

IF I WERE PRESIDENT...

From pilots and meteorologists to doctors and teachers. Here the children of Mukuru, a slum area in Nairobi, tell us their hopes and dreams for the future and what they would do if they could be President of Kenya for the day.

Polycarp: "I would change the environment in Mukuru, especially the roads"



Polycarp, 13 years old: "It's not that bad in Mukuru, but I would prefer not to live here. It's different from Nairobi. If it rains there, you don't have to wear gum boots but here because it's so muddy, you must have boots to walk around. There are also many sick people here, my family get sick with pneumonia and we are forced to buy medicines, but they are very expensive."

If I was the President of Kenya, I would change the environment in Mukuru, especially the roads. I would make them passable. Mud is the problem here. I would try to help the helpless as well."

Patricia: "I would bring better security to Mukuru and also open a hospital here"



Patricia, 14 years old: "I like maths so I want to be an accountant when I grow up, and work in a bank and encourage people to keep their money safe."

If I was President, I would bring better security to Mukuru and also open a hospital here. In Mukuru a lot of people get sick, but when you go to hospital in Nairobi there are far too many people on the ward. If I built a new hospital we could have just five people on each ward. I would also build new roads here, so there are not so many accidents."

Deriyne: "I want to be a doctor so that I can treat the sick"



Deriyne, 11 years old: "My favourite subject is science because for you to be a doctor, you need to do a lot of science and that is what I want to be. I want to be a doctor so that I can treat the sick, and help my family and my parents. I think everyone should have medicine. People get sick in Mukuru because they drink dirty water, or they go to the toilet and there is nowhere to wash their hands. Or they get sick because they eat food with dirty hands. Sometimes I get ill with malaria, and I also get stomach problems."

Antony: "I would impose security so that people do not steal and are safe"



Antony, 14 years old: "It's important to go to school to achieve my goals, and learn knowledge for my life. People do drop out, and others die if they are involved in crime or if they get sick. Kids round here steal because they don't have parents, and so they have to steal to feed themselves."

Nairobi is very different from Mukuru. In Nairobi they have nice houses with concrete, but here it is iron sheets, it's not good. The government should try and help the children here by building concrete houses, so that when there are fires, children don't get burned. If I was president, I would impose security so that people do not steal and are safe."

Diana: "I would bring tight security to Mukuru"



Diana, 13 years old: "I want to be a judge when I grow up so that I can maintain laws and maintain peace. I like going to school, you get an education. Without an education you can't get anywhere in life. If I was President, I would bring tight security to Mukuru. I don't feel safe here walking around, and people can come into our houses and steal. I would like to live somewhere when I grow up where my house is safe. I would like my house painted blue colours, it would have stairs and also a swimming pool. I once saw a house like this on television.

It's not fair that there are rich people and poor people. The poor people suffer but the rich people don't. The rich people don't have to worry about school fees. When I am a judge I will try and help as many people as I can, and make laws so that all children have to go to school."

Dominic: "I would make good roads for transport"



Dominic, 14 years old: "When I grow up I would like to be a pilot. If I was President of Kenya, I would make good roads for transport and ensure every constituency has toilets. I would make sure that there were no street children, and I would bring toilets to the country. Sometimes the water here is very dirty and you can't use it. The rich people in Nairobi should not look at the poor and treat them like slaves. They should take care of the needy people, especially the children."

Irene: "I would like the poor people to be given food"



Irene, 13 years old: "When I grow up I want to be a teacher. It's important to be a teacher because I will teach many pupils so that they may improve their lives. It's important for children to learn so that they know many things and their lives will not be so hard.

If I was the President of Kenya, I would build many hospitals so that if someone is sick, they can be treated and I would bring more toilets to Mukuru.

In Nairobi there are many very big buildings. It's not fair that there are so many rich people there and not here, because the rich people have food, and the poor people cannot have that food so they may die. If I was President, I would like the poor people to be given food."

Eric: "I would make Mukuru a better town"



Eric, 14 years old: "I would like to be a meteorologist, so I can study the weather. If I was President of Kenya, I would like to change peoples' lives in Mukuru by building toilets proper sanitation. In Nairobi and Mukuru people do not live the same. In Nairobi people live in estates, but here there is very bad sanitation, it is not fair. If I was President, I would make Mukuru a better town."

Yusra: "I want to be a doctor to help people when I go back to my village"



Yusra, 14 Years old: "I want to be a doctor to help people when I go back to my village. If I was a doctor I would be able to see what was wrong. If they had malaria I could give them something for malaria."

You have to pay for water here. One jerry can is 5 shillings for 20 litres. Each day, just for washing clothes, you use 8. The water is not clean enough to drink, you must boil it or put 'water guard' (treatment) in it. Some people drink the water though, and it gives them cholera.

What I like best about school is to be with my friends and play with them, and to learn more things. My favourite subjects are science and maths. I like to learn about how to keep yourself clean, and prevent diseases."

Pauline: "I would change things for people who live normal lives like me"



Pauline, 13 years old: "If I was President of Kenya, I would change things for people who live normal lives like me. I would make sure they live in clean environments, and I would make sure they have toilets.

I would help them because we have the same blood, and all of us here are Kenyans, we are all the same. Let's say for example, their house had been burned, I would send things to help them and give them food and shelter, so they have a house to sleep in."

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