TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition of Youth

1.2. Youth Profile

2.0 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

3.0 ISSUES IMPINGING ON THE YOUTH

3.1 Unemployment and Underemployment

3.2 Health Related Problems

3.3 Increasing School and College Drop Out rates

3.4 Crime and Deviant Behaviour

3.5 Limited Sports and Recreation Facilities

3.6 Abuse and Exploitation

3.7 Limited Participation and Lack of Opportunities

3.8 Limited and Poor Housing

3.9 Limited Access to Information and Communication

Technology (ICT)

4.0 VISION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

5.0 PRINCIPLES AND VALUES UNDERLYING THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

6.0 POLICY GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

7.0 RIGHT, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE YOUTH.

7.1 Rights of Youth

7.2 Responsibilities and Obligation of the Youth

7.3 Obligation of Adults and Parents

7.4 Obligation of the State

7.5 Obligation of the Private Sector

8.0 PRIORITY STRATEGIC AREAS

8.1 Employment Creation

8.3 Education and Training

8.4 Sports and Recreation

8.5 Environment

8.6 Arts and Culture

8.7 Youth and Media

8.8 Youth Empowerment and Participation

9.0 PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS

9.1 Youth with Disability
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The National Youth Policy has been prepared in a background of a number of challenges facing the youth in Kenya. The Policy address issues affecting the youth and suggests ways in addressing them. Although the number of youth serving organisations has increased over the years, youth problems have continued unabated.

The goal of this Policy is to promote youth participation in community and civic affairs and to ensure that youth programmes are youth centred and engage the youth. In achieving Kenya's development targets, every one in society must take on their roles and responsibilities. The State, the Adults, the Private Sector and the youth must acknowledge that each has an important role to play.

The Policy has laid emphasis in certain strategic areas that shall be addressed and these include; Employment Creation, Health, Education and Training, Sports and Recreation, Environment, Art and Culture, Youth and the Media and Youth Participation and Empowerment. While addressing the strategic areas, the Policy classifies the youth into priority target groups. This is because it is not possible to address all the youth issues at the same time. The priority groups are Youth with disability, street youth, youth infected with Aids, Female Youth, Unemployed Youth and out of school Youth. The Policy proposes guidelines and strategies that can further be developed to facilitate participation of the youth in national development.

The implementation plan is critical to ensure that the policy becomes a reality. It suggests the formation of a National Youth Council that shall essentially play the overall role of facilitation, co-ordination, monitoring, advocacy and promotion of the youth issues under the oversight of the Ministry in charge. The Institutional Framework will ideally minimise duplicity and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery to the youth. It is also in this light that the Policy proposes that the youth division be upgraded into department to effectively spearhead the process.

The Policy will be revised every five years and as and when other government policy documents are revised.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
The Department of Social Services in the Ministry of Home Affairs Heritage and Sports has largely spearheaded the preparation of the Kenya National Youth Policy, under the guidance of Ms. Ambwere, the Commissioner. The report has benefited from a number of broad based consultative youth forums both at provincial and national level from as early as 1999.

The first draft of this policy was discussed at a Capacity Building Workshop attended by provincial social services officers and youth representatives from the same provinces. The Second draft was discussed in a Consensus Building workshop that was attended by a wide range of stakeholders. These included among others UNICEF, UNFPA, Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) Representatives, ACTIONAID and representatives of Youth Serving Organisations. The valuable feedback from workshops has been fully integrated in this policy.

We would like to most sincerely appreciate OXFAM (GB), UNFPA, UNICEF, GTZ, ACTIONAID and the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) for financial support to develop the policy document. Special
thanks to GTZ who in addition to the financial resources provided substantive technical support.

We also wish to acknowledge the technical team that was put in place to enrich the document from the comments of the Consensus Building and finalise it. The whole process would not have reached at this level without the unwavering commitment and direction of Mrs. Muriuki and Mrs. Florence Mburu from the Social Services Department.

Finally, we acknowledge the consultant, Mr. Monyoncho Maina who has been apt and ready to work whenever called upon. He has been patient and willing to work with and for the youth to ensure that youth issues are best reflected.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBO Community Based Organisations
CSO Community Service Organisations
HIV Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
ICT Information Communication Technologies
ILO International Labour Organisation
NCCK National Council of Churches of Kenya
NGO's Non Governmental Organisation
NYP National Youth Policy
STI Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN United Nations
VCT Voluntary Counseling and Testing

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The population age bracket of 30 years and below constitutes about 75% of the Kenyan population. This segment forms the highest source of human resource. However, their status has been placed on the periphery and not accorded due recognition. They have been excluded from designing, planning and implementing programmes and policies that affect them.

