

# **The Kenya National Youth Charter 2013**

Uniting the Youth, Transforming Kenya

Prepared by the Centre for Multi-Party Democracy Kenya (CMD-K)

## List of Acronyms

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome	<b>KNCHRE</b>	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and Equality
<b>ASAL</b>	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands	<b>NACADA</b>	National Agency for the Campaign Against Drug Abuse
<b>CIC</b>	Commission on the implementation of the Constitution	<b>NARC</b>	National Rainbow Coalition
<b>CMD-K</b>	Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya	<b>NCIC</b>	National Cohesion and Integration Commission
<b>DIPD</b>	Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy	<b>NCPWD</b>	National Council for Persons With Disability
<b>DLDP</b>	Danish Liberal Democratic Party	<b>NEC</b>	National Executive Council
<b>EACC</b>	Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission	<b>NIMD</b>	Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation	<b>SMASSE</b>	Strengthening of Maths and Sciences in Secondary School Education
<b>HIV</b>	human Immuno-deficiency Virus	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>ID</b>	Identification Card	<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>IEBC</b>	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission		
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology		

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**Njeri Kabeberi**

**Executive Director, CMD-Kenya**

## Preamble

WE the youth of Kenya, as full citizens making up over half of the people of Kenya;

**GUIDED** by the vision, hopes and aspirations of the Kenyan Youth and the inherent dignity and inalienable rights afforded to all citizens by the Constitution of Kenya;

**CLAIMING** our birthright to have freedom to equality and non-discrimination as a matter of human rights, as a condition for social justice necessary for development and peace;

**RECOGNIZING** the challenges facing Kenyan Youth including unemployment, inaccessibility to productive resources such as land and capital and taking into account the firm will of Kenyan Youth for self-determination and the economic development of Kenya;

**HAVING** contributed equally with other citizens, men and women, to the struggle for our country's independence from colonial rule and throughout the post-colonial era;

**CONVINCED** that Kenya's greatest resource is its youthful population and that through their active and full participation, Kenyans can surmount the difficulties that lie ahead;

**FINDING** ourselves still discriminated and marginalized in politics, economy and society;

**BEARING IN MIND** the economic, social, and cultural contribution Youth make to Kenyan society and hence their importance to full participation and inclusion of their contributions in all decision making processes with a view to developing our society;

**RECOGNIZING** that the development programmes and policies in Kenya will be more impactful when issues facing youth are taken into account;

**REITERATING** the need to nurture unity in diversity amongst youth from multiple backgrounds as a way of collective empowerment;

**THEREFORE CONVINCED** that any practice that hinders the development of youth should be eliminated;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the Constitution of Kenya promulgated in 2010 with a progressive Bill of rights and provisions for inclusivity in governance;

**NOTING** with concern the situation of Kenyan youth, that despite the gains, many are marginalized from mainstream society through inequalities in income, wealth

and power; unemployment and underemployment, infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, living in situations of poverty and hunger; experiencing illiteracy and poor quality educational systems, restricted access to health services and to information, exposure to violence including gender violence, engaging in armed conflicts and experiencing various forms of discrimination,

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION** the needs and aspirations of young persons in arid and semi-arid lands, refugees, slums and youth with special needs and disabilities;

**RECOGNISING** again that youth are partners, assets and a prerequisite for sustainable development and for the peace and prosperity of Kenya with a unique contribution to make to the present and to future development;

**NOTING** that the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond and the ten priority areas identified for youth (education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women and youth participating in decision-making), and the five additional areas (HIV/AIDS, ICT, Inter-generational dialogue) adopted at the 2005 UN General assembly;

**RECALLING** that Kenya has signed and ratified international human rights instruments that guarantee rights of youth, notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Economic Rights and the African Youth Charter;

**REAFFIRMING** the need to take appropriate measures to promote and protect the rights and welfare of youth as outlined;

**DETERMINED** to ensure that the rights of all youth are protected and secured and ensure their full involvement in governance;

**WE** the youth of Kenya have come together under the Centre for Multiparty Democracy-Kenya, through the cross-party County Political Debates on youth held across the country and also bilateral party forums, drawn our experiences and establish what problems face youth across Kenya and propose viable policy options to address the challenges in the context of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

**HEREBY SOLIDLY AGREE** to define a path toward realization of our rights in education, representation in leadership, effective participation, peace and security, employment, regional and gender equality, reproductive

and health care rights and social protection and  
THEREFORE COMMIT OURSELVES AND OTHER  
SIGNATORIES TO THIS CHARTER as follows:

## **Article 1: Elimination of Discrimination Against the Youth**

The passage of the New Constitution of Kenya (2010) heralded a new dawn for Kenya. Kenyan youth played a decisive role in the struggle for and the passage of the constitution. Indeed, our constitution was written with the blood of Kenyans; in the year 1997 alone, approximately twenty one young people were killed by police officers in the demand for a new constitution during the Saba Saba rally. Many young Kenyans gave their lives, limb, careers and education to the fight for a new democratic constitution that would establish equality and non-discrimination.

