NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL KENYA

Amplifying the Youth Voice

THE AMPLIFIER



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NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL KENYA
Applying the Youth Voice

Vibes mtaani

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NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL KENYA
Amplifying the Youth Voice

CEO's Message



Welcome to this edition of The Amplifier. Across Kenya, young people continue to show remarkable creativity, determination and practical solutions in their communities. From building businesses and learning new skills to supporting one another and shaping local conversations, youth are already leading in ways that strengthen families, counties and the nation.

This edition highlights stories of that everyday leadership and the opportunities that help turn ideas into results. At the National Youth Council we remain focused on connecting young people to useful information, networks and platforms so that more of these efforts can grow. Whether you are running a youth serving organisation, studying, starting out in work or simply looking for the next step, your voice and actions matter.

I encourage every young person to keep showing up, keep learning and keep sharing what works. When we do this together, the impact multiplies. Let us continue amplifying solutions that create real opportunities and a stronger future for all.

Gloria Wawira

Ag. CEO

National Youth Council Kenya

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Featured Article

More Than a Day Off: What Mazingira Day Asks of Us

Be honest: when Mazingira Day first landed on the calendar, was your first thought "another holiday"? You're not alone. But what if the day off was never the point? Every October 10, Kenya pauses to plant trees and reflect on the land we call home. It's tied to a bold national dream of growing 15 billion trees by 2032. That's a big number, but big numbers are just small acts repeated by many hands. That's where we come in.

We are the generation that will actually live in the Kenya being shaped today. The plastic-choked rivers, the floods that sweep through our towns, the droughts that leave families counting their losses: these aren't distant headlines. They are our inheritance, unless we choose to change it. So what does a greater Kenya look like? Maybe it's a youth group adopting a school compound and tending seedlings until they're taller than the pupils. Maybe it's a young entrepreneur turning waste into something people want to buy. Maybe it's a friend who refuses to litter and gently says so to others.

Here's the uncomfortable truth: we love the photo of the planting and forget the follow-up. A tree that dies after the cameras leave helps no one. Survival rates matter more than seedling counts, and accountability is an environmental virtue too.

Let's also stretch what "environment" means. Clean air, safe water, green jobs and climate-smart farming are questions of dignity and opportunity. Protecting nature is protecting livelihoods.

So here's my invitation. Don't wait for next October. Pick one thing this month, next month, next year and the coming years: plant and nurture a tree, organise a clean-up, start sorting your waste, or simply start the conversation with your friends.

A greater Kenya isn't built by speeches. It's built by ordinary young people who decided the future was worth showing up for.

Will you be one of them?



by Evans Booker

Youth Serving Organisations

Outreach for Mental Inclusion (OMI) Youth Organisation

Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM): Building Respectful, Resilient Young Men in Kisumu

Outreach for Mental Inclusion (OMI) Youth Organisation, based in Nyalenda, Kisumu, runs the Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) club at Kudho Primary School. The initiative grew from an OMI needs assessment in which boys named school fees, emotional stress, peer pressure, bullying and a lack of mentors as barriers to learning.

CBIM responds with a three-week mentorship programme. Week 1, "Knowing Myself," helps boys name feelings, manage anger and build self-esteem. Week 2, "Standing Strong," uses drama and role-play to practise resisting peer pressure, standing against bullying and showing respect. Week 3, "Building My Future," covers goals, learning skills and staying in school.





Sessions are participatory, using art, drama and discussion in English, Kiswahili and Luo. Clear safeguarding practices, referral pathways and an anonymous Question Box keep every boy safe and heard. Follow-up includes buddy systems, a Talent Corner for art, drama and sport, and engagement with parents and guardians.

CBIM promotes a healthy picture of manhood: a strong man manages his feelings, respects others, takes responsibility and asks for help when he needs it.

OMI welcomes partners to support mentorship, learning materials and bursary linkages for boys in need.

VinceServe Solutions, Njoro, Nakuru County

Empowering Youth with Free Digital Skills

VinceServe Solutions is an ICT and services company based in Njoro. Through our Free Digital Skills and Computer Packages Program, we train young people in Njoro Constituency in the practical computer skills they need to learn, work and earn in a digital economy.

