



**CENTER FOR RESILIENCE
AND SUSTAINABLE AFRICA**



SUMMARY REPORT

REFLECTIVE DIALOGUE ON ETHICAL AND VALUE-CENTERED LEADERSHIP

#ValuesNdioRada

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SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



IT'S INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Reflective Dialogue on

AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES FOR ETHICAL AND VALUE CENTERED LEADERSHIP

11TH OF AUGUST 2025

ON



SPACE
@Cefresa_ke

FROM 2:30PM TO 4PM



Esha Mohammed

MODERATOR

Executive Director Her Narrative



**Mohammed
Skanda**

PANELIST

Former Speaker
Lamu Youth
Assembly



**Derick
Ouko**

PANELIST

Search For
Common Ground
Kenya



**Hamad
Tenguri**

PANELIST

Founder, Lavishat



**Maureen
Magak**

PANELIST

Executive Director
Lend A Voice Africa



**Robert
Madubi**

PANELIST

Founder-Badili
Tana Initiative

@cefresa_ke

Who We Are



Center For Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable development through community-led initiatives. By fostering inclusive, participatory processes, CEFRESA empowers local communities to identify their needs, co-develop solutions, and lead efforts that create meaningful and lasting change. The organization focuses on equity, collaboration, and resilience in its approach, making sure that growth is not only sustainable but also represents the diverse voices within the communities it supports.

Overview

On 11th August 2025, the Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) hosted a vibrant X Space reflective dialogue, bringing together youth from across the Coast region counties and beyond to mark International Youth Day 2025 during the annual Youth Week celebrations. The session engaged participants united by a shared concern over the growing need for ethical and value-centered leadership in the country. This session served as an awakening call platform, inviting participants into deep introspection, candid dialogue, cooperation, and learning.

Guided by the theme “Amplifying Youth Voices for Ethical and Value-Centered Leadership,” the dialogue provided a safe yet challenging space where young leaders could critically examine the principles that should guide leadership, share their lived experiences, and explore how to turn values into actionable governance practices.

Participants

Counties Represented



Mombasa
County



Kwale
County



Kilifi
County



Tana River
County



Lamu
County



Garissa
County



Nairobi
County



Kisumu
County



Kakamega
County



Isiolo
County



Machakos
County



Trans Nzoia
County



Laikipia
County



Taita Taveta
County

The metric of the X space

Center for Resilience and Sust... Host

AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES: LEADING WITH ETHICS & VALUES

1K tuned in · 11 Aug · 1:57:46

Tuned in
1010

Live listeners
560

Recording replays
450

Co-hosts
1

Speakers
10

Duration
1h 57m 46s

Photo on participants

REC

AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES: LEADING WITH ETHICS & VALUES

nikkie
Listener

Maureen M...
Listener

Wasike,KE...
Listener

C K
Listener

Maloba Pet...
Listener

Hillary Om...
Listener

Atito
Listener

RYZN PHO...
Listener

United Mal...
Listener

Kevin Baraza
Listener

Twesigye I...
Listener

Chepleting
Listener

Abuu Muz...
Listener

Ivory
Listener

Boniface O...
Listener

Kawira
Listener

REC

AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES: LEADING WITH ETHICS & VALUES

SteveOmo...
Listener

Victor Jack...
Listener

trippytyler
Listener

Cheech
Listener

KIJIWENI U...
Listener

Fauzia Kas...
Listener

Daring Lady
Listener

Malcom O...
Listener

hussein ulfy
Listener

Brian John
Listener

Racheal Be...
Listener

Swaleh Ad...
Listener

Zaron Moh...
Listener

HOMEMA...
Listener

zuhura hus...
Listener

Joy moses
Listener

The main objectives of the Reflective Dialogue were to:

- **Reignite Youth Commitment to Ethical Leadership**
Strengthen the resolve of young people to champion inclusive, service-driven, and value-based leadership.
- **Foster Knowledge Exchange Across Regions**
Create a reflective space for youth leaders from different counties of the Coast to share strategies, challenges, and innovations in governance engagement.
- **Influence Governance Processes**
Amplify youth voices to shape governance outcomes at local, regional, and national levels, especially ahead of the National Youth Council elections and General Elections.
- **Mobilize Youth for Value-Based Campaigning**
Rallying call for young leaders to contest and lead campaigns rooted in fairness, ethical accountability, and transparency.

