



LAUNCH OF PLATFORM FOR YOUTH INCLUSION IN POLITICS (PYIP)

REPORT



Members of the PYIP Accountability and Governance team Officially join to Launch PYIP

Activity	PYIP National Launch
Date of activity	23rd July 2020
Duration	3 Hours
Activity Location	Eureka Place Hotel Ntinda
Report date	28th July 2020
Compiled by	Faraja Africa Foundation
Report to	PYIP Secretariat
Signed off by	PYIP Secretariat

Executive Summary

On the 23rd of July, 2020, a special purpose vehicle to spur collaborative efforts towards youth inclusion in politics was launched as **Platform for Youth Inclusion in Politics (PYIP)** in preparation of Uganda's scientific elections as indicated by the Electoral Commission come 2021 and beyond. A coalition of civil society entities, youth-led and youth-focused organizations, councils, political party youth leagues, academia, and the informal sector came today to unveil this intervention.

The launch was structured into three parts, an opening ceremony with keynote speeches, a panel discussion and an official launch as the closing ceremony intertwined with press interviews. The panel discussion was constituted of five and plenary with a capacity of over 200 young people and policy influencers (30 physically and others online via zoom conferencing and Facebook live). Members from the media fraternity gathered to witness the launch that started with an opening remark introducing PYIP from Mr Emmanuel Wabwire, Executive Director, Faraja Africa Foundation and welcome remark from Mr Joseph Munyangabo, Country representative of Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The climax of the launch after the panel and plenary discussions with the PYIP unveiling by Mr Primus Bahigi, Manager Global Platforms who was joined by the PYIP technical leadership. It was moderated by Canary Mugume, and closed by Mr Xavier Ejoyi, Executive Director, ActionAid Uganda.

The event was a great success with panellists, audience members, and key stakeholders, providing positive feedback on the experience, inspirations, and lessons learned from the launch.

Purpose

PYIP is a collaborative framework that galvanizes efforts of different actors and all critical youth constituencies are thus being established. The platform is conceived against the backdrop that there are already several existing interventions on young people's inclusion and political participation. However, while these have been doing commendable work, they are disjointed and not well coordinated. The value in better coordination and collaboration is that it creates room for synergy, prioritization, and effective deployment of scarce resources, thus greater impact. The idea is therefore to create a space for collective critical thinking and joint action by young pro-democracy actors in Uganda.

General Objective

The Goal of the launch of the platform is "Meaningful and inclusive participation of young people in Uganda's governance and politics".

Key Recommendation

PYIP should uphold an inclusive and non-partisan model while presenting views of young people, pre, during, and post-elections. Also, there was a need for more inclusion of the PWDs in legislative, political and democratic processes.

All in all, PYIP as a special purpose vehicle will ensure collective effort by all youth stakeholders to ensure a collective impact in fighting for youth inclusion in political processes. Invited development partners included the European Union Delegation, US Embassy, GIZ Uganda, Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Voice Uganda (Oxfam), Ford Foundation and Advance Africa. This report accounts for the launch event of PYIP, the key points from the speakers' notes, panellists' submissions, and engagement from the audience.

Introduction

The Platform for Youth Inclusion in Politics (PYIP) was launched to provide an avenue for meaningful and inclusive participation of young people in Uganda's governance and politics.

PYIP Structure – Stakeholders and Partners

Accountability¹

ActionAid Uganda (the secretariat).
Westminster Foundation for Democracy.
Restless Development Uganda.

Governance²

Faraja Africa Foundation.
Open Space Uganda.
IDEA Uganda.
Interparty Youth Platform.
CEPA.

Network

National Youth Council.
Uganda National Students Association.
Other stakeholders.