Equality and non-discrimination is the cornerstone of citizenship and is outlined in Article 27 of the Constitution. We the youth therefore regret the continued discrimination the youth face in all spheres of life in Kenya, including but not limited to the application of the law and access to opportunity:

1. We want an immediate end to the discrimination of male youths all over Kenya in the application of the law. Particularly, we call for the immediate end

to the general criminalization of unemployed and economically excluded Kikuyu youths, Muslim male youths, Somali youths, young male urban youths in the main cities and young male youths in the rural areas that have been profiled, excluded and targeted by law enforcement agencies. For them, the application of the principles of due process and fair trial remain largely suspended. Law enforcement agencies must end the general treatment of young male Kenyans as law breakers who are guilty until proven innocent!

2. We demand for Affirmative Action Policies in leadership to enable young people to effectively contribute in the present processes of nation building. We further demand for youth participation in all decision making and leadership platforms in order to ensure that the policies that are made and implemented within political parties and government agencies are just, progressive and sustainable for posterity. Young people are discriminated in access to leadership positions mainly due to their age and inability to marshal the financial and social resources. In politics, young people are generally doubted and shunned from positions of leadership and responsibility by party officials and state agencies generally. They are discriminated during party

processes including party elections and nominations for candidature for elective seats.

3. We demand for a national internship and apprenticeship policy that will significantly increase the skill fund among young people in the country in their various fields of education and training. Young people are discriminated when they are asked for experience before they can be employed, yet it is by being employed that they can gain the experience demanded by employers.
4. We call for the immediate end to discrimination against young women. We call upon all private and public sector entities to uphold the constitutional direction that no one shall be discriminated on grounds of pregnancy. Young women have been discriminated against by potential and current employers on grounds of pregnancy especially in the private and in the security sectors of government.
5. We call for the immediate enactment of an Equality and Human Rights law in Kenya in order to clearly define grounds under which discrimination can be defined as a crime punishable under the law.

## Article 2: Effective Representation of the Youth in Leadership and Governance

The effective participation of the youth in leadership and governance is a pillar to realization of the Vision 2030 aspirations. Yet, Kenyan Youth continue to suffer structural marginalization in politics, economic and cultural and social spheres of our nation. We believe solemnly that any nation that does not invest in its youth is a nation sowing the seeds of its own collapse. While Kenya is a largely young nation with nearly two-thirds of its adult population being youths below the age of 35 years of age, the Kenyan state does not invest in nurturing its youth. Instead, the State seems to be at war with its youth. For Vision 2030 to be realized, focus should be turned to the place of the youth in the leadership of political, social and economic pillars of the Vision 2030.

1. We demand the full institutionalization of Political Parties as key vehicles for democratic governance, popular participation and political socialization in Kenya. We call for the heavy penalization of Political Parties whose national officials particularly

Chairperson, Party Leaders, Secretary Generals, Directors of election and Treasurers defect before the lapse of the current five year term under which the Party presented candidates. This is to introduce accountability and responsibility to Political Parties. We recommend that a Party whose official defects within the term notifies the Registrar of Political Parties and such official made to pay a sum of KSH. 3 million to the Political Parties Fund. An official may only resign but not defect, join or participate in the formation of another Political Party within the five year term that the party offered candidates.

2. We demand that the relevant department responsible for registration of persons and provision of identification documents develops an effective strategy that shall ensure that access to birth certificates, Identity Cards and Passports becomes service oriented and citizen centered. We demand that applicants for these crucial documents provide a telephone contact when applying for documents where they can be contacted for information to pick their documents immediately such a document is ready. We demand that the replacement of these documents becomes efficient and expeditious.

3. We demand that National Identity Cards be issued to Kenya youths simultaneously with a copy of the Constitution of the republic to enable young people become aware of the duties and rights they have under the constitution in order to participate in governance effectively.
4. We demand that ID cards be issued to Kenyan youth in their secondary schools as it was the practice in the past as part of preparing the youngsters for civic responsibilities to their nation upon leaving school.
5. We demand for the institutionalization of civic and voter education in the public lives of Kenyans. Civic and voter education are not mere programs but a right of all Kenyan citizens. We therefore demand that the government formulates a national civic education policy which must facilitate the establishment of a permanent National Commission for Civic Education as a successor of the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC). Our position is that instead of spending taxes on establishing anti-corruption and other such reactionary agencies, Kenya should invest in civic education as a priority to ensure that we nurture responsible and accountable citizens who uphold their national values as the foundation and touch stone of our nationhood.
6. We demand that administrative services and governmental agencies be made more accessible. We demand particularly that all commissions be devolved to the lowest levels possible but at least the county level.
7. The right of access to information is central to effective participation by citizens in development. The youth of Kenya hereby urge the government to facilitate the full operationalization of e-governance in all important areas including e-voter registration, e-voting especially for young people and Kenyans abroad, e-contribution of views on policies and bills before parliament in order to fulfil the principle of participation of the people among others. We laud the Judiciary for introducing electronic ways of settling fines as this shows that e-governance is possible and doable.
8. We demand the continuous registration of voters as provided for in the Constitution of the Republic by making it possible for youths to register in colleges or in their places of work but be enabled to vote at a

place of his/her choice. Young people should not have to travel long distances to register in polling stations that they shall vote in when they can e-register and provide the codes of the polling stations they intend to vote in at a future date.