The program covers computer basics, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, internet and email use, and online safety. Training is completely free, so cost is never a barrier for youths who want to get started.

Since launching, we have trained 1467 youths, including 674 young women. Many have gone on to apply for jobs, start small online businesses, and continue their studies.



We also host student attachees, giving them hands-on industry exposure and mentorship.
Our goal is a Country where every young person is digitally confident and ready for opportunity.



Coast University of Eldoret Students Association (CUOESA)

The Coast University of Eldoret Students Association (CUOESA) is a student-led initiative committed to promoting unity, cultural identity, inclusion, leadership, and student empowerment at the University of Eldoret.

Founded on 27 September 2025 by Fikirini Samson Kahindi and Baraka Kithi Mwambegu, CUOESA seeks to unite students from Kenya's Coast region while creating opportunities for them to participate meaningfully in university life. Guided by the motto "Rising Beyond Limits, Leading with Purpose," the association champions integrity, respect, service, accountability, excellence, and inclusivity.

Under the leadership of Chairperson Baraka Kithi Mwambegu, CUOESA has strengthened student engagement, encouraged collaboration with university administration and lecturers, and promoted the rich cultural heritage of the Coast region. A major milestone was the association's remarkable debut victory in the University Cultural Week competitions, demonstrating the power of teamwork, cultural pride, and collective determination.

CUOESA also works to strengthen connections among students, improve membership and participation, welcome new students, and promote the University of Eldoret's visibility across the Coast region. Through cultural activities, student engagement, and collaborative leadership, the association provides a platform for young people to discover their potential, develop leadership skills, and contribute positively to society.

Our vision is to build a united, empowered, and innovative student community that excels academically, socially, and professionally.
CUOESA believes that when young people are united, their voices become stronger, their opportunities expand, and their impact reaches beyond the university.
Our commitment: Empowering youth, celebrating culture, and building leaders for tomorrow



Maseno University Association of Business Students (MUABS)



In an era where shifting market dynamics demand immediate workspace agility, the Maseno University Association of Business Students (MUABS) is moving far beyond traditional textbook frameworks. As a premier student-led professional empowerment association, MUABS operates as a strategic campus incubator, intentionally aligning undergraduate capabilities with the rigorous paradigms of Kenya's evolving corporate sector. Our developmental blueprint is explicitly designed to support the National Youth Council's broader objective of showcasing youth-led solutions to national challenges, translating global mandates into active, scalable on-the-ground operations.

Demonstrating this seamless corporate-academic integration, MUABS recently brokered a strategic alliance with Old Mutual to host a high-caliber campus empowerment workshop. Moving past passive career talks, this initiative actively bridged the gap between academic business theories and practical market realities. By bringing tier-one industry expertise directly to Maseno University, the workshop delivered immersive, practical training that integrated modern digital tools, data analytics, and corporate networking. Exposing hundreds of forward-thinking business students to these real-world mechanisms effectively extends learning far beyond the classroom, ensuring undergraduate skills are perfectly aligned with immediate industry demands.

Beyond baseline workplace readiness, the collaboration established a profound strategic impact by driving financial literacy and inclusion across the student body. MUABS firmly believes that training student leaders in robust financial management creates a powerful ripple effect in local community development. By equipping participants with critical financial acumen, ethical models, and economic resilience, the association frames its activities not merely as isolated campus events, but as proactive economic advocacy. This approach aligns directly with key global Sustainable Development Goals, specifically driving Quality Education (SDG 4) and fostering Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8).

As Communication Director, my objective is to leverage the power of digital branding and advocacy to demonstrate that student organizations are vital pipeline partners for market leaders. By utilizing strategic digital communication, structured social media marketing, and online community tools, MUABS is successfully shifting the campus narrative. Through sustained corporate networks, peer mentorship structures, and high-impact alliances like the Old Mutual workshop, we are no longer training graduates to simply seek employment; we are actively cultivating the visionary, ready-to-deploy change agents destined to anchor Kenya's sustainable economic future.

Youth for Kenya-27 (YK-27).

