

## **KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC DIALOGUE ON GOOD GOVERNANCE AND YOUTH**

### **PARTICIPATION**

The following are the resulting key points of the consensus built over a long process of constructive and informed arguments and counter arguments and informed by research findings and facts obtaining in the market place of ideas and realities in urban governance.

1. In his opening remarks the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology Dr. Byamukama, who was representing the University Vice Chancellor underscored the importance and contribution of science and technology to the development of Uganda and to urban governance and he noted that its integration in all areas of human endeavor cannot be overemphasized.
2. That youth should be pro-active on information sourcing and act on it resourcefully to improve their condition instead of looking to government authorities for employment.
3. Mr. Abel Asimwe for and on behalf of KCCA Employment Services Bureau offered to make sure this and similar dialogues are maintained and offered to host them and called on the conveners to share with him the outcomes of this dialogue for onward planning for his office's intervention. He called upon the youth to visit their premises for opportunities of employment placement and being trained.
4. More youth oriented forums were encouraged so that the youth issues are heard and worked upon. One of the officials from KCCA (Mr. Asimwe Abel) offered to partner with Centre for Urban Studies and Research, Victoria University and other funders to organize youth oriented dialogues to come up with practical solutions to some of the challenges that are faced with youth. The leaders in urban authorities present were implored to follow up on the ideas that were raised by the participants.
5. The MDF president for Entebbe also emphasized the need for youth participation in decision making and that citizens should be shown value for money for whichever project that is undertaken by the urban authorities.
6. He also extended an invitation to all youths in attendance to visit Sezibwa road and Kyanja at the KCCA offices and Farm respectively to take advantage of their services and skills at these centers in ICT training and development, the Young Volunteer Placement Programs into Employment, and he dialogued with all in attendance to look forward with great expectations to the upcoming program of training on non-formal disciplines to youth groups who are not educated in the formal education system by giving them skills that are certified through trade tests and crafts exams by BVET and other examining bodies within the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology, Education and Sports standards.
7. Mr. Anderson Mugisa Howard ED Federation of Young Entrepreneurs Uganda reiterated the need for adoption and adaptation of E-governance into the planning, operational and functional areas of individual enterprises, in urban governance and into the development paradigm of the country and this will result into dividends that portend a unique selling proposition for youth involved in ICT startups and applications

development and use of low energy consuming ICT infrastructure necessary for E-governance and factoring local content into the information resource model and sharing platforms.

8. Mr. Mugisa Anderson implored the youth to utilize their power in decision making and to hold their leaders accountable for whatever decisions that they take on their behalf. Anderson encouraged the youth to read extensively and to make use of the internet as one of the ways of accessing vital information.
9. Audience was persuaded to espouse the Entebbe Municipal Development Forum a local initiative that bypasses the bureaucracy of Local and central government to coalesce all the stakeholders in the municipality as an urban model into collective participatory planning processes of the development of the municipality and engendering equality and equity for all stakeholders in decision making processes like youths, elderly, women, the disabled and the labour class namely fishermen and the security Jagger naught.
10. His idea on apprenticeship found fertile ground given the impotence that formal education has portended towards the resolution of the unemployment question and the blue collar job doctrine that this method promotes is sine qua non for our present needs in the city of Kampala and other urban centers especially for absorption of youths into employment.
11. There was consensus on the idea that was projected into the Audience by the Moderator of the day Mr. David Kasimbazi of Victoria University and accommodated and elucidated by the presenter from Transparency International that groups and coalitions are the best tools of deployment in achieving the collective benefits of a community or society while addressing individual needs and interests simultaneously within the pursuits of any given development agenda geared at the youth segment.
12. Mr. Dennis Kagimu of SOMESA SOLUTIONS an open source technology with integrated online ICT solutions and information sharing resources and platforms invited and enlisted consensus from the audience on the strategic advantage latent in the capture, processing, storage and sharing of development and key learning resources for the benefit of all generating and consuming stakeholders leveraging key outcomes that are key to harnessing indigenous knowledge systems and the intersection of the modern and next generation resources for development solutions for youth employment.
13. All presenters emphasized the use of ICT infrastructure tools and platforms to maximize operational advantage by tapping into the information pool of available opportunities to quench the thirst for innovation and satisfy the hunger for personal, community and national development.
14. There was consensus on key issue advanced by Mr. Mugisa that majority of Ugandan youths lack the necessary drive to qualify as employable or entrepreneurial agents because of lack of commitment, indiscipline, lack of integrity, lack of a working culture and countering these will be key through mentorship, training, counselling and role playing.
15. Ariaku William from Centre for Urban Studies and Research suggested that there is need to harmonize the working relationship between the politicians and the technocrats in government institutions.
16. Dr. Kiggundu Amin Tamale from Makerere University and Centre for Urban Studies and Research noted that one of the common themes that emerged from the discussion was that most young people in Kampala

are still unaware of the services offered by KCCA. As a strategy to address this challenge, Dr. Kiggundu Amin Tamale suggested that a radio station or a newspaper be established by KCCA. He also cited Dar es Saalam city in Tanzania which has its own radio station that is used to educate and inform the urban residents about the city's development programs and services offered.

