

CITY COUNCIL OF NAIROBI



SHAURI KWA UAMINIFU

THE CITY WIDE YOUTH POLICY

INTEGRATED YOUTH POLICY AT THE CITY LEVEL

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PREAMBLE

We the youth of Nairobi city,

ACKNOWLEDGING the supremacy of the Almighty God of all creation,

HONOURING those who heroically participated in the Citywide Youth Policy making and those who struggled to bring the idea of Junior Council in the City of Nairobi,

PROUD of our ethnic, cultural and religious diversity and determined to live in peace and unity as one indivisible sovereign city,

RESPECTFUL of the natural environment that is our heritage, and determined to sustain it for the benefit of our present and future generations,

COMMITTED to nurture and protect the well being of the individual, the Nairobi youth and the community at large.

RECOGNIZING the aspiration of the **City Council of Nairobi**, UN-Habitat (Partners & Youth Section, the Safer Cities Programme), ITDG-EA, Junior Council Secretariat, One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre Staff, Youth of Nairobi Constituency representatives and Wards representatives, on the essential values of freedom, democracy, social justice and the rule of law.

EXERCISING our sovereign and inalienable right to determine the form of the governance of our city and having participated fully in the making of this **City Wide Youth Policy**,

ADOPT; Enact and give this policy to ourselves and to the future generation.

REFERENCE.

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JUNIOR COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

GOD BLESS THE YOUTH OF NAIROBI

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The city wide youth policy comes in the face of a myriad challenges facing the young people who live in Nairobi. Although the number of organization dealing with the youth has increased over the years, lack of a comprehensive youth policies makes it difficult for these organization to effectively address young people's challenges.

The city wide youth policy aims at ensuring that the youth are given the opportunity and subsequently play their role along side others in the development of the city affairs. The policy goals is to promote youth participation in: Good Governance, Community Services, Civic Education, Leadership Empowerment, Environmental Issues, HIV/AIDS, Drugs and Substances Abuses, Employment, Art and Culture, Sports, Recreation, Education, and participation in National and International policy findings as well as establishment and promotion of the Junior Council Structures at the local level.

The youth are classified into priority target groups to make it easier to tackle challenges unique to each group. The priority group are: Youth with Disability, Street Youth, Youth Infected with Aids, Female Youth, Unemployed Youth and Out of School Youth.

The policy shall be implemented through an action plan detailing: strategies, activities, the target groups, a time frame and a budget lines. It suggests the formation of the Junior Council to facilitate, co-ordinate, monitor, advocate and promote youth issues under the Department of Social Services. The institution framework will minimize duplication and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery to the youth. The policy proposes that the youth section be up-graded into a fully-fledged Department to effectively spearhead the youth challenges.

The policy will be revised every five years as when other government policy documents are revised

INTRODUCTION

Around the country (Kenya), young people are growing up in an environment of dynamic change. For some, this complexity provides opportunity and choices; for others, it means a struggle for survival. Many young people have stamina and energy, curiosity, a sense of adventure and invulnerability. They are resourceful and resilient even under the most difficult conditions.

The youth in the age bracket of 15-24 years constitutes almost 25% of the Nairobi's population, forming the largest source of human resources. However, they have remained on the periphery of the cities affairs and their status has not been accorded due recognition. They have been excluded from designing, planning and implementing programmes and policies that affect them.

Many of the youth who are productive and energetic remain unemployed, continue to suffer from poor health, and lack sufficient support. Some of them have special needs that require attention. These include those living on the streets, those living with HIV/AIDS, the girls and those with disabilities. Young people's needs vary tremendously depending on their stage of life and on the context in which they live. While this diversity makes it difficult to make any generalization, meeting the needs of youth today is critical for a wide range of policies and programs, because their actions will shape the size, health, security, culture, economic, political and prosperity of the city's future population.

The responsibility of ensuring that aspirations and hopes of the youth are met cannot be left in the hands of a single stakeholder be it the local government or the civil society. It is for this reason that on February 2003, the [Department of Social Services and Housing](#) undertook a study visit of the Municipality of Rotterdam in the Netherlands to familiarize with its integrated youth policy framework. The visit has since realized the enhanced efforts of the department to profile youth in the city and integrate them into the life of the city. Among the initiatives to date include the conduction of a youth offender profile, the introduction of a Street Children Rehabilitation Programme and the formulation of a [One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre](#), among others.

