

WELCOME TO THE FOURTH NATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION (NYC IV)

18th - 20th September 2008. Theme: "Vijanaa Tujipange"

The National Youth Convention (NYC) in Kenya was conceived by the Youth Agenda to raise the visibility of young people and to create an independent platform for articulation of their objective interests and vision for the nation. The last three conventions have seen remarkable results between 1998 and 2007. Kenya's demography presents a very unique picture of the population in the country as the larger population cohort of 60% Kenya is basically the Youth. The violence after the December 2007 General Election results, and the subsequent attempts to resolve Kenya's governance crisis, present an opportunity for a structured and meaningful participation of Young Kenyans in the post conflict reconstruction. The last general elections demonstrated the deep-seated divisions and challenges facing Kenya. The destructions focused the attention on monumental tasks in the process of reconstruction. The task of reconciling, reconstructing and reforming Kenya is huge and has implications on the lives and future of young people.

The Youth largely participated in and were affected by the Post Election crisis. They therefore have a stake in the discussions and actions to reconcile and reconstruct Kenya. These tasks cannot be left to the Government and Politicians alone. We the Young Kenyans must rise and respond to the onerous task ahead of bringing the country back onto the track of sustainable and inclusive development.

The Fourth National Youth Convention will bring together 1,000 Young Kenyan Leaders from all of the 210 constituencies of the Republic of Kenya and from different backgrounds. NYC IV is designed to offer a national platform to celebrate the achievements of young Kenyans in changing public life and build consensus on the priorities and expectations of young people across the country, their role and duties in the post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction process, building of a nationwide network of volunteer peace-makers and reconstruction workers, and a unifying platform for mobilizing young people across the country in Communities of Practice.

Expected outcomes of NYC IV:

- Role and responsibilities of young people in rising to the leadership challenge of this country.
- Clear action plans on the youth participation in the National Agenda including; Enactment of the National Youth Policy, The National Accord, Completion of the Constitution Review Process and Strategic participation in the Public Commissions.
- Emphasis on the change of Young people's attitudes and personal responsibilities in relation to their identity as a country.
- A partnership and dialogue Platform - Youth-government-public-private sector and development partners in the process of reconciling, Reconstructing and Reforming the Kenya.
- A Youth Advocacy plan with Key Government, Public and Private Stakeholders on the resolutions.

Structure of NYC IV: NYC IV will be a two day youth gathering that will bring inspirations from young people across the country. These inspirations are geared towards calling the young generation to action to rise up to the challenges of taking responsibility and charge of their lives and the future of their country. Delegates will have two paths of plenary inspirational presentations by young people who are making a difference in their lives and those of others; and Break out Sessions or Hosted conversations based on well researched background papers on the six main sub themes ; (*Concretizing the role of young people in the national Agenda, Ethnicity and the Challenges of Nationhood, Historical Injustices in Kenya, Setting Priorities and a rational framework for reconstruction of Post-conflict Kenya, Completing the Constitutional Review Process and Evaluating the National Accord, its Implementation and the role of young people in the process*).

The Festival of Hope;

On 20th September 2008 from 8.00PM the convention will culminate to a **Peace Concert/Musical Extravaganza** christened The Festival of Hope. **The Festival of Hope** concept borrows from the African tradition of marking new seasons with song and dance. We will be singing and dancing to the new Kenya and the new spirit for building a greater and more inclusive society. The Resolutions made at the Convention will be distributed. **Gate Charges: Kshs 300 only, and is open to the public. Tickets are available at the Youth Agenda Secretariat.**

Speakers at the convention will among others be; High profile Government representatives, selected business and community leaders, religious leaders, civil society leaders, development partners and the diplomatic corps, inspirational speakers, young leaders from Kenya and other countries BOTH IN Africa and beyond.

Registration is online with the form available on www.youthagenda.org

Youth Delegates will pay a registration Fee of Ksh. 200. **Private Sector, Co-orporate Agencies and Organizations** can participate through showcasing and exhibiting their work and products at the Exhibition or through Banner Spaces, merchandising, and branding at a fee.

Partnership; The Fourth National Youth Convention is being organized and Hosted by more than 20 Youth Serving and Youth Led Organisations that will take a lead in rolling out the Post NYC Project Process.

Sponsors; NYC IV is being supported by National Response Initiative (NRI), MARS Group Kenya and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES)

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