YK-27 is a youth-driven organization based in Vasin Gishu and is committed to empowering young people through leadership, advocacy, mentorship, civic engagement and community empowerment. Through our activities, we continue to create safe and inclusive spaces where youth can connect, share experiences, and build hope for a better future.

Some of the initiatives and activities we have engaged in include:

- Youth mentorship and leadership empowerment sessions
- Community dialogues and youth engagement forums
- Advocacy for youth inclusion in governance and reforms
- Peer support and networking spaces for young people
- Participation in forums addressing challenges affecting youth wellbeing
- Digital awareness campaigns encouraging positivity, leadership, and active citizenship

Through these activities, YK-27 has contributed to promoting youth voices, emotional wellbeing, confidence, social connection and community participation among young people.

We believe that strengthening youth mental health requires continuous collaboration, empowerment opportunities, and platforms that allow young people to feel heard, valued, and included in national development.



Voices from Campus

JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Out of This World: Inside Vulcan, the Award-Winning Mars Rover Built by Two JKUAT Student Teams .



Eight JKUAT engineering students, competing as Team Vulcan, built an autonomous, wireless-controlled rover from scratch and won the Launch Stage Final of the 2026 Cars4Mars African Rover Challenge with 370 points, beating more than 100 entries.

They now head to the Mars Stage Final at the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) facility in Hartebeeshoek. "Actual learning takes place while doing," explains team member Collins Kiprop. "Working on a real-world system forced us to connect classroom theory with practical, high-stakes problem-solving." For Team Lead Victoria Rotich, the motivation was also cultural: "When you look online for Mars rovers and space robotics, you almost exclusively see content from Europe or Asia," she says. "Taking on this project was our way to change that narrative and show that African students belong in space exploration."

Technical Lead Brian Fundi says the design centers on redundancy: separate batteries power the drivetrain and onboard computer, and an offline wireless link prioritizes steering and telemetry over video. The team is now refining camera-based obstacle detection, which could be adapted for precision agriculture, mining and automated logistics. Beyond the trophy, Rotich says the aim is lasting: "Our major goal is to build a lasting culture at JKUAT where students consistently enter and excel in the Cars4Mars competition year after year."

UNIVERSITY VERSES GOVERNMENT DEADLOCK



Uasin Gishu County Lecturers during strike. PHOTO/Duncan Wanga

Three weeks into a nationwide strike by public university lecturers and non-academic staff, students are threatening to join the industrial action, accusing the government of allowing a labour dispute to derail their education and impose additional financial costs. Students at the University of Nairobi (UoN) took to the streets their frustrations, signalling an escalation of the standoff as lecture halls remain deserted and academic programmes face uncertainty.

The students turned their frustration into physical protest, lighting bonfires. Some protesters carried placards, twigs and whistles as they chanted slogans calling on the government to address the lecturers' grievances and allow learning to resume.

Leading the demonstration, University of Nairobi Students Association (UNSA) President Ahmed Rashid laid the blame on the government's management of public education. "Our lecturers must be paid. Our Education Minister has failed us. We want to go back to class," he said during the blockade. Rashid, who says he is due to graduate in December, added that the strike has put his own timeline in doubt, and he called on students across Kenya to unite against the Ministry of Education and demand that lecturers be paid.

The protests come less than a week after UNSA issued the government a 72-hour u ltimatum on Friday, October 16, warning that students would join the strike if no solution was reached. In a memorandum issued on October 25, ahead of Ministry of Labour conciliation talks, Rashid said students would join lecturers in nationwide demonstrations from October 27 and would disrupt transport along major Nairobi roads if their grievances remain unresolved. UNSA leaders say the prolonged strike has cost students lectures and examinations and left them uncertain about when they will finish their studies.

> "There are students who are supposed to be sitting for their exams, for example pharmacy students, but they are not sitting,"

said UNSA Chief of Staff Michael Soi.

Secretary General Tony Ochieng described the human toll:

> "Students are plunged into depression, students are sinking into taking drugs, students are idle."

Opportunity Radar



Scholarship REGION

Visit www.scholarshipregion.com

Mastercard AfOx Scholarship at University of Oxford

mastercard

Africa Oxford Initiative

The Mastercard AfOx Scholarship programme supports passionate, locally rooted and globally minded African young people to undertake graduate studies at the University of Oxford. The Scholarship covers the full course fees and provides a grant of £21,805 for living costs, as well as networking opportunities and support.

