

P.O Box 78-00219
KARURI, KENYA
+254 101 546 149
Karuri
Fb: Bunge Mashinani Initiative
bungemashinani.clerk@gmail.com



Malcolm Building
1st Floor, Suite 3
Old Limuru Road,
KARURI
KENYA
Twitter: @bungemashinani

BUNGE MASHINANI INITIATIVE

Integrating Civic Education with Reconciliation and Peace Building in Kenya

Background

Bunge Mashinani Initiative is a duly registered N.G.O established by citizens with the key objective of organising communities to take charge of their own development and governance at the grassroots. We do this through targeted community leaders' training, civic education and facilitating meaningful public participation with a major focus on the county budget cycle. The organisation creates a Bunge Mashinani (grassroots parliament) forum for the citizens to be more directly engaged in governance as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, The Public Finance Management Act, The County Government Act 2012 and other enabling laws. We draw our mandate from article 1 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that donates all sovereign power to the People of Kenya and gives them a say on governance and development processes through provisions on public participation. Bunge Mashinani Initiative is purely non-political.

We firmly believe in the transformative power of civic education. Our organization was founded by citizens who recognized the critical need for grassroots engagement in matters of governance and development. We strive to bridge the gap between governance structures and the grassroots, fostering a culture of informed participation and accountability.

Through our various programs and initiatives, we work tirelessly to educate and empower citizens with the knowledge and tools they need to actively engage in shaping their communities. From voter education campaigns to advocacy for transparent governance practices, our efforts are centered around building a more enlightened and engaged society.

Introduction

Kenya starts with three fundamental components in its renowned civic education program that usually comprise civic knowledge, civic skills as well as civic dispositions. Thus, by so doing it will be setting a robust groundwork for the inclusion of peace-building and reconciliation studies in this syllabus and this contributes greatly towards enhancing cordiality and tranquility within a society.

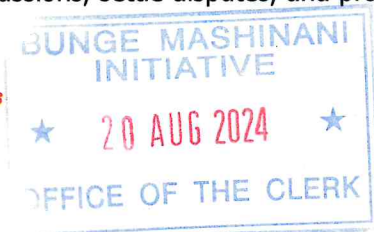
Civic Knowledge and Reconciliation

Civic knowledge empowers citizens by providing an in-depth understanding of the political system and their rights and obligations. Through integrating elements of forgiveness with civic knowledge, people can get to know why it is significant to solve disagreements as well as create peace-making societies. For example, gaining knowledge on the significance of reconciliation and how it can be attained goes well with comprehending one's rights and duties. It involves knowledge about historical contests, peace pacts and the role of different bodies in advancing peace.

Civic Skills and Peace Building

Civic skills are essential when participating in civic and political processes because they help citizens analyze, evaluate, and take public positions on matters concerning them. By incorporating peacebuilding abilities within such an attitude people will manage an effective discussion, arbitrate disagreements and promote agreement. Active participation in civic and political processes requires civic acumen due to its capacity to enable citizens to think, judge and freely decide on issues that concern them. People who adapt peacebuilding skills in such identity can effectively hold discussions, settle disputes, and promote understanding.

...Organising Communities



Civic Dispositions and Sustainable Peace

Civic dispositions like such as tolerance, public spiritedness, willingness to compromise are fundamental to sustainability of peace since they encourage understanding between members of opposing groups thus helping avert hostilities among them. By cultivating these inclinations, members of the society acquire attributes that enable them to preserve unity and forestall inter-group enmity. To build civic dispositions that include reconciliation principles, empathy, forgiveness, and mutual respect should be promoted. Such goals could be met by schools running educational programs meant to foster tolerance of dissimilar views while encouraging collaboration towards solving problems arising within communities in addition to upholding peace.

Steps to Enhance Civic Education with Peace Building and Reconciliation

1. Curriculum Development:
 - Include reconciliation and peacebuilding in the civic education syllabus. Topics such as conflict history, peace negotiations, and the promotion of peace by individuals and institutions among others may be discussed.
 - Come up with units for learning skills of negotiation and mediation that help in solving conflicts.
2. Training Educators:
 - Offer teachers the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively teach about peace building and reconciliation in the context of civic education.
 - Enable instructors in having adequate materials needed for facilitating discussions concerning harmony and forgiveness in schools.
3. Community Involvement:
 - Get community leaders and organizations to participate in campaigns which promote peace building and reconciliation. The campaigns could be community workshops, public discussions or joint projects that can lead to a culture of peace.
 - Peacebuilding programs for citizenry including inducement for service to community.
4. Monitoring and Evaluation:
 - Set up ways for checking how effective including peace-making ways in lessons on citizenship is. Such may involve students', teachers', and people's say.
 - Keep on modifying and enhancing the curriculum using evaluation findings to ascertain that the programme supports peace and reconciliation.

Kenya can produce a new breed of citizens who have the required knowledge, abilities and attitudes for building lasting peace in their country by integrating peace and reconciliation components into the public education syllabus. Such a holistic approach does not only make the nation's democratic foundation stronger but is also the stepping stone for a society that is more peaceful and united.

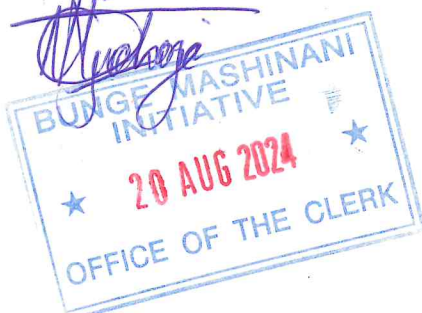
Should you require any clarification kindly contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

JOHN N. MUCHORI

PROGRAMMES COORDINATOR - BUNGE MASHINANI INITIATIVE

+254 722 860591



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