

The first ever youth meeting

After the General Elections, there was a lot of tension and it made most of the people living in our neighbourhood become afraid of one another since they were from diverse communities.

At the time, most of the people living in our estate were still in their rural homes. But I was at the estate in Nairobi. My friend Mike and I realized that people, despite the tight security in our estate, stayed indoors and to our surprise the once friendly neighbours became hostile to one another. We therefore decided that it was up to us to bring about the brotherhood that used to exist in the neighbourhood.

We did a survey and found out that most of those who were around were mainly the youth. We decided to print out a notice inviting the youth for a meeting to form a youth committee that would oversee the welfare of our brothers and sisters in the estate. The main idea was that we should get to know each others' feelings about the situation that we all went through.

We really didn't mention the reason behind it since we were not sure of how the invitees would have reacted. Mike and I distributed the leaflets to all those who were around and requested them to attend. We scheduled the meeting for 7pm at the estate's garden square so that most people would attend after their day businesses.

We were upbeat about what we would tell them since it was one of the most difficult things we have ever done as it was the first ever youth meeting to be scheduled. Since we had dedicated ourselves to it we took responsibility to take control of what was going to be discussed. To our surprise the number of those who turned out was larger than we had expected. This was the most testing time as we really had to bring everything back as it used to be.

We both thanked all of them for coming, and we had a snack together as we talked. Suddenly the political issue emerged as we were talking and everyone had his own view of what was happening. I told them that despite all that had happened we should foster and embrace unity among ourselves. I asked if there was anyone who was directly or indirectly involved in the events and there were a few people whose relatives had been attacked. We talked to them and encouraged them to accept all that happened and that they should try to live together as one with joy and happiness.

Christopher M. Simiyu
BCOM First Year