The National Youth Policy (NYP) is a framework that endeavours to address issues affecting young people. In addition, it provides broad-based strategies that can be used to give the youth meaningful opportunities to reach their maximum potential. The NYP recognises that the youth are a key resource that can be tapped for the benefit of the whole country.

A single stakeholder cannot carry out youth Development. Everyone in the community both young and old should play their respective roles to see that the aspirations and hopes of the youth are met. Many of the youth who are productive and energetic remain unemployed, continue to suffer from poor health, and lack sufficient support. In addition, there are those youth that have special needs that require attention. These include those living on the streets, those living with HIV/AIDS, the girl youth and those with disabilities.

Youth problems have therefore continued to increase despite efforts to address them. The major impediment has been the lack of a comprehensive youth policy to provide a broad framework on how to address youth issues and integrate them in national development process.

It is for this reason that the government of Kenya and other stakeholders embarked on the development of a comprehensive youth policy. The policy provides a broad framework within which all stakeholders including the private and public sector, civil society among others, can contribute to youth development. The document goes further to suggest an implementation mechanism.
This policy is written in the context of existing sectoral policies, national development plans, international policies and charters to which Kenya is a signatory; as central to the holistic integration and inclusion of the youth in Kenya's development. Cognisance is given to the Charter of United Nations, the Commonwealth Youth Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and United Nations World Programme for the youth to the year 2000 and beyond among others.

1.1. Definition of Youth
This policy defines a Kenyan Youth as one aged between 15 - 30 years. This takes into account the physical, psychological, cultural, social, biological and political aspects, which explain the Kenyan youth situation.

1.2. Youth Profile
The Youth in Kenya account for about 32% of the population or 9.1 million. Of these, 51.7 % are female youth. These form 60% of the total labour force. Despite this, opportunities are very scarce to absorb them in the job market.

Enrolment in primary school totaled only 5.9 million for those aged 6-13. Secondary school enrolment by 2001, stood at around 800,000 while University enrolment stood an estimated 62,0000 students in 2000/1 academic years.

HIV/AIDS pandemic among other diseases has continued to negatively impact on the health of the youth. More than 75% of AIDS cases occur between the ages of 20 and 45. Approximately 33% of all AIDS cases reported are of those aged 15-30.

2.0. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE
In the sixties, the Government and other voluntary youth agencies did little to involve the youth in the development agenda. Except the National Youth Service that was started in 1964, most other youth programmes that existed were largely social and recreational in nature and in addition they were urban based.

However, since the ILO/University of Nairobi sponsored Kericho Conference on "Education Employment and Rural Development" and; the publication by the NCCK of the "After School - What?" Report in 1966, the Government has taken keen interest in youth issues.

The problem of youth employment has since then continued to occupy the minds of policy planners in Government and private sector. The third National Development Plan 1974-78 while acknowledging the efforts made in addressing the youth unemployment predicting that in future it would loom large unless urgently addressed.

Efforts towards youth development programmes have been made in other subsequent policy documents such as, the Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1992, on Small Scale and Jua Kali Enterprises, the 1997-2001 Development Plan and the National Poverty Eradication Plans 1999-2015, among others.

Youth problems have been worsening in spite of the remarkable increase in the number of agencies dealing with matters that affect the youth. The lack of a comprehensive National Youth Policy to provide a blueprint for youth development stands out to be a major shortcoming. It is for this reason that the Government of Kenya has embarked on the development of a comprehensive youth policy.

Youth organisations in Kenya have come up with innovative programmes to address the youth's economic needs, health interventions especially those aimed at reproductive health and alleviating the spread of HIV/AIDS among the youth, environmental programmes, character building, literacy, vocational training, sports and recreational as well as social-cultural programmes. However the following constraints have hampered their effectiveness in achieving their objectives:-

i. Pressure from the high population growth. The high population growth standing at 2.4% (1999), puts pressure on available resources as the number of young people to be catered for keeps on rising at a high rate. The situation is further worsened by the fact...
that economic growth is much lower than the population growth rate.

ii. **Lack of appropriate skills.** The 8-4-4 education system and tertiary training institutions continue to churn out many graduates who are neither well equipped for entry into the labour market nor possess the necessary life skills.

iii. **Unclear and uncoordinated youth policies and programmes.** While a number of Government Ministries and Youth organisations have their own youth programmes and sectoral youth policies, lack of a national definition of youth and effective youth co-ordination mechanisms have negatively affected the development of youth work.

iv. **Resource Constraints.** Most of the youth programmes in the Government and non-governmental agencies are poorly funded and equipped hence efforts to diversify and increase youth programmes in Kenya have been limited.

v. **Low status given to youth.** Existing structures and prevailing attitudes do not provide an enabling environment for youth participation in decision-making, planning and implementation processes.

