

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS • KENYA 2026
NATIONAL MANIFESTO

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CANDIDATE — NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL 2026

"Youth Voice. Youth Power. For A Better Tomorrow."
A Manifesto for Kenya's 26 Million Youth

Grounded in the National Youth Council Act, Cap. 132 | Built on Kenya's Digital Superhighway | For Every County, Every Ward, Every Young Kenyan

Ward Elections: 5 July 2026 | Constituency: 16 July 2026 | National Youth Congress: 27 July 2026

SISI NI PAMOJA • ONE WARD • ONE CONSTITUENCY • ONE NATION • ONE FUTURE



01. WHO I AM

I am **Richard Miruka**, a Full Stack Software Engineer, Technical Mentor, youth leader and community volunteer. I have been shaped by serving in underserved communities and I am running for this opportunity for every young Kenyan, the graduate in Kisumu who cannot find work, the TVET student in Mombasa who has never heard of Ajira Digital, the young woman in Turkana who has the ambition but not the access, and the young entrepreneur in Eldoret who cannot get a YEDF loan because of a documentation barrier that was never designed with them in mind.

I have spent the last five years training people in digital skills at the grassroots. From web development, networking, cybersecurity, ICT fundamentals; watching young people transform when they get real tools. I have organized football tournaments, led youth chairs in community organizations, volunteered in food distribution and scholarship drives, and served as a technical mentor without waiting for anyone to give me permission to lead. **Service without a title has been my career. I am now seeking an opportunity to scale that service nationally.**

I am pursuing the NYC through the full electoral pathway — Ward Delegate at Makina, Kibra, then Constituency Delegate, then the National Youth Congress, because I believe in the **integrity of the process** and the **power of grassroots legitimacy**. A national leader who has not first served locally is a headline without a story.

02. MY NATIONAL VISION

A Kenya where every young person — regardless of county, gender, disability or economic background has access to the skills, capital, connectivity and civic space to build a dignified life and shape the nation's future.

This is not a slogan. It is a framework for governance.

The National Youth Council Act (Cap. 132) gives the NYC the legal mandate to realize this vision. Section 5 of the Act empowers the Council to regulate and co-ordinate youth activities, advocate and lobby government on youth legislation, mobilize resources including the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, promote youth inclusion in decision-making, and build national and international partnerships. **These are not ambitions — they are legal obligations.** I intend to treat them as such.

Kenya's **Digital Superhighway** — the 100,000 km fibre network, 1,450 ward-level ICT hubs and 25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots — is the most significant infrastructure investment for youth in Kenya's history. But **infrastructure without people-centered delivery is concrete and cables.** My mission at the NYC is to be the human layer on top of that infrastructure — ensuring the Digital Superhighway reaches the 67% of young Kenyans who are unemployed, not just the cities that already have connectivity.

03. THE CRISIS WE MUST NAME

Kenya cannot afford to have polite conversations about a crisis that is burning. These are the numbers — and every one of them represents a young Kenyan whose potential is being wasted:

67%	Youth unemployment among Kenyans aged 15–34 — FKE / Afrobarometer 2025. Not a statistic. A generation.
43%	Young Kenyans who have seriously considered emigrating — Afrobarometer 2025. Kenya is exporting its future.
800,000+	Youth entering Kenya's labour market every year — KIPPRA 2024. The system cannot absorb them.
79%	Kenyans who say the government is not addressing youth needs — GeoPoll 2025. The people have spoken.
73%	Ward ICT hubs not yet built despite the Digital Superhighway commitment — April 2026. The promise is behind the delivery.
9,121	TVET trainer vacancy against the 16,518 needed — TVET Authority 2025. Empty colleges cannot train anyone.
67%	Ajira Digital-trained youth still not earning online after training — Ajira 2025. Training without follow-through is theatre.
22%	Youth who approve of the government's job creation performance — Afrobarometer 2025. The verdict of the governed.

04. THE LEGAL FOUNDATION — NYC ACT, CAP. 132

This manifesto is not built on political promises. It is built on **existing law**. The National Youth Council Act establishes the NYC as the statutory body mandated to serve Kenya's youth. Every commitment in this manifesto is traceable to a specific provision of the Act or a specific gap in its implementation. I am not inventing a mandate — I am committing to deliver one that already exists.