Setting the Stage

Kenya stands at a critical crossroads, navigating political uncertainty, economic pressures, and governance challenges that continue to test the resilience and aspirations of its people. The youth who form most of the population are increasingly vocal in their demands for fairness, ethical accountability, and transparent leadership. This is more evident in online and offline engagement, where young people are seeking to redefine governance narratives in their ways and spaces.

The country is entering a prepared phase for the coming General Elections, a period that will significantly influence political manifestos and policy commitments. This moment offers a rare opportunity for politicians to move beyond hollow promises, anchoring their agendas instead of the values and principles that truly serve the people. Fairness, ethical accountability, and transparency must not be campaign slogans but living commitments reflected in both vision and action. A society's knowledge and breadth of values should shape the lens through which it views, evaluates, and holds leaders accountable.

The National Youth Council (NYC) elections present proving ground for this value-based approach. Will the youth put forward leaders who embody integrity and service, or will they perpetuate patterns of self-interest and patronage? The answer will depend on how well-prepared, united, and principled young people are in the run-up to these elections.

Against this backdrop, the CEFRESA convened the 2025 International Youth Day Coast Region Virtual Reflective Dialogue. This platform brought together youth leaders, grassroots organizers, student representatives, gender advocates, and digital influencers to reflect critically on the values they expect in leadership, share lived experiences, and craft actionable steps toward value-centered governance.

Moderator's Welcome Note

The session opened with a heartfelt and inspiring welcome from Miss Esha Mohammed, Executive Director of Her Narrative Organization, who warmly acknowledged the presence of changemakers and youth leaders from across the Coast Region and beyond. She reminded participants that this was not just another meeting, but part of an ongoing dialogue rooted in real experience that has been unfolding since June 2025, reflecting the daily realities of young people.



Miss Esha set the tone with a powerful reminder: “Leadership without values is merely power without purpose.” She commended the youth for their courage and determination to make their voices heard, particularly when the political class often sidelines issues that matter most to them.

She also drew attention to the urgent challenges facing young people today: Extrajudicial killings, abductions, the contested education funding model, and the denial of fundamental rights. Framing the session as a youth space for open exchange, she called on participants to use the moment to inspire solutions and champion ethical, value-based leadership for lasting change.

“We must refuse to copy the broken pattern of those we came to change.”
- Esha Mohammed



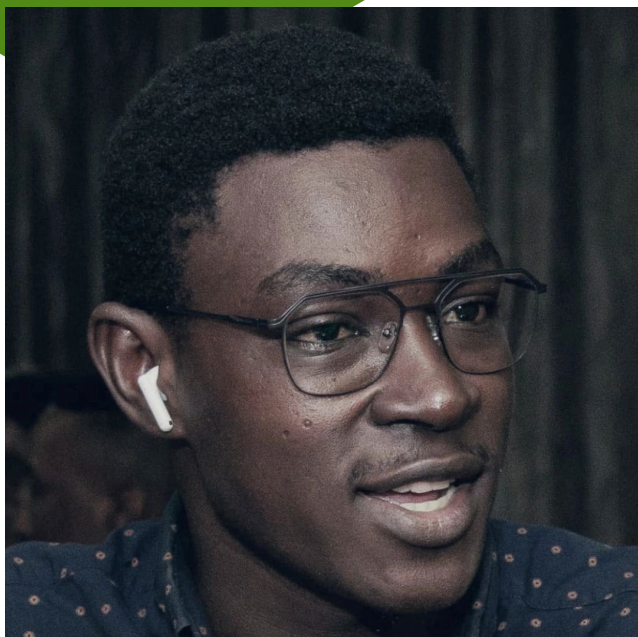
The speaker recounted how his exposure during university opened his eyes to the exclusion and marginalization faced by young people in Lamu. This led him to form the Lamu University Student Organization in Lamu and later the Lamu Youth Assembly, an initiative designed to center youth issues in governance by collaborating with service providers to address community challenges. He called on young people to embrace alternative mechanisms for influencing county agendas, such as the assembly model, which champions governance, social accountability, and political influence at decision-making tables.