### 3.0 ISSUES IMPINGING ON THE YOUTH

#### 3.1 Unemployment and Underemployment

The economic growth rate has not been sufficient enough to create productive employment opportunities to absorb the increasing labour force of about 500,000 annually. Most of these are the youth and only about 25% are absorbed, leaving 75% to bear the burden of unemployment. Further, some of those absorbed are doing jobs that do not match their qualifications and specialisation.

#### 3.2 Health Related Problems

The youth face a myriad of health related problems including widespread malaria, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), drug and substance abuse as well as poor access to health services.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is more prevalent among the youth under 30 years of age. Available statistics show that 33% of the infected persons are the youth.

FGM and teenage pregnancy is a specific challenge to the female youth. They lead to all sorts of consequences including school drop out, and potential risks to life through attempts of abortions.

#### 3.3 Increasing School and College Drop Out rates

Many youth drop out of schools and colleges due to among other reasons, the high cost of education and increase in overall poverty levels, poor returns on investment in education and lack of re-admission policy for teenage mothers.

#### 3.4 Crime and Deviant Behaviour

Involvement of youth in criminal activities is noted to be on the increase. Many of the youth remain idle even after formal education for long periods of time. As a consequence, they try their hands in all openings, legal or illegal, with some ending up with deviant behaviour.

#### 3.5 Limited Sports and Recreation Facilities

Sports and recreation facilities provide the youth with an opportunity to socialise spend their time productively hence strengthening and developing their character and talents. However, the facilities are very scarce, and where they exist, the youth may find it difficult to access and utilise them.
3.6 Abuse and Exploitation
Due to their vulnerability, the youth are exposed to different kinds of abuse and exploitation such as sexual, child labour and other forms of economic exploitation under the guise of employment. There is currently little protection from the authorities.

3.7 Limited Participation and Lack of Opportunities
Despite their numerical superiority, youth are least represented in political and economic spheres due to societal attitudes, socio-cultural and economic barriers, and lack of proper organisation.

3.8 Limited and Poor Housing
The youth especially the urban youth are faced by shortage of affordable housing in environments that favour healthy living.

3.9 Limited Access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
Limited access to ICT due to unavailability especially in rural areas and high costs hamper youth in exploiting career, business and education opportunities to their optimum.
These issues present a pressing need to develop a comprehensive and coherent statement of youth policy which, when implemented, will put the youth of Kenya in limelight of meaningful social, economic and political development.

4.0 VISION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY
A society where youth have equal opportunity to realise their fullest potential productively participating in economic, social, political, cultural and religious life without fear or favour.

5.0 PRINCIPLES AND VALUES UNDERLYING THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY
The Kenya National Youth Policy should be seen as a vehicle for prioritising public actions through comprehensive and multi-sectoral response with the objective of integrating the youth and working with them in national development. The policy should be viewed as consistent with national laws and development priorities. The key principles that underlie the policy include:-

(i) Respect of Cultural, Belief Systems and Ethical Values
The policy respects cultural, religious, customs and ethical background of the people and conforms to universally recognised human rights without discrimination based on gender, race/origin, age, ethnicity, creed, political affiliation or social status.

(ii) Equity and Accessibility
The policy believes in promoting the principles of equal opportunities and equitable distribution of programmes, services, and resources. It also endeavours to promote access to socio-economic opportunities for the youth.

(iii) Gender Inclusiveness
The policy underscores the need to promote a gender inclusive approach to the development of youth. It seeks to promote gender equity and equality including elimination of gender discrimination and violence.

(iv) Good Governance
The policy seeks to promote the values of good governance, a just and tolerant society, and promotion of transparency and accountability, a spirit of nationhood and patriotism. In addition, the policy serves as a channel to promote values of conscientiousness, inclusiveness, selflessness, volunteerism and pursuit of good conduct.

(v) Mainstreaming Youth Issues

The needs, opportunities and challenges facing youth are concerns for the whole society. The youth policy aims at ensuring that youth issues are reflected at all sectors of national development both on micro and macro levels within the public, private sectors and civil society. It emphasises affirmative action for the youth as a strategy of participation and empowerment.

