FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF
NIGERIA

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY
AND STRATEGIC
PLAN OF ACTION

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Youths are the foundation of a society. Their energy, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pace of development and the security of a nation. Through their creative talents and labour power, a nation makes giant strides in economic development and socio-political attainments. In their dreams and hopes, a nation founds her motivation; on their energies, she builds her vitality and purpose. And because of their dreams and aspirations, the future of a nation is assured.

It is for this reason that the formulation and implementation of a viable Youth Development Policy is not only a moral responsibility but also an imperative for any well-meaning Administration. Previous governments in Nigeria attempted to address the issue of how best to harness the creative energies and dynamism of youths for overall national development. However, the strategies for implementation of some of those policies have not been observably effective, due to a variety of well-known reasons. The result is that a significant number of youths have become delinquents.

It is my conviction that youth constitute Nigeria's only real hope for a great future. I have therefore taken a critical look at the plight of Nigerian youth and caused to be prepared a consensus blue print for their development. Consultations were held nation wide with relevant youth organisations, administrators, and non-governmental organizations through Zonal Youth Summits. Their reconciled views form the basis of this Draft Policy Document which you are all hereto deliberate for final adoption.

The policy objectives enunciated in the Document will provide the guidelines for the strategies to be accepted in the systematic implementation and administration of the policy provisions. This revised National Youth Development Policy is aimed at capturing the Spirit, the Essence, the Purpose and the Charisma of our new National Youth Agenda.

Government will muster the political will to implement the Policy and will remain committed to the strategic plan of implementation outlined in this Document. All well-meaning Nigerians and stakeholders in youth affairs are enjoined to support our effort to realise the laudable Policy objectives which are designed to address the needs, problems and aspirations of our youths and, in so doing, build for Nigeria a lasting legacy of consistent development and ensure, for all, the great future of our dreams.
CHAPTER ONE

1.1 BACKGROUND

Youth are one of the greatest assets that any nation can have. Not only are they legitimately regarded as the future leaders; they are, potentially and actually, the greatest investment for a country's development. They serve as a good measure of the extent to which a country can reproduce as well as sustain itself. The extent of their vitality, responsible conduct, and roles in society is positively correlated with the development of their country.

Nigeria's population is predominantly young. Therefore, the present Administration, having given due consideration to the significance of the youth in socioeconomic and political development, has found it most desirable and necessary to initiate this National Youth Development policy so that there will be a purposeful, focused, well articulated and well directed effort aimed at tapping the energy and resourcefulness of the youth and harnessing them for the vitality, growth, and development of the country well into the 21st Century. This resolve and commitment to the development of the youth has been reinforced by resolutions of various international organisations which draw attention to the need to concretely address the problems of the youth and empower them, (e.g. The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment approved in May 1998).

The National Youth Development Policy is an official declaration of the importance of the youth in National development. It is indicative of the readiness of the Federal Government to meet the needs and aspirations of the youth as well as seek solutions to their problems. It sets guidelines for all stakeholders to empower the youth to realize their potentialities and take advantage of the opportunities available to make positive contributions to the well-being of their communities and the society as a whole.

The Policy takes into account the range of problems faced by the youth, anticipates the challenges that they are likely to confront and outlines appropriate objectives, policies, programmes and implementation plans which will be put in place so as to empower the youth to take charge of their own destiny as well as make them active participants in the shaping of the political and economic destiny of our nation. The Policy also recognizes that youths are not a homogeneous category and that differences exist among them. Therefore, the Policy contains provisions that will address the specific and special needs of each of several identified target groups.

Furthermore, the Policy is informed by the provisions of Chapters II (Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy) and IV (Fundamental Rights) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, provisions which demand the involvement of all Nigerians as equal partners and stakeholders in the task of building and developing our nation.

Finally, the Administration recognizes that the youth are a particular segment of the national population, that is sensitive, energetic, active and in the most productive phase of their life as citizens. Hence, the Government is committed to this progressive, creative and all-inclusive National Youth Development Policy to generate maximum expression of youthful creativity and productivity, ingenuity and freedom in the context of an appropriate environment for self-expression, self-sustenance and self-actualization by the youth.

1.2 Definition of Youth

The way in which a nation defines its youth is related to the objective conditions and realities that exist on XXXXXXXXXX Multiple Lines Missing XXXXXXXXXX persons of ages 18 to 35, who are citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This category represents the most active, the most volatile, and yet the most vulnerable segment of the population socio--economically, emotionally, and in other respects.

1.3 YOUTH PROFILE

The 1991 Population Census puts Nigeria's population at 88.9 million. At a growth rate of 2.8% per annum,
this was projected to be around 115 million in the year 2000. The country's population is predominantly young. For instance, six out of every ten Nigerians are under 25 years of age. The total population of those between the ages of 15 and 34 was about 30 million in 1991; equivalent to one of every three Nigerians; and of these, 14 million (47%) were males while 16 million (53%) were females. It XXX LINES MISSING XXXX about 38 million, with the male/female ratio almost one to one.

The 1991 Census indicates that the total population of those defined as youth in the Policy is 22.5 million, or one out of every four Nigerians and it was estimated to be around 28 million in 2000 (see Appendix I and II). This represents over 70% of all youths and adolescents of the ages 15-34. Forty-four percent (44%) of these are males while fifty-six percent (56%) are females. About 17 million of these, or 61%, live in the rural areas, while 11 million (or 39%) live in the urban areas, defined as settlements with a population over 20,000. Of these who live in the rural areas, 62% are females while 38% are males. In the urban areas, the gender distribution is fifty-fifty (see Appendix II).

However, being a vulnerable group with peculiar but un-met needs and aspirations, a majority of the youth faces problems, the highlights of which include the following:

- Inadequate parental care;
- Non-availability of suitable sports and recreational facilities;
- Moral decadence in the society;
- Lack of appropriate role models;
- Religious fanaticism;
- Cult activities
- Political manipulation of youth organisations;
- Unemployment and under-employment;
- Poor education;
- Breakdown of family values; and
- Indiscipline.

To these can be added mounting health and social welfare problems. For example, although between 43% and 53% of youths are sexually active, most lack adequate information and services to promote and protect their reproductive health.

There is also the rapid rate of increase of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV and AIDS. Youths are the most vulnerable to infection and to inadequate care and treatment.

Similarly, quite a number of the youth are afflicted by all kinds of disabilities. The 1991 census data indicate that one out of every three disabled persons is a young person. These range from the deaf, the dumb, the deaf and dumb, the blind, the crippled, to the mentally disordered. Rehabilitation and vocational training centers for the disabled are grossly inadequate and ill-equipped.

In terms of formal education, approximately 33% of all youths have no formal education. When differentiated according to gender, 45% of females have no formal education, while 55% of males have no formal education. Many of these youths without formal education are vulnerable to unemployment and underemployment as well as to socioeconomic exploitation and deprivation. About 50% of all those in the age category 15 to 34 years are not gainfully employed. Most of those with some knowledge of gainful employment are involved in informal sector, low-level income activities e.g. street hawking of wares and commodities, either for their parents and/or relatives, or for other traders from whom they earn meager commission or remuneration. Consequently, they are the pool from which youth labor is exploited, and they are susceptible to crime, delinquency, and other vices.

The range, extent and magnitude of the problems which confront the Nigerian youth require a committed and determined effort on the part of all stakeholders in order to help them achieve their potentiality and make them appropriate partners in the task of national development. And the problems need to be urgently addressed so that they can be adequately empowered and enabled to play active roles as participants in the shaping of their own destiny as well as in the building and development of the Nigerian nation.
1.4 ISSUES IMPINGING ON THE NIGERIAN YOUTH

It is the responsibility of the Government and other stakeholders to constantly identify and address the needs and problems of the youth with the full participation of the youth themselves. They need to be mobilized, engaged, enlightened, conscientized, reoriented, trained and involved.