9. We demand for peaceful and credible elections to ensure that elections no longer become a trigger for conflict and violence but the platform for progress and establishment of democratic government. The youth of Kenya demand the following:
  - a. A thorough vetting system that ensures that only women and men of integrity offer themselves for candidature, consistent with the provisions of Chapter Six of our constitution.
  - b. That the IEBC conducts and/or coordinates the provision of ample and timely civic and voter education before elections.
  - c. That the IEBC and the Registrar of Political Parties ensure that political parties indeed uphold all the principles of good governance in the registration, operations and conduct of party elections and nominations.
  - d. That the IEBC superintends all Political Party Primaries before elections to ensure sanity.
  - e. That the IEBC begins to use the enormous powers it has under the law to promote the electoral processes, discipline and the participation of women, youth and other disadvantaged groups of Kenyans in the electoral processes.
10. The policy on citizens' participation in governance must provide for the effective participation of citizens and the youth in particular in policy and legislation at the County and district level but also in institutions of higher learning and established forums of young people.
11. We endorse the principle of Affirmative Action within Affirmative Action for young women in political leadership and governance which will effectively ensure that as we increase the number of women present in leadership and decision making from the current low of 9% to the 50:50 level, young women are an integral part of the women gaining entry into public leadership.

12. We call for legislation that will compel all Kenyans to vote as a solemn duty. The duty to vote legislation as practiced in countries like Australia shall be a democratic strategy to end the pre-eminence of handouts and voter bribery in elections. The youth of Kenya see the duty to vote and the duty to pay tax as the two most significant duties that make citizens responsible for Kenya's governance and development.
13. We call for the full operationalization of the National Youth Council and its full budgetary and institutional support.
14. We similarly call for the establishment of the East African Youth Council under the East Africa Community Treaty to facilitate effective youth participation in governance and leadership but significantly to facilitate the citizen to citizen interaction in the quest for the regional integration. We are desirous of a citizen and indeed a youth driven regional integration of our East African Community.

### Article 3: Youth in Political Parties

Political Parties have failed the nation by abdicating their key responsibility of creating a platform where women as well as men fully participate in the making of the history of their nation. Political Parties have the fundamental responsibility of shaping the nation's political socialization and it is Political Parties who have the responsibility of dismantling the masculine nature of Parties and politics by constructing inclusive and gender responsive Parties and politics in Kenya.

1. We demand that Political Parties be funded from the Political Parties' Fund on condition that they present a clear strategy of how they have recruited young people below the age of 35 years as members of these Political Parties. This is because more than 67% of all the voting-age citizens of Kenya are young people below the age of 35 and they must become the main base of the membership of parties funded by tax payers' money.
2. This recruitment must demonstrate that young women have been recruited into the political parties

as key participants in public life. This begins with the induction of young women into Parties and politics.

3. We demand a 40% presence of young people in all decision making organs of political parties and that a young person must occupy one of the four top positions of the Political Parties being either Party Leader, Chairperson, Secretary General, Chairperson of the Party Elections Board/Director of Elections of the Party as an affirmative Action step.
4. That all political parties in their Annual reports to the NEC and the Registrar of Political Parties must make recognition of the contribution of young people in political parties for that year in terms of how young people were substantively involved in policy development, party branding and building activities and what percentage of the annual budget was dedicated to the youth programs of the Party.
5. Political Parties must create special programmes for Young women in political parties' processes including but not limited to young women's mentoring, coaching and leadership development programs beginning from July 2013.
6. We are demanding that all Political Parties initiate in their constitutions the model of the young parties where all the national offices are replicated in the youth League of the party to offer the necessary ground for leadership training, coaching Mentoring and a reliable platform for succession planning in the political parties.
7. We demand that each political party publish their 'Right to youth participation policy' which shall have four key pillars namely: the youth's right to information, to be consulted, to be involved and the right to be collaborated with by the party governing body as a democratic minimum demand.