6.0 POLICY GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the policy is to promote youth participation in democratic processes as well as in community and civic affairs and ensuring that youth programmes engage the youth and are youth centred.

The Objectives of the policy are:

i. To sensitise national policy makers on the need to identify and mainstream youth issues in national development.

ii. To identify ways of empowering the youth in order to exploit their potential.

iii. To promote a culture of volunteerism among the youth;

iv. To explore and suggest ways of engaging the youth in the process of economic development;

V. To identify constraints that hinder the Kenyan youth from realising their potential;

vi. To propose ways of mentoring the youth to be just and morally upright citizens;

vii. To promote ethos of honest hard work and productivity; among the youth.

7.0 RIGHT, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE YOUTH

7.1 Rights of Youth

The NYP recognises the importance of youth to enjoy their youthfulness. Irrespective of social status, sex, the youth have a right to

i. Life;

ii. Meaningful education;

iii. Better health;

iv. Marriage at the legal age of consent;

v. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse;

vi. Seek meaningful employment;

vii. Adequate shelter, food and clothing;

viii. Freedom of speech, expression and association;

ix. Participate in the making of decisions that affect their lives;

x. Protection from social, economic and political manipulation;

xi. Individual ownership and protection of property;

7.2 Responsibilities and Obligation of the Youth
The rights of the youth in Kenya come with responsibilities/obligations. The Policy seeks to promote not only the rights of the youth, but also encourage them to understand and fulfill their responsibilities, to the development of society. In particular the youth will:

i. Be patriotic and loyal to Kenya and promote her well-being;
ii. Contribute to the social-economic development at all levels including through offering volunteer service;
iii. Create and promote respect for humanity, sustain peaceful co-existence, national unity and stability;
iv. Take steps to protect the environment;
v. Be engaged in supporting and protecting the disadvantaged and vulnerable members of society;
vi. Promote democracy and the rule of law;
vii. Create gainful employment;
viii. Take advantage of available education and training opportunities;
ix. Develop positive attitude towards work;
x. Avoid careless and irresponsible sexual engagements.
xi. Take responsible charge of their lives

7.3 Obligation of Adults and Parents

Strong relationships in the family inherited from forefathers have been eroding slowly. The social fabric has hitherto deteriorated. As a result there are visible signs of rebellion from the youth that will need to be addressed. The policy defines areas of obligations for parents and guardians, which include:

i. Promotion of responsible parenthood;
ii. Provision of positive role models to the youth;
iii. Provision of equal opportunities and access to family resources to the youth regardless of their sex;
iv. Provision of basic and material needs of the youth;
v. Provision of guidance and counseling to the youth;
vi. Training and socialising the youth into different skills;
vii. Provision of financial support to youth projects;
viii. Offer room for youth participation at all levels;
ix. Assisting the youth to reach their goals and full potential.

7.4 Obligation of the State

The state is obligated in every way to ensure that all its citizens are served to their expectation. Over and above this, the State should carefully plan and be involved in developing the youth to be responsible and available to contribute to the current and future nation building. Specifically, the state should:

i. Be the lead agent in supporting the implementation of the youth policy. This support shall cover all the other areas such as creation of sufficient employment opportunities to the youth, education and health facilities.
ii. Ensure that the youth enjoy their state rights;
iii. Provide necessary framework for young people to fulfill their obligation;
iv. Create a mechanism and opportunities for involvement of youth in internship.

7.5 Obligation of the Private Sector

The private sector shall take part in the overall job creation and employment of the youth; engage in entrepreneurial development; provision of information and transfer of technology and skills. As employers they should avoid exploitation of young people.

8.0 PRIORITY STRATEGIC AREAS

8.1 Employment Creation

Approximately 500,000 graduates from various tertiary institutions enter the job market annually. However, due to low economic growth, rampant corruption, nepotism and demand for experience by potential employees, majority of the youth remains unemployed. Employers have exposed the youth to underemployment and exploitation. The unemployment problem requires a change of law and provision of an enabling environment for youth to encourage self-help initiatives for self-employment. Interventions that need to be put in place include the following:

i. Reviewing the existing youth programmes to identify their level of operation with a view to make them relevant and responsive to the youth;

ii. Establishing and reviewing the existing youth resource centres for information, recreation and training activities at community level;

iii. Initiating and promoting programmes that encourage youth initiative in credit management and involvement in the co-operative movement;

iv. Reviewing employment and training policy to encourage companies to offer temporary employment, internship and volunteer opportunities to the youth to enable them gain experience