- ▶ **Section 5(1)(a): Regulate & Co-ordinate:** NYC must regulate and co-ordinate youth activities and initiatives across all communities and organizations nationwide. This means setting standards, tracking outcomes, and ensuring no community is left out of the youth development agenda.
- ▶ **Section 5(1)(b): Advocate & Represent:** The NYC is legally mandated to be the voice of youth to government and to lobby for legislation affecting young people. An NYC that is not loudly in Parliament arguing for youth is failing this mandate.
- ▶ **Section 5(1)(c): Mobilize Resources:** The NYC must mobilize resources for youth programs — including the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. Reforming YEDF access criteria is not a political choice; it is a statutory responsibility.
- ▶ **Section 5(1)(d): Promote Inclusion:** The NYC must ensure youth are included in decision-making bodies, boards, agencies and public institutions at all levels. Youth in the budget room, youth in county executives, youth at the National Treasury table.
- ▶ **Section 5(1)(e): Promote Development:** Skills development, enterprise, volunteerism, access to opportunities — these are explicitly the NYC's statutory brief. Ajira Digital, TVET quality, and the digital economy agenda fall squarely here.
- ▶ **Section 5(1)(f): Build Partnerships:** The NYC must build partnerships with youth organizations locally and internationally. Kenya's youth diaspora, African youth councils, and global digital economy platforms are all within this mandate.

Bottom line: Every pillar in my manifesto maps to one of these six statutory functions. I am not promising to create new institutions. I am committing to make existing ones work.

05. FIVE PILLARS — MY NATIONAL AGENDA AT THE NYC

Five national priorities. Each grounded in law, data and lived experience. Measurable. Accountable. For every county in Kenya.

01

CONNECT KENYA — Completing the Digital Superhighway as a Youth Development Tool

- Advocate for a public, ward-by-ward Digital Superhighway accountability dashboard — every Kenyan should see which of the 1,450 wards has its hub built, staffed and operational.
- Push for mandatory Ajira Digital registration at every ward ICT hub — so connectivity translates immediately into digital income opportunities, not just browsing.
- Lobby for the 3% NG-CDF digital hub allocation to become a binding statutory requirement, not a discretionary option that MCAs can deprioritize.
- Advocate for the government computer loan scheme to remove documentation barriers that exclude informal settlement and rural youth — a laptop is a 2026 business tool.
- Push for rural and underserved counties — Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, West Pokot — to receive accelerated hub deployment, ending the urban-rural digital divide.
- Lobby for every public TVET institution to be connected to the Superhighway fibre network within 12 months of this NYC term beginning.

02

SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE — Making Every Young Kenyan Competitive in the Digital & Green Economy

- Lead NYC advocacy for an emergency TVET trainer recruitment drive to fill the 9,121 trainer vacancy. Kenya cannot build 2 million TVET enrolments on 7,400 trainers.
- Push for Artificial Intelligence literacy to be embedded in every Ajira Digital and TVET curriculum — positioning Kenyan youth for the 78 million AI-era jobs projected globally by 2030.
- Advocate for Ajira Digital outreach to be treated like a voter registration drive — systematic, ward-level, with NYC delegates as champions in every constituency.
- Lobby for CBET (Competency-Based Education & Training) 3–6 month fast-track certificates to be available in every county, not just Nairobi institutions.
- Push for formal Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to be fast-tracked nationally — certifying the skills of jua kali mechanics, builders, tailors and traders who have learned outside the formal system.
- Advocate for the NYC to formally partner with global platforms such Coursera, LinkedIn Learning, Google Career Certificates — to create free-access, nationally recognized digital credential pathways for Kenyan youth.

03

CAPITAL IN YOUNG HANDS — Reforming Youth Finance from YEDF to NYOTA to HELB

- Lead NYC advocacy to reform YEDF eligibility nationally — remove the title deed and registered company requirements that exclude the majority of Kenya's youth from a fund designed for them.
- Push for digital assets (laptops, software, internet equipment) to be recognized as YEDF and NYOTA eligible investments — matching the 2026 economy, not the 1990s one.
- Advocate for NYOTA's age ceiling to be raised from 29 to 35 across all components, aligning with the NYC Act's own definition of youth and covering graduate unemployment.
- Lobby for a mandatory 5-day skills certification component alongside every NYOTA business grant — turning a Ksh 25,000 seed into a skills-plus-capital investment with higher survival rates.

- Push for HELB to extend accessible, low-interest loans to TVET students in all 47 counties without the discriminatory documentation barriers that favor urban, formally-employed families.
- Advocate for transparent, county-level YEDF and NYOTA portals with NYC ward delegates serving as community accountability officers — ending politically-driven disbursement cycles.

YOUTH IN EVERY ROOM — Structural Power for Young Kenyans in National Governance


04

- Advocate for mandatory NYC representation in Kenya's annual Budget-Making Process at the National Treasury. Youth priorities must be argued by young people in the room, not referenced in documents after the fact.
- Push for the NYC to publish an Annual Youth State of the Nation Report. A public accountability document tracking government performance on every statutory youth commitment.
- Lobby for at least one NYC-linked youth representative on every County Executive Committee with a youth portfolio, making the NYC present at devolved governance level across all 47 counties.
- Advocate for a formal Gen Z Policy Dialogue mechanism within the NYC; institutionalizing the post-2024-protest generation's voice in legislation, not just social media.
- Push for meritocratic, transparent, publicly-posted access criteria for all government youth opportunities — YEDF, NYOTA, Ajira, internships and national service programmes.
- Lobby for youth disability inclusion to be a standing NYC agenda item — not a box-ticking exercise but a structural audit of how every programme reaches young Kenyans with disabilities across all counties.

