

The Clerk of Kitui County Assembly,
County Assembly of Kitui,
P.O BOX 694 - 90200, Kitui, Kenya,
Kitui

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

25 JUL 2025

RECEIVED
P. O. Box 694 - 90200, KITUI

**PETITION TO THE KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY FOR THE FORMULATION
OF THE COUNTY INTERNSHIP AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
FRAMEWORK FOR KITUI UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, VACATIONAL AND
FRESH GRADUATES**

WE, the undersigned members and dedicated leaders of the Kitui County University and College Students Association (KUCSA), representing over 12,000 vibrant students and fresh graduates, humbly and passionately submit this petition. For too long, Kitui's youth have faced systemic barriers to dignified livelihoods, meaningful employment, and active societal participation.

Despite thirteen years of Devolution, Kitui County has conspicuously failed to legislate a comprehensive framework addressing these critical youth challenges. This prolonged absence has exacerbated the very issues we seek to resolve.

We unequivocally call for the immediate, decisive, and visionary legal establishment of a robust County Internship Service and a comprehensive student and youth empowerment framework. This is a critical, long-term investment in Kitui's socio-economic stability and sustainable development. The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated; the future of Kitui's youth, and the county itself, depends on your immediate action.

WE DRAW the attention of the Kitui County Assembly to the following:

1. **THAT, despite 13 years of Devolution, Kitui County has not legislated a comprehensive framework for youth empowerment, internships, and employment.** This profound legislative vacuum has left an entire generation of Kitui's youth navigating a landscape devoid of structured opportunities, directly impeding their economic integration and social mobility, and costing the county invaluable human capital.
2. **THAT, Article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, unequivocally obligates the State to ensure youth access to education, training, meaningful employment, and active participation in all spheres of life.** Our current state constitutes a direct failure to uphold this supreme constitutional mandate, denying our youth their fundamental rights and undermining the very principles of a just and equitable society.
3. **THAT, Article 174(c) and (d), and Part II of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, explicitly mandate County Governments to promote comprehensive social and economic development, including robust youth empowerment.** By failing to establish a dedicated youth framework, Kitui County is not fully exercising its

*THU 28/7/2025
PCHA
Prepared &
Communication
to commit
this petition
to the
relevant
committee
29/7/25*

*1. LOA
The petition is
quiet in order as
my opinion is
should be committed
to the committee on
culture, youth, sports,
gender & social
services.
28/7/2025*

*Ag. S.K-C
Act as earlier
described.
25/7/2025*

devolved mandate, thereby stifling local economic growth, hindering entrepreneurship, and neglecting the empowerment of its most dynamic demographic.

4. **THAT, various national statutes (Public Finance Management Act, County Government Act, National Youth Council Act, TVET Act) provide ample legal authority for comprehensive youth development programming.** The legal foundation for action is unequivocally present; the absence of a framework is therefore a matter of political will and strategic prioritization, not a lack of legal precedent or guidance.
5. **THAT, Kitui County's Annual Development Plan 2024/2025 commendably acknowledges youth unemployment but conspicuously lacks a defined, legally enforceable framework for transition pathways to employment.** This critical gap renders aspirational policy statements ineffective, leaving thousands of brilliant young people without clear, structured avenues to contribute their skills and energy, turning potential into prolonged stagnation.
6. **THAT, Kitui's youth face an acute lack of practical work experience, leading to a "paradox of experience" and tragic underutilization of academic qualifications.** Graduates are caught in a vicious cycle where they cannot secure jobs without experience, yet cannot gain experience without employment, resulting in demotivation, hopelessness, and an irreversible drain on the county's intellectual assets.
7. **THAT, the absence of a centralized, legally mandated framework results in limited, uncoordinated, and grossly inequitable internship slots, disadvantaging many deserving youth.** Opportunities are fragmented, ad-hoc, and often inaccessible, creating fierce and unfair competition that disproportionately impacts youth from marginalized backgrounds, thereby perpetuating social inequality.
8. **THAT, current bursary vetting processes are opaque, uncoordinated, and vulnerable, eroding public trust and perpetuating educational inequality.** This critical lack of transparency and fundamental fairness leads to the misallocation of scarce public resources, denying vital financial aid to deserving students and fostering deep mistrust within the community.
9. **THAT, there is an alarming absence of structured mental health support and comprehensive mentorship programs, contributing significantly to youth disenfranchisement and talent exodus.** This neglect exacerbates mental health challenges, increases engagement in criminal activities, and tragically leads to a "brain drain" as disillusioned youth seek holistic support elsewhere, depriving Kitui of its brightest minds.
10. **THAT, Kitui County lacks systematic mapping of youth skills against current and future labor market demands, leading to a significant mismatch.** Without this crucial data, educational output remains misaligned with industry needs, resulting in chronic skill-to-job mismatches and a devastating squandering of intellectual potential.
11. **THAT, there are insufficient county-led initiatives to equip Kitui youth with crucial digital literacy and practical entrepreneurial skills.** Despite the undeniable growth of