The above initiatives however require a sound policy framework and a subsequent establishment of a coordinating mechanism. Hence the development of this integrated policy framework for the [City Council of Nairobi](#), which is to be presented through the various technical committees, and adopted as a Resolution in the Full Council Meeting. It will also support the establishment of a Youth and Children's Division within the Department of Social Services and Housing as the coordinating mechanism.

The council's youth policy recognizes that a bright and dedicated youth is a force capable of great change and that they are a whole key resource that can be tapped for the benefit of this city as a whole. Thus, the policy endeavors to address issues affecting young people by providing broad-based strategies that can be used to give the youth meaningful opportunities to reach their maximum potential. It provides a broad framework within which all stakeholders, including the public and private sectors and the civil society, can contribute to youth development. It set out the council's commitment to young people, their families and the communities.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

In the sixties, the government and other voluntaries youth agencies did little to involve the youth in development agenda expect the National youth services that was started in 1964 most of the youth programmes that existed were largely social and recreational in nature

The problem of youth unemployment has since then continued to occupy the minds of policy makers in the government and private sector. The third National Youth Development plan of 1974-78, while acknowledging the effects made to address unemployment among the youth, warned that the problem would in future loom large. Efforts to initiate youth development programs have been made in the subsequent policy documents such as Sessional Paper No 2 of 1992 on Small Scale Jua Kali Sector, The Development plan on poverty Eradication among others.

But despite these efforts as well as an increase in number of agencies dealing with the youth issues, problem affecting young people have continued to worsen. This situation has been attributed to the lack of a comprehensive citywide youth policy to provide a blue print for youth development.

The following constrains have continued to hamper the effectiveness in achieving the youth development objectives:

- I. *Low status given to youth.* Existing structures and prevailing attitude do not provide an enabling environment for youth participation in decision-making, the planning process and in the implementation of developmental programmes.
- II. *Resource constraints.* Most of the youth programmes run by both the Government and Non-Government Agencies lack adequate funds and equipment that limits their success.
- III. *Unclear and uncoordinated youth policies and programmes.*

ISSUES IMPINGING ON THE YOUTH

Health Related Problems

The youth face a myriad of health related problems including wide spread malaria, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and sexual transmitted diseases (STD) drugs and substance abuse as well as poor access to health. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is more prevalent among the youth under 30 years of age. Available statistics shows that the youth make up 12% of Nairobi infected with HIV-AIDS. Female youth faces Female Genital Mutilation, teenage pregnancies and risk to life through unsafe abortions

Crime and Deviant Behavior

Unemployment, drugs, idleness, and bad peer makes the youth become restless and influence them to crime or deviant behavior.

Limited sports and Recreation facilities

Sports and recreation facilities provide the youth with an opportunity to socialize and spend their time productively, strengthening and developing their character and talents. However such facilities are scarce and where they exist they are not well accessible to the youth.

Abuse and Exploitation

Arising to their vulnerability, the youth are exposed to sexual abuse, child labour and other forms of abuse.

Limited and Poor Housing

Many youth in Nairobi have limited access to decent housing in healthy living environments due to their costs.

Limited Access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The youth cannot exploit to the maximum; career, business and education opportunities available worldwide because ICT accessibility to them is limited by the high costs. This call for an urgent intervention in the ICT field so that the youth of Nairobi are put in the limelight of a meaningful social and economic development.

Unemployment

The economic growth rate at the moment is not sufficient to create enough employment opportunities to absorb the ever-increasing labour force.

THE VISION OF THE POLICY

The city wide youth policy visualize a society where youths have an equal opportunity as other citizens to realize their fullest potential, productively participating in economic, social, cultural, and religious life without fear.

PRINCIPLES

The following are the principles guiding the implementation of this policy for young people. Though the national youth policy age definition extends to 30 years, the age definition of this policy refers to the school to work transition age group, which is basically the 15 to 24 year's age group. This has been influenced by the early intervention approach on youth at risk and youth employment, which are two main focus areas that the City Council of Nairobi is developing in its future youth programmes.

