

Youth DEVOLUTION FESTIVAL 2025

Concept Note

2ND
EDITION



**Theme: Harnessing Devolution for Youth Empowerment, Innovation,
and Job Creation for Economic Growth.**



© The Inaugural Youth Devolution Festival 2024

For the youth, with the youth, By the youth



The 2nd Youth Devolution Festival 2025

Theme: *Harnessing Devolution for Youth Empowerment, Innovation, and Job Creation
for Economic Growth.*

Date: 1st – 3rd October 2025

Venue: Kajiado

Conveners: Coalition of Youth For Devolution



Contents

1. About Us	5
National Steering Committee	5
2. Introduction	6
Background Information	6
Justification	7
Why is Youth Engagement in Devolution Critical?	7
Challenges Faced by Youth in Employment, Governance, and Innovation:	7
How the Festival Bridges These Gaps:	8
3. Objectives of the Festival	9
Main Goal:	9
Specific Objectives:	9
4. Target Audience	10
5. Key Focus Areas	11
I. Youth Employment & Economic Growth	11
II. Innovation, Technology and Digital Economy.	11
IV. Climate Change and Green Jobs.	12
V. Cultural Diversity & Creative Economy	12
VI. Youth Employability & Skills Development	13
6. Expected Outcomes	13



VI. Festival Activities & Program	15
I. Pre-Events in the Youth Devolution Festival 2025	15
II. Main Festival Activities	15
8. Partnerships & Collaborations	16
9. Conclusion	17



1. About Us

Coalition of Youth for Devolution

The Coalition of Youth for Devolution (CYD) is a dynamic, youth-led network advocating for meaningful youth inclusion in devolved governance structures. The core membership is made up of fully registered community based organizations in the counties.

We bring together young serving organizations, innovators, and leaders to drive policy influence, community mobilization, and youth-centered development initiatives.

Mission:

To empower the youth as active participants in devolution by fostering civic engagement, advocacy, and inclusive governance at the grassroots level.

Vision:

A society where youth are at the forefront of shaping governance by leveraging on devolution for sustainable and equitable development.

Core Objectives:

- Advocacy & Policy Engagement – Push for youth-responsive policies at both the county and national levels.
- Capacity Building – Equip young people with skills in governance, leadership, and advocacy.
- Civic Education – Raise awareness of Devolution and the opportunities for meaningful engagement.
- Networking & Collaboration – Partner with governments, NGOs, academia, and private sector to amplify youth voices.

Our Socials

Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567070197092>

X: <https://x.com/YouthDevolution>

National Steering Committee

The **National Steering Committee (NSC)** provides strategic leadership and oversight for the Youth Devolution Festival. It is composed of youth representatives drawn from Kenya's



regional economic blocs, ensuring that the festival reflects the diversity and aspirations of youth across the country.

Each member of the NSC is tasked with coordinating county-level engagements, mobilizing participants, and contributing to the design and implementation of the festival program. The NSC also liaises with key stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners, and the private sector.

Below is a list of **Steering Committee Members and their respective regional blocs**:

Name	County / Role	Representing Economic Bloc / Role
Conrad Keya	Kakamega County	National Steering Committee Chairperson
Regina Wangeci Muriithi	Kirinyaga County	Mount Kenya and Aberdares Region Economic Bloc
Mr. Hassan Mbangwe Athumani	Mombasa County	Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani (Coastal Bloc)
Mr. Peter Luya	Siaya County	Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB)
Mr. Michael Kibor	Nandi County	North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB)
Hajira Bishar	Garissa County	Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC)
Mr. Kennedy Mutisya	Kitui County	South Eastern Kenya Economic Bloc (SEKEB)
Ms. Antonia Milanoi	Kajiado County	Maa Economic Bloc (MAAEB) & Co-Chairperson, Local Organizing Committee
Mr. Odari Murabwa	Kakamega County	Head of Secretariat

2. Introduction

Background Information

Devolution in Kenya was established under the **2010 Constitution** to bring governance closer to the people by transferring political, administrative, and financial authority to the **47 county governments**. This system aims to enhance public service delivery, equitable resource distribution, and citizen participation in decision-making. Through devolution,



counties have the autonomy to formulate policies and implement programs that directly impact their residents, including **youth-focused development initiatives**.

Youth play a pivotal role in Kenya's economic, social, and political development. With over 75% of Kenya's population under 35 years, empowering young people is essential for national progress. Despite their significant numbers, many young people face challenges such as unemployment, limited access to economic opportunities, and minimal involvement in governance. These obstacles hinder their potential to contribute effectively to national development.