v. Private sector, CSO's and Government should encourage and promote initiatives from youth groups by providing them with necessary skills (technical and financial assistance) to build their capacity;

vi. Government, CSO's, Private Sector should support and initiate income generating activities by providing youth friendly micro-finance credit facilities;

vii. The Government, CSOs and other developmental partners should allocate funds specifically for youth entrepreneurs;

viii. Creating awareness on Labour laws and workers rights through civic education especially campaigns organised by youth organisation;

ix. Prosecuting employers who exploit and underpay youths and speed up the judicial process;

x. Promote specialisation of young people in diverse fields to create more job opportunities;

xi. Establish minimum quota for marginalized youths during recruitment in both public and private institutions;

xii. Establish marketing departments in all tertiary institutions that shall serve as centres for career development;

xiii. Encourage the establishment of Agricultural production and cottage industries in rural areas to promote the informal sector employment;
xiv. Encourage a culture of sacrifice, initiative taking, volunteerism, and hard work for social and moral responsibility among the youth;

xv. Encourage the government and the private sectors to develop business incubators and provide mentor ship to the youth.

8.2 Health

The uneven distribution of health services continues to widen disparities in affordability and access to medical care. Statistics indicate that 42% of the population has access to medical facilities within four (4) kilometers and 75 within eight (8) kilometers. Medical personnel are also very few to sufficiently address the health needs of the population let alone those of the youth. Currently there is one doctor for every 33,000 people in the rural area and 1,700 in the urban areas.

Health has become a major issue among the youth. Apart from the traditional health related issues such as Malaria, Tuberculosis and the more conservative sexually transmitted diseases, the exponential spread of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse have become of major concern.

The greatest health impact in the youth is observed in reproductive health. Some related problems and side effects include teenage pregnancies and abortion. Malaria and Acute Respiratory infections currently account about half of all visits to out patient facilities. Other diseases include skin infections, intestinal worms and diarrhoea diseases.

Research has shown that a large percentage of new HIV infection occurs among youths. Ages that are most affected are 25-29 for females and 30-34 for males. This age group constitutes the most productive segment of the population. The increased accessibility to pregnancy control drugs available over the counter used mostly by youth renders them more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) since they concentrate on prevention of pregnancy and overlook the risk of getting infected with HIV virus.

Current health services are not youth friendly. The youth health services should be approached holistically catering for preventive, curative and promotive aspects. There should be a deliberate effort to make health-related information accessible. In order to address these challenges the following strategic framework is proposed:

i. Incorporate youth representatives from youth based organisation experienced in HIV/AIDS to ensure the youth dimension to HIV/AIDS is clearly captured and addressed;

ii. Promote and support youth specific campaign programmes to enhance behavioural change in sexual behaviour, drug and substance abuse and peer influence;

iii. Promote and establish home and community based welfare programmes to address the needs of youths orphaned by HIV/AIDS

iv. Establish guidance and counseling units managed by youths in all schools and institutions;

v. Establishment of affordable drug-dependency reduction centres to rehabilitate youth addicted to drugs;

vi. Promote and enhance affordable or free counseling programmes on health-related issues especially peer to peer counseling in churches, mosques, and schools;

vii. Encourage parents to take a leading role in teaching and counseling on responsible sexual behaviour;

viii. Promote and support programmes on personal hygiene and physical fitness and mental health;

ix. Improve technical and institutional capacity for youth organisations/ CBOs to advocate and promote health programmes for youth;

x. Promote partnerships for government, CSO and private sector to work with the youth;
xi. Improve access to Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) services forall youth.

xii. Enhance capacity for youth in leadership and advocacy to manage youth health programmes.

xiii. Promote research in youth health areas and make findings accessible.

8.3 Education and Training

The 8-4-4 system of education was geared to imparting appropriate skills to enhance self-employment. However due to the high costs, poverty and lack of facilities, there has been high dropout rates with most of the youth dropping or graduating without the necessary skills. Teenage pregnancies have also contributed to the high drop out.

Training institutions in the country are inadequate and lack the essential facilities and technology to cope with the market trends, there is also prevalence of money minting tertiary vocational institution that have poor standards and facilities that exploit the youth.

