

Empowering youths to influence decision making structures

□ The why?

- For a long time young people have been sidelined from the mainstream decision making processes and structures. This has been due to a number of factors including deliberate exclusion, lack of mentorship schemes, lacking the capacity to meaningful participation and the negative attitude, perception and irresponsibility of youth to demand and create the space.
 - Meaningful participation can be fostered when nation states have aligned and committed to national and international instruments including the human rights charter /principles. This alignment and commitment to different national and international instruments should be a reality on the ground by implementing, monitoring and evaluating performances based on agreed indicators.
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What should be done?

- Time has come that we allow non-partisan popular participation of youth along the decision making structures and processes to mainstream and input the youth development issues and agenda.
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Proposed Action/activity on the ground

Establish, organize and facilitate youth public forums alongside the decision making planning stages /structures/processes from decentralized levels to national levels.

Impact envisaged

- An established platform of youth to participate, share, exchange, learn and input youth issues and agenda to the mainstream decision making processes and structures. As this shall happen at different district/provincial levels across the country, it will create a national youth movement that will be systematic and influential to the policy arenas locally and nationally.
 - The idea is to have the platforms taking place around the same time across Africa; this will create a continental youth movement addressing issues of youth and being an advocacy platform for youth development issues and agenda
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