1. A youth policy provides an opportunity for the council to be responsive to the needs of young people. This responsiveness is in accordance with the council's mission statement.
2. In addressing the needs of young people, the council will act in a manner sensitive to the aspirations of young people, particularly the most vulnerable categories such as street youth, substance abusing youth, HIV/AIDS orphans, schools dropouts, ex-offenders, unemployed youth, slum-dwelling youth, and youth with special needs, among others.
3. In addressing and identifying youth needs, the Council should work with the community; those working with young people and young people themselves.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The policy endeavors to address issues affecting young people by providing broad-based strategies that can be used to give the youth meaningful opportunities to reach their maximum potential. It's intended to provide a broad framework within which all stakeholders, including the public and private sectors and the civil society, can contribute to youth development.

Policy Objectives

1. To ensure the views and options of youth from a diversity of cultural, social and economic backgrounds are sought on a regular basis, and in particular on major issues of joint interest.

Explanation

Young people in this age bracket make up almost 25% of the city's population. As a group their needs and expectations are different from other sectors of population. Ensuring that Council services address the needs of youth requires a conscious effort to identify concerns and issues.

Current and Possible Future Involvement

Consultation with young people presently takes place through:

- ❑ The Council's involvement with and support of the Junior Council of Nairobi.
- ❑ Council staff liaising with youth organizations.
- ❑ Liaison with those working with youth at the One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre.

Future means for increasing youth consultation could include such possibilities as:

- ❑ Youth representatives or consultative groups working with the Department of Social Services and other Departments.
- ❑ The encouragement of youth representation to Social Hall and Community Centre's Management Committee.
- ❑ The involvement of youth representatives in participatory budgeting with Council committees on services related to youth such as management of recreational facilities and resource centers.
- ❑ The involvement of youth representatives in participatory planning with the City Planning Department including the LASDAP process.

2. Where possible to provide facilities and resources to encourage the development of positive programmes and activities, which meet the current social, cultural and recreational needs of young people.

Explanation

The Council is a major provider of facilities and services, which contribute towards meeting the recreational, social and cultural needs of its residents. It also contributes resources to community initiatives which complement the Council's own activities. This objectives is to ensure youth needs are taken into account when starting new programmes or assessing funding priorities. Providing positive opportunities for young people will benefit the country as a whole:

Possible Future Involvement

Future possibilities includes:

- ❑ Various Council parks, stadiums, social halls and community centers.
- ❑ Grants to young people by social services to initiate Income-Generating Activities.
- ❑ Funding and administering of school holiday programmes.
- ❑ Council support of Junior Council Initiatives.
- ❑ Working with schools to initiate the use of school facilities by the community outside school hours.

3. To make every endeavor to provide Council services and facilities which are accessible to young people regardless of their circumstances.

Explanation

In the provision of services, facilities and resources, the Council must be mindful that some young people are often excluded because of their personal or social circumstances. Young people, because of a disability, their economic situation, may find themselves excluded from the mainstream of existing opportunities. This objective requires the Council to take these, and other factors, into consideration when establishing programmes and expenditure priorities.

Possible Future Involvement

The inclusion of young people who are unemployed or full time students in an internship programme within the Council Departments

4. To encourage co-ordination in the development and provision of programmes and services for youth.

Explanation

Many agencies, including statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and private are involved in providing and resourcing youth activities and services.

While the Council is also a provider, it is also well placed to encourage and facilitate the efficient and effective use of existing resources. This objective suggests that the Council should act to ensure that any duplication in services and funding to youth is reduced and that such services and funding is equitably distributed across the city.

