



NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY 2018-2023 SEYCHELLES



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FOREWORD



A National Youth Policy plays a key role in focusing on the strategic priority areas and directions of a country for the development of its youths. This Youth Policy has been formulated following an assessment of the challenges and emerging issues facing today's youths, and aims to respond to their needs and aspirations for their optimum development. The Policy also seeks to ensure that all young Seychellois have the opportunity to play their roles in the development of Seychelles; to promote youth engagement in community and civic affairs; and to provide guidelines and strategies to facilitate the participation of youths in national development.

President Danny Faure, in his address on the occasion of the 41st Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, held in Seychelles in 2017, referred to the youth as an extraordinary asset to our region. He stressed on the need to provide platforms, opportunities, support and resources to enable young people to be drivers for sustainable development, progress, peace and advancement of our region. This Policy offers such platform.

Given the cross-sectoral nature of youth issues, it is imperative that intersectoral collaboration is strengthened to increase opportunities offered to our youths. I therefore call on all partners who work with and for the youths, to collaborate and work together to create an environment where our young people are encouraged and empowered to unleash their full potential.

The Seychelles Government will continue to invest in, and strive to improve an enabling environment for our youths. It is therefore incumbent on each and every young Seychellois to seize opportunities at their disposal, to develop their potential to the optimum, and to use their creativity to innovate, and to maximize their contributions to national development. Take the lead today and seek solutions to challenges. You can shape your future and that of our country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Macsuzy Mondon'.

Mrs. Macsuzy Mondon
Designated Minister
Minister responsible for Youth
December 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

Although the age range used to define the term ‘youth’ varies from country to country, generally, it means the period between childhood and adulthood. It is the phase whereby a person learns to become an active, responsible and fully integrated member of society. It is also a period of transformation from family dependent childhood to independent adulthood. In spite of the variations in the age range used to define ‘youth’, it is universally recognised that young people are key agents in the social, cultural, economic and political development of a country. If appropriately utilised, their intellectual and productive abilities, their creativity, innovation and energy could help to fuel the development of a nation.

This Policy affirms the Seychelles Government’s commitment to ensure that young people across the Seychelles Islands have the opportunities and support systems they require to develop their potential fully and grow into responsible and productive citizens. It encourages Ministries, Departments, Agencies, youth organisations and other partners to remain dedicated and to continuously empower youths through wide ranging programmes and services on offer. The Policy makes provision for young people to have equal opportunities to participate in programmes and activities, according to their interests and potential, irrespective of their gender, race, colour, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability.

2. RATIONALE

The National Youth Policy guides the development of the youth of a country. Given that a significant part of the Seychelles’ population comprises of young people under the age of 30, this environment presents our country with invaluable human resources to contribute actively towards the socio-economic growth of our nation.

The Government of Seychelles recognises the vital role of Seychellois youths in the country’s advancement and acknowledges that young people are partners in development. Youth development has been integrated in the national policy since the first National Youth Policy, formulated in 1995. This has served to ensure that young people are given equal opportunity to participate in programmes and activities according to their capabilities and interests.

From inception, the National Youth Policy has been subjected to reviews and amendments taking into consideration new challenges that Seychellois youths face and the context of the country. The Policy plays a vital part in orienting government’s outlook on youth development and provides a compass for its agencies to direct their planning and contribution to this important area.

The 2013 National Youth Policy has been revised after consultations with young people, government ministries, agencies and other stakeholders concerned with youth welfare and development. It seeks to create an environment that enables young people to reach their potential and reinforces the need for commitment from all stakeholders, especially the youth, for the achievement of the Policy’s vision. It is the guiding principle from which actions can be derived in answer to the ambitions of the young people and facilitates their involvement in national development. The Policy strives to strengthen the coordination among government, civil society and private sector, for the collective aim of galvanising youth development. It demonstrates the country’s commitment to honour all International Conventions and Charters to which Seychelles is a signatory.

3. DEFINING AND PROFILING THE SEYCHELLOIS YOUTH

The Policy defines Seychellois youth as those within the age group of 15 to 30 years. It recognises that the youth have diverse needs, and accordingly adopts differentiated approaches to address their needs. For practical reasons, the programmes and activities often embrace those below 15 years and those above 30 years.