The Inaugural Youth Devolution Festival was held last year on November 22 at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kakamega County under the theme, "Securing Devolution Through Deepening and Broadening Meaningful Youth Inclusion." and had 859 attendees from 38 counties. The PS State Department for Devolution graced the event.

The Youth Devolution Festival 2025 aims to provide a platform for dialogue, engagement, and action, enabling young people to take advantage of opportunities within devolved governance structures. By fostering participation in policy-making, economic growth, and innovation, the festival seeks to equip youth with the knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to drive meaningful change in their communities.

Justification

Why is Youth Engagement in Devolution Critical?

- Youth are direct beneficiaries of county development projects in areas such as employment, education, and entrepreneurship. Their involvement ensures that these programs are designed to meet their needs.
- Effective youth participation in governance promotes inclusive decision-making, ensuring that policies reflect the aspirations of young people.
- Youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship contribute to economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development at the county level.

Challenges Faced by Youth in Employment, Governance, and Innovation:



- **Unemployment & Underemployment:** Many young people lack access to decent job opportunities, leading to poverty and social inequalities.
- **Limited Representation in Governance:** Despite being the majority, youth participation in leadership and decision-making remains minimal.
- **Inadequate Support for Innovation & Entrepreneurship:** Many young innovators and entrepreneurs struggle with funding, mentorship, and market access.

How the Festival Bridges These Gaps:

- Provides a structured forum for youth to engage with county and national leaders on policy and governance matters.
- Offers networking opportunities with government officials, private sector stakeholders, and development partners.
- Showcases youth-led innovations and economic initiatives that can be supported through county government programs and partnerships.
- Equips participants with knowledge and skills through workshops, panel discussions, and exhibitions focused on employment, innovation, and governance.

By addressing these challenges, the Youth Devolution Festival 2025 will empower young people to actively participate in governance, develop sustainable businesses, and drive economic transformation within their counties.



3. Objectives of the Festival

Main Goal:

To empower youth by leveraging devolution to enhance employment, innovation, and economic development while fostering their active participation in governance and decision-making.

Specific Objectives:

I. Promote Youth Inclusion in Governance and Decision-Making

- Advocate for increased youth representation in county government leadership and policymaking.
- Provide a platform for youth to engage directly with policymakers, government officials, and development partners.
- Enhance youth participation in county planning, budgeting, and policy implementation.

II. Foster Innovation and Entrepreneurship Among Young People

- Support youth-led startups, social enterprises, and technological innovations.
- Provide mentorship, funding opportunities, and market linkages for young entrepreneurs.
- Encourage counties to create policies that support youth entrepreneurship and innovation hubs.

III. Create a Platform for Dialogue Between Youth, Policymakers, and Development Partners

- Facilitate discussions on policy frameworks that affect youth employment and economic participation.
- Connect youth with government institutions, private sector stakeholders, and civil society organizations.
- Promote public-private partnerships to drive youth-centered economic initiatives.



IV. Showcase Youth-Led Solutions to Economic and Social Challenges

- Provide a space for young innovators to present solutions in key sectors such as agriculture, climate change, health, education, and governance.
- Recognize and reward outstanding youth-driven projects that contribute to community development.
- Encourage counties to adopt and scale up innovative solutions developed by youth.

V. Increase Awareness of Opportunities within the Devolved Government Structures

- Educate youth on available programs, grants, and tenders in county governments.
- Highlight success stories of youth who have leveraged devolution for economic growth.
- Equip youth with skills and knowledge on how to access resources for business, education, and community development.

4. Target Audience

- Youth leaders and organizations
- County and national government representatives
- Entrepreneurs and startup founders
- Innovators and researchers
- Community-based organizations and NGOs
- Private sector stakeholders and investors
- Academia and training institutions
- Media and advocacy groups
- Development partners



5. Key Focus Areas

The Youth Devolution Festival 2025 will center around six key thematic areas aimed at enhancing youth participation in governance, economic empowerment, and sustainable development.

I. Youth Employment & Economic Growth

To address the high unemployment rate among young people, the festival will focus on strategies to **create jobs and improve economic opportunities** through devolution.

- **County-Level Job Creation Strategies** – Engaging county governments to develop policies that prioritize youth employment.
- **Youth-Friendly Business Environments and Policies** – Advocating for business incentives, tax breaks, and capacity-building programs for young entrepreneurs.
- **Entrepreneurship Development** – Providing training, mentorship, and networking opportunities for startups and youth-led enterprises.
- **Public-Private Partnerships for Job Creation** – Encouraging partnerships between government agencies, private sector players, and NGOs to create sustainable employment programs.