## **Article 4: Rights and Responsibilities of the Youth in Promotion of National Cohesion, Peace and Security:**

We the youth are conscious of our responsibilities to our nation. These responsibilities include securing our nation from any internal or external threats to our collective prosperity. The political segmentation and exploitation of our ethnic, racial, religious and language differences by political demagogues since independence has continued to consolidate power in a few ethnic spokespersons whereas millions continue to plunge into poverty every single year. Our nation's cohesion and security has continued to disintegrate under the current political system founded around ethnic differentiation and segmentation. As youth, we have become the expendable fodder that fuels the ethnic embers for the ethnic war lords and political entrepreneurs. The more Kenya becomes ethnically segmented, the more power and wealth becomes segmented in the hands of a few political entrepreneurs and the more millions become jobless and exposed to economic, social, food, energy and

income insecurity. We the Youth of Kenya have the power to change this political system:

1. We demand immediately that the Government henceforth stops the issuance of Identity cards that require ethnic and district of origin information sets. We want an ID card that identifies us as Kenyans with the right to reside and enterprise in any part of our nation.
2. We demand that future census exercises do not gather or outline data and information on ethnic community numbers. This was a colonial strategy for controlling and dividing Kenyans which successive post-independence administrations have regrettably perpetuated. The young people of Kenya are demanding that residence be used as a basis of census data gathering and information presentation for decision making. Policy decisions and budgeting is never done on the basis of ethnic supremacy in terms of numbers but on the basis of residence.
3. We demand for a national language and cultural policy which will recognize, develop and support the development, exchange and sharing of the various cultural and language content of each ethnic

community in Kenya as a strategy for building a national identity of solidarity and unity in diversity. To this extent, we demand that the role of the Council of Elders of ethnic communities in the second republic be investigated and reviewed by the NCIC and the Justice and Constitutional Affairs ministry. We aver that these councils tend to be instruments of politicians rather than platforms for cultural and social development of communities and national cohesion.

4. We demand that The National Policy on Conflict and Peace building be adopted speedily. The policy must make the role of the youth in the Peace and Security architecture prominent. We reject the continued marginalization of the youth in matters of security and peace building in Kenya. We demand also that the National Security Policy be discussed widely and that the Kenya National Youth Council be involved extensively in the public engagement phase in order to ensure the policy is democratic and responsive to the needs of the majority. The government must appreciate that young people form the majority of the consumers of security services as the majority in police cells, prisons, and victims of the maladministration of the security agencies such

as extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and excessive use of force.

5. We call on the government to widely and systematically disseminate The Kenya National Action Plan on UN Resolution 1325 and UNSC Resolution 1820 with the aim of involving young men and young women in the understanding, appreciation and support of the Action Plan.

## Article 5: Right to Dignity, Respect, and Access to Justice

Our vision as the young people of Kenya is a State and Society that is democratic and guarantees human rights.. It is only this kind of State that can facilitate the realization of each Citizen's dignity and justice. Since independence, the government has consistently treated young people as a security and development problem. As such, the youth feel unappreciated in all spheres of the political economy yet the success of our nation depends solely on the quality of the youth that the nation is bringing up. We the youth of Kenya therefore demand as follows:

1. We demand the immediate end to torture, enforced disappearances and extra judicial killings of young people in Kenya in the name of combating crime, tightening security and/or enforcing the law. We demand that the President of the Republic in his/her annual report to parliament articulates a clear policy on the transformation of the criminal justice process to ensure that security is enforced and assured without violating the human rights of Kenyans

particularly young people. We demand immediately for:

- a. A competent investigative and crime detection system where the evidence that is provided in court enables the prosecutor to sustain competent and successive prosecutions.
- b. A competent prosecution service that is administered by a capable prosecution authority. We decry the lethargic pace at which the prosecution service is being evolved under the direction of the Director of Public Prosecution.
- c. An effective and independent Judiciary which arbitrates expeditiously over all criminal matters to ensure that Kenyans especially the youth do not rot in remand-prisons.
- d. A competent witness protection system to ensure that prosecutions are sustained with a great degree of success where witnesses feel safe to provide the evidence.
- e. An efficient correction service that actually rehabilitates those interned with the correction

service. We the Youth of Kenya declare Kenya's correction services system pre-modern and crude. We demand an overhaul of the correction service system in line with international standards.

2. We demand for the establishment of a robust National Legal Aid Scheme. We are concerned that this Programme has taken nearly a decade before it can be fully operationalized. The youth will be the greatest beneficiary of a robust National Legal Aid Scheme.
3. We demand from the National Security Council a modern intelligence driven policing strategy to overhaul our policing service which has remained largely reactionary and rudderless. Intelligence-led policing is the key to securing our nation from internal and external threats.
4. We demand for the introduction of a Human rights education curriculum in our school system as part of civic education whose aim is not only to make young Kenyans aware of and assertive of their rights but also of their duties to Kenya.
5. We demand immediately for an end to sexual exploitation of young women in their places of work, in universities and colleges and in other official spaces. We call on the National Gender and Equality Commission to help the government develop a national strategy aimed at curbing this menace that continues to degrade and dehumanize our young women and the youth generally.