the digital economy, our youth are left ill-prepared to innovate, create their own opportunities, or compete effectively in the modern workforce, hindering the county's overall economic diversification.

12. **THAT, various youth programs, if they exist, often operate in silos without a cohesive, inter-agency coordination mechanism, leading to duplication of efforts and inefficient use of scarce resources.** This fragmented approach prevents synergistic impact, wastes valuable public funds, and ultimately undermines the collective effectiveness of youth development initiatives across the county.
13. **THAT, the voice of Kitui's university and college students, representing a significant portion of the informed youth demographic, is not formally integrated into the design and oversight of policies directly affecting their future.** This exclusion undermines participatory governance, leads to policies that are not genuinely responsive to youth needs, and fosters a sense of disengagement among our future leaders.
14. **THAT, Kitui's approach to youth development often leans towards short-term, project-based interventions rather than enacting enduring legislative frameworks that guarantee sustained support and institutional longevity.** This reactive, piecemeal strategy lacks sustainability, leaving youth vulnerable to fluctuating political cycles and preventing the establishment of truly impactful, long-term solutions seen in more progressive counties.

Benchmarking Reference: Learning from Progressive Counties

To confront these socio-economic challenges, several progressive counties across Kenya have successfully implemented robust, legally-backed frameworks, providing invaluable blueprints for Kitui.

1. **Kericho County:** Has set a gold standard with its **Internship Service Bill** and **Youth Development Bill**. These establish a dedicated Internship Placement Unit for structured placements, comprehensive training, and intern allowances, alongside a broader Youth Development Board for employment, sports, and talent development.
2. **Makueni County:** Has pioneered a county-led strategic initiative that directly engages youth in productive economic activities and fosters self-reliance, **creating 120 internship opportunities annually.**
3. **Machakos County:** Has successfully implemented the **Youth Empowerment Service (YES)**, a strategic initiative focused on directly engaging youth in productive economic activities and fostering self-reliance.
4. **Kakamega County:** Enacted a comprehensive **Youth Bill** with provisions for a dedicated youth fund and promotion of entrepreneurial ventures.
5. **Nyeri County:** Successfully implemented a highly efficient **Digital Bursary System**, enhancing transparency and streamlining administration.

6. **Turkana County:** Adopted the **Turkana County University Students Association (TUCUSA) Bill**, formally recognizing TUCUSA as a county entity and granting it a crucial role in youth affairs and policy. This serves as a powerful precedent for formally recognizing KUCSA in Kitui.