Possible future involvement

- ❑ The development of a youth resource booklet.
- ❑ A newsletter to youth organizations in Nairobi

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATION OF THE YOUTH

The policy recognizes that the youth should enjoy their youthfulness irrespective of their social status or sex. The youth have a right to:

- Good education
- Good health
- Good Life
- Ownership and protection of property
- Freedom of speech and expression
- Seek meaningful employment
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
- Marriage at the legal age consent
- Protection from social, economic and political manipulation.
- Participate in decision-making that affects their lives.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE YOUTH

The policy seek not only safeguard the right of the youths but also to help them understand and fulfill their responsibilities. Towards this, the youth will;

- I. Contribute to social economic development at all level including through volunteerism
- II. Create and promote respect for humanity sustain peaceful co-existence, stability and unity at the city
- III. Help to support and protect those who are disadvantages and vulnerable
- IV. Protect the environment
- V. Avoid careless and irresponsible sex.
- VI. Take responsible charge of their education and training opportunities
- VII. Promote democracy and rule of law

PRIORITY AREAS

a) EMPLOYMENT

Most youth in Nairobi remains unemployed due to the slow economic growth, corruption, nepotism and demand for experience by potential employees. In this respect unemployment crisis require a change to give the youth a chance. An enabling environment that will assist the youth pursue self-help initiatives for self-employment need to be created urgently. This calls for the following interventions

- 1) Reviewing the existing youth programmes so as to identify their level of operation with a view of making them relevant and responsive to the youth.
- 2) The City Council of Nairobi in conjunction with interested development partners should create a revolving fund specifically for young entrepreneurs.
- 3) The City Council of Nairobi in collaboration with the private sector should support and initiate income generating activities by providing support to youth friendly Micro-finance Institutions.
- 4) Facilitating the establishment of other resource Centres similar to the One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre, at the community level where the youth can get information, training, recreation and counseling on employment creation. The existing Centre needs to be fully operational.
- 5) Encouraging a culture of sacrifice, initiative taking, voluntarism and hard work for social and moral responsibility among the youth.
- 6) Prosecuting employees who exploit and underpay youth by speeding up judicial process.

- 7) Creating awareness on labour laws and workers rights through civil education in campaigns organized by the youth organizations.
- 8) Establishing minimum quota for marginalized youths during recruitment in both public and private institutions.
- 9) Identifying programmes especially in the civil society world that are addressing the youth employment for the purpose of partnering and networking.

b) HEALTH

New infection in HIV/AIDS is a worrying trend affecting a large percentage of most young women and young men aged 16-24 years. Yet this age group is the most productive section in the society.

There is need:

- I. To strengthen existing health facilities to develop youth friendly approaches when offering preventive and curative health services for the youth. Information on reproductive health should be made available to the youth by in-cooperating them in various existing efforts geared toward fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- II. Promote research in youth reproductive health and make the findings accessible to youth.
- III. Enhance the youth capacity in leadership and advocacy to enable them manage youth health programmes
- IV. Promote partnerships between the City Council of Nairobi and the private sector to work with the youth in improving accessibility to voluntary counseling and testing VCT Services.
- V. Promote and support behavioral change campaigns on sexuality, drugs and substances Abuse, and negative peer influence.
- VI. Promote the establishment of a home-based care programme to assist the youths orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- VII. Establish guidance and counseling units managed by the youth in all social halls, schools and other learning institutions
- VIII. Promote and support programmes on personal hygiene and physical fitness and mental health.
- IX. Improve the technical and institution capacity of youth Organizations, Community Based Organization and youth NGOs to enable them effectively advocate and promote health programmes for youth

c) EDUCATION AND TRAININGS

The current education system is geared toward importing appropriate skills to enhance self-employment. However due to high costs of implementation and lack of appropriate facilities, this system to many seems not to address the issue of self-employment. This situation is compounded by a high number of school dropouts, youth graduating from these institutions without acquiring the necessary skill for self-employment and many girls dropping out of school due to pregnancy.

There is a linkage between the tertiary training institution, like the youth polytechnics, and informal (Jua kali) sector. For these institutions to effectively address the issues of unemployment, the following issues need to be looked into:

- I. Bursary provision for need students,
- II. Provide new and improve existing training facilities,
- III. Establish new and strengthen existing special school and rehabilitation centers to cater for the youth in special circumstances,
- IV. Promote and encourage skills development of the youth through vocational training and imparting skills,
- V. Protect Jua kali innovations by providing patenting information to the artisans,
- VI. Strengthen family life education programmes in schools,
- VII. Create linkage between education institution and the private sector through researches, internship opportunities and financing,
- VIII. Strengthen civic education in schools,
- IX. Ensure the re-admission of girls dropping out of school due to pregnancy,
- X. Promote exchange of information, knowledge and human resources between the public and private institutions

d) SPORTS AND RECREATION

Sports and recreation are important for the psychological and physical development of the youth. They contribute to their personal development by promoting good health, personal, discipline and leadership and team skills. Apart from providing enjoyment, engaging in sports helps the youth to make good use of their leisure time and promote peace, unity and understanding among the youth.