The population of Seychelles stood at 95,821 in 2017, with an estimated 45.21% under the age of 30. Education is compulsory up to secondary level and young people are involved in post-secondary and tertiary level education with the aim in preparing them to become responsible and productive citizens. As the country increasingly gains visibility on the global level, it is becoming ever more critical that our youth are appropriately equipped to develop and lead new initiatives directed at enhancing the country's growth and development.

The youth of Seychelles struggle with similar challenges as those faced by young people worldwide. There are increasing concerns of social ills faced by the youth, namely substance abuse, risky sexual behaviour and other unsafe behaviours that affect their well-being. Inadequate human capital investment and high unemployment rates also impact youth development. Nonetheless, with proper investment in their education and training, availability of opportunities, young people's ideas, visions and innovations could transform the country in future.

The Policy seeks to create an enabling environment for undertaking programmes and projects to fully develop the mental, moral, spiritual, social, cultural, physical, political and economic potential of young people in order to improve their quality of life. The youth can be a positive force for economic, social, and national development when provided with the necessary skills, knowledge and opportunities.

4. CONTEXT AND LEGISLATION

Youth development is at the core of the development agenda and determines the future of Seychelles. This Policy responds to the social and economic forces that shape the country and seeks to align the development of young people with the Government's continued efforts to address the challenges faced by the youth.

VISION

An empowered youth who participate actively in the realisation of their aspirations and full potential in the economic, social, political, cultural, moral and spiritual development of Seychelles and prepared for national and global opportunities and challenges.

GOAL

Provide an appropriate framework to enhance the aptitude of the youth, address their needs and offer appropriate services, opportunities and support for their holistic development.

POLICY OUTCOMES

The desired outcome is to have empowered young Seychellois who are able to realise their full potential and understand their roles and responsibilities in making valuable contributions to the development of Seychelles.

OBJECTIVES

In line with the vision, goal and expected outcomes stated above, the objectives of the Policy are to:

1. Provide support to all youths and motivate them to take part in initiatives, programmes and activities for individual, community and national development.
2. Set and maintain the highest standard of youth work by involving young people in consultation, planning, implementation, management, evaluation and review of policies, programmes and activities related to them.
3. Empower the youth to develop their sense of creativity and innovation.
4. Uphold the culture of honesty, hard and smart work among the youth, enabling them to improve the quality of their life as well as that of others.
5. Promote a strong sense of patriotism and the spirit of volunteerism in the youth.
6. Ensure effective networking, integration and coordination in the delivery of youth services across all Ministries, Departments and Agencies, civil societies and private entities concerned with youth development and welfare.
7. Respond to the changing development trends and needs of young people.
8. Encourage adults to participate actively in youth development through sharing of skills and experiences.
9. Address the issues and constraints relating to the specificities of gender and marginalised groups.
10. Facilitate domestic and international networking for effective exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience between young people.
11. Make proper use of all available resources for youth development.

5. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Policy is informed by key legislative and policy frameworks, which includes:

- Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles 2011 edition
- Seychelles National Youth Council Act (2009)
- National Youth Policies, 1995, 2008 and 2013
- Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (2007 - 2015)
- African Youth Charter (2006)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – 2030 Agenda
- World Programme of Action for Youth
- Charte de la Francophonie

6. VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

The Policy ensures that it is consistent with national laws and development priorities. As such, its key values and principles are:

1. Respect

- Respect for human rights, freedom and democracy expressed through personal qualities such as integrity, the rejection of prejudice, tolerance, self-esteem, selflessness, self-respect and honesty with oneself and others
- Respect for the family unit and all members of the community
- Respect for law and order, and acceptance of the principles of fairness, equality and non-discrimination in everyday life

2. Self-Esteem

- Belief in one's self worth
- Self-appreciation and self confidence

3. Self-reliance

- Tenacity and will-power to strive towards personal well-being and fulfilment relying on inner potential, creativity and sense of initiative