## Article 6: Realization of Economic and Social Rights for Young Kenyan Citizens

Young people as citizens of Kenya have rights and duties. We the youth of Kenya embrace the spirit and the letter of the Bill of Rights in our constitution. We particularly endorse the progressive philosophy and ideology of the constitution as regards the realization of socio-economic rights as outlined in Article 43 of the constitution and in several other Articles in the Bill of rights and the constitution. Kenya will only become prosperous when young people, who are the majority of our adult population, have access to basic rights including food, housing, health care, water & sanitation and social security. We therefore demand as follows:

1. We call for the immediate end to the commercialization of basic goods and services. We regret and condemn the commercialization of water, health, education, information and food. Emerging economies such as Brazil, India and China are succeeding because the underlying philosophy of these national economies is the move towards restoring public spaces, utilities and services in order for the industrial, agricultural and commercial sectors to thrive. That is why for instance thousands of Kenyans are making India and other nations medical tourism centers as they seek medical care in India that we cannot afford in Kenya!
2. We demand that by the end of 2014, a National Urbanization Policy and Strategy be developed. Kenya's socio-economic transformation and the fulfillment of economic and social rights of all are closely tied with the sustainable urbanization of our nation.
3. We demand immediately for the establishment of a universal Health insurance scheme that shall cover every single Kenyan and to which all shall contribute towards in order to finance the ever expensive cost of medical care. Government shall, as part of subsidizing medical care, invest into the fund to offer the resources needed to deliver the right to health care for all. Medical care is not just a service but a right guaranteed by our Constitution.
4. We demand that the government immediately develops a clear multi-sectoral national delivery strategy on the access to water, sanitation and

- housing for all. We believe such a national strategy is necessary under the county system of governance established by the constitution because access to water, sanitation and decent housing is now a right for all.
5. We the youth demand that alongside the national water, sanitation and housing delivery strategy, it is of priority that each County governments build Youth hostels under a social housing programme in each of the 47 urban areas of the Counties to facilitate sustainable transition of young people into urban areas to drive economic activity, innovation and entrepreneurship. The social housing policy is the policy that most Western and Northern European countries used in the 1940s to evolve cosmopolitan culture which was central to the transformation of their economies and nations. We are concerned that most Universities and colleges coming up all over the nation have not worked with government to provide affordable accommodation to most students who have had to look for dehumanizing ways of raising income to afford accommodation and higher education.
  6. That a social policy of contributory social security for every child be introduced where each parent will be compelled to make savings for each child in order to finance education and development of the children when they become young adults.
  7. That a new food security strategy be formulated and financed to ensure that all Kenyan youths and children access quality and ample food which is central to good health and economic productivity. In line with Article 43 of our Constitution, we the Youth shall hold the government accountable if any Kenyan lacks food in our country.
  8. We demand for development and ratification of a modern Kenya National Public Transport policy and strategy by the end of 2014. We demand for an efficient, safe, affordable public transport system in Kenya by 2014.

## Article 7: Realization of Employment and Welfare for Kenyan Youth

Work gives the youth of any nation a sense of worthiness, income, socialization and commitment to the nation and national values. Unemployment in Kenya is alarmingly high. Kenya's development strategy espoused by the vision 2030 is self-defeating in some areas as its focus is not on employment but in general economic growth driven especially by foreign investment. For this reason foreigners are buying prime agricultural land in central province to build palatial residential gated homes while uprooting our black gold coffee that has been offering decent employment for thousands of youths, yet, industrialization is declining. The National Accord noted that youth unemployment was a key underlying force driving the 2008 post-election-violence and crises. Youth unemployment has not been alleviated significantly but only been compounded as the Institute for Economic Affairs pointed in their ground breaking research in 2009/10. We therefore demand as follows:

1. We call for the declaration of youth unemployment a national crisis. Youth unemployment is fuelling the depreciation of social institutions, deviance, violent crime, heightened ethnic polarization and suspicion.
2. Skills are the linchpin to employment. Our education system produces learners without skills. We demand that an urgent review and modernization of Education and Training policy and Strategy be undertaken to see what has worked and what has not worked since the publication and adoption of the Master plan for education and Training in 2005.
3. That a national youth employment creation Strategy be developed by the end of 2013 in consultation with all stakeholders. The strategy shall clearly outline how government through various incentives and policies shall work with commercial and social enterprises to create employment for Kenyan youths on a sustainable basis.
4. The Strategy should provide for the establishment of County youth career and entrepreneurship Bureaus/ Centres ( Vituo Vya Kazi) operated by experts to enable school leavers and young people access career counseling services and to be linked to employment