There are also weak linkages between the training institutions mostly youth and village polytechnics and the informal (Jua Kali) sector leading to skills that are incommensurate with the market demand. Where youth polytechnics exist they are under-utilised. Technology in these polytechnics is rather old and need to be updated to meet the current needs. The youth in (Jua kali) informal sectors are quite often considered as failures rather than persons with special talents that can be developed. The following strategies will be pursued to address issues in education and training:

i. Pursue a curriculum that address the youth in their respective circumstances.

ii. Advocate for affordable and accessible quality primary, secondary and university education;

iii. Increase bursary provision for needy students;

iv. Provision and Improvement of existing training facilities for the youth;

v. Provide adequate mobile schools for those youth in arid and semi-arid areas.

vi. Put in place adequate special schools and rehabilitation centres to cater for youth in special circumstances.

vii. Promote non-formal education and in-service learning.

viii. Promote and encourage skills development of the youth through vocational training and life skills;

ix. Legislate and enforce re-admission of girls who drop out of schools due to pregnancy;

x. Strengthen the civic education component in school curricula.

xi. Developing strong linkages between education and training institutions to ensure that they offer relevant skills in line with market demand

xii. Protect Jua Kali innovations by patenting them.

xiii. Increase involvement of youths in education and training policy formulation and review.

xiv. Monitor the operations of the private training institution to uphold minimum academic and technical standards.

xv. Strengthening family life education in schools.

xvi. Create linkages between the education institutions and the private sector through developing of responsive and relevant research provision of internship opportunities and financing.
8.4 Sports and Recreation

Sport and Recreation are necessary for the psychological and physical development of the youth. It is a valuable means for personal development for the youth; promotes good health, personal discipline, and leadership and team skills. Sports provide a source of enjoyment and productive utilisation of leisure time that our youth have. Engagement in Sports as a recreation contributes to promotion of peace, unity and understanding among the youth and to a great extent reduces idling.

Sport and Recreation in Kenya are characterised by inadequate funds and facilities; lack of motivation and exploitation by sports organisations. Investment in sports and recreation has not reflected the importance it holds in society.

As a consequence of these constraints, the potential talents among the many youth have not been fully tapped. In view of this, the following broad strategies are proposed to address concerns of sports and recreation:

i. Establish and improve accessibility to recreation and sporting facilities in schools, communities, villages and provide them with trained personnel to assist in identifying and developing young people’s talents;

ii. Use sporting activities as a channel of advocacy and campaign for behavioural change in areas such as HIV/AIDS and drug abuse amongst the youth;

iii. The Ministry responsible for sports activities will liaise with youth organisations to ensure that sportsmen and sportswomen are protected from exploitation by clubs and sports agencies;

iv. Improve the remuneration given to sports persons who represent the Nation in various sporting disciplines;

V. Streamline the community dysfunctional National Youth Development Programme by creating awareness at community level; solicit funds and support from private sector, development partners and other stakeholders to make it more effective;

vi. Promotion of traditional games as way of recreation and culture preservation.

vii. Gazette of sporting facilities and recreational spaces.

viii. Encourage youth representation on sports decision-making bodies countrywide.

8.5 Environment

Environmental and natural resource degradation is a major challenge in Kenya’s development process. This degradation is mainly as a result of pollution, poor waste management, deforestation, water catchment destruction and desertification. With such environmental problems of deforestation, depletion of fish and other marine stock; pollution and poor conservation of fauna and flora, the environment is unable to assure the youth of a good quality of life in the future.

The need to conserve the environment for sustainable is becoming increasingly important. Many youth organisations continue to involve the youth in environmental issues such as tree planting, cleaning campaigns, drainage clearance, bio-diversity conservation, wildlife preservation campaigns and agro forestry activities.

The following strategies are recommended to address the issues of environment

i. Encourage use of alternative sources of energy to discourage deforestation;

ii. Promotion of environmental clubs for the youth;

iii. Strengthen the involvement of the youth in environmental conservation programmes and especially representation in committees at all levels.

iv. Establish linkages between environmental committees at district level with environmental clubs in schools;
V. Improve access to information at the local level by setting up resource centres, providing vocational training and disseminating environmental research work.

### 8.6 Arts and Culture

Art expresses the beliefs, values, appreciation, beauty of people's lives and an expression of people's culture. Art is found in a community's dressing, styles and ordinary everyday housing items. Art and culture go hand in hand and cannot be de-linked from each other. People's literature, graphic expression and other media reflect their culture.

Culture on the other hand is a definition of people, their lives, values, aspirations and beliefs. Culture reflects the livelihood of a people. It is by a culture that one can judge a community, the joys the pains, hopes, beliefs and values of a community. Culture does not exist in a vacuum. It has to spread among a people and it has to have acceptable standards. Culture is dynamic.