4. Youth empowerment

- Engagement in, and ownership of, issues pertaining to youth development

5. Leadership

- Participating and leading in matters that affect one's community and country
- Leading by example

6. Patriotism

- Pride for the motherland and the willingness to contribute to its advancement
- Honour and respect for national symbols and institutions
- Preserve our cultural and traditional values

7. Peace and Unity

- Live harmoniously in a culture of peace and tolerance

8. Participation and inclusion

- Ensuring gender equity and equality by adopting a gender inclusive approach to youth development
- Ensuring inclusion of all youth groups in development activities

7. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUTH

The Policy is derived from the Seychelles Constitution, the laws of the land and agreed International Conventions to which Seychelles is a signatory. The rights of the youth are founded on the sanctity of human life, freedom and dignity. Tied to those rights are responsibilities and obligations that the youth are expected to uphold in securing a promising future for themselves and for Seychelles.

RIGHTS

The Policy recognises the fundamental rights which are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles. Specifically all young people, irrespective of their age, gender, socio-economic status, physical and mental abilities or any other defining factors, have the right to:

- Decent and dignified existence
- Healthy, supportive, secure and stable family environment and good parental care
- Freedom of movement, thought, expression and association in cultural, religious and other activities, programmes and services
- Care and protection against discrimination, exploitation, violence or any forms of abuse and social ills
- A safe and clean environment
- Equal protection under the law and legal representation
- Access to education, vocational guidance and training corresponding to their aspirations and abilities
- Adequate health care
- Access to youth services, leisure facilities and appropriate information
- Decent work
- Access to property
- Participate in decision-making processes.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Policy acknowledges that the youth of Seychelles have the responsibility to:

- Honour and respect the national symbols and institutions of Seychelles
- Be patriotic and loyal to the Seychelles
- Participate in consolidating and promoting the ideals, values and practices of peace, unity and democracy
- Show respect for self and all members of the community
- Safeguard family values and traditions
- Be courteous to others at all times
- Be receptive to guidance
- Use Information and Communications Technology responsibly
- Recognize and respect the rights of others
- Take full advantage of education and training opportunities
- Contribute to the socio-economic progress and social stability of Seychelles
- Develop a positive attitude towards work
- Protect the environment and promote sustainable development for the wellbeing of future generations
- Promote positive and healthy lifestyles and behaviours
- Develop a habit of self-dependency.

8. OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADULTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Policy underlines the importance of adults and responsible parties involved in the development, guidance and training of young people and confers upon them the obligation to:

1. Act in an exemplary manner to serve as role models to the youth and put into practice the values and laws upon which the Seychellois society is based
2. Provide emotional, psychological and moral support to young people
3. Respect the differences and preferences of young people, and recognise their potential to be of service to society
4. Help young people develop into responsible persons who are accountable for their own actions
5. Collaborate in developing programmes aimed at the youth
6. Share skills and knowledge for the benefit of young people and their community
7. Be attentive to the needs of young people
8. Be willing to work on committees or advisory groups in partnership with young people to achieve the aims and objectives set out in the Policy
9. Help young people to be self-dependent.

9. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS AND CHALLENGES

1. Education and Training

Education is central to the development of a nation and pivotal in improving the lives of young people. The current system seeks to provide the youth with an environment that supports holistic development through career information and guidance, opportunities to complete their education, tertiary pathways to attain training and skills and the support necessary to transition to higher education.

Challenges:

- Raising performance and providing quality education. There was a general decrease in performance in the 2017 IGCSE results. The percentage of students scoring grade C or above was 34%, a reduction of 3% when compared to 2016
- Incorporating values and life-skills education for parents and guardians within the broader education system
- Addressing skills mismatch through appropriate training and knowledge to reduce youth unemployment
- Collaborating with partners to provide training and help tackle social ills
- Implementing outreach programmes that cater for varying educational needs and are impactful to students.

2. Health and Well-being

Seychelles' health challenges are more than just medical. Risky behaviour and unhealthy lifestyles are other crucial aspects that require attention. The Ministry of Health strives to provide youth-friendly services for mental, emotional and physical health. They work in partnership with the ministry responsible for youth affairs, running health programmes in schools and engaging the youth to take responsibility for their health.