- opportunities and education and training institutions across the country.
5. We demand public assets-accountability and therefore call for the publication of all government assets for Kenyans and the youth to assess the appropriateness of the use of the same assets towards development. To this end, we call for a policy by the government to give the youth first priority in the allocation of unused lands, government offices, stadiums, public parks, show grounds, houses and halls for the undertaking of youth enterprises, economic development and the eking of livelihoods.
  6. That effective Affirmative economic policies that focus on the Promotion of Youth led and driven cooperative society development in each County are developed and implemented to raise capital at affordable rates for young people's entrepreneurship.
  7. That legal registration of youth enterprises is easier and dynamic to appreciate the nature of the youth enterprises. For example youth owned companies and agencies should be permitted to use the government facilities outlined above as addresses for purposes of registration.
  8. Financing of youth enterprises be increased significantly through youth friendly financial vehicles including the proposed County-based-youth driven cooperative societies.
  9. Affirmative action for youth enterprises in government tendering be provided for in the said practical strategy. 40% of all national and county government tendering should competitively be allocated to young people's companies and agencies. This requires that the Youth enterprise fund, commercial banks and government agencies that are tendering be linked and work in concert for this strategy to work.
  10. We demand that Tax incentives and holidays for start-up youth enterprises be provided for in the law to encourage young people to set up enterprises that shall create employment for more young people. Tax holidays being offered to foreign investors have not led to sustainable economic growth as most of the foreign agencies normally wind up operations in Kenya at the end of the tax holidays.
  11. Entrepreneurship education, coaching and mentorship services are supported by the national

and county governments through agencies that are competent in this area.

12. Support innovation and creativity through setting up the necessary innovation funding and structures in universities, colleges and technology institutes that run innovation, research & Development Programmes. Other facilities such as the Konza technology city and other private initiatives promoting innovations should be considered under this facility. Such innovation funding and structures should secure the intellectual property rights of innovators to encourage more young people to plunge into innovation, design and development of concepts that drive economic transformation.

## Article 8: Sustainable Development and Youth Empowerment

We hold the view that it is future generations that have donated their resources to us to secure a better world for them. The youth are the keepers of the future and the force for today's nation building. Young people are therefore both pragmatic and idealistic. We must, as a nation, use resources and power in a manner that today's growth and prosperity efficiently uses all the available resources while ensuring that we do not deplete resources for the future.

1. We demand that a socially responsible and economically enabling tax and debt policy be put in place which ensures that:
  - a. Income tax applies for only those Kenyans earning a minimum of Kshs. 35,000 a month. A fair tax policy must leave low earners out of the bracket as they will be left with some disposable income to afford basic needs and therefore contribute to taxes through consumption of basic needs.
  - b. Wasteful spending is curtailed to reduce the need for borrowing and piling up debt. The wastage in

government is staggering especially on hospitality spending and unnecessary travel. If these leaks were to be sealed and corruption curtailed the government can recover funds that will be utilized to drive the employment creation schemes.

- c. We avoid burdening citizens especially future generations with debts that did not create welfare or wellbeing and sustainability.
  - d. 60% of national budget is applied to development spending where as 40% is applied to recurrent expenditure. This will make resources available for infrastructure and the development of other long-term platform sectors such as energy and environment renewal and conservation.
2. We demand a transparent and accountable Minerals and Natural Resource governance framework in Kenya especially with the newfound resource wealth and boom likely to flow from oil, gas, coal and other resource revenues. The framework must actively involve the communities, the County governments, the national parliament and other independent offices in the governance of these resources to avoid

an escalation of plunder and corruption or a natural resource curse gripping the nation.

3. We demand that sovereign funds be initiated around these natural resources including Kenya's highly regarded Wildlife natural real estate. The sovereign funds will be used to develop the nation for a more prosperous nation in the future. Norway and Botswana are some of the countries we can learn from.
4. The youth of Kenya call for comprehensive debt relief and in particular call for the immediate cancellation of identifiably corrupt debt such as the Kenren Fertilizer debts and the Anglo-leasing debts. We demand for the immediate cleaning of the external public debt register to relief Kenyans from the burden of continuing to pay corrupt debts. We want all debts that are odious to be declared illegitimate. We call upon the international community to pressure the Kenyan government to clean the debt register. The international community should provide to the people of Kenya technical and legal assistance in this regard. Each year, the debt register should be made public.

5. To ensure that Youth effectively participate in and benefit from a sustainable development, the government shall take all appropriate measures to:
  - i. Ensure that young people are represented in all development committees.
  - ii. That the National Youth Council is fully involved in the policy making process to the lowest level of governance.
  - iii. That 60% of all national and County revenue goes to investment of youth development sectors.
  - iv. We demand that the National Social and Economic Council comprise at least 40% Youth. A national youth Convention to select the competent representatives to the Council should be facilitated by the government.

