

# Promoting youth leadership and participation

**T**HE Miss Koch Initiative is delighted to introduce to you a special project that seeks to promote youth leadership and participation for greater development. Through this project we hope to support the Kenyan youth to play a more critical role and make significant contributions as productive citizens in this year's general elections.

No doubt, this year's general election in Kenya will be seminal. It is in such moments that we experience large scale violence and killings, blatant corruption and exploitation, massive human rights amputations and anarchy that subject innocent citizens to unbelievable suffering. The situation is worse for already disadvantaged and susceptible groups especially the youth in the urban slums like Korogocho.

Elections provide a singular opportunity for citizens to reaffirm their values, commitment and quest for a better society. In our case, we hope to reinforce and expand the role of youth in decision making before, during and post elections. The project will concentrate in Kasarani constituency and will cover at least six wards in the area including Korogocho.

## Youth issues

One of the main concerns is that youth form about 60% of the Kenya population, yet they are excluded and at times exclude themselves from decision making table. Consequently, they form the largest statistics of the poor and those affected by poverty related factors like HIV/Aids, human rights violations and so on.



**Youth too have a right to participate in leadership.**

Further, they are faced with a multitude of stereotypes that deny them opportunity and support to articulate their issues and to implement them.

It is against this background that Miss Koch Initiative is inviting all youth who reside in Kasarani to attend youth

leadership and participation forum launch on August 11, 2007 starting from 9:00am.

**For more information contact: Emmie Erodanga on 0721 350 365 or Bernard Odhiambo on 0721 794 304**

## TAK unveils new leaders

By Rosemary Tabu

**T**AKA Taka Afya Korogocho (TAK), one of the largest and oldest community based organization in Korogocho shall be unveiling their new leaders in a grand swearing in ceremony that shall be attended by hundreds of people including the TAK trustees on August 18<sup>th</sup> 2007 as from 2pm at the Korogocho Community Center's main hall.

"We want to set a precedent through the swearing in ceremony in which the new TAK officials could be held accountable to TAK members while ensuring that there is transparency, commitment and honesty in their work," explains Mr. Francis Wainaina, the TAK chairman elect.

The new leaders who shall be sworn in are: Mr. Francis Wainaina (chairman), Nancy Kamau (vice chairperson), Francis Mulimba (Secretary), Francis Kinyati (Vice secretary), Wilfrida Ojwang (Treasurer), Pastor Elly Ochieng (Organizing secretary),

Margaret Obunga (Head of women and children department), Grace Mbuchi (Environment), Francis Njoroge (Tools and contract), Cecilia Wambui (Education and culture), Esther Wambui (Dispute), Florence Anyoso (Welfare), Suleman Kungu (Male youth representative), Margaret Wambui (Female youth representative) and Cecilia Wanjiru (Projects).

"The previous officials were just sleeping on the jobs while others embarked on massive misappropriation of TAK resources. We definitely had to weed them out," says John Kahihu, TAK Nyayo village committee secretary.

The vote of no confidence was passed by the TAK governing council on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2007 and by elections duly carried out as per the constitution on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

"Korogocho residents are anxiously waiting for the new leaders to turn around TAK into a once more robust community based organization," claims Anne Wachira, a TAK day care mother.

## Employment opportunity!

CUP Kenya, the publishers of Korogocho Mirror newspapers invites interested youth to apply for the position of Korogocho Mirror newspapers Vendors.

Contact Ode immediately through: 0726 913 893

Hurry and don't miss this great opportunity!