Challenges

- Motivating young people to adopt healthy and active lifestyles in the face of negative peer pressures
- Increase in communicable diseases and teenage pregnancies amongst the youth
- Non-communicable diseases (obesity, diabetes, hypertension, cancer) in young people is a current concern. The 2015 Global School-based Student Health Survey found 16% of all students were overweight and 9% were obese
- Alcohol and substance abuse remain a major concern across society.

3. Family and Social Affairs

The ministry responsible for family and social wellbeing works with all relevant partners to empower and preserve family structures, providing intervention through counselling for the empowerment and positive development of young people.

Challenges

- 58% of women (including youth) experience gender based violence
- Legislation providing adequate protection for girls, young women and youth
- Engaging civil society in the provision of support services to assist at-risk youths
- Adequate support services and programmes for children and at-risk youths
- Empowerment programmes for vulnerable youths, e.g. youth with disabilities.

4. Tourism

The priority of this industry is to develop the skills of young people so they can engage productively in the sector. The Seychelles Tourism Academy offers training at post-secondary level and higher level training are offered by overseas institutions such as the Shannon College of Hotel Management.

Challenges

- Since 2013, a total of 63 young Seychellois have successfully completed their studies at Ireland's Shannon College of Hotel Management. However, career path progression into management positions continue to be a concern
- The number of STA graduates who do not work in their field of study
- Attitude and work ethic of young employees.

5. Legislature

The legal framework places emphasis on ensuring there is general understanding of the rights and responsibilities of youth.

Challenges

- High numbers of incarcerated prisoners, with an incarceration rate of 0.87% of the population recorded in 2016
- Young people's understanding of their rights and responsibilities
- Parental education on their roles and responsibilities towards the youth
- Enforcement of legal protection for young children and youth.

6. Economic Participation and Entrepreneurship

The Department of Employment ensures involvement in decisions based on policies and programmes of the ministry responsible for youth to guarantee successful implementation at national level. Priorities remain education, tackling social ills and encouraging healthy living, for effective youth participation in economic development. The Department of Industry and Entrepreneurship works on improving the business environment for young people encouraging entrepreneurship and providing training.

Challenges

- Youth unemployment is categorised as 'serious' in Seychelles, with the rate of youth unemployment 2.7 times higher than the national unemployment rate of 4.7%
- Adequate mentoring of young entrepreneurs
- Creating an enabling environment to encourage and support youth entrepreneurship.

7. Land and Housing

The ministry responsible for land and housing seeks to harmonise parcel provisions with the ability of applicants to purchase and develop the land. While provision is made for youth with social needs and those without, priority is given to 23 – 35 years old and those in family settings as they are better able to invest in developing land parcels. The Ministry also makes provision for young applicants to start saving for their future home through the Home Savings Scheme via monthly contributions. It assesses housing applicants based on their needs and current housing situation.

Challenges

- Young people find it difficult to have access to land parcels and lack the means to develop allocated land parcels
- Involvement of young adults in dialogues and consultations
- Access to housing opportunities for young people
- Older applicants tend to have greater needs and worse housing situations which affect the priority level of young applicants.

8. Environmental Protection and Conservation

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (SGP) supports projects run by youth groups with the aim of promoting social cohesion within the sector. There are numerous capacity development initiatives focused on building youth capacity in conservation, incorporating education and awareness. The Environmental Performance Index 2018 ranked Seychelles first out of 180 countries in the climate and energy category.

Challenges

- Continue to educate and create awareness on the importance of environmental protection and associated good practices
- Information that would lead to environment development skills do not always reach young people.

9. Sports and Recreation

Sport activities can create healthy, active citizens, instill a sense of national pride and contribute to social and economic change. The National Sports Council is engaged in developing and encouraging a healthy lifestyle for all and the ministry responsible for sports continues to work with the Ministries of Education and Health to develop programmes that promote youth health.

Challenges

- Lack of physical education at tertiary level
- Low participation in community sports
- Lack of sports within workplaces
- Adopting healthy and active lifestyles.