In spite of attempts by successive regimes to improve their lot, the condition of the Nigerian youth still leaves a lot to be desired. A lot more needs to be done to empower them, re-energize them and get them seriously involved with the task of nation-building and socioeconomic development. Past attempts at addressing the problems of the youth were characterised by much rhetoric and little in terms of concrete action. Even the little that was being done lacked focus such that the result was marginal, when not counterproductive.

The nature of the sociopolitical and economic environment which had prevailed in the country imposed serious constraints in terms of meeting the needs and aspirations of the youth. Indeed, historically, it can be said that Nigerian youths have suffered more neglect than encouragement, and purposeful involvement by the Government. Contemporarily, they suffer from different kinds of socioeconomic deprivations and afflictions, which have been intensified with prolonged military rule and acute economic crisis. Thus, Government's efforts, when made, have generally tended to be too little too late. The institutional framework for, and plan-implementation mechanisms of, public policy have been very weak, inefficient and ineffective, such that they hardly ever facilitated the actualization of desired policy goals.

1.5 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH POLICY IN NIGERIA

Since independence in 1960, successive Nigerian governments have initiated programmes and projects aimed at the youth. These range from in-school education programme for physical and mental development of out-of-school programme aimed at shaping the character and behaviour of the youth, as well as promoting competitive spirit and national unity and integration. In-school programme include the formation of clubs, encouragement of sporting activities and other out-door activities, with discipline instilling organisations such as Boy Scouts, Girls Guide and Man O'War. Out of school efforts include facilitation of the emergency and development of voluntary self-help associations which contribute to community development, skills and vocational training programme, competitive activities and cultural festivals.

In the decades of 1970’s and 1980’s, the Federal Government elevated programme of Youth Development by the establishment of a Ministry of Youths and Sports for instance. Expanded revenue base of the State, arising from increased petroleum export earnings, resulted in the allocation of substantial resources in the funding of such programme. State Governments were encouraged to establish similar Ministries at their own level and to initiate their own youth, sports, culture and community development programmes.

At the Federal level, the National Youth Service Corps programme was launched in 1973, to promote national unity and integration and expose graduates of tertiary institutions to leadership roles and community development projects before joining the job market. The Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre, Shere Hills, Jos, was developed and made to intensify its short-duration programmes and courses for youth with potentials for leadership. National sports and cultural festivals were also organised in the 1970's and 1980's as fora for the search, identification and encouragement of talent amongst the youth.

However, the first attempt to introduce a National Youth Policy was in 1983. This was followed with the drafting of an inclusive Social Development Policy for Nigeria in 1989, providing the basis for a review of the first Policy on Youth. Regrettably, by the early 1990’s, these commendable efforts aimed at youth development started to suffer tremendous neglect. Besides, the policy attempts hardly provided a concrete framework for addressing the heightened problems confronting the youth. This was partly because the implementation mechanisms of the policy were weak and ineffective, and also partly because the macro-economic and sociopolitical environment was not conducive.

Thus, in the 1990's youth development came to be increasingly equated with sporting activities and competition. Even then, these were not given the necessary policy and material support that they required. Programmes for civic education and leadership training suffered a serious set-back. The issue of empowerment was hardly ever addressed. The Federal Government dismantled the Ministry of Youths and Sports, and many State Governments followed suit. Consequently, by the late 1990's it had become evident that Nigerian youths are probably the most neglected by their government, compared to youths in other countries. This was illustrated by growing unemployment and underemployment of the youth, heightened involvement of youths in crimes and
delinquency, an increase of preventable diseases and other health related problems among the youth, declining school enrolment and drop-out rates, and so on.

Clearly, the prevailing situation should not, and cannot, be allowed to continue, as a nation can only afford to neglect the growth and development of its youth at its own peril. With the return of power to a democratically elected civilian government, some of the constraining factors which have prevented a serious effort at policy formulation and implementation have been reduced, and a conducive atmosphere now exists for the development of a new policy for our youth. Hence, the Administration embarked on a review of the previous policies, and the development of this new National Youth Development Policy.

1.6 OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY

In causing to be prepared a consensus blueprint for youth development, the Administration recognises the youths of the nation as constituting the most vital resources for national development. If correctly guided, adequately mobilized and fully integrated into the fabric of society, they will bring to national development a great reservoir of energy, resourcefulness, creativity, and dynamism; they can also constitute a threat to national stability, even survival, if allowed to drift, remain unemployed, and misguided.

The Administration also recognises that the ability and capacity of the youth to derive benefits from, and contribute to, national development depend essentially on the political will of Government, the legitimacy and credibility of the National Youth Development Policy, as well as the appropriateness and adequacy of the institutional arrangements it puts in place to administer the policy and programmes.

administrators, non-governmental bodies, and other stake-holders nation-wide; and attempts to government and parents, are enumerated. Also stated are key strategic areas of thrust of the Policy, such is youth empowerment, youth socialization / education / training, youth recreation / sports, youth employment, and youth organisation. Priority target groups of youths are identified and appropriate priority programme areas firmly indicated.

Finally, unlike in previous attempts, this Policy provides for appropriate enabling legislative, institutional, budgetary/funding and monitoring and evaluation framework for its effective implementation.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 VISION, MISSION, VALUES, SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 VISION STATEMENT

The vision of this policy is one of a positive future role of the youth in national socio-economic development. It is the vision of empowered Nigerian youths to fully realize their potentialities and positively contribute to the overall development of Nigeria.

2.2 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the policy is to build a youth with a sense of hope, self-confidence, imagination, creativity and pride in the nation's heritage; youth who represent hope in the future of Nigeria; youth who are disciplined, well-focused, law-abiding and good citizens; youth full of the spirit of entrepreneurship, self reliance, mutual cooperation, understanding and respect; youth who are not corrupt and self-serving; youth with equality of opportunity, free from gender and other forms of discrimination, exploitation and abuse; youth who imbibe a culture of democracy and good governance; youth who take pride in our diverse cultural heritage and geographic conditions; and youth committed to the ideal of national unity and development as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

2.3 VALUES

The National Youth Development Policy is guided by the following value systems which are enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic Nigeria.

- Social' Justice
- Equality of Opportunity
• Transparency and Accountability
• Self-reliance and Selflessness
• Hard-work and Entrepreneurship
• Unity and Cooperation
• Respect for Human Rights
• Democracy and Good Governance

2.4 SCOPE
A set of clear, firm and formal statements of objectives, targets, programmes and plans of action on the general status, role, well being, growth and development of the youth as a distinct socio-economic category in contemporary Nigerian society, this policy encompasses the processes of continuous improvement of the structures, institutions and programmes designed to create conditions for the propagation, protection and advancement of the rights of the youth, the enhancement of their welfare, and the provision of opportunities for their self-actualisation.

