

A
LEARNING AND WORKING REPORT



THE SCHOOLS PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM

REPORT SUBMITTED TO
Mohammed Abdirizak Executive
Director
Agents of Peace [AoP]

2021



ROSA LUXEMBURG FOUNDATION TANZANIA



1.0 Introduction

Through the technical and financial support from Agents of Peace [AoP], Muheimin Education centre held the first intra-school public speaking for the mentored schools with theme **“The role of Children in Peaceful elections in Kenya”** as a way to deliberate and see how the young people can contribute to peace and security at grass-root level. The event was held on 7th of February, 2022 at the Mugeumin Education Centre Hall. The Assistant County Commissioner of Kamukunji was the chief guest. He was flanked by other peace actors within Kamukunji including the child protection volunteer. Agents of Peace was represented by its Founder and a Board Member. As entails participants, the event was grace by students’ different schools; primary and high schools, teachers and Patrons of different Peace Clubs and Peace Ambassadors.

The Public Speaking Forum was part of the AoP’s effort to reach out to school children through their peace clubs that brings several schools together to champion for peace as young peace ambassadors. During the activity, the young peace ambassadors read out their recommendations in regard to their role in peace building in respect to the current electioneering period. The peace ambassadors were recognized for their noble initiative by being issued with badges and certificate of appreciation from AoP, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and Office of the Assistant County Commissioner - Eastleigh Division, Kamukunji Sub-County.

2.0 The Proceedings

The school peace club event was called to order by the club patron following the arrival of pupils from all the respectives of the schools who were present. The club patron commenced the forum by welcoming all the attendants and took the opportunity to introduce all the club officials and thereafter allowed presentations from some of young peace ambassadors.

2.1 Key Highlights of the Proceedings

The students who made their presentations gave suggestions on the roles that children can play in peace building especially during the current election period considering the fact that they are part of the vulnerable group whenever violence erupts. Positive use of social media platforms by young people to propagate peace messages, innovative ideas to promote peace initiatives and promotion of talent were some of the suggestions listed by the young peace ambassadors as critical in involving and engaging them in peace activities.

The AoP Director and the Board Representative in their presentations reminded the peace club ambassadors about several incidences where children have negatively been affected as a result of violence during elections. **For instance**, young baby Pendo who lost her life following a stray bullet during the 2017 elections. The AoP Director urged the young peace ambassadors to exercise their responsibility by making right decisions and desist from being influenced by adults hell-bent on creating divisions. He also sensitized the young people on extremist ideologies where Islamic quotes are wrongly quoted to perceive Islam as a religion tolerating violence contrary to the right Islamic teachings.

The Kamukunji sub County peace chairman, Mr Kennedy Isigi advised the peace club members to exercise themselves in a respectable manner and become role models to other students and shun engagement with criminal groups/gangs. He also urged them to respect their parents/ guardians while at home and conduct themselves responsibly.



ROSA LUXEMBURG FOUNDATION TANZANIA



The Assistant County commissioner, Mr

senior Tobias Okoth, in his presentation

recognized and appreciated all the other speakers for their well-informed suggestions and resolutions. He urged the young peace ambassadors to take advantage of several platforms the Government had offered to actively participate in peace initiatives. The ACC reiterated to the club members the importance of living in a peaceful society in respect to various events which come and go, for instance, the elections where those to lead should be chosen in a peaceful manner without children being involved in violence.

The ACC further hailed the successful organization of the activity and urged for more of such forums to empower and sensitize the young people in schools to participate in peace building activities as he presided over the issuance of certificates of appreciation and badges to the students and teachers participating in the school peace clubs.

2.2 Key Achievements

- The peace club members were able to interact and share their perspectives on how young people can meaningfully participate in peace building activities.
- The peace club members got an opportunity to read out their resolutions in respect to involvement of children in peace building activities.
- The peace club members were recognized further through the issuance certificates of appreciation and badges to enhance recognition of their peace engagement efforts in school and at home with recognition from the government.

2.3 Key Output Areas

- The club members were sensitized, tooled and empowered with knowledge on promoting peaceful coexistence, actualizing positive roles that they can play in the upcoming elections.
- Enhanced modalities for involvement and participation of young people in peace initiatives as most participants acknowledged being left out during any peace activities in the community.
- Commitments by participants to share the knowledge with their peers and become active peace ambassadors within the community.

2.4 Key Action Points

- AoP to develop a program targeting the school patrons with the view of enhancing their capacity on peace and security matters so that they can meaningfully operationalize the school clubs and support the club members effectively.
- AoP to scale up the school peace engagement forums by involving more schools with a particular focus on the slums areas where there are high levels of poverty and limited opportunities for learning.
- AoP to continue building stronger cohesion with the different groups through social events such as sports as it is a unifying factor.

2.5 Conclusion

The overall objective of the event was to offer a platform to the young people in both Primary and High schools to understand their role in peace building activities and promote peace initiatives



community. With the national political rhetoric has rented the air making young people susceptible to being exploited. AoP successfully engaged the young people from different schools in peace activities following their vulnerability and exploitation to radicalization by violent extremist groups. It can be concluded that the activity met its objective of sensitizing the young people on committing to peaceful initiative and also, new programming opportunities were identified to scale up the engagement and awareness interventions.

within the elections planned for august, the

3.0 Pictorials





ROSA LUXEMBURG FOUNDATION TANZANIA