10. Arts and Culture

The Department of Culture and its entities have a cross-cutting mandate and work with other key partners to preserve and promote the Seychellois culture and traditions, while encouraging their natural evolution. Emphasis is placed on nurturing and developing skills, and promoting artistic talents and cultural industries.

Challenges

- While 78.5% of respondents of the National Youth Survey 2014-2015, recognised its importance, 43% cited arts and culture as boring, 63.6% as expensive and 53.1% as not for them
- Participation in arts and cultural activities by the youth with activities linked to cultural heritage having the lowest participation rate
- Transmission of cultural values, beliefs and customs is limited by a number of factors
- Limited facilities and resources
- Innovation and start-ups in creative arts are minimal
- Inculcate the pride of our Seychellois identity in our youth.

11. Social Ills

Programmes at national level aim to encourage the youth to avoid engaging in substance abuse and other risky behaviours, whilst promoting healthy living. Focus is on understanding challenges and best practices at national and international level in order to deliver better programmes.

Challenges

- The population of heroin users in Seychelles in 2017 aged 15 years and above is around 4,800 which equals to 5.6 percent of the population range
- Lack of qualified and competent individuals to contribute to fighting the plight
- Agencies sometimes operate in silos with little coordination
- Engaging the private sector to contribute to programmes tackling social ills
- Sectorial commitments and resource availability remain a concern
- Upholding moral and spiritual values.

12. Volunteerism, Spirituality and Mentorship

Volunteerism plays a vital role in transforming the society, serving to instill a sense of community and positive values in young people. Public officers and private individuals continue to provide support, advice and mentorship to young people, especially to those within their community. Youth-led NGOs strive to provide support platforms for their members and society.

Challenges

- According to the National Youth Survey 2014-2015, participation in youth groups is categorised as ‘poor’ across all related organisations, with a national average of 14%
- Spiritual education is not on the post-secondary curriculum
- Current approach to spiritual education does not always meet the needs of young people
- Motivating young people to adopt a volunteerism mindset
- Engaging all sectors of society in volunteerism and mentorship
- Dissemination of information and a mechanism to ensure adequate youth participation in sustainable development.

13. Access to Information and Communication Technology

Efforts are being optimised for provisions and access to updated Information and Communications Technology as an essential part of social, professional and personal development.

Challenges

- Print readership is diminishing generally with the rise of internet
- Youth are using the internet for leisure rather than school or work related activities. It was observed in the Youth Study that 61.7% of young people were using Facebook, 49.8% were downloading films, photos and videos and 52.4% using the internet for school or work related activities
- Immoral use of technological tools and the cyber network is on the rise
- Young people are not sufficiently educated on the positive use of ICT development
- Some parents are not sufficiently educated and aware of the dangers of ICT and are not taking their responsibilities accordingly
- There is a lack of mechanism in place to curb down on the negative use of ICT.

10. SUMMARY OF SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS AND CHALLENGES

The situational analysis suggests that this Policy should enable economic participation through entrepreneurship, increase access to land and housing, address issues related to risky behaviour, improve health and well-being by continuing to fight social ills and improve access to information across the youth sector.

11. STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

The development, empowerment and welfare of young people continue to be the responsibility of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), with the ministry responsible for youth affairs at the forefront, actively engaging with all its partners to successfully drive the implementation of programmes and actions.

Youth development is cross-cutting across all sectors and thus requires a multi-disciplinary approach to development. The policies of MDAs must complement and support this Policy and continue to offer youth development programmes and services.

The Policy identifies the following priority areas for action:

1. Morality and Spirituality

Moral and spiritual well-being are important for young people to develop as well-rounded individuals. This requires promoting and re-integrating core values of Seychellois society to ensure the country's progress.

The Policy calls on all sectors to advocate for strong moral and spiritual values in our young people.

2. Health and Well-being

Good physical, mental and emotional health remains fundamental for young people's ability to contribute positively to the country's development.

