



IMPACT
REPORT

CHANUKA ASSOCIATION · 27 JUNE 2026

Siasa Poa Youth Leaders Forum

FORUM THEME

“My Role in Leadership & Governance”

DATE

Saturday,
27 June 2026

VENUE

EAST University,
Buruburu, Nairobi

PREPARED FOR

Young People &
the Public

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

NCIC · IEBC · ORPP · Ministry of Interior & National Administration

THE FORUM IN BRIEF

Executive Summary

On 27 June 2026, Chanuka Association convened the inaugural **Siasa Poa Youth Leaders Forum** — bringing together 81 young leaders and representatives from four key public institutions to explore the role of youth in promoting peaceful leadership, democratic participation, and national cohesion ahead of Kenya's 2027 General Election.

More than a civic dialogue, the forum created a rare platform where young people engaged directly with decision-makers — asking difficult questions, sharing lived experiences, and collectively reflecting on their role in shaping Kenya's democratic future.

The forum demonstrated that when institutions intentionally create space for young people to participate, youth respond with thoughtful ideas, practical solutions, and a willingness to champion peace within their communities.



INSTITUTIONAL LEADERS AND PARTNERS AT THE SIASA POA YOUTH LEADERS FORUM.

THE DAY IN NUMBERS

Key Results at a Glance

A snapshot of what the forum convened — and the momentum it set in motion.

81

Young Leaders
Engaged

4

Government &
Institutional Partners

4

Industry-Specific
Roundtables

1

Youth Declaration
Read & Adopted

Launched

Peace Ambassador
Training Pipeline

1

Why the Forum Mattered

Kenya stands twelve months from the 2027 General Election — a period in which youth civic participation carries unusual weight, and in which the relationship between young people and public institutions matters more than ever. The Siasa Poa Youth Leaders Forum was designed as a deliberate response to that moment.

Too often, young people encounter governance only as spectators — and institutions only during election periods. This forum inverted that pattern. It brought young leaders from across Nairobi into the same room as senior institutional decision-makers, for honest dialogue on governance, peace, and democratic participation, centred on the question: *At a Crossroads — What Role Will Young People Play in Kenya's Future?*

It was the first in a planned series of recurring civic forums that Chanuka Association is building — cutting across industries and regions, starting in Nairobi and growing nationally. Its significance lies less in the single day, and more in the access, trust, and momentum it created.



OPENING REMARKS SET THE TONE FOR A DAY OF HONEST, CROSS-SECTOR CONVERSATION.

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Young people are not waiting to be invited into governance — they are ready to contribute.

2 Programme Highlights

The programme was structured to move participants from context, to direct engagement, to commitment — with each session building toward what young leaders would take away, not simply what they would hear.

■ Opening & Context Setting

The keynote — delivered by **Dr. Patrick Simiyu Werre, Nairobi East County Commissioner**, representing the Ministry of Interior and National Administration — grounded the day in the realities of election-related violence. Speaking to the theme *The Real Cost of Political Violence: Protecting Youth, Protecting Our Future*, it helped participants better understand the role government institutions play in preventing conflict and safeguarding peaceful civic participation.

■ Flagship Leadership Panel

Young leaders engaged directly with the public institutions responsible for elections, political parties, national cohesion, and security — the NCIC, IEBC, ORPP, and the Ministry of Interior. Beyond the themes discussed, participants came away with greater clarity on each institution's mandate and increased confidence in engaging these bodies beyond election periods.



PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ENGAGED DIRECTLY WITH YOUTH LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

Industry-Specific Roundtables

KEY HIGHLIGHT

Panelists joined smaller youth groups for deeper, more intimate conversations. Rather than a one-directional panel, this format created genuine dialogue — young leaders naming the challenges in their fields, the realities affecting their communities, and the solutions they believe they can champion.

Participants consistently identified this as the most valuable part of the day. It created the kind of direct access between young people and institutional leaders that rarely happens in formal civic spaces — and it is a model Chanuka Association will carry into every future forum.



LEADERS JOINED YOUTH GROUPS FOR CANDID DIALOGUE.



