

**IN FOURTH SESSION OF THE SIXTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH,
SPORTS AND CULTURE**

ON THE

NATIONAL YOUTH SCHEME BILL, 2016

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**REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON YOUTH,
SPORTS AND CULTURE ON THE NATIONAL YOUTH
SCHEME BILL, 2016**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The National Youth Scheme Bill, 2016, was laid in Parliament on 17th May, 2016. In accordance with article 106(4) and (5) of the 1992 Constitution and Order 125 and 187 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Bill to the Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture for consideration and report.

1.2 During the consideration of the Bill, the Committee was assisted by the Hon Minister for Youth and Sports, Mr. Edwin Nii Lantey Vanderpuye and officials from the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Officers from the Attorney-General's Department were also present to assist the Committee in its work. The Committee appreciates their support.

2.0 REFERENCE

2.1 The Committee made reference to the following documents during its deliberations:

- a. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- b. The Standing Orders of Parliament.
- c. The National Youth Council Decree, 1974 (NRCD 241).

2.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The purpose of the Bill is to establish a National Youth Scheme to develop a dynamic and disciplined youth imbued

with the spirit of nationalism and a sense of public service and morality.

4.0 CONTENT OF THE BILL

The Bill comprises 28 clauses arranged into five main parts.

Section 1 of the Bill (clause 1-3) provides for the establishment of the Scheme, the object and the functions of the Scheme.

Section 2 (clause 4-10) relates to the governance of the Scheme, encompassing the Governing body, tenure of office of members, meetings of the Board and establishment of Committees, among others.

Section 3 of the Bill (clause 11-19) deals with administrative provisions such as the appointment and functions of the National Youth Co-ordinator, appointment of other staff, funds of the scheme, and accounts and audit.

Section 4 (Clause 20 – 22) makes provision for Regional Youth Committees and their functions as well as the establishment and functions of District Youth Units.

Section 5 (Clause 23-28) covers miscellaneous provisions including Regulations, Interpretation, Repeal and savings and Transitional Provisions.

5.0 Observations on the National Youth Scheme

5.1 The Committee noted that the youth constitutes about 36 per cent of Ghana's population, which is a significant proportion. As a valuable source of the nation's human capital and the segment

upon which the future of the country depends, it is important that attention is given to policies and programmes aimed at putting the youth on the right path to development.

Unfortunately, over the years, the absence of a relevant and comprehensive legal framework has posed a challenge to youth development in the country. The National Youth Authority (NYA) currently lacks the requisite legal backing to regulate the design and implementation of youth programmes in the country. As a result, various sectors have pursued separate programmes and activities for the youth in an uncoordinated manner, resulting sometimes in duplications across sectors. In Kenya for instance, the National Youth Council (NYC) Act, 2009 (Act No. 10 of 2009) (Cap. 132), makes the NYC the only institution with the authority to regulate all youth related programmes and activities thereby helping to streamline youth activities. The introduction of a Bill to accord the NYA a similar mandate is therefore a step in the right direction.

5.2 The Bill, when passed will therefore empower the National Youth Authority to effectively co-ordinate and regulate youth policies and programmes to derive maximum benefits. Additionally, it will serve as an important guideline for other stakeholders to plan and implement youth programmes and activities in line with national priorities and objectives as set out in the Bill. This will ensure that the youth are well positioned to effectively play their role in the socio-economic and political development of the country.

5.3 The Committee expressed concern about the use of the name “National Youth Scheme” for the institution. The Committee is of the view that the name “National Youth Scheme” does not adequately communicate the regulatory functions of the institution to stakeholders and the outside world. The Committee is of the opinion that the institution maintains its current name “National Youth Authority” which easily identifies it as a regulatory body.

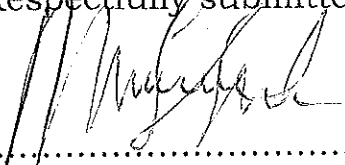
5.4 The issue of appropriate designation for the Head of the institution also came up strongly during the Committee’s deliberations. The Bill refers to the “Head of the Institution” as the “National Youth Co-ordinator”. However, the Committee was of the view that since almost all heads of regulatory bodies are designated as “Chief Executive Officers,” it is only appropriate for the purposes of consistency, to adopt the same title for the head of the institution.

6.0 Conclusion

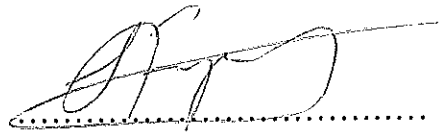
The need for a comprehensive legal framework to provide direction for youth development cannot be overemphasized. The passage of the Bill will go a long way to ensure that youth policies and programmes are designed and implemented within a framework, which sets out objectives, roles, responsibilities, and dedicated sources of funding, among others. This will curb the poorly coordinated way of implementing youth programmes and activities by the various Ministries, Department and Agencies (MMDAs).

The Committee hereby recommends that the House adopts its report on the National Youth Scheme Bill, 2016.

Respectfully submitted



.....
Hon. Kobena Mensah Woyome
Chairman, Committee on Youth,
Sports and Culture



.....
Janet Frimpong
Clerk to the Committee

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Clause 1 - Amendment proposed - Headnote - delete "Scheme" and insert "Authority" and unless the context otherwise requires, do same wherever applicable in the Bill.

Clause 3 - Amendment proposed- Delete entire clause and insert the following:

"Functions of the Authority

To achieve the object under section 2, the Authority shall

- (a) formulate policies and implement programmes that will promote in the youth
 - (i) a sense of self-reliance, leadership, discipline and civic responsibility; and
 - (ii) a sense of friendship and co-operation through exchange of ideas with recognised youth organisations in other countries in Africa and the world;
- (b) develop the capacity of the youth to participate in decision-making at all levels;
- (c) establish and supervise youth leadership and skills training institutes; and

(d) in collaboration with the Ghana Youth Federation, organise annual youth conferences at the national, regional and district levels”.