The Policy aims to promote health, wellbeing and responsible behaviour of young people by continuing to address issues that impact negatively on progress. It seeks to improve the overall well-being of the youth and encourage smart choices towards a healthy and fulfilling life through the provision of accurate information about preventative health care, sensitisation programmes, efficient socio-recreational and educational activities programmes.

3. Education and Training

Quality education allows young people to build on their capabilities and reach their potential. Education, training and skills development that prepare young people for the labour market are valued by the responsible ministries. At the same time, efforts being made for the development of young people to participate in the progression of the country are affected by negative influences.

The Policy aims to guarantee collaborative work between MDAs, civil society and the private sector, supporting and complementing the current system of education to overcome factors that impede success.

4. Youth Engagement and Empowerment

Progression happens as a result of engaging and empowering the youth to be part of decision-making processes. Young people must remain active partners in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of programmes.

The Policy aims to ensure that the right opportunities, support and resources are available to engage and empower the youth for positive contribution in development and as leaders within their field of interest.

5. Economic Participation, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Successful development focuses on equal opportunity, capacity building, innovative practices and entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship and innovation encourage diversification, the development of new skills and the willingness to look for solutions.

The Policy aims to increase youth participation in the economy by placing emphasis on working with all relevant MDAs, youth organisations and the private sector to develop a culture that promotes sustainable youth enterprise, training and practices to improve the employability of young people. It commits to enhancing young people's active participation in the labour market by equipping them with the ability and skills for employment and the development of new career paths.

6. Access to Information and Communication Technology

Accurate and age appropriate information can enable young people to make informed decisions about the different aspects of their lives. In today's world, a good knowledge of information and communication technology (ICT) is essential for personal, business and national growth.

The Policy aims to promote responsible behaviour and raise awareness of possible risks for young people arising from the harmful aspects and use of ICT. Youth should be actively engaged in innovative ICT-based development programmes that should widen opportunities for their wholesome development as educated and responsible citizens.

7. Arts and Culture

Seychellois culture serves as a point of pride in the nation's heritage. Arts and Culture programmes benefit the youth by developing cognitive, creative, social and emotional skills that are vital for their wellbeing and intellectual growth.

The Policy aims to develop and nurture young people's artistic talents to safeguard our heritage and preserve cultural values, while promoting youth participation in arts and culture. It also aims to create opportunities to engage the youth in cultural activities and creative industries.

8. Volunteerism

Volunteerism is key in developing habits of voluntary service in young people and engaging them within their communities. It provides the potential to fight anti-social behaviour and inspire positive values. A culture of volunteerism must be encouraged within the youth to emulate more positive role models.

The Policy aims to promote and advocate support for initiatives that continue to attract and encourage young people in community engagement activities and volunteerism, bringing benefits for themselves, their communities and society.

9. Environmental Protection and Conservation

Seychelles' leadership in environmental protection and conservation is recognised on the international stage. Young people should continue to advocate for safeguarding the environment, developing awareness and promoting good practices.

The Policy aims to encourage the youth to participate actively and take ownership of environmental conservation and protection activities, especially at community level. It also seeks to provide adequate information on environmental issues and partner with government, civil society and private entities to contribute towards sustainable development.

10. Social Inclusion and Cohesion

Social cohesion creates unity of purpose which is needed to overcome obstacles preventing prosperity and equity. All young people should have access to the same opportunities to make positive contributions to society. It is imperative to continue promoting social inclusion and cohesion across all sectors so that skills and abilities are discovered and nurtured for country-wide prosperity.

The Policy aims to support programmes and initiatives that enable the development and promotion of all youth as an integral part of society.

11. Land and Housing

The current system seeks to provide access to land and housing for young people, strengthening their capacity to take charge of their wellbeing through building their own assets and empowering them to secure their own future.

The Policy aims to facilitate access to information and opportunities for the youth concerning land and housing facilities.

12. Social Ills

Youth engaging in anti-social behaviours increase pressure on the current system leading to missed opportunities to participate in society. It is imperative to encourage the youth to engage in practices that develop respect, nurture their capabilities and contribute to the development of Seychelles.

The Policy aims to advocate principles of practice focused on prevention through information and education, synergising substance abuse prevention programmes that maximise resources and rehabilitate individuals for empowerment and successful youth development.

12. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM / INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Policy serves as a vehicle for empowering the youth to contribute to national development and acknowledges that close collaboration with all stakeholders is important for the successful realisation of its vision, goal and objectives. It also provides a framework for collective and meaningful discussion, action and coordination of approaches for youth development among governmental institutions, civil society organisations and all other stakeholders working towards youth empowerment. To ensure this, the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders should be clearly defined, intergovernmental coordination reinforced, partnerships consolidated and capacity in the youth sector strengthened.

The following youth development institutions are essential for the implementation of this Policy:

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH

The Department responsible for youth affairs is the custodian holding the overarching responsibility for the National Youth Policy, with the Policy directing the implementation, monitoring, evaluation mechanisms and the review process. It is expected to:

- Coordinate the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the Policy
- Design key performance indicators and mechanisms to ensure adherence to Policy
- Advocate for the necessary human and financial resources required for the attainment of the objectives outlined in the Policy
- Conduct research to ensure that youth engagement work is responsive to the youth's needs, views and aspirations
- Provide the necessary framework for the youth to fulfil their obligations as stated in the Policy.

SEYCHELLES NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

The Seychelles National Youth Council (SNYC) is an implementing and facilitating body, with youth development programmes designed to engage and empower the youth to contribute to the sustainable and economic development of the country. The Youth Council Board is responsible for advising, and approving all matters relating to the functions of the SNYC.

SNYC is expected to:

- Provide a platform for youth development activities;
- Strengthen and support district and regional youth structures to ensure that programmes and services are delivered at community level;
- Report to the ministry responsible for youth affairs to ensure that the latter is kept informed of the ongoing activities, programmes, views and aspirations of the youth; and
- Consolidate partnership with its local and international partners.

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY FORUM

The National Youth Policy Forum (NYPF) is a multi-sectorial working group serving to advise, make recommendations and coordinate the actions of all key stakeholders to ensure the Policy priority areas are effectively addressed. It is expected to:

- Provide a platform for relevant stakeholders across the Ministries, Departments, Agencies and other youth organisations to engage and ensure that youth issues are tackled cohesively
- Ensure that youth related issues are included in the policies, strategies and action plans of relevant MDAs
- Propose solutions to address existing challenges to better the lives of our young people.

OTHER PARTNERS

The commitment, role and participation of civil society organisations, the private sector and all other stakeholders involved in youth development and empowerment is fully recognised, acknowledged and welcomed in the Policy. The following roles will continue to be expected from them:

- Prioritise youth inclusion by integrating priority areas outlined in the Policy in their programmes and activities
- Participate actively in initiatives and programmes related to youth development.

The effective implementation of this Policy depends on optimising relations between government and other stakeholders, and working alongside the youth to involve them in planning and decision-making. This will help to channel their energy, leadership and perspectives into social, cultural, economic and environmental renewal. It will also promote young people as active citizens who are empowered to act on opportunities for national development.

13. POLICY REVIEW

The Policy will be revised every 5 years, with a mid-term review to enable the Department responsible for youth affairs to take stock of key achievements, challenge, and realign its focus in the light of new priorities for youth development.

14. CONCLUSION

It is said that young people are the leaders of tomorrow and often our young Seychellois have proven themselves to be leaders of today, in spite of all the challenges they face. As a nation, we want the best for our youth. It is our duty to continuously provide the opportunities for each young person to learn and develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes to reach their full potential. The ministry responsible for youth affairs must include all MDAs, civil society organisations and the private sector to work alongside the youth to synergise the decision-making process when it comes to issues that concern young people.

The implementation strategy for the Policy will outline clear mandates, targets and stakeholder frameworks. Clear outcomes linked to the Policy will be set with verifiable indicators. Responsible parties who will be involved for its successful implementation will be identified. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted bi-annually to indicate whether implementation is progressing as planned and where improvements are needed. Progress reporting will be crucial in informing and guiding the successful implementation of the Policy.

Through this Policy, all young Seychellois are called upon to become engaged and take their rightful place as actors in national development.



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