PARTICIPANTS NAMED THE REALITIES FACING THEIR FIELDS.

■ Youth Declaration

The Youth Declaration was read aloud and shared with all 81 participants for ongoing reference. Its public reading served as a collective civic commitment — a moment in which every participant acknowledged their role and responsibility in shaping a peaceful Kenya.

3

Stories from the Day

Numbers describe the scale of the forum; voices describe its meaning. These reflections, shared by participants during and after the day, capture what the experience changed for them.

“I got to understand the role political parties play — especially in determining who ends up on the ballot, and how I can be part of that process.”

— FORUM PARTICIPANT

“The small-group discussions made me realise that government institutions are more accessible than I had assumed.”

— YOUTH LEADER

“I left feeling challenged to play a more active role in promoting peaceful elections within my community.”

— FORUM PARTICIPANT



DIALOGUE EXTENDED BEYOND THE PROGRAMME INTO INFORMAL NETWORKING.

4 Outcomes & Early Impact

Beyond the activities of the day, the forum contributed to several immediate outcomes — early signals of the change it is intended to build toward.

OUTCOME 01

Increased civic understanding

Participants demonstrated a stronger grasp of:

- Peaceful electoral participation
- Issue-based politics
- Institutional accountability
- Citizen responsibility

OUTCOME 02

Stronger institutional trust

Young leaders engaged representatives from government institutions in an open, unguarded setting — reducing the barriers that so often stand between youth and public offices, and making those institutions feel reachable.

OUTCOME 03

Expanded civic networks

Participants formed connections across universities, faith communities, youth organisations and professional sectors — creating a cross-sector network with real potential for future collaboration.

OUTCOME 04

Momentum for continued engagement

Registration for Peace Ambassador training and strong interest in future forums showed enthusiasm that outlasted the day itself — the clearest sign that this is the start of something recurring.

From Outputs to Long-Term Impact

How the activities of a single day connect to the change we are building toward with our partners.

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LONG-TERM IMPACT
81 participants engaged	Increased civic awareness	Stronger, sustained youth participation
4 institutions represented	Better understanding of institutional roles	Greater trust between youth and public institutions
4 panel sessions held	New cross-sector partnerships formed	A sustainable civic-engagement network
Industry roundtables convened	Peace Ambassador registrations	Stronger community peace initiatives

5 Partner Contribution

The depth of the forum was made possible by the institutions that showed up — not only with representation, but with genuine expertise. Each partner shaped what participants took away.

NCIC

National Cohesion and Integration Commission

COLIN MUGANDA, SNR PROGRAMME OFFICER

Brought expertise on national cohesion and issue-based politics, helping participants understand the value of peaceful, issue-driven engagement over identity-driven contest.

IEBC

Independent Electoral and Boundaries
Commission

**ALBERT GOGO, COUNTY ELECTION
MANAGER**

Clarified the electoral process and reinforced the role of informed citizens in safeguarding credible, peaceful elections.

ORPP

Office of the Registrar of Political Parties

**JOSPHAT NYONGESA, SENIOR ICT
OFFICER**

Deepened participants' understanding of political parties and the mechanics of democratic participation.

Ministry of Interior & National Administration

**DR. PATRICK SIMIYU WERRE — NAIROBI
EAST COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Connected civic participation with peace, security, and community resilience — anchoring the day in the real stakes of the moment.

EAST University

VENUE HOST

Provided the venue and hospitality that made a full day of dialogue possible, in an accessible campus setting.

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Dialogue builds trust before elections build tension.

6

Looking Ahead

The Siasa Poa Youth Leaders Forum marked the beginning of a long-term commitment to nurturing informed, responsible, and peace-minded young leaders. While the event concluded in a single day, the conversations, relationships, and commitments it sparked continue to shape the work ahead.

Chanuka Association is grateful to every partner who contributed to this milestone, and looks forward to deepening these collaborations as we expand this initiative across Kenya.

This is only the beginning. As we take the Siasa Poa Youth Leaders Forum to more counties, we invite young people across Kenya to join the conversation and play their part in building a peaceful, issue-based democracy.

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Peace is strengthened when young people understand both their rights and their responsibilities.



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