2.5 OBJECTIVES
• The National Youth Development Policy will pursue and seek to fulfill the following objectives:
• Ensure that all youths are given equal opportunities and guided to reach their full potentials.
• Recognize the rights of youths choose, to make decisions and accept the consequences of their actions
• Foster appropriate values and positive attitudes among youths
• Inculcate in the Nigerian youth the virtues of patriotism discipline selfless service honesty and integrity
• Inculcate in the youths leadership and followship values and make them socially responsible and accountable.
• Involve youths in decision making at all levels of government in all matters affecting them.
• Develop and implement a comprehensive programme for youth socialisation so that they can become good and productive citizens.
• Provide opportunities for youths, whether in, or out of school, for vocational training geared towards self-employment and self-reliance.
• Seek and offer solutions to youth problems such as drug abuse and addiction, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, cultism, examination malpractices, etc.
• Inculcate in the youths the spirit of adventure, resourcefulness and inventiveness.
• Promote the development of individual talents and infuse the youths with a keen sense of inquiry and achievement.
• Organise and harness the energies of the youth in the service of their neighbourhoods and communities
• Encourage youth to join voluntary, community-oriented youths organisations and participate actively in their programmes.
• Facilitate interaction between Nigerian youth organisations and similar regional and international organisations.
• Establish and sustain the operations of appropriate structures that will create a healthy and responsible youth fora.
• Advocate, provide and protect the legal, constitutional, and legislative instruments as well as the
CHAPTER THREE

This policy recognizes that Nigerian youth have rights as well as obligations, just as the government and parents have obligations towards the youth, all of which need to be taken together, nurtured and promoted in the overall interest of national development.

3.1 RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH

The rights, responsibilities and obligations of the Nigerian youth are contextualized in the provisions of chapter four of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which itemize the fundamental human rights of Nigerian citizens, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights. This policy subscribes to all the rights guaranteed by the 1999 Nigerian Constitution and by other international Charters, Covenants, and/or Conventions to which Nigeria is a signatory.

Among the most important of these rights which the youth shall equally enjoy are the following:

- Freedom of opinion and expression.
- Freedom of thought and religion.
- Freedom of association.
- Freedom of movement.
- Right of security of life and property.
- Right to proper education and training.
- Right to leisure, cultural and sporting activities.
- Right to equal opportunities in employment and access to social services.
- Right to adequate shelter, health-care, social and food security.
- Right to be protected from any form of harassment and degrading, cruel and inhuman treatment, and torture.
- Right to protection against the dangers of substance abuse, alcoholism, sexual harassment and exploitation, HIV/AIDS, secret cults, and gender discrimination.
- Right to participate in decision making in matters that affect them.
- Right to privacy, family life and non-interference in personal matters such as correspondence.
- Right to a good and clean environment.
- Right to equal protection under the law.
- Right to participate in National Development including matters that affect them.
- Right to be protected against harmful traditional practices.
- Right to survival and social, economic and cultural development.
- In the case of the disabled, the right to be provided with the special treatment which his/her condition requires

3.2 OBLIGATIONS OF THE YOUTH

Every set of rights that a person has a corresponding set of obligations. In order to make Nigerian youths tolerant, caring, responsible, and productive citizens, the policy outlines the following set of obligations to active participation of the youth in the MISSING TEXT conditions of the Nigerian people:
• Promotion and defence of democracy and civility in the governance of the country and in inter-personal relations with fellow citizens.

• Eschewing ethnic and religious bigotry.

• Eschewing all acts of violence and crimes, such as cultism, armed robbery, street violence, alcoholism, substance abuse, prostitution, and so on.

• Promotion of the principle of gender equality

• Active involvement in the promotion of national unity, national reconciliation, peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness.

• Promotion of self-help, self-respectability, cooperation and community development. Promotion of values of tolerance and responsible conduct.

• Conservation and promotion of the environment against pollution and degradation. Respect for and promotion-of all symbols of National unity, such as the flag, the national pledge and the national anthem.

• Promotion of a healthy, responsible and respectable lifestyle free from communicable diseases, alcohol and drugs.

• Strive to be law abiding and respectable and enlightened citizens, knowledgeable about their rights as well as duties and obligations.

• Active involvement in the promotion of national unity and national development.

• Strive to be actively involved in decision making on matters that affect them.

• Be good ambassadors of Nigeria abroad, and promote international peace and harmony.

3.3 OBLIGATIONS OF GOVERNMENT, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TOWARD THE YOUTH

The government, parents and guardians have obligations to ensure that youth are empowered to discharge their obligations to society. The policy accepts that they have a responsibility to create the enabling environment for the right kind of orientation, education and psychological conditioning for the youth. Their obligations include the following:

• Provide conducive atmosphere for the mental, emotional and physical development of the young persons.

• Nurture the youth in warmth and affection in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

• Constantly provide counseling, support and guidance in accordance with their specific and personal needs.

• Provide shining role models for the youths through responsible and ethical conduct and leadership by example.

• Create opportunities for the youth to be involved in making decisions that affect them, the environment and society.

• Teach human rights values, social justice, equity, fairness and gender equality.

• Recognise their capacities, their individualities, according to age and maturity, and allow whenever possible their choice of educational fields and careers.

• Provide adequate funding for education and equal opportunities to be educated.

• Provide adequate funding for sustainable youth development projects.

CHAPTER FOUR
4.1 INTRODUCTION
The formulation of this National Youth Development Policy is predicated upon a proper identification of priority areas of concern which would remedy the peculiar problems that the youth face, satisfying their needs as well as, empower them to achieve self-realization, positively contribute to national development, and be patriotic. These areas of policy concern are categorized into three.

MISSING TEXT

4.2 PATHWAYS
4.2.1 EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING
MISSING TEXT
The provision of educational opportunities for youth is a fundamental prerequisite for building a strong, just, equitable, stable, viable, and vibrant nation. This is in respect of both formal and non-formal education, basic, as well as technical and vocational education, as learning takes place in and out of school environments. A significant percentage of Nigerian Youths is illiterate, and their education needs should be adequately and urgently catered for, particularly in the educationally less developed states.

Furthermore, there is the need to expand enrollment and significantly increase the percentage of transition from the primary to secondary as well as secondary to tertiary levels of the education sector. Given the importance of education, the Policy places an emphasis on quality and relevance of education as well as, on accessibility and equity in educational provision. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme will actualize these and make it possible for education to be compulsory and free for all youth and up to secondary level. Other important areas of youth education, which the policy addresses include the following:

- Provision of specialized education programmes and institutions to cater for the needs of those with disabilities
- Provision of qualitative education in schools, which should enhance creativity, self-development and prospects for self- and gainful employment for the youth.
- Provision of vocational training for the youth to make themselves-reliant and employable citizens.
- Expansion of non-formal literacy programmes to capture young persons as well as adults.
- Guarantee of equitable access to educational opportunities irrespective of sex, ethnic background, religious-belief, geographic location or social and economic circumstances.
- Reform of the curriculum of secondary schools and tertiary institutions with a view to establishing an appropriate symmetry between formal education and the requirements of the job market as well as establishing appropriate linkage between tertiary institutions and industries.
- Missing Text
- Promotion of health services and sex education and family planning techniques.
- Elimination of child-labour and early parenthood.
- Promotion of basic and compulsory computer literacy programmes at all levels

4.2.2 GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT
Empowering the capacity of youths for gainful employment is another area that is given priority by the Policy. Gainful employment is one of the most important avenues through which the youth add value to the development of their country. The transition from adolescence to youth and to full adulthood will be circumscribed by the principle of creating job opportunities for them, so that they can become productive and useful adults. The provision of employment opportunities and work experience for the youth will, to a large extent, lessen dispositions to crime, armed robbery, and other youth-related vices in society. Thus the Policy is anchored on the efficacy of preparing the youth for accessibility to gainful and sustainable self-employment and other employment opportunities in the country.