Unfortunately, the sector suffers from inadequate funds, obsolete facilities, low motivation and exploitation by sports organizations and agencies. To address these concerns, stakeholders including the City Council of Nairobi should:

- i. Establish and improve existing recreation and sporting facilities in their schools, community's Centres and in the slums.
- ii. These facilities should be equipped with trained personnel to assist in identifying and developing young peoples talent.
- iii. Use sporting activities as a platform to advocate and campaign for behavioral change to prevent the spread of HIV AIDS and drug and substances abuse.
- iv. Sporting facilities and recreational spaces should be gazetted as a way of protecting them from being acquired by individuals,
- v. Youth should be represented on committees and bodies that make decision on sports

e) THE ENVIRONMENT

Environment Degradation is a major challenge for the youths in Nairobi. The need to conserve the environment has become increasingly important and many youth organizations are engaged in activities to protect the environment such as tree planting, clean up campaigns, bio-diversity preservation, wildlife conservation campaign, solid waste management, recycling among many. It is important to:

- i. Promote environment clubs for the youth.
- ii. Improve access to information at the local level, setting up resource centers, providing vocational training that will utilize locally available materials sustainably and disseminating environment research work
- iii. Strengthen the involvement of the youth in environment conversation programmes.
- iv. Establish linkage between environment committees with environment clubs at the local level

f) ART AND CULTURE

Art is an expression of a people's beliefs, values, appreciation, and beauty. Culture on the other hand is a definition of a personal-identity, lives aspiration, values and beliefs, Culture reflects the livelihood of people; it is by a culture that one can judge a community – their joy, pain, hope, beliefs and values. Culture does not exist in a vacuum. It has to spread among the young people and it has to have acceptable standards. Culture is dynamic.

The youth in Nairobi find themselves at across road between the western culture and the remnants of traditional culture the youth at the city faces the challenges of identifying with our culture that should be passed on to the future generation. To help preserve and promote art and culture we should do the following:

- i. Establish community resources centers to promote information on culture at the ward level
- ii. Establish more cultural centers to promote materials and non-materials aspects of out culture.
- iii. Promote and protect the local artist.
- iv. Facilitate forums for adults and youth to exchange ideas and views on cultural aspect.
- v. Invest in training and empowering the artists
- vi. Lobby for more coverage of artisans as role models for the youth in the media.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL LIFE.

Youth empowerment is about facilitating the youth to forge partnerships with other groups in the society, instilling a sense of ownership in efforts to improve their well being and building their capacity to realize their aspirations hence boost self-motivation. Involving the youth in planning, implementation and evaluating of programmes that affects them gives them a sense of belonging and ownership and results in sustainability and success of such programmes.

Empowerment of the youth is based on the belief that the youth have more energy and are the best resource for promoting development. The youth are empowered when they acknowledge that they can make free choices in life and take action based on their own decisions and accept responsibilities for their own action.

The youth should no longer be taught what to learn, but how to learn what they are committed to and the value of commitment. Adults should change from working for the youth to working with youths.

While addressing the issue of youth empowerment and participation in the city, the council should put in consideration the following:

- i. Encourage the youth to stand up against all forms of injustices and discrimination.
- ii. Provide training in entrepreneurial leadership and management skills for the youth and their organizations
- iii. Encourage the youth to take up leadership positions.
- iv. Involving the youths at all levels of governance and decision making process by ensuring that affirmative action of youth participation is in place at every level
- v. Encourage the youth to engage in debate on economic and social issues with its officers.

PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS

This policy document is based on equal developing opportunities for all youth in Nairobi. This is by addressing the needs of all youth, and especially attention shall be paid to certain groups because of their specific needs.

