

COMMUNIQUE

ON CHILDREN'S VOICES AT THE 2ND CHILDREN'S DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE

Held on 17th to 21st February, 2019

Nairobi Primary School, Nairobi City County

THEME: Deliver. Transform. Measure.

SUB-THEME: Prosperous Counties for Children

PREAMBLE

We the 300 children from the 47 Counties in the Republic of Kenya, aged 18 years and below, from ECD centers, Primary and Secondary schools in Kenya, with representation from County Children Governments as well as Kenya Children's Assemblies, congregated at Nairobi Primary School in Nairobi County for the 2nd Children's Devolution Conference 2019 from the 17th -20th February, 2019 whose theme was "Deliver. Transform. Measure: Prosperous Counties for Children", focusing on the Big 4 agenda and where Kenya should be by 2030. The aim of the conference was to receive children's perspective on the implementation of the BIG 4 Agenda within the devolved functions.

His Excellency Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, our President, launched the Big Four Agenda, which focuses on issues that are key to children's welfare, assuring us of His Excellency's commitment to improving the welfare and wellness of children. This focus and commitment has since cascaded to County governments as implementers of the same.

We sincerely appreciate Ambassador (Dr.) Amina Mohamed, EGH CAV, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Lady Justice Martha Koome and all other leaders and stakeholders who joined us. We now share our resolutions developed through county children's forums, discussions, gallery walks and the conference plenaries.

CHILDREN'S VOICES

Ultimately, addressing children's issues and their development in Kenya, as in the spirit of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) can only be achieved through a shared responsibility between national and county government, private sector, academia, Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) and all others working with all children in Kenya. This is why we participated in the 2019 Children's Conference to form resolutions that would ensure that holistic needs of children are prioritized by all sectors related to children's issues and the political class. We the children of Kenya would like to be involved in the implementation of the Big 4 Agenda as follows:

A. ENHANCING MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

 THAT the trade and manufacturing pillar should prioritize young people especially to access employment, internships or/and career guidance; THAT the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban development and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry ensures that they check the air and noise pollution which affects children development and concentration in school and comfort when at home;

B. UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

- THAT County Governments provide free nutritional foods and supplements to children infected with HIV/AIDs and those with nutritional deficiencies, in order to boost their immunities against infections and diseases;
- THAT County Governments focus on providing medical assistance, referral systems and medicines in all health facilities, which should be youth-friendly, equipped with supporting infrastructure such as ambulances, mobile clinics and public hotlines;
- THAT National and County Governments address Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like cancer and diabetes which are affecting children by allocating more resources for early detection, treatment and management of NCD's.

C. AGRICULTURE (FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION)

- THAT the National, County Governments work with development partners involve children in production through reintroduction of 4K Clubs and include them in agroforestry, water harvesting and environment conservation;
- THAT both the National and County Governments ensure that children are free from drugs, harmful substances and negative influence in order to thrive and transform their communities;

D. AFFORDABLE HOUSING (Habitable, with proper lighting and sanitation)

- THAT the National Government, County Governments and the private sector fully consider child development needs of all children, including those with disabilities, when building the 500,000 homes;
- THAT the National Government ensures that children have access to decent housing in safe environments, spaces for play and rest, quality toilets, proper ventilation, safe water, adequate lighting and infrastructure that is friendly for children with disabilities.

Other pertinent issues

- E. EDUCATION (Infrastructure, curriculum development, user-friendly classrooms, restrooms, kitchen, playgrounds; Technical and Vocational Education Training TVET)
- That the National Government ensures that Children with disability are involved in the roll-out of the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC).
- THAT the County Governments ensures sufficient awareness of available courses in vocational centres

F. CHILDREN RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

Devolution is good for all children; Fourth schedule of the constitution of Kenya 2010 mandates County Governments to construct and manage child-welfare centres to ensure the most vulnerable children in the counties are safe.

- THAT County Governments establish child protection units in every police station in Kenya
 and the Ministry of interior and National Coordination enforces the correct procedure for
 handling all the categories of children in their care; children in need of care and
 protection, children in conflict with the law and those in contact with the law.
- THAT the National and County Governments ensure full implementation of the Anti-FGM Act and promote affirmative action and programmes for the girl child.
- THAT the National and County Governments ensure Child participation in decision making in issues affecting them;
- THAT the National Government and County Governments ensure protection of the boy child who are victims of sexual violence, or molestation;
- THAT the Ministry of Education and Teachers Service commission send more teachers to rehabilitation centres;

In conclusion, we wish to thank our President, His Excellency Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, for launching the Big 4 Agenda, and seek to be involved when implementing the agenda. We also thank the Council of Governors (CoG) and all those who made the 2nd Children's Devolution Conference a success.

Endorsed on 20th of February, 2019, in Nairobi County - Kenya.

Asante

H.E Motahi Kahiga Governor, Nyeri County H.E Ruqayya Omar Children's President