

PRESS RELEASE, 18th APRIL 2018

YOUTH PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT ON PUBLIC SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

Youth Affiliate Organisations, Youth in Political Parties and Kenya Young Parliamentary Association representing youth and Citizens of Kenya, have this morning 18th April 2018 presented a petition to the President through the Cabinet Secretary Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, Prof. Margaret Kobia on rights of youth in accordance with Article 55 of the Constitution and Jubilee Government Party Manifesto.

The petitioners note that, despite increased youth consciousness through participation in critical governance processes, enhanced visibility of young people occupying leadership positions in various sectors is still missing.

They further noted that Affirmative Action in the context of the constitution has been applied to in the design and implementation of Government programmes. However, more needs to be done to open spaces in Public Service Appointments for young people as defined by the Constitution in Article 260.

According to them, while the Constitution does not expressly tabulate a percentage for inclusion of the youth, Art. 55 places a Constitutional duty on the state to ensure that the youth have been represented in the Political, Social Economic and other spheres of life.

Aware that the President Uhuru Kenyatta throughout his campaign and specifically during the launch of the Jubilee Manifesto declared that his administration will place youth at the top of its transformative agenda. And further aware, of one the commitments of Jubilee Government outlined in the Party Manifesto to expand participation of youth in national development and guarantee that 30% of all appointments, projects and budgets specifically target youth.

The petitioners have made the following prayers:

1. The President should honour the faith and support, he enjoys among the youth by making sure that they are included in Public Service appointments and takes measures to verify the individuals appointed in pursuit of youth inclusion are actually youth in accordance to the Constitution definition in Article 260;
2. The Leadership of the His Excellency the President on this matter will trigger better treatment of youth by other duty bearers and lead to more inclusion of them even at the county level;
3. The President should expand youth participation and inclusion by ensuring that the 30% threshold promised before elections is upheld in the remaining appointments without compromising the expertise required;
4. The President should promote effort to entrench 30% youth representation in appointments in law through an Executive Order.

The Cabinet Secretary in her reply has welcomed the petition and committed to present it to the President upon his return. She has also given an undertaking to ensure that recommendations made to advance the youth empowerment agenda are incorporated into the work plans of the Directorate of youth affairs and related agencies for implementation.

In the meeting it was also agreed that youth serving organisations would input their perspectives into the National Youth Policy especially on the issue of representation and work collaboratively with the Ministry and the Kenya Young Parliamentarians association to legislate the same. The Cabinet Secretary also affirmed the Ministry's resolve to revitalize the Youth Sector Working Group to enhance coordination of youth work by the multiple players in the sector including data collection and impact assessment.

The youth serving organisations, youth leaders in political parties, Kenya Young Parliamentary Association and National Youth Council together with the Ministry will continue to pursue opportunities for regular dialogue and feedback.

Signed by

Youth Organisations: 
Youth Agenda:  Siasa Place 
Kenya Young Parliamentary Association: 
Networks of Youth Leaders in Political Parties: 