YOUTH WITH DISABILITY

For many years, youth with disability have been sidelined by the society for instance by rejection, isolation and discrimination which hinders their psychological and emotional development. Young people with disability require specific strategies to ensure that they participate fully in development activities. Special measures will be put in place to ensure that their needs are adequately addressed. The policy adopts a development approach to youth with disability where human rights, participation and inclusive are promoted. The citywide youth policy advocates greater awareness of the issues by young women and men who are mentally, physically or visually impaired.

STREET YOUTHS.

Due to the breakdown of the social and cultural fabric, street families have continued to increase from a group of street boys and girls to what we have now, street families. The street youth are especially vulnerable as they lack protection, supervision or direction from a responsible society. The policy advocates re-integration and rehabilitation of street youth in the communities and strengthening of families systems.

THE UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS

The unemployment situation in the city is worrying and with it all social ills such as crime, drug abuse that directly affect the youth. The unemployed youth should be provided with access of services and support programmes and opportunities for further training. This calls for the strengthening of the available programmes at the One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre and opening new Centres at the local level.

OUT OF SCHOOLS YOUTH

Out of school youths have special needs in terms of access to socio-economic and other opportunities. The increasing disparity between the annual output of school leavers and job creation in the economy has resulted in high unemployment levels among the youths.

YOUTH INFECTED WITH HIVAIDS

The young people have been affected by HIVAIDS pandemic. The youth are exposed to the HIVAIDS, due to biological, socio-cultural and economic factors the high rate of teenage pregnancies, abortion, school drop out and sexually transmitted diseases confirm that the young people engaging in early sex, increasingly being exposed to HIVAIDS the policy advocates community based care and positive living for target group.

FEMALE YOUTHS

Static's have shown that female youth engage themselves in unprotected sexual activity exposes that put them at high risk of contracting HIVAIDS low-level education for girls, coupled with social cultural practices such as female genital mutilation. (FGM) and forced early marriages put the female youth at a disadvantage they have led to low participation and representation on young women in decision making traditional gender roles over burden the female youth limiting their opportunities for progression and self development.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

The policy shall be implemented through action plan detailing strategies, detailing: strategies, activities, the target groups, a time frame and a budget lines. Implementation will require involvement of all agencies dealing with the youth activities, which includes City Council of Nairobi, various government agencies, non-governmental organization, the private sector and various youth organization. The Departments responsible for the youth affairs shall spearhead the overall implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the policy with the assistance of junior council in addition to different organizations in order to achieve the policy objectives.

JUNIOR COUNCIL OF NAIROBI

To ensure effective implementation, the policy recognizes the need to establish a Junior Council through a Resolution of City Council of Nairobi. It shall be youth driven and led by youth, all-inclusive and representative, must address special interests, must have a wide mandate and shall ensure gender equity. Its mandate will include: coordination of youth activities/ projects in the city, present the views and options of the youth to the council, designing and continuously reviewing the youth policy and develop a comprehensive city wide youth development plan in collaboration with the various City Council of Nairobi's Departments. The Junior Council will act as an advisory, research and policy institution on youth affairs in the city.

PURPOSE OF JUNIOR COUNCIL

1. To provide an opportunities for the youth to acquire a greater knowledge of, and appreciation for urban governance system through active participation in decision making and implementation systems.
2. To help the mayor and the city council of Nairobi solve the problem and accomplish goals of the youth of Nairobi, by working directly with the representative of members youth organizations
3. To serve the youths of Nairobi by:
 - Informing the city council of Nairobi on the needs and wishes of the youth.
 - Planning and implementing social, educational, cultural and recreational activities for the youth of Nairobi
 - Working with the mayor, the City Council Officers, Provincial Administration, schools, private sector, civic organization, clubs, and faith based organization to provide services and leadership opportunities for the youth residents of this town.
 - To instill a feeling of positive self esteem.
 - To teach respect for the rights and properties of others
 - To promote communities and providing opportunity in eliminating potential negative influences among the youths.