Background

Uganda has multitudes of civic organizations, associations, groups and movements with youth-specific programming or agenda. Despite this, youth programming is delivering marginal gains. There is a polarized youth movement with many uncoordinated and disjointed efforts especially in the political, governance and democratic spaces. Hence, there is a need for a well-coordinated vertical and horizontal network of formal and informal civic associations, regularly engaging with young people on governance and the political process; regularly engaging with young people on governance and the political processes. This will lead to the strengthening and activating a civically competent and powerful youth movement playing a key role in deciding who their leaders will be. Hence the need to mobilized young people in Uganda to increase demand for free and fair elections, good governance i.e. accountability and responsiveness from mandated political actors. This will inspire and increase confidence and trust in electoral and political processes which will lead to more meaningful engagement by young people in elections and governance.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the platform are:

- To mobilize young people in their diversity to participate in electoral processes actively and peacefully, through mobilization for voter registration, elections, and electoral reforms
- To build a strong foundation for value-driven leadership in Uganda through collective capacity building of young aspirants for different positions
- To strengthen young democracy organizations as vehicles for meaningful young people's engagement in governance and political processes; by improving both their internal capacities and corporate governance, as well as setting up dispute resolution mechanisms amongst themselves
- To mobilize young people towards political accountability, and community conscientization through developing Manifestos, information trackers, performance audits and community engagements

¹ The Accountability partners of PYIP's main role is to play an oversight responsibility, strategically steering with the governance team PYIP's direction and also spearhead of fundraise and proper management of resources.

² Whereas Governance is the PYIP's technical arm that ensures implementation and execution of PYIP's work alongside its network.

- Responsive democracy actors will inspire and increase confidence and trust in electoral and political processes which will lead to more meaningful engagement by young people in elections and governance.
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- Provide platforms for peer to peer learning, reflection, and fellowship among young democracy actors.

The PYIP Launch

The three hours launch of PYIP at Eureka Place hotel on the 23rd of July 2020 was attended by over 180 young people on zoom, with a streaming audience on Facebook of over 400 young people in Uganda. Its launch marked its inauguration and beginning of its work. The hashtag used was #YouthDecideUg. The meeting started at 9:00 am with the arrival of guests physically and joining of the online attendees.

Mr Emmanuel Wabwire from Faraja Africa Foundation gave the introductory remarks in which he called on youth from all political parties to come together as a collective force to ensure fair democratic processes during the 2021 elections. The welcome remark was by Joseph Munyangabo, the country representative for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). He noted that WFD and partners believe that PYIP will offer opportunities for young people to positively influence the politics of the country.

Hon. Ojara Martin Mampiduzi challenged young people to think about how they will position themselves differently during these scientific elections. He emphasized that young people need to understand that it should not be about the title but rather the responsibility they will have as leaders.

The Panel was composed of five panellists; four were present physically and one online. The panellists talked about the role of civil society and their role in PYIP. They also highlighted some of the challenges youth people faced which centred on financing, lack of knowledge, skills, and social capital within their political parties. Prosper Mubangizi mentioned that civil society is the oxygen of democracy; cooperation between young people and civil society is needed to push pro-youth policies. Matanda Abubaker the Chairperson Youth League for the Alliance for National Transformation, emphasized the need for proper education and dissemination of the right information. He cited cases of young people contesting for non-existing positions. He added that young people need to get involved in what is happening on the ground in the community. Phionah Akullo urged that young people with disabilities should be included in mainstream politics. Betty Amonging, a plenary weighed in her opinion via zoom. She thanked PYIP for this platform and particularly appreciated their inclusive effort by having a sign language interpreter at the launch. She added that there needs to be sensitization on people with disabilities to allow them to compete favourably.

Pheona Nabasa Wall, Vice president, Uganda Law Society, talked about access to electoral justice and legal aid for youth in politics. She expressed a deep willingness to partner with PYIP and highlighted some of the interventions by the Uganda Law Society. Also, she expounded on the advantage of youthfulness; the presence of the zeal, hunger, and power to achieve dreams. She encouraged young people to step out and

be the change that they want to see, and not shy away from opportunities around them, no matter how small they seem.

