



STATUS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS TEN MONTHS AFTER INAUGURATION OF THE JUBILEE
GOVERNMENT
PRESS STATEMENT
29TH JANUARY 2014

Ten (10) months since the ascension of the Jubilee Alliance to power, the government has taken remarkable steps in bettering the lives of Kenyans. We laud the Government for the efforts especially the various initiatives and programs that have been launched as the Government settles on national development, unity and cohesion.

We however note that as other aspects of the larger national fabric get all the requisite attention, the Government has apparently forgotten to deliver their promise to the youth, at least from the way youth issues have been addressed in the last 10 months. Herein listed are the five key youth areas that need urgent redress by the President and his Government:

First, in structuring the new government, his Excellency did away with a substantive youth ministry and instead created a state department of youth affairs under the ministry of Devolution and Planning. The said ministry is huge and diverse and youth issues have not gotten the requisite attention and that is why for almost a year since the restructuring of government, the youth function has never been decided upon if it's national or devolved. County Youth Directors and District Youth Officers have been idle for the better part of last year and the situation remains so even now.

Secondly, the government's projects towards youth empowerment should be fully rolled out and resourced adequately to benefit the youth. Uwezo Fund is yet to see the light of day four months since it was launched. Fraudsters are having a field day selling fake Uwezo Fund forms to unsuspecting youth across the country, Youth Enterprise Development Fund doesn't have sufficient funds and its board doesn't have enough members to make quorum for decision making and this state has hampered its service delivery. The 30% Government Procurement Opportunities initiative is a lesson in frustration as it is cumbersome, hard to monitor and benefit. It's time the president and government made sure that youth programs are youth friendly and realistic.

Thirdly, even before the year ends, the government is fast forgetting its promises to the youth of Kenya. The Jubilee Manifesto promised 1 million jobs per year and 2.5% of National revenue (about 20 Billion shillings) to go to youth fund to support youth owned businesses, this as we speak is yet to be realized. In fact the government is thinking of retrenching workers.

Fourth, all appointments to public institutions in the last 10 months have been to the disadvantage of the youth. For the first time in a decade, there is no single youth in the cabinet, no

youth holding a principle secretary position, the third level of governance which is parastatal heads so far has locked out youth. As a generation, we are asking the president and his deputy to give at least 30% of all state appointments to the youth.

Fifth and finally albeit not the least of them all, more than a year since the Council was formed it is yet to be fully operationalised and funded to function as was intended. We urge the President to personally see to it that the National Youth Council is accorded the necessary support to undertake its mandate as the voice of the youth in Kenya in charge of policy research and advisory. The complete operationalisation of the council will give the youth of Kenya a much needed platform and space for empowerment, representation and development.

Signed by:

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