Clause 4 - Amendment proposed- Sub-clause (1), delete and insert the following:

“The governing body of the Authority is a Board consisting of

- (a) a chairperson;
- (b) the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority;
- (c) one representative of the Ministry of Finance not below the rank of a Director;
- (d) one representative of the Ministry of Education not below the rank of a Director;
- (e) one representative of the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs not below the rank of a Director;
- (f) one representative of the Ministry responsible for Social Protection not below the rank of a Director;
- (g) one representative of the Ministry of Local Government not below the rank of a Director;

- (h) one representative of the National Development Planning Commission not below the rank of a Director;
- (i) one representative of the Organisation of Persons with Disability;
- (j) three members of the public nominated by the Minister, at least one of whom is a female; and
- (k) three representatives of the youth nominated by the National Youth Authority in consultation with the Ghana Youth Federation and at least one of whom is a female”.

Clause 5 - Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (2), lines 1 and 2, delete “National Youth Co-ordinator” and insert “Chief Executive Officer” and unless the context otherwise requires, do same wherever applicable in the Bill.

Clause 6 - Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (1), line 1, delete “four” and insert “three”.

Clause 6 - Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (2), line 2, delete “two-third” and insert “one-third”.

Clause 6 - Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (4), delete and insert the following:

“The quorum at a meeting of the Board is eight members of the Board”

Clause 6 - Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (5), delete and insert the following:

“The chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Board and in the absence of the chairperson a member of the Board elected by the members present from among their number shall preside.”

Clause 12 - Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (3), line 3, delete “a” and insert “the”.

Clause 13 - Amendment proposed - Headnote – delete

“Deputy National Youth Co-ordinator” and insert “Deputy Chief Executive Officer” and unless the context otherwise requires, do same wherever applicable in the Bill.

Clause 13 - Amendment proposed- Delete entire clause and insert the following:

(1) The Authority shall have two Deputy Chief Executive Officers.

(2) The Deputy Chief Executive Officers shall hold office on the terms and conditions specified in the letters of appointment.

(3) The Deputy Chief Executive Officers shall perform functions assigned to them by the Chief Executive Officer.”

Clause 14 - Amendment proposed – Delete entire clause.

Clause 15 - Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (3), paragraph (b), after “assign” insert “or as the Chief Executive Officer may delegate”

Clause 20 - Amendment proposed-Sub-clause (1), delete and insert the following:

“The Board shall, in consultation with the Minister responsible for each region, establish in each region, a Regional Youth Committee consisting of

- (a) the chairperson;
- (b) the Regional Co-ordinating Director;
- (c) the Regional Director of Health;
- (d) the Regional Youth Director;
- (e) the Regional Director of Education;

- (f) the Regional Social Welfare Director;
- (g) the Regional Community Development Director;
- (h) one representative of the Organisation of Persons with Disability in the region;
- (i) three representatives from the Regional Youth Federation; and
- (j) two other persons nominated by the Minister responsible for the region at least one of whom is female.”

Clause 22- Amendment proposed - Headnote – delete and insert “District Youth Committee”.

Clause 22- Amendment proposed- Delete entire clause and insert the following:

- (1) The Board shall, in consultation with the respective District Assemblies, establish a District Youth Committee, consisting of
 - (a) a chairperson;
 - (b) the District Co-ordinating Director;
 - (c) the District Director of Health;
 - (d) the District Youth Coordinator;
 - (e) the District Director of Education;
 - (f) the District Social Welfare Director;

- (g) the District Community Development Director;
 - (h) the District Sports Director;
 - (i) one representative of the Organisation of Persons with Disability in the district nominated by the District Youth Federation; and
 - (j) two representatives from the district nominated by the District Youth Federation at least one of whom is female”.
- (2) The District Youth Committee shall assist the District Youth Unit of the Education, Youth and Sports Department of the District Assembly in the implementation of policies of the Authority in the District.”

Clause 24 - Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (1), line 5, after “constitution” insert “and bye-laws”

Clause 24 – Amendment proposed – Add the following new sub-clause as sub-clause (2):

“A youth organisation that operates in two or more regions shall register with the Authority and the Registrar-General’s Department.”

Clause 24 – Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (2), line 2,
delete “thirty” and insert “ninety”

Clause 24 – Amendment proposed – Sub-clause (5), line 1,
after “act” insert “to promote or”

Clause 24 – Amendment proposed - Sub-clause (6), line 1,
delete “promoter or a”.

Clause 26 - Amendment proposed – Delete the following
interpretations:

“National Youth Co-ordinator”;

“Scheme”;

“youth organisation”; and

“youth programme”.

Clause 26 – Amendment Proposed - Add the following new
interpretations:

“Authority” means the National Youth Authority
established under section 1;

“Chief Executive Officer” means the person
appointed under section 11;

“youth activity” means an activity, programme or
project undertaken by the youth;

“youth federation” means an amalgamation of
youth organisations;

“youth organisation” means an organisation registered by the Authority under section 24.”

New Clause - Amendment proposed – Add the following new clause:

Headnote – “Application of funds of the Authority”

18. (1) The funds of the Authority shall be

applied for the

(a) performance of the functions of the Authority; and

(b) administrative expenses of the Authority and oversight supervision by the Ministry which shall in any case not exceed five per cent of the funds of the Authority.

(2) The Board shall ensure that the funds of the Authority are employed solely for the purpose for which they are approved.