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The County Secretary,
Nairobi City County Government,
P.O. Box 30075 – 00100,
Nairobi.

MEMORANDUM ON NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021/22

About Youth Agenda

Youth Agenda (YAA) is a national, non-partisan and non-profit Civil Society Organization registered in Kenya as a non-governmental organization founded in 1996. For the two decades, Youth Agenda has been a leading advocate for young people by developing the capacity of youth to take charge of their affairs in their county through leadership training and support, knowledge generation and dissemination and facilitating platforms to engage in governance and development processes. On the other hand, Youth Agenda closely monitors and tracks youth participation and consistently engaged in advocacy campaigns to protect and promote youth access to political, economic and social opportunities.

General Remarks

Youth Agenda Commends Nairobi City County in its effort to facilitate public participation in the development of County Annual Development Plan 2021/22 and for providing the opportunity for non-state actors to input the ADP at the development Stage. This is a clear indication of the County’s commitment in promotion of public participation as enshrined in the Constitution as well as the realization of the critical role the public play in county governance processes.

While lauding the County’s efforts in developing the Annual Development Plan 2021/22, Youth Agenda recommends the following programmes for consideration in the development of the Nairobi City County Annual Development Plan 2021/22.

A. Education, Youth, and Social Services Sector

1. Development of Nairobi County Youth Strategic Plan 2020/22: Nairobi City County population aged between 18 and 35 years bracket comprises of about 40.7% according to the 2019 National census. This is a notable resource that should be harnessed in county development processes. As a powerful and large segment of the population, their relevance in the county development discourse should be prevalent and tapped to spur growth and development. In order to benefit from young people’s capabilities, Nairobi City County must create opportunities for youth to be engaged in development processes. Otherwise, the exclusion and marginalization of youth would deprive communities of their energy, dynamism and innovativeness. On another hand, while youth can form the most energetic
and innovative segment of the population, if unemployed and excluded, they can be a source of social disruption. Doors should therefore be open to youth participation in county planning, besides other involvements such as employment, civic engagement, political participation, etc. In view of the foregoing, the Youth Agenda believes that there is need to bring young people into a level playing ground where they appreciate devolution gains, structure and processes and their role at the county level. YAA recommends the development of Nairobi City County Youth Strategic Plan 2020/2022. It will cover youth interventions across all the sectors and functions of the county government.

2. Establishment of a 12 Member Nairobi County Youth Technical Working Group/Board: The technical working group will be responsible for advising the county on youth matters, development of County Annual Action Plans, undertake a review and input in County Development Plans and Budgets from a technical perspective, and undertake county consultations on youth priorities etc. The working group brings together 10 Youth Experts from different sectors (informed by County Sectors), 1 gender representative and 1 representative for Persons Living with Disability.

3. Development of Nairobi City County Youth Development Policy: Aware that Nairobi City County is in the process of developing a youth policy, we urge the county to fast track the process and ensure that the policy is in line with the Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019, that was launched during the International Youth Day (12th August 2020).

4. Recognition and Awarding exemplary youth across various sectors or categories: The awarding will take place annually on the International Youth Day (IYD) in this case, on the 12th August 2020. The awards should be part of the major county youth empowerment programme which is a complete mentorship and engagement of youth for a one-year period.

5. Carry out annual Governors round-table with Youth for inclusion and engagement in county matters. These will be a minimum two days forums to give youth a platform with all county departments, assembly and the governor for presentations and questions on youth matters and involvement in devolution.

8. Public Service Management Sector

The Constitution of Kenya requires the state to take measures to ensure that the youth gain access to relevant employment. In a bid to achieve this, the government put in place measures to strengthen youth employment and entrepreneurship. However, “Youth Unemployment and Exclusion in Kenya” report published by Deepening Democracy Programme (2019), the youth are unable to take advantage of some of these opportunities as they lack practical experience.

To bridge this gap, the government committed to promote and strengthen internship and volunteer ship programmes for the youth graduating from training institutions to enable them acquire practical experience through adoption of the Internship Policy for the Public Service in 2016. The programme aims to: Enhance youth development and employability by creating clear linkages between education, training and work; Provide hands-on experience to build upon skills learned in the classroom; Fulfil the legal requirement for registration by professional bodies; Develop a culture of high quality life-long learning, positive work habits and attitudes; and Establish a supply pipeline of skills to the public services.
Besides internships, County governments need to promote volunteerism in order to engage a huge chunk of jobless young people who could gain experience by offering services probono, and as a way of tapping the human resource that may be required by governments to deliver certain crucial services but which due to lack of resources cannot be fully engaged.

As a result, Youth Agenda recommends the following:

1. Establishment of the Nairobi City County Internship, service and Volunteerism Programmes
2. Development of the Nairobi City County Internship, service and Volunteerism Policies.
3. Establish a Nairobi annual career fair and planned in the Nairobi County Youth Strategy.

C. Commerce, Tourism and Co-operatives Sector

Establishment of the Nairobi City County Youth Night Market: Youth Night Market is an inaugural night market concept aimed at jump-starting the 24-hour economy in the country, powered by the strength of the youth entrepreneurs. The market is primarily a fun-filled open-air market in the night featuring various vendors (mostly youth start-ups) selling merchandise such as clothes & shoes, cosmetics, food & drinks, sports & fitness, electronics, arts, books, fashion, kitchen ware, decor, kids toys, etc. The market aims to bring out the best fusion of shopping, dining and socializing while creating space for young people to showcase their best attributes. More specifically, Youth Night Market aims at providing a solution to the challenge of youth unemployment through provision of readily accessible to market which will now not be a day event but one that runs till midnight.

Establishment of the Nairobi City County Youth Empowerment Fund to specifically be accessed by youth on youth friendly terms.

Submitted by Youth Agenda
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