



People Dialogue Festival 2025

Official Communiqué

5th March 2025

The **People Dialogue Festival (PDF) 2025** convened over **1,500 participants** at Uhuru Park Gardens, sparking meaningful discourse on governance, democracy, and social justice. Under the theme "Building a Collaborative Democracy for Kenya's Sustainable Future," the festival served as a vital platform for dialogue between citizens, government representatives, political parties, and civil society stakeholders.

Key Highlights from the Thematic Villages:

1. The SRHR Village

The Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Village provided an inclusive space for young people to engage in critical discussions on SRHR advocacy. Representatives from NairoBits Trust, Radio Netherlands, IPAS Africa Alliance, CSA, and the SRHR Alliance participated in interactive sessions, including SRHR Bingo, Mind Mingle, and a panel on Consent & Healthy Relationships. A debate on SRHR and Cultural Beliefs examined the impact of traditions on access to SRHR services, while the Color and Conversations session encouraged self-expression through art and storytelling.

2. The Political Dialogue Village

The Political Dialogue Village explored democracy, human rights, and electoral justice. Distinguished speakers, including Faith Odhiambo, the British Deputy High Commissioner, and Senator Omtatah, emphasized active civic engagement, the role of multiparty systems, and the need for transparent governance. Discussions covered political party structures, electoral justice, and the prioritization of ideology over ethnic mobilization. Additional panels addressed the inclusion of persons with disabilities in leadership, and the "Role of Media in Amplifying Female Voices" session examined gender biases and the underrepresentation of women in politics.

3. The Public Finance Management Village

The Public Finance Management (PFM) Village focused on budget transparency and fiscal accountability. With participation from Budget Kenya, IEA, and Transparency International, discussions revolved around zero-based budgeting, digital public finance infrastructure, and equitable resource allocation. Panelists underscored the importance of joint efforts between county and national governments in financial oversight, urging citizens to actively monitor public spending and demand greater accountability.

4. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Village

The SDG Village centered on governance, youth empowerment, and policy implementation. Key discussions highlighted county-level affirmative action programs, data transparency in policymaking, and community-driven SDG engagement. Panelists proposed leveraging arts and



culture to raise SDG awareness and stressed the importance of incorporating SDGs into political manifestos to drive meaningful development at all levels.

5. The Ni Sisi Ni Sasa Village

The Ni Sisi Ni Sasa Village focused on Gen Z's role in governance, social justice, and accountability. Panelists criticized the government's response to youth activism, advocating for inclusive leadership, transparent policymaking, and youth-driven governance reforms. FIDA Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to pro bono legal services for women and its advocacy against teen pregnancies, while the National Youth Council pledged to track government commitments to the youth.

6. The Youth Village

The Youth Village addressed youth voter participation, political engagement, and democratic accountability. Conversations highlighted barriers to voter registration, with proposals to digitize the process and expand youth representation platforms. The Youth, Accountability, and Collaborative Governance panel examined youth involvement in multiparty democracy, strategies for supporting young aspirants, and the challenges posed by the financial constraints of electoral participation. The discussions emphasized the need for accessible political structures and inclusive leadership opportunities.

Day 1 reaffirmed the crucial role of inclusive governance, youth participation, and civic engagement in shaping Kenya's democratic landscape. The festival's discussions provided actionable recommendations on democratic reforms, financial accountability, and equitable political representation, setting the stage for sustained dialogue and policy impact.

For more details, visit: <https://peopledialoguefestival.org>

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