



3rd August 2020

Terms of Reference- 'Young Women in Politics' Research Consultant

About Mzalendo

Mzalendo is a non-partisan entity that keeps an eye on Kenyan Parliament with a mission to facilitate public participation in Parliamentary processes through information sharing, research and networking. Our vision is to see Informed, Empowered and Engaged citizens transforming society by holding their leaders to account.

About the Project

With support from the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), Mzalendo is implementing a project titled *Strengthening Civil Society Impact on Kenya's Policy Making and Governance Processes for Inclusive Democracy*. The project seeks to strengthen citizen engagement in political processes for responsive and accountable governance and to promote inclusive politics.

Background Information

Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya provides for non-discrimination, inclusiveness and protection of the marginalized as key national values and principles in governance. The Constitution defines a youth as aged between 18-35 and has further removed previous age restrictions on vying for public office. In the National Assembly, Article 97 sets out 12 nominated members to represent workers, PWDs and the youth. Article 98 provides for two seats reserved for youth interests in the Senate, to be filled by a male and a female.

Despite this, approximately 75% of Kenya's population is comprised of the youth and yet, this number is not reflected in terms of their representation in Parliament. In the 12th Parliament, youth MPs constitute about 6.5% of Parliament's membership. During the term of the 11th Parliament, there were 27 Members of Parliament under the age of 35, out of a total membership of 417 Members. This number, comprising both elected and nominated Youth MPs, constituted only 6.47% of the total membership of Parliament.

For women, while the Constitution provides for Women Representative positions in each county and for 16 nominated Senators to represent women interests, these positions are not usually filled by young women. This is the predicament facing young women in politics; marginalization on two fronts.

In 2019, Mzalendo commissioned a study in the context of a project titled '*Civil Society Organizations Impact on Kenya's Policy Making and Governance*'. The overall goal of the project was to deepen the linkage between the public and political actors, and document the contribution

of special interest groups, particularly [women](#) and [youth](#), in Parliament. The study revealed some of the factors for the low representation of young people and women in Parliament.

Recognizing that it is important to ensure and to promote increased inclusion of youth and women in political processes so as to ensure that they have greater participation in decision making roles which have large impact in their lives, Mzalendo now seeks to carry out a study focusing on young women in politics to understand their unique challenges and to provide solutions on how best they can be assisted.

Objective and Scope of Work

It is against the foregoing that Mzalendo seeks to engage a Consultant to undertake research on the participation and contribution of young women in politics in Kenya.

The main duties and responsibilities of the Consultant will be to:

1. Review the existing legislation and policies that provide for the participation of young women in politics;
2. Highlight the barriers facing the participation and contribution of young women in politics and;
3. Provide recommendations to promote the increased participation and contribution of young women in politics.

Proposed Methodology

The proposed methodology will build on a brief review of relevant literature but is primarily focused on gathering and analyzing primary data; both qualitative and quantitative. Data collection tools such as surveys, key informant interviews participatory workshops will be utilized.

The consultant, in collaboration with the project team, will:

- Agree on methodology of the assignment, prepare adequate tools putting into consideration the objectives and timelines of the project.
- Prepare for and conduct the studies highlighted in this term of reference.
- Present findings and recommendations of the study.

In undertaking the research, the Consultant will be expected to undertake desk review and key informant interviews with various actors. Cognizant of the challenges posed by Covid-19, which remains a potential challenge, the safety of staff and consultants remains the priority of Mzalendo Trust. Applicants are encouraged to develop and demonstrate protocols for doing research during the pandemic.

Key deliverables

- Inception report including tools to be applied for the study;
- Draft Report;
- Final Report and;
- Facilitation of validation meeting and report launch.

Profile of the Consultant

The consultant will be required to demonstrate –

1. Master's Degree in Law, Political Science or related field;
2. Relevant experience of at least 10 years;
3. Experience in research methodology, selecting and evaluating information as well as conducting and evaluating interviews e.g. FGDs and KII methodologies
4. Relevant professional/educational qualifications;
5. Ability to work independently within strict timeframes;
6. Availability during engagement period;
7. High level of professional integrity and;
8. Good communication skills.

Contract Period

The Consultant will be engaged for a period of 20 days spread over August and September and effective from the signing of the contract. The final report should be made available to Mzalendo on or before **18th September 2020**.

How to Apply

1. The consultant is required to submit a technical and financial proposal as their application.
2. The technical proposal should include a summary of the applicant's qualifications, experience and a detailed methodology, outlining how they will approach and complete the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the assignment within the timeframe outlined. The technical proposal should also contain CVs of key team members and professional references.
3. The financial proposal should indicate the all-inclusive fixed total contract price and be supported by a breakdown of costs by activities.
4. The proposal should be sent to community@mzalendo.com by **14th August 2020** COB.
5. The application subject line should clearly indicate 'Young Women in Politics Consultancy.'
6. Any clarification should be emailed to community@mzalendo.com before 13th August, 2020.