17. Dr. Kiggundu also advised the urban managers and newly elected political leaders in cities and towns to introduce a more coherent policy to promote social housing, which is one of the most neglected urban issues in Uganda. Housing or the real estate sector, Dr. Kiggundu noted, has the potential to create jobs for the young unemployed in part because it is linked to several key sectors such as the steel industry, banking sector, brick making sector, sand mining, insurance sectors and cement industry.
18. Dr. Amin Tamale of the Center for Urban Studies and Research called on Kampala Capital City Authority management to learn from best practices and lessons from:-
19. Dar-es-Salaam City: Setting up a radio and television station with an online live stream platform for information sharing and city stakeholders and community dialogues just like Dar-es-Salaam City in Tanzania Did.
20. Singapore; Integration of skilled graduate youths into the Teaching Service at Primary and Secondary levels to augment and address the endemic deficits in staffing at these levels for a period of at least 5yrs a move intended to absorb employable skills into the national development process like Singapore did.
21. Malaysia; That the Malaysia Multi-Media Corridor the equivalent of the USA's Silicon Valley is an idea whose time in Uganda has come to maximize the dividends from the ICT Industry that is beginning to flourish among indigenous youths and their startups necessary to create a critical mass for ICT industry dependent enterprises to begin to sprout and take root and this could absorb more youths in terms of employment into the backward and forward linkages with attendant benefits in open and end user configurations across the economic divide.
22. That KCCA should seriously consider developing a social housing policy since the latest UBOS statistics show majority Ugandans in the city of Kampala standing at 60% habit in informal housing settlements and slums and that this was critical considering that its development would generate such multiplier effect resulting in the development and eventual growth of other complimentary industries in the steel sector, cement and other building materials sector, trades like carpentry, masonry, timber trade and others within the housing consumer economy.
23. Mr. Kisinde Chris a Program Officer from Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) informed the meeting that the local governance structures provide for active engagement and participation of the youth in participatory planning approaches and decision making. The youth are represented at the local councils at the different levels of governance.
24. These structures are charged with decision making, approval of budgets and policies within their jurisdiction. The assumption is that with representation of the youths at these structures, they are able to influence decisions in favor of their interests and needs.

25. The youths at the meeting had an understanding that government policies are designed at the center and imposed on the respective institutions for implementation. However, this was clarified that government policies are developed through a comprehensive consultative process that involves the grassroots
26. The idea by Eng. Cuthbert Isingoma that youth God given talents be harnessed and promoted towards commercialization in the sports, arts, music, dance and drama and other cultural enterprises be adopted in order to create new opportunities was agreed upon.
27. The CEO Business Development Officer TERP Group Mr. Odrek Rwabwogo a modern farmer restated the importance of Agribusiness as a key plank in Uganda's economic development as it continues to employ majority Ugandans standing at more than 80% and encompasses a wider catchment of a multiplicity of industries including value addition, processing, transport, storage, commodity trading, warehouse receipting, food supply for nutrition, agro input for medicines, financing and cooperatives, agro inputs like fertilizers, hoes, tractor assembly etc. and ICT for agriculture, irrigation and modern technologies in cropping, animal husbandry , poultry, fish farming and a host of others should be the next vehicle for skilled and unskilled youth employment and all in attendance as benefits are infinite.
28. Mohammed stressed the need for entrenchment of leadership skills among the youth and also implored them to reach out to different networks and platforms so that they can be able to air out their views.
29. Mr. Atuheire Korinako Godfrey suggested that they youth should read scientific books and attend motivational seminars and workshops so that they are motivated to be creative and hard working. He stressed the need for attitude change among the youth.
30. Golden Tayebwa from AVSI alluded to the need for skilling the youth in strategic agribusiness as one of the key areas to reduce youth unemployment. There is also need for the government to invest in practical training of the youth so that there are more job makers than seekers. He also suggested the need to facilitate affordable access to ICT for young farmers and agri-entrepreneurs and the need to develop digital literacy for young farmers.
31. Mr. Odrek Rwabwogo suggested that a private venture capital fund be established as one of the avenues through which youth can be able to assess funds for starting up their own businesses. He also stressed the need to revive the National Chamber of Commerce and places where youth can be able to share ideas that can help to develop them. He also observed that the audience in attendance at the dialogue should agree to move in unison on the key mission of employment creation via a 3 pronged approach:-
32. You create more employers first and expand job creation. This is achieved through three strategic interventions:-
33. Capitalization. And he made reference to the following funds to be established by the central government:- Youth Fund – 234 billion shillings; Micro Finance Fund – 180 billion shillings and Women Fund – 234 billion shillings to be put into a capital venture fund for better management.
34. It was resolved that more youth should be given leadership positions and that youth should participate in decision making in various government institutions.

35. There is need to improve the value system of the youth so that they are competent to work in urban authorities. The youth should be mentored to become job makers not job seekers. The youth were implored to be more aggressive in looking out for opportunities.
36. It was also resolved that more practical solutions to youth unemployment should be adapted. The youth were encouraged to engage in agriculture, sports and music industries as a way of getting a livelihood. There is also need to encourage entrepreneurs to invest in Music and sports industries since these two industries are lucrative and can employ a big percentage of the unemployed youth.
37. The youth refrain from being used by politicians in sabotaging government programs. Funds for youth projects should be used appropriately by the youth groups to which they are allocated. Politicians have more often used youth to sabotage government programs of wealth creation by encouraging the youth to eat the funds that are given to them to start up income generating projects.
38. The state actors should be more vigilant in monitoring and evaluating the youth projects that are being funded by the government. This will hinder the youth groups from misallocating the funds that are met for starting up development projects.
39. Last but not least a committee of ten organizations was formed to follow up and implement the resolutions that were put forward by the different participants. The organizations on the committee include; Victoria University, KCCA, Centre For Urban Studies and Research, , AVSI, SOMESA, Federation of Young Entrepreneurs Uganda, UIRI, MDF Entebbe, Ministry of Local Government, CACIUFPSUG and the Media.
40. That this time around unlike other dialogues the outcomes of this dialogue was not mere lip-service but would inform public policy persuasion in urban governance at all levels of urban formations and would be turned into practical solutions.