The Policy recognizes the societal problems associated with unemployment and underemployment, and
strives to create conditions and opportunities for creatively addressing these problems. Specifically, it will actualise the following with regard to employment generation and the development of entrepreneurial skills through training:

- Strengthening the capacity of existing institutions that provide training for skills and entrepreneurial development.
- Empowering civil society groups to complement government institutions in the area of training and skill development for gainful employment.
- Creating avenues for providing work experience for youths with a view to promoting and developing desirable work ethics and culture for national development.
- Creating and equipping additional institutions that can provide special training for youths with disabilities, as well as soft credit facilities for trained ones to enable them start off on their own.
- Creating a social security programme that would enable youths of the ages 18-35 years who can not find gainful employment for no fault of theirs to get government financial assistance for a specified period during which they are looking for employment.

4.3 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES
There are issues that pertain to individual well-being of youth and to which the Policy attaches great importance. They include healthcare, sports and recreation, arts and culture and the environment.

4.3.1 HEALTHCARE
Healthy mind and body are basic requirements for the survival of the youth and their positive contribution to national endeavours. The main objective of the health component of the Policy on Youth is to enhance youth accessibility to basic hygiene, healthcare and health education. It is aimed at providing information, education and safe-guards against preventable and communicable diseases such as sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV and AIDS to which youths are most vulnerable. Encouragement of healthy recreation activities and the improvement of recreation facilities will be aimed at developing the mind and expanding its horizon in terms of intelligence, experience and creativity. Specifically, the policy provides for the following:

- Establishment of Drug-free Clubs

4.3.2 SPORTS AND RECREATION
Sports and recreation greatly facilitate and enhance both physical and mental growth and development of the youth. The objective of the Policy on these issues is to develop and promote a mentally fit, alert, and physically strong and agile Nigerian youth that can favourably compare with any group of youths in the world. It is also aimed at promoting competitive spirit and the value of team-work, through sporting competitions. Therefore, the Policy places emphasis on the development of sports and other recreational activities, the provision of infrastructure and facilities for these, and the creation of a conducive environment for healthy competitive sports both within the country and abroad. In particular, the Policy will pursue the following:

- Expansion and development of sporting and recreational facilities and related infrastructures in educational institutions and in the community.
- Promotion of sporting competitions to motivate the youth and drive them towards excellence in educational institutions and in the community.
- Encouragement of sporting events and facilities for youths with disabilities.
- Inculcation of the value of sports and leisure as productive alternatives to aimlessness, idleness, drug abuse and crimes.

4.3.3 ARTS AND CULTURE
The promotion of arts and culture is an important vehicle for appreciating and respecting the good aspects of our heritage since no society could afford to discard its cherished past and traditional values: they represent the sense
of identity, self-respect and path through which generations learn the skills and techniques of social relations, survival, and societal regeneration. On this issue, the Policy will introduce programmes aimed at inculcating in our young ones the need to appreciate and respect the good aspects of our cultural heritage, such as respect and concern for the elderly, being 'our brothers' keeper', concern for the disabled, the disadvantaged and the less fortunate in the society, as well as the values of self-help, hard work, cooperation and respect for one another. In this respect, the Policy seeks to do the following:

- Promote the teaching of our cultural heritage in schools.
- Encourage artistic and cultural activities among the youth of Nigeria and other countries.
- Promote understanding of, and respect for, our diverse cultural differences.
- Encourage the utilization of the good aspects of our cultural values to serve as the ingredients for national integration and unity.
- Promote competition among the youths so that their artistic talents can be nurtured and developed.
- Encourage the establishment of schools of music and theatre arts.

4.2.4 ENVIRONMENT

The National Youth Development Policy is environment friendly. It provides for the inculcating of the virtues of environmental preservation, protection and conservation among the youth. The aim is to encourage them to play active leadership roles in improving the environment and the ecosystem. The policy will:

- Promote programmes and projects that create awareness among the youth of the dangers of pollution and environmental degradation.
- Encourage the participation of the youth in programmes that are aimed at cleaning the environment of pollutants such as polythene bags and rubbish dumps.
- Encourage the participation of youths in dealing with the problem of desert encroachment and soil erosion, through tree planting and other effective and creative methods.
- Encourage the establishment of environment protection clubs by youths.

4.4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ISSUES

4.4.1 CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP TRAINING

The need for civil and law abiding citizens as a necessary condition for societal development cannot be over--emphasised. Such citizenry are not only aware of their rights and obligations, they also become actively engaged in the political affairs of their country, both in building and in national economic development. This National Youth Development Policy places emphasis on the training of youths for leadership and citizenship responsibilities for national unity and development. Specifically, the objectives of the Policy with regard to civics, citizenship and leadership training are to:

- Produce a purposeful and well focused youth who internalize the virtues of the positive aspects of our societal values, ethics and culture.
- Nurture youths that will have a deep sense of responsibility; civility and discipline, and the capacity for self-sacrifice, hard work, creativity and originality in dealing with public and national issues.
- Promote the emergence, growth and development of youth with good leadership qualities, sense of equity and social justice, and a disposition towards active participation and cooperation with respect to public and national issues.
- Inculcate the universal values of democracy and good governance among the youth, in order to systematically undo the damaging impact of militarism on their psyche arising from prolonged military rule.
- Devote a significant proportion of the period of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme to leadership and citizenship training and community development activities.
4.4.2 PARTICIPATION IN SELF-HELP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

One of the good pillars of our traditional societies is the principle of self-help and cooperation in developing our communities. Our societies have along and cherished tradition of mass participation in decision making and implementation on matters that affect our collective well-being. The youth have occupied a unique position in this endeavour.

As the youth clearly represent a core asset in our effort to improve the living and working condition of our people, this Policy will promote the spirit of youth involvement and participation in decision making in all matters that affect their well-being as well as encourage and support all programmes that are aimed at involving them in the task of national development, promoting national unity and community development using voluntary self-help associations.

5.0 TARGET GROUPS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Nigerian youths broadly experience similar problems and share similar aspirations and concerns. However, it is also a fact that there are different categories of youth with different and peculiar sets of concerns and problems. Similarly, there are some categories of youths with special circumstances or problems, which require concerted, focused, and well targeted attention.

Accordingly, and having due regard to current socioeconomic and political realities, the Policy identifies target groups for particular attention: students in post-primary schools; students in tertiary institutions; out of school, unemployed youth; female adolescents youths with disabilities; youths with health problems; youths engaged in substance abuse, cultism, crime and delinquency.

5.2 STUDENTS IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS (THE PRE-YOUTH)

The focus of the Policy with respect to those who are of the age category of 12-17 years, is to provide equitable access to relevant and qualitative education for them so that by the time they attain the age of 18 years, they would have been adequately prepared to face the challenges of youth proper. This entails expansion of enrollment and adequate provision of classrooms, trained teachers, instruction materials, and curricula that can produce well-informed, enlightened, responsible, intellectually able, vocationally-skilled, mentally sound and physically competent young citizens. It also entails, in the short and medium term, compulsory and free educational opportunities at this level, to prepare them adequately for entry into tertiary institutions and/or for gainful employment. Additionally, there is recognition of the need to create an enabling environment to facilitate and enhance the learning process in the critical fields of humanities, science and technology and the environment.

For this pre-youth group, the Policy will achieve the following:

- Promotion of extra-curricular activities through voluntary associations and clubs, such as societies for Debating, Current Affairs, Historical and Cultural Affairs and established organisations such as Boy Scouts, Red Cross and Crescent, Girls Guide, Boys Brigade, etc.
- Promotion of games and sports, both recreational and competitive, for healthy mental and physical development.
- Reintroduction of moral instructions, civics and civility, in the curricula.
- Promotion of the teaching of science and technology, as well as the teaching of vocational skills in agriculture and technical trades.
- Provision of career guidance and counselling.
- Promotion of quality education and discipline for both staff and students with the involvement of parents.
- Enforcement of enrollment and retention of girls in schools.
- Introduction of sex, reproductive and health education, especially for female students who have to cope with problems peculiar to them.
• Establishment of HIV/AIDS Awareness Clubs and encouragement of membership therein.