## **Article 9: Reworking Education to Secure the Youth and the Nation's Future**

We the youth consider Kenya's education to be non-transformational. It prepares the youth for the market instead of preparing the youth to transform the political economy of Kenya including the market itself. It is a fit-in-education not a transformation education. The gender and regional inequalities still persist fifty years after independence. We therefore call for the reworking of our education:

- I. **From access to re-orientation of the purpose of education**
  - a. We applaud the efforts made by the NARC and the Coalition Government administrations to increase the access to education which has offered an opportunity to millions of children and youths to access basic and tertiary education. But we are concerned that a huge percentage of students graduating from our schools, colleges and universities lack the

necessary skills to innovate systems, processes, products, services and concepts that are needed to make Kenya a competitive nation and economy. We call for a review of our education to make it innovative, competitive and transformational where learners gain a critical education, a critical consciousness and the skills needed to innovate products, systems, processes and concepts.

- b. We similarly demand that Kenya de-emphasizes examinations and focuses on developing the skills of learners by developing their talents, gifts and abilities.

## 2. **Regional and Gender Equality in access to education and training**

Regional and gender inequalities in access to education still persist. We the youth therefore call for the following:

- a. That the national government puts in place a deliberate policy to build and expand physical, social and economic infrastructure and scale up the supply of energy to historically marginalized areas to make these areas included in the

national development processes especially in the quality of education that learners interact with from the pre-school level. The young people of Kenya hold the position that the Affirmative Action steps planned by the government including the application of the Equalization Fund provided for in the constitution will not sufficiently lift these historically marginalized areas to the national average level in the next five years. There is need therefore for the establishment of a 'Transformation of ASAL Kenyan Commission' as a Parastatal which will for ten years, consolidate various steps and programs as a strategy to open up and lift the traditionally marginalized areas to a level where they will have the basic services and infrastructure afforded other regions of the country.

- b. That a deliberate policy to promote girls and young women's education access across the country be formulated and updated where this is necessary. This policy must include the following:

- The immediate activation of an elaborate and transparent program aimed at giving girls in upper primary and secondary schools sanitary towels to retain them in school.
- The targeting of action to end the rampant drop out of girls from schools due to early and unplanned pregnancies, backward cultural practices such as early marriages and FGM in certain regions of the country. We the youth are alive to the fact that there is a legal framework for dealing with these challenges but the implementation of the law has been wanting. The County education Boards will play a huge role for Kenya to achieve these aspirations.
- The improvement of the policy of returning girls who get pregnant to schools to complete academic programs with the aim of transferring these girls to different schools to avoid the stigma associated with pregnancy while in school as will be necessary.
- Specific improvement of girls' school facilities and equipment and a deliberate stepping up of SMASSE program in girl schools over the next two years.

## **Article 10: Right to Safety, Reproductive and Health Care for the Youth of Kenya**

Kenya has become an increasingly uncaring society. The youth have become the target of exploitation by the richer and more powerful members of our society. Young men and women are seen mostly as objects and a market for goods and services and as tools to be used for increasing the wealth and power of the rich and powerful,

1. We demand for the stamping out of illicit drugs trade which seems to have taken root and made Kenya an illicit drugs trade hub in Africa. The government has not done enough. The young people of Kenya have suffered and paid the cost of this criminal profiteering from the drugs trade going on within our shores. This is a serious human rights issue. We demand that the Commission on Administrative Justice (Ombudsman), the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and Equality (KNCHRE), the National Police Service, the Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (EACC) and the Parliamentary committee on Internal Security take clear and demonstrable steps to completely stamp out this internal criminal operation.
2. Every year it is reported that more than six thousand women, mostly young women meet their death due to incomplete and unsafe abortions. Most of them are young women from the urban slum areas and poor rural backgrounds. We demand an immediate proactive response by government aimed at providing reproductive health and sex education in schools and communities, the provision of family planning services and education and the provision of reproductive health services to women especially young women across the country to end this senseless death.
3. We demand that each of the 47 County governments formulate and implement clear policies that will ensure that alcoholism is eliminated in conjunction with the National Agency for Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA) because alcoholism is a big threat to the safety and health of the youth and people of Kenya.
4. We demand that the government establishes rehabilitation centers as departments of all the county hospitals within two years to offer young

people and communities the facilities for treatment and overcoming the negative effects of drug abuse and alcoholism.

practices and education on spacing, number of children and fertility generally.

5. We call for the deliberate and significant deployment of Social workers and youth officers in all communities across the country who shall be involved in community and environmental health, sanitation and public health promotion. These social workers and youth officers must be young women and men trained suitably for transforming communities and reviving rural economies in line with the spirit of devolution.
6. We demand the overhaul of the country's HIV prevention and management policy with the objective of making it a youth-centered management of HIV and AIDS policy. The young people of Kenya want our nation to be the first African nation to break the back of HIV-AIDS within 10 years so that we are becoming the HIV free nation.
7. We demand a clear strategy from the national government outlining how all young Kenyans shall access reproductive health care services that include safe parenthood and contraception, safe motherhood

