware only of projects that had been subject of considerable media coverage such as the ongoing construction of the Thika Super Highway as well as the continued expansion of the Kisumu International Airport, the recently announced Lamu Port Construction and the proposed construction of a pipeline connecting Kenya to South Sudan's oil producing region.

Other projects that appeared to be within the consciousness of the youths who responded include the various agricultural diversification initiatives initiated under Vision 2030 as well as the expansion and development of the local education sectors which fall under the Social Pillar of the Vision 2030 Development Plan. The latter seemed to be the most visible Vision 2030 project on the ground nationwide as most respondents claimed to have witnessed the implementation of this initiative at various stages of its development. While this may be rather more encouraging than the above case, it still highlights the fact that most youths in the country are unaware of nearly 90% of the 100 nationwide Vision 2030 projects that are currently in various stages of development in their areas.

YOUTH AWARE OF AND INVOLVED IN VISION 2030 PROJECTS - 24.165% (94 respondents)

Sadly the least populous group of respondents comprised of those who were aware and involved in Vision 2030 projects. If one were to extract a positive outcome from these responses it would be that a good number of those who stated that they were involved in the projects were involved at the committee level and many were coordinating or implementing various Vision 2030 projects in their areas. It was very encouraging to see that

the youth in Kenya have managed to find a place in the leadership and implementation of Vision 2030 projects and have made themselves instruments through which the youth can be heard and remain central to the implementation and realization of Vision 2030 projects.

As with those who were only aware of but uninvolved in the projects most of the respondents who fell in this group were mainly involved in the various agricultural diversification projects although unlike the above group almost half of the respondents were involved in the various education sector improvement projects that fall under the Social Pillar of the Vision 2030 Development Plan. A significant number were also involved in various peace education and rehabilitation initiatives which are also under the Vision 2030 Development Plan and which are of significant importance as the country is now speeding towards elections in March of next year. It is very encouraging to see so many young individuals involved in this critical process especially since the youth were the main instrument used to perpetrate much of the violence we saw in the 2007-2008 post election period. This demonstrates the commitment of the youth to cementing their place as peaceful contributors to society and their rejection of violence as a tool for the grabbing of political power as it has been done in the recent past.

CONCLUSION

While those who were aware of Vision 2030 projects and those who were involved in Vision 2030 projects comprised of the majority of respondents to the poll (54%), it must be highlighted that in total 76% of respondents remained uninvolved in any Vision 2030 project nationwide. This result should be a huge concern for the youth as the Vision 2030 Development Project aims to build a future of which the youth of today will be the inheritors. If the youth are not involved in the creation development and implementation of these 100 projects, they run the risk of inheriting a Kenya in which they do not play a significant part and where their rights, challenges and opportunities are not considered.

The youth need to make a more concerted effort to increase their awareness and participation in the various Vision 2020 projects around the country if they are going to benefit wholly from this initiative. They can no longer afford to “sit and wait” to see how Vision 2030 will change their lives as these projects run the risk of alienating them from the various gains they purport to hold for the youth if they themselves do not own the fact that they are the most significant stakeholder in any discussion or project which professes to create a better future for Kenyans. The youth is the future of Kenya and if they are not involved today, they run the risk of not being involved tomorrow and that is a future very few will be happy to inherit.

The Government must also be held accountable for the lack of awareness of Vision 2030 projects amongst the youth. It is the youth who will be benefiting from the new education reforms that are part of this project. It is the youth who will form the dynamic and diverse

workforce that will attract future investment into the country and develop our country into a truly 21st century economy. It is the youth who ultimately will realize and live Vision 2030 and the government simply cannot fail to engage and involve the youth in these projects and include them more completely in the Vision 2030 Development Plan. There must be more widespread and far reaching awareness and sensitizations campaigns throughout all the 47 counties and more space needs to be created at the creation, development and implementation levels for the youth so that they are totally involved in the realization of the Vision. We must work together to realize Vision 2030 and neither the Government nor the Youth can afford to fail to recognize this important fact.