5.3 STUDENTS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS
With respect to this category of youth, who are predominantly in the age category of 18-35 years, the Policy seeks to prepare them for gainful employment and significant leadership and citizenship roles in social, political and economic development of the country.

The current state of tertiary education is a matter of major concern which the Policy addresses. The absence of a conducive teaching and learning environment has to some extent compromised the standard of education in our tertiary institutions. Thus the Policy focuses attention on improving the quality of education and existence for this category of students. Highly skilled and well-educated and trained manpower in all fields of human endeavour is an important asset that no nation can do without. Hence the curricula must keep pace with the ever changing modern information technology in this era of globalization to enable the country to gain a competitive advantage in the global economy. Hence, the following Policy provisions:

• Provision of assistance to indigene students.

• Promotion of the use of new information technology in all aspects of teaching and learning in tertiary institutions.

• Development of critical fields of knowledge in basic and applied science and technology.

• Reforming the teaching of General Studies programmes so that they place necessary emphasis on imparting good citizenship and leadership values and skills.

• Introduction of effective schemes to deal with the problems of cultism, gang-related violence and other vices in these institutions on a continuous basis.

• Promotion of democratic student unionism to serve as launching grounds for the training of youths in leadership roles and democratic culture.

5.4 OUT-OF-SCHOOL, UNEMPLOYED AND UNDEREMPLOYED YOUTH
For this category of youth, regardless of age, the Policy provides the opportunity to acquire the skill needed for gainful employment and be productive persons who will add value to the development of the society. It will introduce programmes and projects that can empower this category of youth for both self-employment and other modes of gainful occupation. Specifically, the Policy will:

Establish data bank of all out-of-school, unemployed and under employed youth.

Promote programmes for skill acquisition for the unemployed youths organised by such government institutions as the National Directorate for Employment, as well as by voluntary non-governmental organisations.

Promote programmes that provide financial and/or material assistance to trained but unemployed/under employed youths so that they can become gainfully self-employed.

Create public works programmes through which the government can provide work experience and skills training as well as temporary employment opportunities for youth.

Create a social security programme to assist unemployed youths lessen their burden of meeting basic needs for a specified period, as well as prevent them from resorting to criminal activities to cope with the burden of unemployment and underemployed.

5.5 FEMALE ADOLESCENT YOUTH
The right of the girl-child has long been a major problem of concern and deserves priority attention. Many of this category of young persons have been victims of sexual harassment, physical violence and abuse, labour exploitation, gender discrimination, as well as negative attitudes and cultural practices. The Policy therefore seeks to protect - and promote the interest and aspirations of the female adolescent-youth so as to restore their dignity and motivate them to contribute as equal partners in the task of national development. Specifically, the
Policy will achieve the following:

- Establishment, improvement and promotion of both in-school and out-of-school programmes that are aimed at ending gender-based discrimination and promoting the rights and dignity of the female adolescent-youth.
- Promotion of programmes that are aimed at addressing the peculiar social, educational, health and reproductive problems of women in general.
- Elimination of harmful traditional practices that affect women generally and in particular, the female adolescent youth.
- Encouragement of female enrollment and education, especially in science-and technology, using a scheme of incentives and rewards, as well as legally punitive measures for non-compliance by parents or guardians.
- Promotion of skills and leadership training aimed specifically at empowering female youths for self-and gainful employment as well as for greater participation in, and contribution to, community and national development.
- Provision of packages of financial and/or material assistance to female youths who have undergone training and have acquired skills for self-and sustainable employment.
- Elimination of all forms of discriminatory practices against employment of females in all sectors of the national economy.

5.6 YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR HEALTH PROBLEMS

All persons with disabilities have fundamental rights that need to be protected by Government and the society. The society owes a special responsibility towards those with mental and physical disabilities but particularly to youths with such disabilities or with chronic, terminal, and communicable diseases. The policy creates opportunities for taking care of the special needs of this category of youth, so that they may not feel left out, abandoned, useless, and hopeless. The opportunities are to be provided in the following ways:

- Provision of disability related facilities and scholarship for the education and vocational training.
- Promotion and adequate funding of programme.
- Promotion of programmes that can empower youths with disabilities to positively contribute to national development
- Establishment of healthcare institutions and rehabilitation centres to provide for the needs of this category of youth
- Establishment of healthcare institutions and rehabilitation centers to provide for the needs of this category of youths and the encouragement of such establishment of non-governmental organizations
- Promotion of public enlightenment programmes which provide knowledge and awareness about the dangers of STDs and HIV/AIDS.
- Encouragement of indigenous researchers to come out with creative solutions aimed at addressing the problems of this category.
- Encouraging avenues for the marketing of products of disabled youths.

5.7 YOUTH IN CRIME AND RELATED PROBLEM AREAS

The increasing involvement of the youth in substance abuse, violent crimes, cultism and armed robbery, is a disturbing phenomenon. These social vices are, to a considerable extent, products of our depressed economy, political repression and instability under military rule, and the systematic abandonment of the positive aspects of our cherished cultural values and traditions. To reverse this trend, the Policy provides opportunities and incentives which can discourage and dissuade the youths, concerned from such social vices and criminal conduct...
and motivate them towards law-abiding conduct and greater responsibility.

Thus, the Policy provides for the following:

- Enlightenment programmes on the dangers of substance abusers, cultism, other forms of crime and delinquency.
- Establishment of rehabilitation centres for chronic substance abusers and drug addicts, as well as for juvenile offenders.
- Promotion of guidance and counseling for the youth, especially using Youth Development Centres to address the needs of out-of-school youths.
- Provision of education, skill-training and gainful employment opportunities for youths in juvenile correctional institutions.
- Provision of aftercare facilities for ex-inmates of correctional institutions.
- Observers of the UN standard minimum rules for the treatment of offenders.
- Ensuring speedy trials for youth offenders.

5.8 TALENTED/GIFTED YOUTH

There are many creative, gifted and talented youth whose vast potentialities are not being adequately harnessed and utilised for national development. The policy therefore provides encouragement for this category of youth:

- Development of an effective process of identifying talented youth.
- Encouragement of all talented youth through adequate incentives and facilities to assist them actualize their potential.

CHAPTER 6

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to achieve declared objectives and effectively and adequately address the needs and problems of target groups identified in Chapter 5, this National Youth Development Policy outlines definitive plans of action for the execution of programmes emanating from the objectives and related provisions. Here, it is important to point out that while the Federal government will provide direction and leadership, other stakeholders such as local and state governments, non-governmental organisations, and private-sector entities must play their assigned partnership roles.

6.2 ON YOUTH RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT

6.2.1 PROGRAMMES

Human rights education for youths in educational institutions, youth out of school, and for young workers.

Gender-sensitivity campaigns.

Formal and informal enforcement of human rights of the youth Training for self-improvement and self reliance.

Civics and Leadership orientation in tertiary institutions.

Mechanisms for conflict resolution amongst students and between students and the various school authorities.

Systematic and sustained publicity and dissemination of youth activities. Identification and Promotion of role models for the youth.

Talent search, discovery, nurturing, training and development, including a system of reward for talented and inventive youths.

6.2.2 PLAN OF ACTION

Government will recognise human rights organizations and support them to organise periodic human rights lectures, seminars, drama sketches, concerts, etc., in all the zones of the country.
School curricula in primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions will be modified to include human right and conflict resolution.