Reward: Fully Funded
Category: Masters
English Test: Not Required
Eligible Countries: 50+
Benefits: £21,805 living costs
Deadline: January 8, 2027

Scholarship Reward:
2027 Mastercard AfOx Scholarship Reward

- This full-cost scholarship is available to Master's students, covering tuition fees, £21,805 living costs and an accommodation for international students.
- The scholarship also provides logistics support, including an economy return flight, visa and Immigration Health Surcharge fees, settling down allowance, and access to a Thrive Fund for emergencies.

Requirements:
To be considered for this 2027 University of Oxford Mastercard Scholarship,

- be of African nationality
- submit your application to the University of Oxford via the graduate admissions portal by the deadline for your chosen course of study and indicate that you wish to apply for AfOx funding.
- Necessary residence considerations will be made for students from refugee and displaced backgrounds.
- The scholarship emphasises explicitly groups who have historically been under-represented, including but not limited to female scholars, people from refugee and displaced backgrounds and disabled scholars.

How To Apply: https://www.scholarshipregion.com/mastercard-afox-scholarship/

Scholarships Corner

UNICEF INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2026 (PAID INTERNSHIPS)

The **UNICEF Internship Programme** is a **paid internship program** that offers students and recent graduates the opportunity to gain hands-on work experience with UNICEF offices around the world while contributing to meaningful projects and developing professional skills.

Internship Details:

- **Organization:** UNICEF
- **Duration:** 6–26 Weeks
- **Internship** Type: Full-Time or Part-Time
- **Eligible Applicants:** Students & Recent Graduates
- **Nationality:** Open to International Applicants

Benefits:

- Monthly Stipend
- Practical Work Experience
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Global Exposure
- Work with International Teams
- Visa Support Documents
- Travel & Visa Contribution (subject to funding availability)

How to Apply

Visit the UNICEF Careers Portal, search for available internship opportunities, and submit your online profile, CV, and cover letter.

Credit:UNICEF

https://scholarshipscorner.website/

FELLOWSHIPS GUIDE

CrossCulture Programme (CCP) Fellowships (Fully Funded)

Applications will open soon for the CrossCulture Programme (CCP) Fellowships, a fully funded professional exchange opportunity for civil society professionals and volunteers from over 40 countries. This prestigious fellowship supports individuals working in civil society to strengthen their expertise, build international networks, and develop transcultural skills.

Key Details:

- **Program Type:** CCP Fellowships
- **Host Countries:** Germany and 40+ CCP partner countries across multiple regions
- **Duration:** 2 to 3 months
- **Funding Type:** Fully funded
- **Application Fee:** None

Share it with your friends. For more amazing opportunities, visit our website www.fellowshipsguide.com

Eligibility Criteria:

- Be at least 23 years old at the time of application
- Be a citizen or resident of one of the eligible CCP countries (see list below)
- Have completed at least 2 years of professional experience or volunteer work in a civil society organisation in your home country
- Have solid, fluent command of written and spoken English
- Be in good health and able to undertake a prolonged stay abroad
- Not be a current student
- Not receive other fellowships or major funding in the same year

What This Offers:

- €650 per month for international participants; €1,200 per month for German participants
- Round-trip international or domestic airfare
- Fully covered housing during your stay
- Comprehensive coverage for the duration of the fellowship
- Monthly public transportation ticket in your host city
- Full coverage of visa costs if required





ASK NYC

Did you know the National Youth Council regularly shares fresh opportunities for young people every weekday at 4 pm on our official social media pages?

These daily updates cover training, funding, jobs, events and other practical openings from government and partners. Following the pages is a simple way to stay informed and act quickly. Check our channels, share the information with others and take advantage of what fits your goals.

For more details or to feature your own work, reach us through the contacts listed in this newsletter.

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To maximize these benefits, please ensure your organization ' s profile is complete and up-to-date on the NYC portal.

For assistance or inquiries, feel free to contact us at registration@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke.

For more information,
visit the NYC website or contact:

info@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke

www.nationalyouthconcil.go.ke

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