## **Article 11: Social Protection for Young Persons with Disabilities and in Disadvantaged/Marginalized Situations**

Social protection of young vulnerable Kenyans is the surest way to level the ground for all young Kenyans to access education, health care and opportunities for earning incomes, to build secure and happy families. We the youth believe that the family is the cornerstone of any successful, cohesive and functional society or nation. We call for the effective provision of social protection as key to the investment in the youth of our country. For this to be effective, we therefore demand that:

1. A disabled youths' development school be established in each County or region as will be found strategic that shall be fully funded and supported directly by government or through a public-private and community partnership. In this regard we laud religious faiths in the leading role they have played since independence in developing service institutions to support persons with disabilities across the nation.
2. The National Council for Persons with disability (NCPWD) is devolved to County level to coordinate services provided to persons with disability in every part of Kenya.
3. The Orphaned and Vulnerable Children's social protection program be scaled up and administered in an open and transparent manner across the country to lift all vulnerable children and youth out of widespread suffering.
4. Affirmative Action for young people in the historically marginalized areas is expanded to cushion communities in ASAL areas from the atrocious effects of famine and drought.

## Article 12 : Media & Culture in the Promotion of Youth Development and Empowerment

We the youth of Kenya know that we have the energy and capacity to transform our nation in the democratic and political, economic and socio-technological spheres. We therefore call for a partnership with the government, the private sector and other social sectors involved in the national duty of development. The youth can run, dance, sing, perform, draw, paint, inform, design, farm and even sport ourselves out of poverty and therefore the nation.

This will be possible when the social-business- public partnership with the youth is cemented with the spirit of cooperation rather than antagonism. We therefore demand that:

1. Access to IT Connectivity in the more than twenty one thousand primary schools and in secondary schools around the country be accelerated and completed by 2017. IT connectivity will increase literacy, exchange, skills building and creativity, democratic debate and exchange of ideas and views and technological transfer.
2. Curbing of pornography through the raising of anti-pornography firewalls be prioritized to safeguard our youth from misusing access to internet connectivity to destroy and corrupt the minds of the young citizens.
3. The Youth fund is increased to KES. 10 billion to finance sports and cultural development through the facilitation of culture and sports companies and consultancies to enable young people release their greatest potential in these areas.
4. The development of social infrastructure including stadia and cultural centres/ theatres in each of the 47 Counties is prioritized in consultation with the county governments to be completed within the next six years to create the platform for Kenya's democratic, social and economic transformation.
5. Incentives production of local content for audio and audio visual outlets be offered by the government to include tax holidays for youth-owned and youth directed film and music producing companies and agencies.

6. Media profiling of young people as achievers be mainstreamed deliberately and consistently. We demand that the Media Owners Association commits to this national aspiration and demand of young people publicity so that the success stories of young people as innovators, leaders, problem solvers, community developers, peace builders, care givers and justice advocates be visibly displayed. This is significant in order to make our largely young nation confident and conducive for deliberation, dialogue, exchange and positive criticism rather than the cynicism.
7. We demand for the total overhaul of all Sports Associations in Kenya to weed all Associations of old men and women who have run these associations down, corruptly or incompetently. We demand that 40% of all members of the governing body of these Sports Associations consist of young people below the age of 35 years because it is the youth who play the football, do the athletics and running and should therefore significantly participate in the administration and policy making of these Sports Associations.

## The Youth Commitment on Implementation of the Charter and Our National Transformation Goals

We the Youth are aware of the historical mission that our generation must discharge. Our role in the transformation of Kenya is to catalyze, inform, advocate and hold ourselves and all public agencies and officers accountable to deliver on this Charter demands and aspirations. We must rise up and become the stewards of our nation.

1. The CMD-K and the Political Parties Youth Committee has the principal responsibility of publicizing, sharing, marketing and championing the implementation of this Charter. The Committee, with the facilitation of the CMD-K shall publish quarterly reports to the CMD-K Board and the stakeholders of this Charter tracking the implementation of this resolution. The committee will cause an annual evaluation and review of the implementation and learning process from the Charter implementation.
2. The National Youth Council shall be the principal Stakeholder in the implementation of this Charter. The Youth Committee shall advocate for the institutionalization and full-fledged operationalization of the National Youth Council in order to anchor the Policy engagement process within the government.
3. The Youth Committee shall establish an elaborate partnership and Collaboration building with Youth Serving organizations and agencies such as the Youth Agenda among others for purposes of consolidating a forceful alliance for delivery of the Promises of the Charter.

## Declaration of Commitment

(Individuals, Public Institutions, Political Parties, NGOS etc)

(Individuals, Public Institutions, Political Parties, NGOS etc)

I/We

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Having read and concurred with the provision of the foregoing Youth Charter and the proposed legislations, policies, programs and other transformational changes that are considered important for integration of youth agenda in national development.

Note that assimilation of youth in development programs is an essential requirement for the attainment of peace, sustainable development and better quality of life for all.

Now do hereby agree and declare my /our commitment to the attainment of the principles and objective of this Youth Charter:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ the year \_\_\_\_\_

For and on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_