Government and human rights organisations will publicise youth rights through billboards, the media, the theatre, leaflets, educational materials, seminars and lectures.

Gender sensitivity campaigns will be an active component of all human rights education programmes, and the mass media will be encouraged to play sensitisation roles in the campaigns.

Government will provide opportunities and avenues for self improvement and self-reliance

Governments will encourage students’ union activities by creating fora for regular consultation between students and the school management.

The mass media will be required to demonstrate a strong commitment to the provision of coverage and feedback on all youth development activities.

Annual youth talent fairs will be organised in the arts, crafts, music, science and technology and private organizations, appropriate government agencies, youth organizations, and NGOs will be encouraged-to organise fairs in particular fields e.g. information technology, motor engineering and astronomy.

Existing formal and informal/practical training opportunities for talented youths will be identified and strengthened.

6.3 ON YOUTH SOCIALISATION, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

6.3.1 Programmes

- Moral and ethical instructions by religious and community leaders in schools and a community/village gatherings.
- Role-modeling in all aspects of human endeavour and support for youth organisations, schools organised communities and NGOs in this regard.
- Reproductive education and premarital orientation.
- Community youth development clubs, village and cultural festivals.
- Inculcation of the values and norms of democratic culture, respect for human right, civility selflessness, patriotism, transparency and accountability, and environmental friendliness.
- Village Mobile Broadcast Systems.
- Universal Basic Education Scheme (UBE), with particular regard to expanded curriculum interactive social clubs, technical/vocational education, retraining of teachers, and extra-curricula activities
- Book Development Scheme
- Library facilities and electronic interconnectivity.
- Science, Technology and Industrial Development training.
- Vocational Training for physically and mentally challenged.

6.3.2 PLAN OF ACTION

- Encouragement of the establishment of National Rebirth Clubs, as well as other such clubs/organisations in all schools in the country to preach ethics and morals and execute campaigns against social vices.
- Encouragement of youth programmes in churches, mosques and other religious facilities.
- Encouragement of religious leaders and the youths to advise and guide them on their different roles in community and national development.
- Government will support voluntary organisations such as Girls Guide, Boys' Scout, Man '0' War, Boys/Girls Brigade in their extracurricular and school programmes.
• Promotion of the teaching of Civics, Government, History, Geography and Nigerian Languages, moral and religious studies and Entrepreneurial skills in all schools.

• Reactivation of extra-curricular activities as part of the school curriculum e.g. Debating Society, Chess Club, Drama Club, Music Club, etc. and creation of access for pupils into Youth Development Centres as part of extra-curricular activities.

• Directive on basic and compulsory computer literacy programmes at all levels of education in Nigeria.

• Promotion of reproductive education and family planning techniques in schools.

• Reorganisation of the guidance and counselling initiatives in all educational institutions, as well as the establishment of career advisory departments or units in all schools.

• Revamping of Technical/Vocational Schools.

• Re-training of Teachers to understand and appreciate the spirit of the new Youth Policy and their roles therein.

• Co-operation of religious leaders particularly CAN, MSN, SCMAN, NIREC, will be sought to develop youths by teaching morals, values, ethics, etc. in their respective Churches and Mosques, etc.

• Establishment of National Book Development Centre to be operated by the National Youth Development Agency in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, international donors, the private sector and to design and produce books to reflect the curricula indicated in this Policy.

• Appropriate and adequate stocking of libraries in all institutions and the introduction of compulsory library hours into school curriculum to improve reading and comprehension skills. Encouragement of the spirit of research through excursions and practical training.

• Incorporation of environmental studies into the school curricula to assist youths to become environmentally conscious and friendly.

• Promotion of access to free education as stipulated by Universal Basic Education and provision of opportunities for scholarship grants and a free choice of educational institutions.

• Encouragement of Parents Teachers Association to play very important roles in the education of youths and be involved in setting up social events in schools.

• Encouragement of science and technology education through the provision of practical equipment; incentives for tutors and brilliant students in science and technology; involvement of NGOs in the provision of technology training aids and intro-tech equipment; and the revamping of ailing facilities in Universities and Technical Research Institutions.

6.4 ON YOUTH SPORTS, RECREATION AND HEALTH

• Development and/or strengthening of Recreation Sports and Centres, Parks and Gardens, Holiday Camps/Resorts, as well as sports institutes and football academies.

• Training programmes for sports and games.

• School curricula for physical education and sports in primary and secondary schools and higher institutions.

• School-curricula for health education.

• Inter-Club and Inter-School school sports competitions

• Sports talent hunt among youth organisations and schools from local, state to federal levels

6.4.2 PLAN OF ACTION.

• Re-introduction of physical education and sports curricula in schools and the creation of specific programmes and schedule for them.
• Funding and observance of games and recreation periods in primary, secondary and higher institutions.
• Increased attention on health-education in schools, with emphasis on personal hygiene, first aid, food and nutrition, reproductive health and communicable diseases.
• Encouragement of higher institutions to give credit units for items of sports and games.
• Establishment of Sports Academia in each state for grassroots talent development and professionalism and of youth Sports and Recreation Centre in each LGA of the country.
• Promotion of yearly School Sports Competitions organised from the State to the national level.
• Encouragement of large employers of labour, through tax-relief measures, to establish and run sports and recreation centres in their areas of operation.
• Government will be encouraged to incorporate sports and recreational centres in the design of new housing estates and to explore ways to add such centres in existing estates.

6.5 ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY

6.5.1 PROGRAMMES
• Training of Master Trainers,
• State Farm settlement and Arts/crafts Development Schemes,
• MISSING TEXT
• Workshop and Seminars on creation of employment opportunities and coping with the problem of un-employed/underemployed youth.
• MISSING TEXT
• Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP) for on-the-job training and exposure to relevant practical skills.
• Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) for retraining graduates in skills in high-demand in the job market.
• Micro-Credit and Small-Scale entrepreneurship scheme to provide opportunities for self-employment.
• Social Security Scheme for Youths.

6.5.2 PLAN OF ACTION
• Government will increase funding and effectiveness for students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES), the Industrial Attachment Scheme (IT), Vocational and Technical Teacher--Training Programmes in Technical Colleges and Federal Colleges of Education (Technical), as well as the Junior Engineering and Technological Sciences Scheme (JETS).
• More funding will be provided to the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) to strengthen its activities, particularly its National Open Apprenticeship Scheme.
• Government will seek the adjustment of educational curricula towards skills in high demand in the economy, with computer literacy as an important component.
• Promotion of greater coordination of the work of Research and Training Institutes for the development of special skills and the fashioning of small-scale production equipment and components.
• Provision of the administrative and organizational framework and funding for programmes such as MAP, CAP, Micro-Credit Scheme, as well as the provision of additional capacities and opportunities for the development of micro, small and-medium scale entrepreneurship.
• Encouragement of State Governments to reinforce existing employment generation schemes and/or develop new ones tailored to their local circumstances.
• Government will recognise and empower informal sector enterprises.
• Provision of social security assistance to youths aged 18 - 30 who are registered as unemployed through no fault of theirs for a period of not more than one year, while they look for gainful employment or undergo training to acquire additional skills for the job market.

6.6 ON YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

6.1 PROGRAMMES

• Mobilization and interactive socio-cultural programmes for youth organisations, for socio-cultural festivals, sports competition, etc.
• Missing Text
• Leadership training for executives of various youth organisations.
• Missing Text
• Youth Cooperative Societies, particularly in the areas of agriculture and industry, in order to boost chances for enjoying micro-credit facilities.
• Local/community vigilante activities, surveillance, apprehension and sanctioning of secret cult members, armed robbers, fraudsters, etc., as well as activities to help in their monitoring and rehabilitation.
• Youth Exchange Programmes across communities, states and zones.
• International linkages, exchange and co-operation programmes e.g. cross-cultural theatres, music concerts, etc.

