



NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS REPORT

Organised By: TEENS Uganda with support from DENIVA

Date: 8th August 2012

Theme: 'Youth and Employment'

Venue: Makerere University

Topics: (a) Youth and Un-employment
(b) Role of youth in governance

Background

The National Youth Congress the second by TEENS Uganda with support from DENIVA and other youth partner organizations being an interactive, high profile meeting of representative youth delegates from different socio-economic and political backgrounds including the civil society to provide a platform upon which they can voice their opinions, concerns, and formally discuss the issues most impacting young people in Uganda as un-employment, poverty, democratic participation, etc.. The discussions highlighted youth un-employment as most urgent and the role of youth in governance; based on consultations with various stakeholders and partner youth led organizations as a way to find lasting solutions to un employment and youth participation at all levels of national development. "Youth and Employment" was maintained as the congress theme.

Overall Objectives:

To provide a platform for the youths to network and have a cohesive voice on the development processes.

Specific Objective:

1. To stimulate the interest of youth participation in governance in Uganda.
2. To raise awareness about the Youth Fund and how it can be accessed to increase employment opportunities,
3. To disseminate lessons learned at the Congress through a Youth declaration.

Challenges:



Government introduced the Youth Fund to fight Un-employment among youth, but this was not sustainable solution. The problem highlighted access and utilization. Youth do not participate well and so the congress was very timely presenting resolutions for such urgent problems.

Participation:

Being a national event, the congress was highly attended and supported by youth organizations across the country (Uganda). Delegates were heads of NGOs/CBOs, and other representatives of both profit organizations and the civil society. Working with DENIVA representative youth groups participated from West Nile, Karamoja, Rwenzori, Central Region, Northern Uganda, Eastern Uganda, Western Uganda and the Kigezi Region. Among others were; Hunger fighters Uganda, ActionAid, AFFCAD, Eagles Youth Devt, RAM computers youth project, HRCU, UNESCO youth desk, Arua District NGO network, KAYODA JIDNET, 24/7 Distinct, Open-space, AYDL, SGD, etc.

Congress Activities:

The congress featured many activities including Key note addresses; Mr. Hamba Richard (E.D/ Prog'm Rep -TEENS Uganda), Ms. Amoding Monicah – Guest of Honor (Chairperson, Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs), Mr. Otim Lucima (DENIVA), Andrew Barungi (HRCU), Representative (Equal Opportunity's Commission). The plenary sessions by Emmy Otim (24/7 District), Ahamed Hadji (AYDL), Ronald Kato, Francis Musinguzi, among many. There were also mini-exhibitions, during the event which all led to resolutions or declarations by youth giving the mandate to TEENS Uganda to present them to the speaker of Parliament, United National, etc.

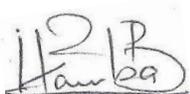
Challenges:

Challenges including; inadequate financial support/resources based on reasons as, discrimination, reducing number of candidate participants to reduce to match budget issues, lack of trust from potential donors due to associated risks verse donor benefits, deliberate refusal to support youth activities from government and other development agents, etc.

Remark:

The congress meeting was a big success for youth in line with contributing to the National Development Plan (NDP). It was very participatory and able to capture the opinions of representative youth across the country (Uganda). The discussion reflected the similar challenges in east Africa who would benefit from the deliberations if the declarations reached the east African community (EAC).

Signed:



Hamba Richard

Chairman (E.D) TEES Uganda