The Youths in Kenya find themselves at cross roads between the western culture and the remnants of traditional culture that has been watered down. In order to address issue on Arts on culture the following strategies are proposed:

i. Establishing more cultural centres to promote material and non-material aspects of our culture.

ii. Establishing Community Resource centres organisations to provide information on culture.

iii. Facilitate forums where the old and the young can exchange ideas/views;

iv. Promote and protect local arts and culture;

V. Lobby for more coverage of youth issues and of role models for the youth by the media;

vi. Lobby for affordability of the existing theatres or clubs to enable the youth to utilise them;

vii. Ensure investment in training, advancement, financing and empowerment of young artists; and

viii. Enforcement of the legislation to curb proliferation of obscene materials.

### 8.7 Youth and Media

Media is the mode of transmission of information from any source to recipients through word of mouth, radio, TV, Internet and the print media. Other forms of media include smoke signals, sign language, talking drums and Braille.

Although the decade of the 90's witnessed a proliferation of media houses, little positive impact has been registered in terms of behavioural changes particularly in the youth. Campaigns to address issues such as drugs, HIV/AIDS, employment problem that affects the youth have not been as strong and aggressive. The communication houses have not adequately focused on the need of youth. Few programmes and packages focus on the youth. The media can either be used to achieve great positive influence on the youth or cause grievous moral degradation. The youth have a right to access information that will improve their livelihoods, enabling them to effectively participate in development. Strategies to address this issue include:

i. Subsidising cost of production and airing of youth programmes that are of socio-economic development nature;

ii. Improving access to information to the youth.
8.8 Youth Empowerment and Participation

Youth empowerment is about partnership and ownership and providing resources pertaining to realising, dreams visions, and motivation that the youth already have. The process of involving the youth in planning, implementation, and evaluation, brings about a strong sense of belonging and ownership that essentially leading to sustainability and immense benefits of the programmes.
The youth are empowered when they acknowledge that they have or can create and make free choices in life, take action based on that decision and accept responsibility of the action. For this to happen a conducive environment should be in place. The environment includes: an Economic & Social base; political will, adequate resource allocation and supportive legal and administrative framework; a stable environment of equality, peace, and democracy; and access to knowledge, information, and skills, and a positive value system. Empowerment is also based on the belief that the youth are the best resource for promoting development and they are agents of change in meeting their own challenges and solving their own problems.

In the process of empowering the youth, managers, leaders, teachers, and parents should identify new ways of educating the youth on the future. The youth should no longer be taught what to learn, but how to learn, not what they are committed to but rather the value of commitment. Secondly, societal systems need to adopt an open and non-rigid societal norms. Thirdly, adults must change communication paradigm with the youth. They should engage in dialogue knowing the youth armed with knowledge of the future are empowered to act on their own initiatives. They should change from working for the youth to working with the youth.

To address the issues of youth participation, and empowerment, the following strategies are proposed:

i. Involving youth at all levels of governance in the decision-making process. Ensure that affirmative action for youth participation is in place at every level.

ii. Encourage free dialogue on economic, political, and social issues;

iii. Establishment of Micro-finance programmes to cater for the financial needs of the youth.

iv. Encouraging the youth to take up leadership positions.

v. Provide training in entrepreneurial, leadership, and management skills for youth and youth organizations.

vi. Encouraging the youth to stand against all forms of injustice and discrimination.

9.0 PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS

This policy document is a basis for developing opportunities for all the youth in Kenya. However, in addressing the needs of the youth, special attention shall be paid to certain groups. The identification and categorization reflect specific needs that need to be addressed. In each of the target areas, government and other youth serving organizations will give particular emphasis and attention.

9.1 Youth with Disability

Disability is not inability, although this leads to parents feeling ashamed of having disabled children. Young men and women with disability require specific strategies to ensure that they have adequate access and opportunities to participate fully in society. For many youth, a disability leads to rejection, isolation, and discrimination hindering their psychological and emotional development. Special measures will be put in place to ensure that their needs are adequately addressed. The policy adopts a developmental approach to youth with disabilities where human rights, participation, and inclusiveness are promoted. The policy advocates for greater awareness of the issues faced by young women and men who are mentally or and physically, visually, and/or hearing impaired.