6.6.2 PLAN OF ACTION

• Provision of incentives for the formation of youth groups, clubs and associations through liberal registration procedures and government financial supports.
• Establishment of a youth group overseer/office system at the local government level for the effective mobilization for socio-economic activities and the monitoring and guidance of youth organisations.
• Provision of support for voluntary youth organisations like the Boys' Scout, Boy's Brigade, Girls' Guide etc., to make them stronger, both in and outside schools.
• Establishment of a Youth Working Committee which will involve leaders and representatives of youth organisations and will encourage and co-ordinate sustained campaigns against all social vices among youth.
• Organisation and sponsorship of annual National Youth Week, Youth Art and Cultural Festival and National Youth Summit.
• Institution of an annual President's Youth Awards to recognize the contributions of youths and youth organisations to societal and communal development and host the recipients at an annual dinner in the federal capital by the President.
• Initiation and promotion of inter-state, inter-regional/African and international youth exchange programmes.
• Identification of donor agencies inclined to youth development acquainting them with the provision of the policy and encouraging and promoting their participation in the Policy's programmes and projects on youth clubs and associations.

6.7 ON YOUTH RESEARCH AND DATA-BASE

6.7.1 PROGRAMMES

• Research and publications on various aspects of youth problems and youth development at the local, state and federal levels and by sectors of social and economic activity to build data base on youth
6.7.2 PLAN OF ACTION

- National Population Commission (NPC), universities and social science research institutions to build a sound data-base on Nigerian Youth, generally and along the lines of identified target groups.
- Commission universities and social-science research institutes to be monitoring and evaluating implementation of the National Youth Development Policy and be reporting findings to Government.

6.8 ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

In order to create a conducive environment for the successful execution of most of the youth development programmes in this Policy, the Federal government will establish model Youth Development Centres nationwide. To actualize this the Government, through the Ministry responsible for youth affairs, will in partnership with state governments, fund the establishment of at least one model Youth Development Centre in each of the six geopolitical zones in the country. The functional objectives of the model centres is to provide an institutional framework for the implementation of other youth programmes such as civic education, employment and skills training, counselling, sporting, recreational and cultural activities.

Each model centre will have a large hall, small classrooms, a vocational training facility, and facilities for both in-door and out-door games and sorting activities. It will be run and managed (independent of state bureaucracy) by a Board consisting of responsible and respectable youth/community leaders/elders, who have a keen interest in youth development and a mix of representative of youth organisations. It will, as much as possible, use some of the facilities for independent revenue generation for sustainability of its programmes.

It is envisaged that the youth centres will become activity centres for the youth, especially those out of school and unemployed, providing them with recreational competitive sorting environment. Specifically, these YDCs will help achieve the following:

- Skills acquisition and other entrepreneurial training for youth.
- Provision of a conducive environment for recreational sporting activities.
- Conducting adolescent youth reproductive health counseling.
- Provision of career guidance and counseling for unemployed youth.
- Conducting civic education, public enlightenment and leadership training programmes.

The Model youth development centres can then be replicated, either by local and state governments, communities, or other private and non-governmental organisations, with little if any assistance from the Federal Government.

CHAPTER SEVEN: MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter identifies the requisite institutional framework and key agencies which are necessary for the actualization of the objectives of the National Youth Development Policy and the implementation of the Programmes which have been itemised. First, successful implementation depends very much on mutual cooperation, partnership and solidarity of action among the various stakeholders. Second, to a large extent, success is conditional on the appropriateness, viability, efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation mechanism, as well as on the availability and provision of resources to carry them through. Third, it is important that the implementation agencies be focused and not work at cross purposes. Fourth, the identified target groups should be actively involved in the process. Finally, the leadership of the implementation agencies should be dedicated, committed, well-informed and well-meaning personnel who are ready to discharge their responsibilities selflessly. The Policy has taken these variables into consideration.
7.2 BROAD INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND AGENCIES

There is a broad but linked legal, administrative, budgetary/funding institutional framework for the implementation of the Policy and it consists of the following:

7.2.1 FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development (FMWAYD) is the ministerial organ of the Federal Government directly responsible for policy formulation and review, the design of priority programmes of action, and broad guidelines for youth development in the country. It has the responsibility of overseeing and coordinating the implementation of the policy from the Federal to the state and local government levels and with other implementing agencies and NGOs. And it has oversight and/or supervisory responsibility for the specialised agencies concerned with youth development, such as the National Youth Development Council, National Youth Committee, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme, as well as the proposed National Youth Development Agency and National Youth Development Fund. Henceforth, a Minister of State for Youth Affairs will be designated in the Ministry, pending the possibility of the establishment of a full ministry for Youth Affairs.

7.2.2 NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

There will be an inter-ministerial council to be called the National Youth Development Council. Under the chairmanship of the president, it will comprise all the chief executives of the core relevant ministries e.g. Ministries of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Education, Employment, Labour and Productivity, Health, Sports, Culture and Tourism, Agriculture and Industry, with responsibilities for the implementation of diverse aspects of the Policy: chief executives of the major specialized agencies on youth development, and adequate representation of the youth. It will serve as the forum and clearinghouse on all Youth Policy matters of national interest. The purpose of the Council is to elevate concern for the problems and aspirations of the youth to a priority of the inter-ministerial level on the national agenda.

7.2.3 NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

An executive agency to be called the National Youth Development Agency will be established to administer the policy.

7.2.4 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Federal government will establish a National Youth Development Fund to finance the execution of all the programmes for youth development conceived in relation to the implementation of the National Youth Development Policy. The fund will have a board of trustees to be headed by the Honorable Minister in charge of Youth Affairs, and its membership will be drawn from the relevant ministries and Parietals, the private sector, youth organisations and relevant NGOs. The Fund should have the power to mobilise and obtain funds from the private sector and international development agencies for the financing of youth development programmes and projects, in addition to governmental sources.

7.2.5 THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACT

Certain provisions of the Policy, in terms of programmes, structure, funding, etc. will require legal backing. Consequently, a Bill will be submitted to the National Assembly for a comprehensive Youth Development Act to assist the enablement and enforcement of the implementation of the Policy.

7.2.6 NATIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Committee, which already exists, will be strengthened to provide an effective forum for all stakeholders. Its status will be upgraded to comprise the Honourable Minister of State, as the Chair, and 311 State Commissioners in charge of Youth affairs as members. Its responsibilities will include coordinating and streamlining youth development activities at the State level, as well as the role of the private sector and NGOs in line with the National Youth Development Policy. It will propose policy
recommendations to the Federal Government on matters concerning youth, including the utilization of the Youth Development Fund; It will also serve as a link between key government implementation agencies on the one hand and the private sector, and NGOs on the other, to ensure that initiatives and programmes associated with the Policy are executed and that their effects reach intended beneficiaries.

7.2.7 STATE MINISYRIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

In order to ensure effectiveness, mass participation and the active involvement of the youth in decision making processes, the implementation of the programmes in the Policy will involve the grassroots. This underscores the relevance and significance of the States and Local Governments in the implementation of youth development programmes. Both have a responsibility to create the enabling environment for the growth and development of youth associations at various levels of the community, provide advice, material and other logistics support to youth NGOs, and ensure the success of youth development programmes in their areas of jurisdiction.

