**KEY NOTE ADDRESS**

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE STUDY RESULTS ON**

**“FACTORS INFLUENCING ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE YOUTH IN KENYA”**

**HELD AT THE UTALII HOTEL**

**By**

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Good morning every one.

This is a defining moment for every one of us. The power of the youth is a recognized force all over the world. Many in Kenya have come to understand that the youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also the partners of today, and a very powerful force to reckon with.

It is my great honor and privilege as a citizen of this country to be invited to speak on the subject of the youth and ethics in Kenya. I spend a lot of time working with young people in Kenya, in United States and all over the world and mentoring them into becoming all rounded citizens. Hillary Clinton wrote a book based on our African culture “It takes a whole village to raise a child” and that the family is the

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foundation of our society. Therefore, the face of a society is a reflection of the state of the family unit.

The values imparted during upbringing of a child are core towards the ethical leaning of the person. We need to guide the youth and not let them go astray.

I believe that our role as leaders is to enable young people to develop holistically, while working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society, and to reach their full potential.

Chapter six of the Kenyan constitution and Chapter ten and the National Policy on Values which I was privileged to chair spells out integrity

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threshold for our leaders in public. The Constitution requires that leaders demonstrate respect for people, bring honour to the nation and uphold dignity and honest in execution of duty. The call to uphold integrity and ethical values then demands national interests to override individual interest, a tough call for our current crop of leaders. The question then is how do we inculcate these values of integrity, honour and dignity to the Youth? The answer lies in how we mould our youth at home, in the institutions and the precedents we set for them.

75% of the population in Kenya are youths and unfortunately a large number is unemployed and feel marginalized in terms of access to opportunities, representation and participation. This translates into

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unethical behaviour due to the craze for instant wealth and the need for flamboyant lifestyle.

Unfortunately, the leaders meant to guide the youth are using them for the wrong reasons. Whenever there are riots, political forces use the youth to promote their personal interests, not considering the implications.

On the other hand, I’m impressed by the way young people have come out to have their voices heard by use of social media which has raised a platform for debate on national issues and offers a clearer perspective.

As we look at the possibilities and challenges we face in this country, our youth need to be constantly challenged: what contribution are they

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going to make? What problems are they going to solve? What discoveries will they make? How will this country look like 20 or 50 or 100 years from now?

Thank you very much everybody, God bless you and God bless Republic of ours