II. Innovation, Technology and Digital Economy.

Technology and innovation play a crucial role in shaping modern economies. The festival will promote youth-led innovations and tech-based solutions to county challenges.

- **Youth-Led Innovations and Startups** – Showcasing innovations in various sectors, including fintech, agritech, and smart cities.
- **Digital Transformation and Smart Governance** – Promoting the use of technology in governance for improved service delivery and transparency.
- **Tech-Driven Solutions for County Challenges** – Encouraging the development of apps, platforms, and AI-driven solutions to solve local issues in areas like water management, education, and healthcare.

III. Future of Work & the 4th Industrial Revolution

As technology continues to reshape industries and employment, it is vital to



prepare youth for emerging opportunities and challenges in the digital economy.

- **Upskilling for the Digital Economy** – Equipping youth with future-ready skills in areas such as artificial intelligence, data science, robotics, blockchain, and digital marketing to increase their employability in the 4IR landscape.
- **Promoting Innovation in Education & Workforce Development** – Encouraging county governments and partners to invest in tech-based learning platforms, coding bootcamps, and industry-academia collaborations that align education with future labor market needs.
- **Remote Work and Gig Economy Opportunities** – Raising awareness of online work, freelancing platforms, and digital entrepreneurship as viable sources of income for youth across counties.
- **Bridging the Digital Divide** – Advocating for improved access to internet infrastructure, digital tools, and inclusive technology policies, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

IV. Climate Change and Green Jobs.

Climate change is a global crisis that requires urgent action, and youth are at the forefront of environmental sustainability.

- **Youth Involvement in Environmental Conservation** – Promoting afforestation, water resource management, and plastic waste reduction initiatives.
- **Green Economy and Climate-Smart Innovations** – Showcasing green businesses, renewable energy solutions, and sustainable agricultural practices.

V. Cultural Diversity & Creative Economy

The creative economy is a key driver of youth employment and national identity.

- **Arts, Music, and Sports as Economic Drivers** – Promoting talent development, creative industries, and the commercialization of youth artistic ventures.
- **Cultural Heritage and Identity in Governance** – Encouraging counties to integrate cultural heritage into development policies and governance.



VI. Youth Employability & Skills Development

Despite being the majority of Kenya's population, many young people face significant barriers to employment due to a mismatch between skills and labor market demands. With rising unemployment and underemployment, there is a pressing need to equip youth with practical, market-relevant skills that prepare them for today's dynamic economy. Investment in vocational training, mentorship, life skills, and structured apprenticeship programs is essential to enhance employability, reduce dependency, and promote self-reliance. County governments, through devolved structures, are well-positioned to spearhead localized youth empowerment initiatives that respond directly to regional economic needs and unlock job creation potential.

6. Expected Outcomes

The Youth Devolution Festival 2025 is designed to create tangible and sustainable impacts on youth empowerment, governance, and economic growth. By the end of the festival, the following key outcomes are expected:

a. Increased Youth Awareness of Opportunities in Devolution

- Young people will gain a **better understanding** of how devolution works and the **opportunities** available within county governments.
- Awareness campaigns and discussions will help youth learn how to **access county resources**, including grants, mentorship programs, and business opportunities.
- Participants will be **equipped with knowledge** on how to engage with county governments in decision-making and development programs.

b. Strengthened Collaboration Between Youth and Government Stakeholders

- The festival will provide a platform for direct engagement between youth, policymakers, government officials, and development partners.
- County governments will gain insights into the needs and aspirations of young people, fostering youth-inclusive policies.



- Stronger public-private partnerships will be established to support youth-led initiatives and economic empowerment programs.

c. Youth-Led Innovations Showcased and Supported

- The festival will create an avenue for youth to present their innovations and solutions to economic, environmental, and governance challenges.
- Promising startups and projects will receive mentorship, and technical support from investors, government bodies, and development agencies.
- Recognition and awards will be given to outstanding youth initiatives, motivating more young people to engage in problem-solving through innovation.

d. Policy Recommendations Developed to Enhance Youth Participation in Governance

- Through panel discussions and stakeholder engagements, concrete policy recommendations will be developed to enhance youth inclusion in governance.
- These recommendations will be documented and submitted to county and national government representatives for consideration in future policies.
- Youth advocacy groups will be equipped with policy briefs to push for the implementation of youth-friendly policies at the county level.

e. Commitments from Key Partners to Support Youth Development Initiatives

- Government agencies, private sector players, and NGOs will commit resources, funding, and expertise to drive youth empowerment initiatives.
- The festival will result in formal partnerships aimed at supporting youth employment, innovation, and governance participation.
- Follow-up mechanisms will be put in place to track the implementation of these commitments and ensure long-term impact beyond the festival.