Our Prayers: What We Ask of Our County Assembly for Kitui's Youth

WE, the Petitioners respectfully, yet with unwavering resolve, request that the esteemed Kitui County Assembly gives its urgent, dedicated, and visionary consideration to, and takes decisive legislative action upon, the following fundamental prayers:

THEREFORE, YOUR HUMBLE PETITIONERS PRAY:-

1. **THAT, the County Assembly ENACTS a comprehensive Kitui County Internship and Student Skills Development Act.** This vital Act shall establish a permanent County Internship Service and a fully funded Placement Unit, **guaranteeing a minimum of 200 annual internships** with fair remuneration, robust training, and meticulous oversight, transforming youth potential into tangible employment and addressing the critical experience gap.
2. **THAT, the County Assembly FORMALLY RECOGNIZES Kitui County University & College Students Association (KUCSA) as an indispensable, legally empowered stakeholder.** This crucial recognition will ensure KUCSA's active and meaningful participation in bursary vetting, policy formulation, and internship oversight, injecting authentic youth voice and enhancing transparency.
3. **THAT, the County Assembly ALLOCATES dedicated, sufficient, and ring-fenced budgetary funding under the Department of Education and Skills Development.** This non-negotiable financial commitment will fuel efficient internship coordination, comprehensive youth mentorship, essential digital literacy bootcamps, and critical mental wellness support programs.
4. **THAT, the County Assembly DIGITIZES and SYSTEMATICALLY REFORMS the entire Bursary System.** This imperative reform will ensure unparalleled transparency, auditability, and undeniable fairness through KUCSA-involved vetting, user-friendly online applications, and publicly accessible reporting, optimizing educational access.
5. **THAT, the County Assembly INSTITUTIONALIZES sustainable, youth-focused Mentorship, Mental Health, and Outreach Programs.** These vital programs, through strategic partnerships with tertiary institutions and trained student ambassadors, will foster holistic well-being, resilience, and crucial career guidance for our young population.

6. **THAT, the County Assembly CONSTITUTES a legally mandated, Inter-Agency Youth Development Committee.** This representative body, uniting youth, legislative, executive, employer, and civil society stakeholders, will ensure maximum policy synergy, eliminate duplication, and drive integrated, impactful youth development outcomes across Kitui.

Dated this20.....**day of**.....July.....2025

Petitioner Contact Person

Name: John Mbusyo (Duke)

Title: President, Kitui County University and College Students Association (KUCSA)

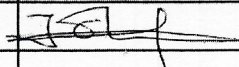
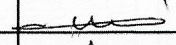
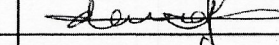
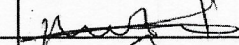

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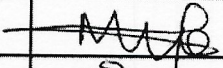
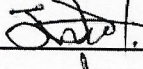
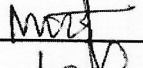


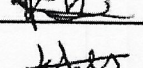
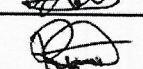
Email: Dukembusyo@gmail.com

Verification

We, the undersigned Kitui County University and College Students Association (KUCSA) officials and members, **signing on behalf of over 12,000 bonafide members**, solemnly verify that the facts presented in this petition are true, accurate, and complete to the best of our knowledge and belief, and that this petition is not currently, nor has it ever been, before any court of law or other legal tribunal. We address this petition with unwavering commitment, ready to provide any further clarification or engage in constructive, solution-oriented dialogue with this esteemed Assembly to advance this critical agenda for the youth of Kitui, whose future rests in your hands.

Signatures:

Name	ID number	Full Address	Signature
John Mbusyo	39359002	Kitui Central	
Esther Kae	37051948	Kitui West	
David Musyoka	34204416	Mwingi West	
Ezekiel Mutinda	41263976	Kitui West	
Raphael Kavisu	39475144	Kitui East	

Mary Mue	38676149	Kitui Rural	
Justus Mutemi	41244815	Mwingi West	
James Musisya	41416830	Mwingi Central	
Nelly Nyamai	42215648	Kitui South	
Victor Mutemi	41226904	Mwingi North	
Faith Nzembi	41291611	Kitui Rural	
William Kitonga	42111891	Kitui West	
Purity Mumbi	40485667	Kitui West	