7.2.8 NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (NYSC)

This Scheme and the institution that administers it have been veritable tools for the promotion of national unity since 1973 when the programme was launched. The programme will be strengthened and focused so that it can achieve greater results in the implementation of the National Youth Development Policy. The supervisory responsibility will remain vested in the Minister in charge of Youth Affairs. The Theme will be re-tuned in line with the objectives and programme of action outlined in this Policy. Specifically, it will now have a mandatory period of at least 4 months of intensive citizenship and leadership training, in addition to active participation in community development activities during the service year. This is to ensure that at the end of the service year, NYSC participants are better prepared for the challenges and leadership roles expected by the job market.

7.2.9 YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS AND NGOs

The youth themselves have a crucial role to play in their own development and the development of society in which they live. They are the major stakeholders in the National Youth Development Policy. They are expected to be prepared to join hands and collaborate with other stakeholders in pursuit of the objectives of the policy. Not only are they expected to forge unity, they must also be well organized to tap the potential benefits of the Policy for their own empowerment and development. They will be expected to form voluntary youth associations and NGOs that are important vehicles through which they can actively participate in the implementation of the Policy. Through these, both the private sector and the government will additionally reach out to them and integrate them in the efforts to promote and concretize youth development objectives.

7.2.10 STUDENTS UNIONS

Students Unions particularly in tertiary institutions, are voluntary youth associations, which provide leadership training grounds for youth. The unions empower and enable them to actively participate in decision making processes about matters that affect them. Students' unions also empower the youth to contribute positively to institution-building and national development. Given this important role, the unions will be encouraged to function and develop, guided by the values of democracy, accountability, transparency, and good governance. The national umbrella organisation of students' unions in tertiary institutions will have representation in the National Youth Development Council, the National Youth Development Fund, the National Youth Advisory Committee, and the National Youth Council of Nigeria.

7.2.11 NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL (NYC)

The NYC will be reorganised and rejuvenated. It will be led by democratically elected representatives at annually-held Youth Summits. The role of the government with regard to the NYC will be limited to providing financial and logistics support. The operational activities of the organisation and its functional organs will be
free of government direct control and/or interference. As an umbrella organisation of voluntary youth NGOs, the NYC will follow democratic norms, embrace the principles of accountability in all its conduct, and initiate and execute activities that are in consonance with the goals of the National Youth Development Policy.

7.2.12 PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATIONS
The organised private sector is an important partner in promoting the objectives of the National Youth Development Policy towards national development. It is expected to support programmes of employment generation, skills training for the youth, work-experience, as well as community development activities. It will therefore have representation on the National Youth Development Fund and the National Youth Advisory Committee.

7.2.13 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
Multilateral and bilateral donor agencies and international NGOs represent an important vehicle through which some of the objectives and programmes of the National Youth Development Policy can be actualised. They could provide funding, training, information and linkage programmes, which can contribute to the implementation of the Policy. They will be cultivated as relevant and necessary partners in youth development initiatives.

7.2.14 MASS MEDIA
The Print as well as the electronic media are recognised as important partners in the implementation of this Policy. It is expected that they will educate, inform and enlighten the citizenry on all matters.

7.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION
The success of the National Youth Development Policy and the achievement of set objectives will depend on the ability to mobilize and commit resources to its implementation. Therefore no effort will be spared in the task of generating sufficient resources to facilitate the efficient and timely execution of all the programmes associated with the Policy. Financial resources will be mobilized from government annual Budgetary allocations; grants from state and local governments; assistance from foreign governments and international donors/agencies; and contribution from the private sector and persons of good-will. The Federal Government will provide an adequate take-off grant to establish the National Youth Development Fund. The Fund will also be the beneficiary of proposed Youth Development Withholding Tax on contracts if N100m and above awarded by the Federal Government. Thereafter, the Board of Trustees will be expected to invest part of the funds for income generation and pursue other avenues of raising additional contributions to the Fund. In the long term, the Federal, State and Local governments will be required to allocate at least 10% of their annual budgetary expenditures on youth development programmes.

7.4 MONITORING AND EVALUATION
The role of monitoring and evaluation in enhancing the success of any governmental policy package cannot be denied. For the National Youth Development Policy, the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) in collaboration with the National Data Bank (NDB), the National Population Commission (NPC), and universities and social-science research institutes will be mandated to monitor and evaluate the progress of implementation of the programmes of the Policy. Analysis of data generated should enhance the process and machinery of implementation as well as provide useful guidance for subsequent review of the Policy.

7.5 POLICY REVIEW PROCESS
The National Youth Development Policy will be reviewed every five years with a view to making necessary improvements. The review process will be democratic and inclusive, and involve wide-range consultations and discussions with all the stakeholders, especially the youth.

8.0 CONCLUSION
Nigerian youth have great aspirations and expectations. They also have great frustration with the slow and ineffective manner with which the successive governments they look up to with anticipation have mishandled the actualization of their aspirations. Indeed, Nigerian youths have been experiencing a profound crisis of rising expectations. A depressed and, oppressive socioeconomic and political environment engendered by prolonged military rule have greatly contributed to poor policy formulation and execution in all aspects of national life, particularly as it concerns the youth.

With a new democratically elected civilian government and a liberalized political context, the necessity for designing concrete policies and implementing them has become a matter of urgent concern. It has particularly become necessary to consciously and systematically address the serious problems, that have bedeviled, disoriented and dis-empowered our youth. It is in this context that the Administration conceived and designed this National Youth Development Policy.

The Policy has attempted to set broad guidelines as well as general and specific objectives for meeting the needs of the youth, resolving the problems afflicting them, and empowering them to become active participants in the task of socioeconomic development and national unity. It has also designed programmes and set out appropriate institutional mechanisms for their implementation.

It has taken a long time for the problems to pile up and become compounded and for the condition of our youth to deteriorate to the present observable level. It will thus take time, patience and a lot of hard work before all the constraints can be removed and the problems solved. But, this time-around, with this National Youth Development Policy in place, 'the Government is taking its obligations to the youth, and to the Nigerian people with regard to the general improvement of the living and working conditions of all Nigerians. very seriously. The Administration is especially mindful of the critical role of an empowered and contented youth in national development and will therefore, strive to bring the objectives to this Policy to fruition.'

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APPENDIX 1

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY SINGLE YEAR AGE 18-30 YEARS AND SEX (1991 CENSUS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>1,113,204 (2.50%)</td>
<td>1,338,325 (0.01%)</td>
<td>2,451,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>552,167 (1.24%)</td>
<td>600,245 (1.35%)</td>
<td>1,152,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>1,447,212 (3.25%)</td>
<td>2,236,469 (5.03%)</td>
<td>3,683,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>454,202 (1.02%)</td>
<td>480,196 (1.08%)</td>
<td>934,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>565,521 (1.27%)</td>
<td>702,509 (1.58%)</td>
<td>1,268,035</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
-467,561 (1.05%)  520,213 (1.17%)  987,774
-378,502 (0.85%)  417,949 (0.94%)  796,451
1,416,042 (3.18%)  2,045,280 (4.6%)  3,461,322
405,219 (0.91%)  449,072 (1.01%)  854,291
525,449 (1.18%)  520,213 (1.17%)  1,045,662
636,773 (1.43%)  715,848 (1.11%)  1,352,621
320,613 (0.72%)  275,668 (0.62%)  596,281
1,678,766 (3.77%)  2,214,238 4.98%)  3,893,004
9,961,272 (22%)  12,516,225 (28%)  22,477,497

Charts Removed

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- Reports of the Zonal Youth Summits, 2000