He emphasized that value-centered leadership is only possible when accountability, integrity, and transparency are upheld. Mentorship, he noted, should move beyond conversations and become a shared journey of growth between mentors and mentees. He expressed disappointment with the National Youth Council (NYC) for failing to demonstrate solidarity, particularly during advocacy for the youth policy legal framework in Lamu, which remains stalled despite extensive lobbying. He encouraged the youth to seize emerging government-aligned opportunities in the Coast Region by engaging with the Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports from Kwale County, as well as the Principal Secretary for Youth Affairs from Kilifi County.

Mohammed made his reservations regarding the unclear mandate, structures, and operations of the National Youth Council (NYC), noting that young people in Lamu have lost trust in the institution, especially after the Gen Z protests on June 25th, where youths' lives were lost and their rights violated without NYC joining the efforts to demand justice. He emphasized that unless the council's mandate is clarified and its election process made transparent, leadership will continue to be top-down and exclusionary.

"If we want to make this leadership better, we must start with honesty, inclusivity, and accountability, because better leadership starts with leaders who listen more than they speak, who serve before they benefit, and who leave every space better than they found."

- Mohammed Skanda



The discussion traced the extension of leadership from campus activism into national engagement, highlighting several current political and government officials who were once in university student leadership. The speaker referenced Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution, which outlines national values and principles of governance binding all state and public officers. He further explored the role of political interference in limiting the expression and voices of the students in matters of governance. This is evident in efforts by politicians, such as the University Amendment Act 2016 (the famous Duale Bill), which has curtailed participatory leadership by introducing the delegates system, which often serves the interests of authorities. MOI University was cited as an example that had an initiative on constitutionalism and open

engagement to deliberate on the student leadership they desire, with views from the communities. In Mombasa, joint efforts between community members and university students have been evident, with organizations like Agenda Kenya working alongside students to advance advocacy on key policy issues affecting them.

Noting that Youth Councils often function as government mouthpieces, he observed that they frequently fail to act even when young people are harmed. He challenged participants to consider whether counties could establish their youth accountability mechanisms, for example, creating a National Youth Council County Board that channels university and youth concerns to both the National Assembly and County Assembly. He urged reflection on existing structures, such as university caucuses and the Mombasa Youth Assembly, questioning whether they have fully leveraged these platforms to translate youth issues into the Mombasa County Assembly agenda. He also called on universities to embed ethics and values into their institutional culture, ensuring transparent elections and fostering student leadership that truly reflects societal needs. However, he lamented the erosion of students' courage to speak truth to power, often stifled by threats of suspension, which he identified as a significant setback to youth advocacy.

Derrick recalled that in June 2024, student protests influenced national policy changes, demonstrating their capacity to effect change. He urged that this momentum be localized to county-level conversations, integrating campus activism with community advocacy. He linked this discussion to the five pillars of Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) in UN Council Resolution 2250, stressing the need for coastal youth to leverage resilience and solidarity in addressing marginalization.

"Commitment is not for tomorrow; it is for now, and we, the youths of the Coast and Kenya at large, are ready."

- Derrick Ouko



Theme 3

Grounded Value-Centered Leadership in Grassroots Experiences



Robert shared his leadership journey from its early days to founding the Badili Tana Initiative, a grassroots organization working in Tana River County. His advocacy on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) issues has taken him to global platforms, where he ensures grassroots voices are represented in global conversations. However, he observed that in Tana River, youth voices and representation are often passive, with limited direct engagement in decision-making processes. In this vacuum, influencers, youth organizations, and community champions have stepped in to fill the gap, driving rights-based activism, raising awareness on

critical issues and equipping their peers with the knowledge and confidence to advocate for themselves. These actors have become the catalysts for change, ensuring that youth concerns are not absent from public discourse, even when formal representation falls short.

He underscored the need for accountability structures that facilitate meaningful youth participation, rather than using young people as political mobilizers or ceremonial participants in government events and initiatives. He urged influencers to engage in issue-based activism anchored in strong values, lamenting the lack of legal frameworks, such as youth policies, that could safeguard youth interests.

Digital mobilization was identified as a key opportunity for amplifying youth voices, though access challenges persist in rural areas like Tana River. The speaker criticized tokenism-motivated engagements and bribery, which undermine youth advocacy, noting that those who speak truth to power are often silenced through favors.

