

## A LEARNING AND WORKING REPORT



### THE YOUTH SUMMIT

#### REPORT SUBMITTED TO

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## INTRODUCTION

The Administration of Kamkunji Sub-County and Agents of Peace held a youth summit as a way to deliberate and see how the youth could work together the government to promote peace in the community. With the funding support of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung East Africa Regional Office, the Youth Summit was held at New Eastleigh Primary School Ground, based in Eastleigh. The Assistant County Commissioner of Kamkunji co-chaired the Youth Summit with Agents of Peace's Founder and Director. The summit was grace with the presence of the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs of the Kamkunji Sub-County, Youth members as well as the Chair of the Kamukunji Sub-County Peace Committee and Members of the Agents of Peace Team. The summit was organised as part of the effort to sensitise young people on the need to embrace peaceful coexistence during and after the election with the main focus on their role especially during the period. The targeted youth were drawn from different aged groups mentored and supported by agents of peace in Eastleigh at Grass-root level.

The success of the activity is greatly attributed to the efficiency and the ability of AoP having an already positive working relationship with the youth and also motivating guests in charge of the area administrative services led by the senior Assistant County Commissioner for Eastleigh Division and the Assistant County Commissioner for Pumwani Division who used the opportunity to empower the young people with vital knowledge on their roles and responsibilities in peace building initiatives. The different youth received donations of uniforms and training kits as part of promoting their talent from the Administration showing their full support.

### Summit Proceedings

The summit was officially opened by the area assistant chief, Mr. Mohamed after invitation from David Odhiambo, the event moderator. The area assistant chief thanked and welcomed all the participants for their commitment towards promoting peace and thereafter introduced the area chief, Mr. Famau Ali. The area chief appreciated the Agents of Peace for coming up with the initiative to reach out to young people as he gave an open invitation for them to his office for more engagements. The area chief went ahead to invite Madam Fatuma Mohamed, who is the Assistant County Commissioner for Pumwani Division.

Madam Fatuma candidly explained to the young people about her role as the Assistant County Commissioner and that fostering peace is part and parcel of her responsibilities. In an effort to urge the young people to shun any acts of violence within their community, she advised them not to join gangs and bad groups who end up being targeted by security enforcers for their harmful acts contrary to the law. Fatuma challenged the youth not to take the peaceful environment they are enjoying for granted but rather support Government in promoting the safety and security of their area.

In this regard, one of the participants expressed his fear for police before the Assistant County Commissioner who called for collaborative activities between the young people and the law enforcers. The Assistant County Commissioner summed up her address by encouraging the young people to make use of their talent and shun any negative influences from those aimed at exploiting them. The senior Assistant County Commissioner for Eastleigh division, Mr. Tobias Okoth in his address to the young participants reiterated the importance of committing to promoting peace within their families, school and the community. In regard to radicalisation of young people, the Assistant County Commissioner advised them to keep off from groups that engage in acts of harming innocent people and urged them to embrace

differences in diversities of people within the community. He also advised the young people not to be used by politicians who are only after their own gains as he reminded them of various incidences where innocent lives were lost as a result of youths being incited to violence. The young participants were also reminded by all the speakers that, elections shall always come and go but their peace and sanctity of life remains vital hence urged to support peace initiatives by reporting any suspicious incidence to an anonymous message platform dubbed MULIKA.

### Summit Outputs

Some of the key outputs of the summit were;

- 1) Dissemination of information. The young were sensitised and empowered with knowledge on the importance of promoting peaceful coexistence, identifying radicalization and reporting to the area chief or to Agents of Peace for help, positive roles they can play in the wake of the August elections.
- 2) Enhanced involvement and participation of young people in peace initiatives as most participants acknowledged being left out during any peace activities in the community.
- 3) The guest speakers extended an open invitation to the young people to freely reach out to them by sharing information and working together in enhancing a peaceful society. In regard, the young people were introduced to MULIKA platform which is available for collecting and responding to the issues of concern.
- 4) Participants vowed to share the knowledge with their peers and become active peace ambassadors within the community.
- 5) The participants confirmed that they will actively engage different youth and security officials segments to drive and enhance conversations on promoting peace

### Summit Achievements

Some of the key achievements of the summit were;

- 1) The new Eastleigh primary school provided a conducive venue for the activity and the young people to engage freely with the invited guests therein establishing a collaborative space for subsequent engagements.
- 2) The guest speakers shared relevant, strategic / critical information in regard to importance of committing to peace initiatives. This led to the young people committing to be influential peace ambassadors and always engage their peers in supporting peace initiatives.
- 3) The government representatives motivated the youth by donating uniforms, training kits and balls to support and promote their talent. This worked as a motivating factor for the young people.

### Follow Up Activities to the Summit

- 1) Following open disclosure from the young participants that they fear police and who always view them as inferior, the guest speakers recommended for more engagement activities between the youth and the law enforcers.
- 2) The young people requested to participate in a football tournament with the law enforcers as a platform to foster good relations.

### Key Action Points

The Agents of Peace will strive to continually build stronger and cohesive spaces with the different groups by using strategies such as sports for more peace activities to enhance their participation



## Conclusion

The ultimate objective of the event was to offer a platform to the young people to understand their role in peace building activities and promote peace initiatives within the community. With the national elections planned for August, the political rhetoric has rent the air making young people susceptible to being exploited. This calls for meaningful engagement of youth in promoting peace by sensitizing them on their roles. Agent of Peace deserves credit for successfully choosing to engage the youth in activities following their vulnerability and exploitation by radical groups. It can be concluded that the activity met its objective of sensitising the young people on committing to peaceful initiatives.

## Summit Pictorials

