

## **Panellists challenge the youth to create jobs opportunities**



The youth have been challenged to use their potential to create jobs and contribute to the growth of the African continent.

This was echoed during a panel discussion organised by the [Institute of Development Studies](#) (IDS) as part of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

The panellists called on the Kenyan youth to use their numbers to challenge the situation in the country; from politics to business. The youth were challenged to identify their skills, gifts and talents and maximize them in creating job opportunities by going into entrepreneurship.

Prof. Winnie Mitullah, Director, IDS, noted that universities in the counties should develop programs targeting the counties. For example, universities in the Coastal region should develop degree programs on maritime. Prof. Mitullah also recognized the importance of understanding the current youth and their attitudes. Despite the employers complaining of skills mismatch, Prof. Mitullah noted that the work environment is not conducive for today's youth who are more into informality. The lack of values and the desire for shortcuts were some of the factors mentioned as hindrances to development.

Mr. Kwame Owino, the CEO, Institute of Economic Affairs, noted that the state has a role to play in the development of the country. "The political economy matters a lot. Development must be multi-disciplinary," he noted.

Ms. Ann Muturi from Women Enterprise Fund urged young women to form groups and start enterprises by getting credit from financial institutions. She noted that job opportunities are few and hence many people should venture into entrepreneurship.

As the Institute of Development Studies, celebrates 50 Years since its establishment, a series of activities have been lined up, majority of them challenging the young populace to rise up and create solutions to the problems facing the country and the continent.

The event was officially opened by Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The lively debate was attended by officials from Women Enterprise Fund, Uzalendo, Hanns Seidel Foundation.