"What we need in Tana River is issue-based advocacy and a united front. Influencers, youth organizations, and community champions must align their voices -not work in silos- so that together, we can drive change, hold leaders accountable, and keep youth priorities at the center of the agenda."-Robert Madubi



This theme highlighted the different barriers limiting youths, where Corruption emerged as a central barrier, alongside the lack of localized consultative mechanisms that ensure youth voices influence decision-making, like the National Youth Council discourse. Hamad Tenguri from Kwale County noted that decisions are often centralized and made on behalf of youth, a challenge not limited to Kwale but affecting Kenya as a whole. The limited access to mainstream media coverage and spaces for the youths to express themselves has led Kwale

youths under his patronage to start the Lavishhat Initiative to create alternative platforms for expression, which also serve as spaces for mentorship.

He further identified suppression of dissenting voices, absence of participatory processes, and weak consultative frameworks as obstacles to progress. He argued that mentorship can only be effective if pursued intentionally, pointing to his organization's creation of safe spaces for youth engagement as an example of this approach.

"No discussion for us without us participating fully."

- Hamad Tenguri

Theme 5

Gendered Perspectives - Women and Girls in Ethical Leadership



This theme examined the unique contributions of women in leadership, particularly their tendency to embrace inclusive, empathetic, and collaborative approaches to governance. The Speaker noted that women's leadership is often undervalued due to persistent stereotypes and systemic exclusion. Yet when women do lead, they often set higher ethical benchmarks for decision-making.

Maureen Magak challenged the participants, "When we are invited into the rooms and not given space to shine, why are we there then, to serve who?" She critiqued intergenerational

perceptions that hinder mutual growth among women, noting that terms like "my daughter," when used in boardrooms, diminish the potential of young women. She called for flexibility, mutual respect, and intentional learning across generations to foster collaboration rather than competition among women.

She stressed that young women's leadership must be nurtured through deliberate support from older women and recognition of their changing roles. In the conversation, it was acknowledged that marginalization is twofold: young women face barriers from older women who view them as competitors or half-baked and from male peers who dominate youth spaces.

"Inclusion is not enough when you are just on the table to nod on what is happening on the table; we need to go beyond just being counted as numbers."

- Maureen Magak

Participants Comments

"It's high time we do a self-reflection as youths; we need political sensitization and maybe civil education, not forgetting morals, and we will raise a morally upright country" - Eddy Magak

.....

"Youth leadership is dependent on good governance, strong laws, and inclusive policies. Lots of lobbying for good laws responsive to the youth's issues is important to protect and guide us in quality leadership,"- Ulfat Masibo

.....

"Our voices are our power, and our values are our compass. Together, we can speak boldly, act with integrity, and shape a future we're proud of. Let's use both wisely."- Hassan Kibwana

.....

"Ethics is power, and youths have the plug" -Nancy Nyawera

.....

"13 years later, after devolutions and the coastal counties haven't prioritized youth policy. We need to reignite our lobbying agenda,"-Daring Lady

.....

Ethical value-centered leadership is a leadership approach rooted in strong moral principles and guided by a clear set of values that prioritize integrity, fairness, and the greater good over personal gains or short-term success." -Victor Iha

.....

Remarks and Call to Action

1

Mobilize for the National Youth Council

The time for youth action is now. Organize, prepare, and step forward to make the National Youth Council elections reflect the desires of youths from all over. Secure your rightful space in this platform, for it is here that we can shape our demands, policies, and vision in an entity truly led by us.

2

Build Integrity and Accountability Networks

Establish Integrity Clubs and peer accountability circles that foster mentorship and ethical reflection. Host transformative bootcamps to equip youth with skills and values, using storytelling, art, and creativity to showcase the spirit of ethical, value-based leadership.

3

Amplify the Voices of Young Women

Young women speak out boldly and without fear. Leverage the influence and progress already achieved. Redefine mentorship not by counting years of experience, but by measuring tangible impact, shared achievements, and real progress toward equality and inclusion.

4

Unite for Regional Advocacy

Organize a Coast Region convening with the Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports, alongside the Principal Secretary for Youth Affairs. Present a unified regional front to lobby for policies and resources that directly address the pressing needs of coastal youth while advancing collective development.

5

Create Peer Learning Ecosystems

Establish peer learning models that transfer knowledge, skills, and capacity across youth networks. Use every platform and ladder available to ensure that leadership, innovation, and values spread far and wide.