9.2 Street Youth

Street youth refers to those who live and or work in the streets due to forced circumstances. Due to the breakdown of social fabric, street families have continued to increase. From street boys and girls we now have street youth and families. This caliber of people is specifically vulnerable devoid of any protection supervision or direction from responsible adults. The policy advocates for re-integration, rehabilitation of street youth in the communities and strengthening the family systems.
9.3 Youth Infected with HIV/AIDS

The age cohort 15-30 has been affected the most with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The youth are exposed to the HIV/AIDS due to biological, socio-cultural and economic factors. The high rate of teenage pregnancies, abortions, school drop outs and sexually transmitted diseases confirm that youth are engaging in early sexual activities, increasingly being exposed to HIV/AIDS. The policy advocates for community-based care and positive living for this target group.

9.4 Female Youth

The female youth constitute 52% of total youth. Sexual activity among the youth begins quite early in their life. Over 44% of girls between 15-19 years old have ever had sexual intercourse. Sex at this age has adverse effects on health and other socio-economic consequences. Studies have shown that most adolescent pregnancies (around 90%) are unplanned. High level of unprotected sexual activity exposes the female youth to the risk of contracting STD's including HIV/AIDS.

Low levels of education attainment coupled with social cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced early marriages among others face the female youth. These have led to low participation and representation of women youth in decision-making position and have lowered access to decision making. Traditional gender roles over burden the female youth, limiting their opportunities for progression and self-development.

9.5 The Unemployed Youth

Unemployment brings along with it social ills, such as participation in crime, alcohol and drug abuse. The vice requires attention by both government and non-governmental agencies. The unemployed youth should be provided with access to services and support programmes and opportunities for further training.

9.6 Out of School Youth

The out of school youth represents a special category of youth in terms of accessibility to socio-economic and other opportunities. The increasing disparity between the annual output of school leavers and the job creation in the economy has resulted to high unemployment levels among the youth.

Causes of unemployment have been identified to include the rapid population growth, as well as increased pressure on the carrying capacity of land. It is further exacerbated by imbalance of skills among the youth caused by the education system and over-reliance by Kenya's industries on foreign technologies.

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

The policy shall be implemented through an action plan that will detail the strategies, activities, target groups, time frame and the budget lines. The implementation of National Youth Policy will require involvement of all agencies concerned with youth matters. These include Government Ministries as the main agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations both local and international, private sector and various youth organisations. The Ministry responsible for youth affairs shall spearhead the overall policy implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review in addition to spearheading in mobilisation of resources necessary for the implementation of the policy. Partnerships within the different organisations will play a key role in achieving the goal of the policy objectives.

10.1 THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

To ensure effective implementation, the policy recognises the need to establish a National Youth Council
through an act of parliament. Among its mandates will be the co-ordination of youth serving organisations design and continuous review of the NYP and developing an "integrated national youth development plan" in collaboration with the ministry responsible for youth affairs. The council will act at an advisory, research and policy institution on youth affairs in the country.

Primarily, the National Youth Council will:

i. Promote and popularise the NYP;

ii. Ensure that structures are established and developed for effective implementation of the policy;

iii. Design key performance indicators and mechanisms to ensure adherence to policy.

The National Youth Council among other functions will perform the following:

i. Mobilise, sensitise and organise the youth of Kenya under one umbrella for political, economic and socio-cultural activities.

ii. Gainfully engage the youth in activities that are beneficial to them and the Nation at large.

iii. Advocate for and mobilise resources to support and fund youth council programmes and activities.

iv. Liase with development organisations to ensure that they gain access to resources, services and programmes.

V. Promote relations between youth organisations other bodies inside and outside Kenya with similar objectives or interests.

vi. Inspire and promote the spirit of unity, patriotism and volunteerism in the youth.

vii. Act as a voice and bridge to ensure that Government and other decision policy makers are kept informed of the views and aspirations of the youth.

The Policy also proposes the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee on youth comprising relevant ministries dealing with youth issues. The function of this committee is to monitor and review the implementation of the youth activities by various players in the Government as will be stipulated by the action plan.

The youth Policy shall be reviewed at last once in every five years and in line with other government policy statements.

11.0 CONCLUSION

The youth can no longer be termed as leaders of tomorrow, but of today. Their numbers have tremendously grown since 1969. Planning on the other hand cannot continue without involving the youth in all the sectors of the Economy; and especially those who are in difficult circumstances. The youth have a right to participate in issues that affect their life; have a right to explore their potentials. They also have responsibilities that must not be relegated to the older generations.

Consequently, this Policy seeks to provide opportunity for improving the quality of life of Kenyan Youth. It will cater for all categories of youth, vulnerable and those living in difficult circumstances. The policy seeks to promote youth participation in democratic processes as well as in community and civic affairs. It also advocates for creation of a supportive social, cultural, economic and political environment that will empower the youth to be partners in development.