PYIP was unveiled by Mr. Primus Bahigi, manager, Global Platforms, and launched by the technical leadership, spearheaded by a representative of PYIP Governance technical team. During the unveiling, Mr Primus underlined the timeliness of this platform and how it hopes to help gain returns from the demographic strength of the youth populace. He mentioned that the lack of a unified understanding of the issues at stake, heterogeneous nature of young people and subsequently their needs, and the need for a solid leadership and coordination framework were other strategic reasons for this platform. Also, he added that PYIP will be political, but nonpartisan; and will bring all different players and stakeholders into one safe space to ensure accountability, fairness, and transparency before, during, and after the electoral process. He concluded by saying that the platform is guided by a partnership agreement that all organizations sign and serves as a code of conduct.

In the closing remark by Mr Xavier Ejoyi, he stated how delighted Action Aid Uganda is to be part of PYIP. And highlighted how important it is for young people to be engaged in the electoral and political process. He emphasized that PYIP does not discriminate based on creed, gender, religious, or party affiliation. He reminded the young people that the political positions available to them are not limited to affirmative action. He admonished young people to make the platform one that is hard to ignore by political actors. He concluded by saying that PYIP is a “shoulder” for young people to lean on, it is out to strengthen and empower young people so they can influence change. More importantly, young people should think long term and look beyond elections.

The launch event ended gracefully at 12: 35 pm.

Young people were able to discuss their opinions and expectations of the platform. The objective of this dialogue was to inform the young people and the country at large about the existence of a platform like PYIP, and what it represents. The launch was also used to call upon members of the civil society, local and central government to support the initiative and strengthen the platform. For young people, it was comforting to know that there is a safe space available for them to engage and a platform that serves as a springboard.

Number of Participants

The actual number of participants both physically and on zoom was 188 and followed by over 400 viewers on Facebook.

Next Deliverable or Milestone.

We are looking forward to working as PYIP to front the agenda of young people.

Key Findings

During the launch, we had the following findings.

- Knowledge mobilization for young people’s manifesto is ongoing.

- A legal framework and a system for electoral justice to safeguard the civic voice and rights of young people is been developed.
- A robust network to monitor the electoral process is being set up.
- Training for activists to monitor the electoral process will be conducted.
- Strengthening the institutions of young people, to have a strong platform.
- Youth organizations need to champion democracy and transparency.
- 100 young people and youth-led organizations in all districts of Uganda are already part of the PYIP network.
- Young people together with PYIP will determine the direction in which the government should operate since they are most of the population.
- Young people want to work with the local and central government, civil society, and actors of change to ensure inclusive participation of young people in decision-making processes
- Young people need to participate and be responsible for their actions when participating during their elections.
- Young people acknowledged that there are institutional frameworks that are available for young people to compete for electricity.
- Young people also acknowledged that most of them do not have the financial muscle and social capital to win the elections.
- Young people have numbers and therefore they can mobilize themselves and influence policy through civil society and coming together to further fair policies.
- Young people can change the narrative of them being frustrated and violent by effectively participating.
- Young people should focus their energies on synergy to cause an effective change of narrative.
- Transition failures in the sector largely created by the founder syndrome and failure to identify and nurture new talent; this limits the room for innovation and creativity.

Successes

The launch was a success. Media houses were present and a bulletin on the lunch was aired on television stations and online media. We were able to engage Civil Society Organizations, Donors, and the government about the agenda of PYIP and also get them to agree to support. We exceeded the expected number of participants; we had planned for 100 and were 180.

Challenges

We had internet issues and a shortage of resources to have the event live broadcast on the television. Also, due to the Covid19 regulations, we were limited to 30 participants physically that affected the young people who were online and not able to engage satisfactorily.

Recommendation and Conclusion

We recommend that all the panelists be physical at the location at the time of the event so that they are not interrupted by poor internet connection. Young people recommended that PYIP should have training platforms to pass on civic knowledge to young people on the entire electoral process. It is also recommended that the framework for electoral reforms and justice be tackled urgently. PYIP as should also be a custodian of well-articulated and organized data of what is happening on the ground during the election period. We

were able to successfully launch the platform for youth inclusion in Politics. We had the active support of the young people who gave their recommendations, expectations, and opinions.