VI. Festival Activities & Program

I. Pre-Events in the Youth Devolution Festival 2025

The Devolution Caravan

The Devolution Caravan will kick off in Nairobi, symbolizing the decentralization of power, and traverse key tertiary institutions along the Nairobi-Kajiado route. The caravan will engage young people in civic education, storytelling, and art around devolution. It will culminate in a public welcome at the festival grounds in Kajiado.

Ugatuzi Walls and Exhibitions

YouthDevFest2025 will feature Ugatuzi Walls—interactive exhibition walls installed in county headquarters to capture youth feedback, video testimonials, and showcase county youth programs. These will be exhibited at the festival, culminating in a documentary titled The Ugatuzi Experience.

Interactive exhibitions by youth innovators, civic tech creators, artists, and grassroots movements will showcase how young people are leveraging creativity and technology to transform governance.

Festival Activities

II. Main Festival Activities

The main event of the **2nd Youth Devolution Festival 2025** in Kajiado County will feature a vibrant and inclusive set of activities designed to inform, inspire, and mobilize youth across all counties. These activities will foster dialogue, innovation, creativity, and policy influence.

Keynote Speeches and High-Level Panels

Engaging sessions led by influential youth leaders, policymakers, and experts focusing on:

- Youth inclusion in governance
- Innovation and emerging economies
- Devolution as a driver for youth opportunity
- Climate resilience and gender equity

Exhibitions and Youth Innovation Showcases



An open exhibition space featuring:

- Youth-led innovations, startups, and civic technology
- County government youth initiatives
- NGO and private sector engagement booths
- Ugatuzi Walls and the *Ugatuzi Experience* documentary screening

Masterclasses and Side Events

Hands-on and practical learning experiences on:

- Participatory budgeting and public finance monitoring
- Digital skills, freelancing, and the future of work
- Storytelling for advocacy and impact
- Accessing county opportunities and procurement

Creative Economy and Cultural Showcases

A dedicated segment celebrating youth talent and cultural diversity:

- Music, dance, poetry, spoken word, and fashion
- County cultural exhibitions and artistic performances
- Discussions on creative entrepreneurship and monetization
- Youth Devolution Awards Ceremony honoring exceptional contributors

Communiqué and Policy Presentation

Formal submission of youth-generated policy recommendations and resolutions:

- Launch of the Youth Communiqué to the Council of Governors and Presidency
- Press briefings and media engagement
- Commitment statements from key stakeholders

8. Partnerships & Collaborations

- **Government Agencies:** Ministry of Youth Affairs, County Governments, Devolution Ministry
- **Development Partners:** NGOs, CSOs



- **Private Sector:** Tech companies, banks, investors
- **Academic Institutions:** Universities and research organizations
- **Media Houses:** For coverage and advocacy

9. Conclusion

The Youth Devolution Festival 2025 serves as a transformational platform that empowers young people to actively engage in governance, innovation, and economic development. By harnessing the potential of devolution, this festival aims to create meaningful opportunities for youth to contribute to Kenya's socio-economic growth while addressing key challenges such as unemployment, limited political participation, and access to resources.

The festival not only facilitates knowledge-sharing and networking but also establishes critical partnerships between youth, government agencies, private sector players, and development partners. It provides young innovators and entrepreneurs with a platform to showcase their ideas, influencing policy and decision-making at the county and national levels.

Call to Action

To make this initiative a sustainable success, it requires the active involvement and commitment of all stakeholders, including:

- **County and national government leaders** to create policies that prioritize youth inclusion and economic opportunities.
- **Development partners and private sector organizations** to invest in youth-led initiatives and innovation.
- **Civil society and youth organizations** to drive advocacy and mentorship programs.
- **Media and communication platforms** to amplify youth voices and promote accountability in governance.

Long-Term Impact

The impact of youth engagement in governance and economic development extends beyond the festival. It lays the foundation for a more inclusive, participatory, and



innovative society, where young people play a central role in shaping policies, driving economic transformation, and fostering sustainable development.

By supporting and participating in the Youth Devolution Festival 2025, we take a significant step toward empowering Kenya's youth to become leaders, innovators, and change-makers in their communities and beyond. Let's work together to ensure that devolution delivers on its promise of an inclusive and prosperous future for all!





**YOUTH DEVOLUTION
FESTIVAL 2025**

1st - 3rd Oct | Venue: Kajiado County

THEME: Harnessing Devolution for Youth Empowerment,
Innovation and Economic Growth

For Youth. By Youth. With Youth

