



# YOUTH QUESTIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

## Making The Youth Factor Count In the 2017 General Election

Dear Presidential Candidates,

Youth Agenda, a youth advocacy organisation is mobilising youth to vote in candidates with a youth agenda. To enable the organization inform the youth constituency of the presidential candidate's youth policy positions, commitments and priorities, Youth Agenda has developed a questionnaire which speaks to the youth issues. We kindly request for your responses which will be published and shared nationally with over sixteen million youth potential voters.

### Reducing Unemployment

1. Kenya, East Africa's biggest economy, has the largest number of unemployed youth in the region. The World Bank report of 2016 indicates that nearly one in every five Kenyan youth of working age has no job. Unemployment among Kenya's youth is now estimated to stand at 17.3 per cent compared to six per cent for both Uganda and Tanzania.<sup>1</sup>
  - a) Should you win the August election, what steps will your government take to re-awaken our dormant manufacturing industry?
  - b) What technological or digital solutions will you introduce to counter youth unemployment crisis?
    - (i) What is your position on provision of free Wi-Fi across the country?
  - c) To stem insecurity resulting from youth delinquency and radicalization, what interventions do you propose to take to remedy the prevailing situation.

### Youth Institutional and Policy Frameworks

2. The National Youth Policy is aimed at ensuring that the youth play their role, alongside older populace, in the development of the country. The policy goal of the youth policy is to promote youth participation in community and civic affairs and to ensure that youth programs are youth centered.

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- a) Will your government commit to have a Ministry of Youth to coordinate and implement youth related programs?
  - i. What programs do you foresee your government implementing to enhance inclusion of youth in policy formulation and decision making, if any?
  
- b) In response to Article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya, what affirmative action measures will your government put in place to ensure the youth issues are mainstreamed?
  - i. Are there particular policy interventions your government will pursue when elected related to the implementation of Article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya?
  
- c) Young people are convinced that the biggest threat to their improved livelihood is not the absence of good policies but the failure to implement the said policies. What pledge do you make and how should they hold you accountable?

### Skills Development

3. When the Thika Highway was being constructed, the youth in Kenya missed out for lack of practical skills e.g. bricklaying. Standard Gauge Railway has followed and the craftsperson employed are not Kenyan. Plumbers, electricians and woodworkers among others are those missing from the job marketplace in Kenya compelling the nation to import furniture and constructions materials.
  - a) How do you plan to deal with existing skills gap in the market related to the aforementioned missed opportunities to optimize every opportunity in the future?
    - i. What would be your interventions to deal with skills development among the youth, if any, should you win the August election?



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### Youth Inclusion and Participation

4. In Kenya, the youth bulge presents a number of challenges for both the youth and the country. Youth represent the most abundant asset Kenya has<sup>4</sup>. Nonetheless, surveys conducted invariably conclude that the youth are sidelined in governance and more often ignored in nation building.
  - a) How do you plan to engage youth meaningfully in nation building as decision makers and key stakeholders?
  - b) If Elected as President, what percentage of your appointment positions will you extend to the youth?
    - i. What criteria will your government follow in enhancing inclusion of youth in decision making including young women and youth with disability ?

### Tackling mismanagement of sports and arts

5. Sports bodies in Kenya have in the recent past been in the spotlight accused of mismanaging sports, from the Rio Olympics debacle, to the Athletics Kenya fiasco and the perennial problems with soccer. On the other hand, artists are exploited because bodies meant to regulate and collect royalties on their behalf are failing the artists As a result, talented artists in Kenya cannot live off their talent.
  - a) What steps will you or your government put in place to guarantee the proper management of sports in Kenya?
  - b) What investments will you make in arts (music) to ensure it becomes a core driver of the economy like other well-managed economies?



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## Ease of Doing Business for Young Entrepreneurs

6. Registration costs, permit fees and KRA Corporate tax are very costly for youth in business. AGPO issues remain a challenge with young entrepreneurs waiting for years to be paid after supplying government with goods and services. Photographers and Film Makers also complain of high permit fees to take pictures making it hard to thrive in business.

- a) What curative interventions will you put in place to make it easy for the youth to do business in Kenya

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSES

Signed By \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_