

## **THIS IS MY STORY**

My name is Titus Kosimbo and I am glad to share with you my story with you. I was born and raised at the Lang'ata estate next to southlands kijiji and when my dad passed on in the road demise as result of heavy rain in the year 2016 may, I moved in the informal settlement of Lang'ata southland Kijiji with my family that is my wife and one son. I have been struggling to find the job but all has been in vain and so decided to set up small-scale clothe business with the help of a friend. Since then, I and my family have been directly depending on the small earning of the business which I operate in the Kiosk (small shop made by iron sheet) within the slum where I live with my family. The slum is very congested and we always leave in fear of fire and diseases due to poor hygiene in the area. The slum has many people living in each (Mabati room-Iron sheet). This means many people are jobless and so are idlers in the streets which also bring with it another sense of threat.

Challenges that exist in the slum include mugging of people valuables, rape cases and loss of properties through violence among the rowdy youths who have been blown away by the drugs and alcohol-related drugs. This has brought constant fear among the residence leaving in the small Kijiji of Southland (length). The other problem is that the houses are hot during the day when the days are sunny and are very cold at night when the weather is extremely cold, all of these conditions affect the lives of the residence more so the little children who spend most of their time in these makeshift rooms.

In the last week of January this year, the strange fire engulfs at the heart of southland Kijiji around 7:30 pm in the evening which brought many families and friends into total confusion. It was very threatening and sudden that I could not save anything from the furnace since I was more concentrating to save my little house where I sleep than the business which was not only affected by the fire but also looters who were pretending to help but in the process were able to sneak people items away with them. My business since then has sugared huge loses and so is my family since the source of income has now been a history and haven living through the Lord's mercy.

The future of my business and family is uncertain and so this has given me a lot of much unsleepy night, it has put me in deep sorrow and reflection on what future hold for me and my family. The support from the ERFA would bring back my life to real meaning since it will help me restore hope and dignity to my family. Through the funding, I would be able to set up again the lost store and sock for the shop on the burnt items which intern will be able to give income once again to the family which has lost hope. This will be a new beginning for the new journey to raise from the slum to somewhere better. And this is the reason am passionate to share my fire and life experience concerning the January inferno.

**Titus Kosimbo**