THE JUNIOR COUNCIL

Shall consists:

- A patron, (the sitting Mayor of the City Council of Nairobi)
- The Council advisor, (the town clerk or his\her representative)
- Head of Social Services and Housing Department
- Youth advisor (from the One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre)
- Junior councilors.
- A representative of the Central Government responsible for Social Services.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE JUNIOR COUNCIL OF NAIROBI

1. To attend all Youth Council meetings,
2. To modify this Charter as needed by majority votes,
3. To present to the Mayor and the City Council this Charter and all amendments for their approval,
4. To select one of its members to attend the Council meetings of the Local Authority,
5. To pass Motion and Resolutions as necessary by majority Wards present i.e. more than a half,
6. To carry out the purpose of the Youth Council as outlined in this Charter,
7. The agenda of all Youth Council Meetings are to be posted to member Organizations at least two (2) days in advance of each meeting,

8. To participate in debriefing session with the full Junior Council meeting once every two months, and
9. To plan activities for the youth, coordinating all such activities with the Mayor's Office, the Town Clerk's office, the Social Services and Housing Department Director's office and the Youth Council Advisor.

RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY OF THE JUNIOR MAYOR

1. To preside all Youth Council meetings,
2. To carry out the decisions of the Youth Council,
3. To meet periodically with the mayor, Town Clerk and the Director Social Services and Housing Department in order to provide for proper planning and co-ordination between the City Council of Nairobi and the Youth Council i.e. the team should meet once in two Months' time with the Mayor and Town Clerk
4. To propose to the Youth Council plans and projects designed to assist in the fulfillment of the purpose of the Youth Council,
5. To Vote only in a tie,
6. To assign each Youth Council member areas of responsibility,
7. To represent the Junior Council within and outside the City.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE JUNIOR COUNCILORS

1. To be involved in the strategic planning of activities and their eventual monitoring and evaluation,
2. To coordinate all activities at the ward level,
3. To provide leadership and direction at ward level,
4. To carry out assignments as directed in the local Youth Council.

DEPARTMENTAL HEADS.

The youth council shall create the following permanent heads to assist the council in carrying out their plans goals and projects. They will also be involved in the implementation of programmes and in decision making processes in each and every department 10% of youth representation should be given.

These departments include:

- I. Public health department.
- II. Department of environment
- III. The city inspectorate department
- IV. The city education department
- V. Housing development department
- VI. Social services and housing department
- VII. The city engineer department
- VIII. The town clerks department.

COMMITTEES:

The Youth Council shall create the following permanent Committees to assist the Council in carrying out their plans, goals and projects; each Committee shall consist of people not less than 10%. These members are to be elected by the 55 Wards representatives with the approval of the Mayor and the City Council. Committee membership shall be for two (2) years period. The Committee shall be named as: -

PUBLIC HEALTH.

This committee should be responsible over
HIVAIDS
Drug abuse.

ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

This committee should be responsible over
Sanitation and water
Beautification and clean ups.
Environmental conversation.

SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING RESOURCE MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

The committee shall be responsible for

- Registration of Youth Groups
- Events and Talents Mobilization
- Public Land Utilization
- Shelter for the Disadvantages
- Planning for Fundraising
- Budgeting for activities
- Planning on advisory

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This Committee shall be responsible for: -

- Seminars and Counseling
- Voluntarily on teaching
- Finding for Research Centre
- Advocating for the free Primary Education.

URBAN SAFETY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

This Committee shall be responsible for: -

- Safety and Restorative Justice
- Provision of Leadership to the Junior Councilors in Crime Prevention
- Organize for seminars on Drugs and Crime Prevention.

YOUTH COUNCIL SECRETARY (JUNIOR TOWN CLERK)

Shall be appointed by the Youth Council Committee Representatives with the approval of the Youth Council. The responsibility and authority of the Youth Council Secretary shall include the following:

1. To attend all Youth Council Meetings and take and maintain minutes of the said meetings,
2. To organize proper filing and records,
3. To assist maintaining the Community Progress Book,
4. To have all youth Council records reviewed by the office of the Town Clerk every six (6) months, preferably June and January every year.