Acknowledgements

Appreciation goes to the partner organizations, PYIP secretariat, and PYIP governance for pulling off a successful event.

Special thanks to:

Development partners – European Union, US Embassy, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Oxfam, Ford Foundation and Advance Africa.

Event Moderator - Canary Mugume

Panellists - Lynnet Nanyonjo
Matanda Abubaker
Prosper Mubangizi
Phionah Akullo
Reagan Wamajji

Sign language interpreter – Cyprian.



Appendix

i. Program of the Launch

	Activity	Lead Person
Moderators: CANARY MUGUME		
9:00-9:30 AM	The arrival of Guests and Registration	Open Space
9:30-9:40 AM	Introductory remarks/ objectives of the launch	Emmanuel Wabwire- Faraja Africa Foundation
	Welcome Remarks	Joseph Munyangabo-WFD
9:40-10: 00	Opening Remarks-	EC- Chairperson
10:00-10:30 AM	<i>Keynote Address on 2021; Why Young people need to collaborate and work together ahead of 2021 Elections and beyond</i>	Hon Ojara Martin Mampiduzi
10:30-11:30 AM	Moderated Panel and plenary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phionah Akullo – <i>Inclusion in 2021 Elections.</i> • Lynnet Nanyonjo - Parties <i>at the crossroad ahead of 2021 Elections, what can young people do?</i> • Regan Wamajji CEPA - <i>Perspectives from Youth CSO led organizing.</i> • Abubaker Matanda: - Youth Chairperson ANT; <i>What role Can PYIP Do in mobilizing young people amidst the current challenges.</i> • Prosper Mubangizi, CEPA- <i>Civil Society Perspective and Role in PYIP</i>
11:30-11:45 AM	Pheona-Nabasa Wall	Access to electoral justice/ legal aid for youth in politics: ULS
11:45-12:00	Unveiling PYIP	Primus Bahiigi, Global Platform
11:50-12:10	Launch of PYIP- Spearheaded	Technical leadership-Wakibu Bunya Open Space and Interim Chairperson of PYIP
12:15-12:25	Closing Remarks and departure	Xavier Ejoyi- Action Aid

ii. *Photos and Quotes from the launch*

“When young people participate, they need to be responsible for their actions and decisions. They need to demonstrate how differently they can lead the country, and not look at politics as a position but as a chance to correct the mistakes made by the outgoing leaders.” – Hon. Ojara Martin Mampiduzi.



“I challenge young people to think long term and look beyond the 2021 general elections. Young people have resources like social media at their disposal and can use these to engage in governance and set a big, formidable agenda for young people’s vision of this country.” – Xavier Ejoyi.

“If there is an organization that does not take cognizant of the number of young people in this country and places them at the centre of what they are doing, that organization is gradually reaching the end of its lifetime.” – – Xavier Ejoyi.

“Young people should organize and work to change the narrative when given space, let’s change the narrative with information and alternatives” – Lynnet Nanyonjo.



“PYIP is our platform, as dancers who are dancing on it right now, we have a choice to make; to dance on it in such a way that in generations to come, we shall be remembered as the dancers who laid a strong foundation for the next dancers, or to dance on it like we are the last people to dance on it, in the sense that we dance on it, we use it and break it. So that history will not remember that on the 23rd Thursday, the platform for youth inclusion in politics was laid.” – Primus Bahigi.

“Just as women have a youth representative in Parliament, youth with disabilities need to be represented as well. Participation of youth with disabilities in Uganda needs to streamline” - Phionah Akullo.

“Young people should be the change they want to see and the change starts now since they are not young forever” - Pheona-Nabasa Wall.



Because of the new normal. Instead of holding hands, partner organizations have Joined their elbows as a symbol of unity to push the agenda of PYIP

iii. Media Coverage

a.



Agataliiko Mu Ttuntu Live

b. Chimp Report - <https://chimpreports.com/platform-for-youth-inclusion-in-politics-launched/>

iv. Poster