WHOLE-PERSON LEADERSHIP — Mental Health, Gender Equality & Youth Wellbeing


05

- Advocate for the NYC to formally name youth mental health as a national policy priority with a dedicated NYC working group, not a welfare footnote in an annual report.
- Push for community-based peer support and counselling infrastructure at ward level across all 47 counties, which is accessible, non-clinical, embedded in trusted community institutions.
- Lobby for social media literacy to be a core module in all Ajira Digital, TVET and civic education curricula, equipping youth to consume and create digital content safely and critically.
- Advocate for gender equity audits of every NYC-linked programme — ensuring that YEDF, NYOTA, Ajira and TVET access data is disaggregated by gender and published annually.
- Push for the NYC to champion a national conversation on the cost-of-living crisis for youth — including advocacy for rent fairness, food access and social protection in informal settlements.
- Commit to modelling servant leadership publicly: publish my progress against this manifesto every six months, maintain open access, and refuse to use the NYC platform for personal political positioning.

06. FIRST 100 DAYS AT THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

Manifestos are promises. Plans are proof. If elected to the National Youth Council, these are the specific actions I commit to in my first 100 days in office — verifiable, timestamped and publicly reported:

DAYS 1–10	Publish my contact details nationally. Hold a public listening session through X-paces — open to youth from any county to gather the top 10 youth concerns I must take to the NYC agenda.
DAYS 11–20	Introduce a motion at the NYC for the establishment of a public, real-time Digital Superhighway ward-by-ward accountability dashboard, tracking hub completion across all 1,450 wards.
DAYS 21–35	Formally table a YEDF reform proposal at the NYC — removing title deed and registered company requirements and adding digital assets as eligible investments. Publish the proposal publicly.
DAYS 36–50	Convene a national Ajira Digital activation summit — bringing together ward-level youth officers, Ajira implementing partners and NYC delegates to design a systematic ward-level rollout plan.
DAYS 51–65	Table a motion for NYC representation in the annual national budget process, with a formal submission to the National Treasury on youth budget priorities — backed by the data in this manifesto.
DAYS 66–80	Launch an NYC Youth Mental Health Working Group — first output: a national mapping report on existing ward-level mental health resources and the gaps that require advocacy.
DAYS 81–100	Publish the first 100-day accountability report — against every commitment in this section. Share it publicly on all platforms. Hold a national virtual open meeting for youth to interrogate the progress.

07. HOW EVERY YOUNG KENYAN CAN PARTICIPATE

The NYC election is ours — not mine. I am the candidate. You are the power. Here is how to use it:

STEP 1	<p>REGISTER AS A VOTER</p> <p>Any Kenyan youth aged 18–35 can register through their ward youth officer or at nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke. The register closes before July 2026. Register today.</p>
STEP 2	<p>NOMINATE ME</p> <p>Sign Form 1 to formally nominate Richard Miruka as a ward delegate candidate in Makina Ward. I need 50 signatures from registered Makina Ward voters to get on the ballot.</p>

STEP 3

VOTE — 5 JULY 2026

Come to your voting centre in Makina Ward on Saturday 5 July 2026. 8:00am–5:00pm. National ID or Kenya Passport required. Your vote is the first step to national representation.

STEP 4

HOLD ME ACCOUNTABLE

Print this manifesto. Keep it. Ask me publicly about my progress. The deal I offer is not just your vote — it is your ongoing scrutiny of everything I do with it.

08. MY PERSONAL PLEDGE TO KENYA'S YOUTH

I, Richard Miruka, pledge that if entrusted with a seat at the National Youth Council, I will serve every young Kenyan with the same passion and purpose I have brought to every classroom I have taught in and every community I have served. I will never mistake the title for the mission. I will never forget the young person in Kibera, in Kakamega, in Isiolo, in Mombasa, in Kisumu — the young person whose ambition exists but whose access does not.

I will not wait for permission to fight. I will publish what I am doing, say honestly what I cannot do, and be loudest on behalf of the people the system has most consistently ignored.

I am not asking you to trust a promise. I am asking you to hold me to this document. That accountability is the deal I am offering.

"I have worked with passion. I will serve with purpose."

— Richard Miruka | National Youth Council Candidate 2026

Signed:

Date:

Richard Miruka
Candidate — National Youth Council 2026

May 2026
Nairobi, Kenya
For every county. For every ward. For every young Kenyan.

VOTE RICHARD MIRUKA | NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL 2026 | WARD ELECTIONS: 5 JULY 2026
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