YOUTH COUNCIL ADVISOR

The Youth Council shall have at least one Advisor. The Advisor will attend Youth Council meetings and become involved, in the Advisory role only, in all Youth Council activities. The advisor may be the Town Clerk or a designate appointed from the full time career employees of the City Council staff or may be a Community Volunteer. The advisor shall be a member of the Council Committees with the approval of the Mayor and the City Council of Nairobi.

REQUIREMENTS TO SERVE ON THE YOUTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE

1. Remain a resident of the City and be between the ages of 16-21 years.
2. Attend at least 75 percent of all meetings held at ward level.
3. Attend Youth Council meetings
4. Fulfil the responsibilities of the office held.
5. Set a proper example for the youth in the community. A member of the Youth council can be removed from office upon violation of one or more of the above criteria and by a majority vote of the Youth council with the final approval of the Junior Mayor and the City council of Nairobi.

Tenure of office is two (2) years.

VACANCIES

Any vacancy on the Youth Council, either by removal or by resignation, shall be filled by nomination of the Youth Council with final approval by the Mayor and the City Council of Nairobi.

PRE-ELECTION MEETING

A Pre-Election meeting will be held for the purpose of reviewing the functions, goals and purpose for the Youth Council. Students Leaders wanting to be considered on the ballot may file a statement of candidacy at that time. Every candidate who runs for office will have his or her names on single ballot. The candidate receiving the most voters will serve as the Youth Council Head. The next highest seven candidates will serve as members of the Youth Council Committee. All remaining candidates will have the opportunity to serve either as Youth Department Sub-Heads of Committee members.

NB: Member should be from an existing Youth Group, Religious Groups or Student's forums/councils.

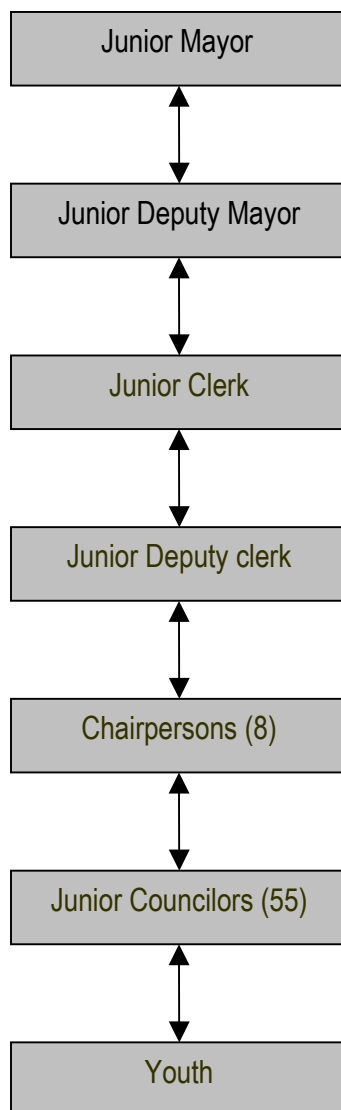
THE SWEARING IN

Whether you choose election or the appointment process, the Youth Leader should be sworn in at the first full Council meeting following the selection of the leaders. The Youth Leader shall be given the same "OATH OF OFFICE" that their adult counterparts get.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE JUNIOR COUNCIL

The Junior Council will operate under the City Council of Nairobi under the supervision of the Social Services and Housing Department through the One Stop Youth Information Resource Centre.

General structure



Composition

Must be a Nairobi youth between age 15 and 21 years, who are in organized groups, non-formal group or an individual.

Relationship with the City Council of Nairobi

The Junior Council shall be independent, youth owned structure and an autonomous body working in partnerships with the City Council and other stakeholders for the benefit of the young people. The junior council must not become an arm of the city council of Nairobi. But this does not mean that it will be an opposition of the council however it will work in partnership with the council at all levels. It will work directly with Councilors at the Ward level, Chairmen of various Council committees, the Office of the Mayor and report to the Department of Social Services and Housing through the One Stop Youth information Resource Centre.

Conclusion

A youth policy is a commitment by the Council to the young people of the city. It is an acknowledgment that young people are a significant and valuable part of the community with specific and identifiable needs.

Research reveals that as a group, the needs of young people are significant and have future implications for well being of the city. A youth policy provides a framework for future work in attempting to address these needs.