

**Wangari Maathai Institute organizes and participates in ‘Tuko Pamoja Solai,’ in Nakuru County - June 30, 2018**



*Ms. Wamaitha. Wangari Maathai Institute, at the ‘Tuko Pamoja Solai’ Event in Solai, June 30, 2018*

Following the flood disaster that struck Solai on the night of May 9, 2018, many have been left in despair after losing loved ones, being displaced from their homes and some still searching for missing friends and family. Acknowledging the physical and psychological consequences that this disaster created, the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) organised a student led full-day event that took place at the Assistant Commissioner Grounds in Solai, on June 30, 2018. Under the banner ‘Tuko Pamoja Solai’, which translates to ‘We Are Together Solai’; students from various institutions of learning in both Nairobi and Nakuru collaborated in collecting donations such as tree seedlings, blankets, clothes, books & stationery, and in presenting artistic performances through music, dance and comedy. Additionally, a core component of the day was a Tree Planting event in Solai Boys High School and Solai Nyakinyua Primary School; where a total of 505 trees were planted by WMI Staff and Students, Nakuru County Government Officials, Where Is The Love Kenya, PCEA Mwangaza Youth Group - Kiratina and Students from: University of Nairobi, Kenya School of Law, Egerton University, Solai Boys High School, Oaklands Primary School, Solai Nyakinyua Primary School and the general Solai community. Even as the community endeavours to recover, we are reminded of the need to prioritize the safety and health of human

populations and the physical environment while meaningfully engaging the community in decision making before embarking on large scale projects. At WMI, we promote this through our course on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) as well as through Transformative Leadership, Community Empowerment Courses and Experiential Learning activities where students interact with communities so as to link theory and practice.

As a follow up on the Tree Planting Session, WMI is currently organising Tuko Pamoja Solai #2 in September 2018 under a theme dubbed, "Shade The Community."



*Pupils from Solai Nyakinyua Primary School participating in Tree Planting during ‘Tuko Pamoja Solai’*