6

Transform Universities into Value Incubators

Reimagine universities as hubs for values-driven leadership. Use narratives to connect and protect youth, harness technology to empower and question, and channel civic energy beyond the campus. Transform the passion of protest into the power of electoral change in 2027.

Recommendation

Reforms to the Universities Act 2016

Mobilize a coordinated effort to review and amend the Universities Act 2016 to better reflect youth priorities and rights. This includes establishing lobbying coalitions, engaging with legislators, and conducting policy dialogues to ensure the Act safeguards students' voices, strengthens youth representation in governance, and promotes value-based leadership within institutions of higher learning.

Fully Unpack the National Youth Council (NYC) Mandate and Law

Conduct a comprehensive unpacking of the National Youth Council, its mandate, governing legislation, structures, and operational processes. Simplify this information into accessible formats and actively disseminate it to youth across all counties. This will ensure that young people clearly understand the Council's purpose, powers, and avenues for engagement, enabling them to participate in an informed and meaningful way.

Collective push for County-Level Youth Policies and Legal Frameworks

Champion the creation and strengthening of youth policies and legal frameworks at the county level. Advocate for clear legal provisions that protect, promote, and anchor youth interests within county laws. This includes establishing formal mechanisms for youth consultation, ensuring budget allocations for youth programs, and integrating youth priorities into county development plans.

Appreciation

Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa



To: Our Moderator Esha Mohammed,

Thank You

For your immense contribution to the success of the Reflective Dialogue on

Amplifying Youths' Voices For Ethical and Value Centred Leadership

We look forward to more fruitful engagements!

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Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa



To: Our Panelists,

Thank You

For your immense contribution to the success of the Reflective Dialogue on

Amplifying Youths' Voices For Ethical and Value Centred Leadership

We look forward to more fruitful engagements!

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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the organizations and individuals who made this session impactful.

We sincerely appreciate **Her Narrative** for the invaluable contribution of your Executive Director, Miss Esha Mohammed, who skillfully and passionately moderated the session. Our thanks also go to **Search For Common Ground Kenya**, **Mr. Derick Ouko**, for the experience shared and great insights on the way forward. We acknowledge **Lend A Voice Africa**, **Miss Maureen Magak**, sharing expertise as a speaker, and **Badili Tana Initiative Founder**, **Mr. Robert Madubi**, for his dedication and inspiring presentation. We are equally grateful to the **Lamu Youth Assembly** for their former speaker, **Mr. Mohammed Skanda**, for adding a powerful voice to the dialogue. **Mr. Hamad Tenguri**, the founder of **Lavishhat Initiative**, you took the time to share the barriers that reflect the realities of the youth every day.

Most importantly, we thank **all participants** who joined and actively engaged in this convening. Your presence, ideas, and energy were central to its success. Let us continue to champion **ethical and value-based engagement** in our everyday actions, inspiring positive change in our communities.

Reflective Dialogue on Ethical and Value- Centered Leadership Program

VOICES FROM THE COAST

YOUTH LEADERS

REFLECTIVE DIALOGUE MARKING INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2025

THEME

AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES FOR
ETHICAL AND VALUE-CENTERED
LEADERSHIP

PROGRAM



Moderator

ESHA MOHAMMED

2:30 pm - 2:40 pm	Welcoming and Opening Remarks	CEFRESA
2:40 - 3:35 pm	PANEL DISCUSSION ▶ Systematic Youth Agency ▶ Grounded Value Centered Leadership in the Grassroots Experiences ▶ Gendered Perspectives on Youth Leadership, Ethics and Inclusive Transformation ▶ Role of University Students, Media, and Technology in Building Ethical Futures ▶ Barriers on the Path – Challenges Hindering Youth in Driving Change	MOHAMMED SKANDA ROBERT MADUBI MAUREEN MAGAK DERICK OUKO HAMAD TENGURI
3:35- 3:50 pm	Questions and Answers	
3:50 - 4:00 pm	Posting Pledges and Closing Remarks	

11TH OF AUGUST 2025

ON



SPACE
@Cefresa_ke

FROM

2:30PM TO 4PM

Contact Information and Social Media Platforms

-  CEFRESA KENYA
-  Center For Resilience and Sustainable Africa
-  cefresa.ke
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-  @cefresa for Resilience and sustainable Africa

