

Passed in Parliament this day of , in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine.

SIGNED this day of , 2009

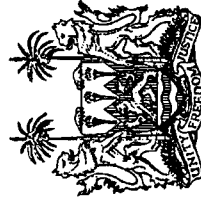
VICTOR KAMARA,
Clerk of Parliament.

ERNEST BAI KOROMA,
President.

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THIS PRINTED IMPRESSION has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed Parliament and found by me to be a true and correct printed copy of the said Bill.

VICTOR KAMARA,
Clerk of Parliament.



No.

2009

The National Youth Commission Act, 2009.

Short title.

Being an Act to establish the National Youth Commission, to empower the youth to develop their potential, creativity and skills for national development and for other related matters.

/ / Date of commencement.

Interpretation.

1. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires-

“Board” means the Board of Directors established by section 3;

“Commission” means the National Youth Commission established by section 2;

Act No. 1 of 2004.
“local council” means a local council established under the Local Government Act, 2004;

“youth” means any person between the ages of fifteen and thirty-five;

“youth-serving organisation” means a governmental or non-governmental body providing services and other assistance to the youth;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for the youth;

PART II – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION

Establishment of National Youth Commission.

2. (1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the National Youth Commission.

(2) The Commission shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and capable of acquiring, holding and disposing of any property, whether movable or immovable and of suing and being sued in its corporate name and subject to this Act, of performing all acts that bodies corporate may by law perform.

(3) The Commission shall have a common seal the use of which shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Commissioner and any other member of the Board designated for that purpose by the Board.

3. (1) The governing body of the Commission shall be the Board of Directors.

(2) The Board shall consist of-

- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) four persons representing the Western Area and the three Provinces;
- (c) two persons representing youth groups;
- (d) the Financial Secretary;
- (e) the Permanent Secretary; and
- (f) the Commissioner who shall be secretary to the Board.

(3) The persons referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Minister and subject to the approval of Parliament for their knowledge and experience in matters relating to the youth.

4. The Board shall have responsibility to-

Functions of Board.

- (a) provide guidance to the Commission in relation to the functions of the Commission;
- (b) monitor the effectiveness of the Commission in the performance of its functions and identify and address any gaps or weaknesses in the implementation of youth programmes;
- (c) prioritise national youth issues and ensure that the Commission adheres to the priorities; and
- (d) advise the Minister on matters relating to government youth policies.

Tenure of members of Board.

5. (1) The Chairman and the other members of the Board referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of section 3 shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(2) A person shall cease to be a member of the Board on any of the following grounds:-

- (a) for inability to perform the functions of his office by reason of infirmity of mind or body;
- (b) for proven misconduct;
- (c) if he becomes bankrupt;
- (d) if he is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty;
- (e) if he fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board without reasonable cause;
- (f) if he resigns his office by written notice to the Minister.

Remuneration of members of Board.

6. The Chairman and other members of the Board shall be entitled to the remuneration, fees or allowances as may be determined by it.

Filling of Vacancies

7. (1) Where the Chairman or other member of the Commission dies, resigns, is removed from office or is absent from Sierra Leone for a continuous period exceeding three months or is by reason of illness unable to perform the functions of his office-

- (a) the other members of the Commission shall elect one of their number to act as chairman until such time as the Chairman resumes his office or another is appointed in his stead; or

- (b) in the case of any other member other than the Chairman, the Chairman shall arrange, subject to this Act, to have another person appointed to the Commission.

(2) Where a person is elected as Chairman or appointed as a member to fill a vacancy, he shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the previous Chairman or other member, as the case may be, and shall, subject to this Act be eligible for re-appointment.

8. (1) The Board shall meet for dispatch of business at a place and time as the Chairman may decide but shall meet at least once every three months. Meeting of Board.

(2) The Chairman shall, at the request in writing of not less than four other members of the Commission, call an extraordinary meeting of the Board at a place and time he may determine.

(3) The Chairman shall preside at the meetings of the Board and in his absence the members present shall elect one of their number to preside.

(4) The Board may at any time co-opt any person to act as an adviser at its meeting but the co-opted person shall not be entitled to vote on any matter for decision by the Board.

(5) A member of the Board who has any interest, whether direct or indirect, in any matter being considered by the Board, shall disclose the nature of his interest to the Board and the disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board and the member shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Board relating to that matter; and a member who contravenes this subsection shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to be removed from the Board.

(6) The quorum at a meeting of the Board shall be five.

(7) Decisions of the Board shall be made by a majority of the votes of the members present and where the votes are equal, the Chairman or other person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(8) Any proposal circulated among all members of the Board and agreed to in writing by a two-thirds majority of all the members shall be of the same force and effect as a decision made at a duly constituted meeting of the Board and shall be incorporated in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board; but if a member of the Board requires that the proposal be placed before a meeting of the Board, this subsection shall not apply to the proposal.

(9) Subject to this Act, the Board shall regulate the procedure at its meetings.

Committees of Board.

9. (1) The Board may for the discharge of its functions appoint one or more committees to perform any function of the Board as the Board may determine.

(2) A committee shall submit the report of its proceedings to the Board at a time to be determined by the Board.

PART III - FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION

Functions of Commission.

10. (1) The object for which the Commission is established is to implement policies, programmes and projects which will empower the youth to develop their potential for national development.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) the Commission shall-

- (a) assist in the creation of employment opportunities for the youth and develop medium and long-term strategies to tackle youth unemployment in Sierra Leone;
- (b) initiate youth development programmes in collaboration with relevant governmental and non-governmental bodies, coordinate and monitor the programmes;

(c) develop a comprehensive national youth development plan consistent with national poverty reduction strategies;

(d) collaborate with other governmental or non-governmental bodies in the provision of youth skills training programmes and schemes;

(e) provide a focal point for addressing drug abuse by the youth and its related problems;

(f) create a reliable and efficient network by which the youth may access valuable information on beneficial services and incentive-driven amenities provided by governmental and non-governmental bodies;

(g) coordinate the activities of youth groups and youth-serving organisations;

(h) register youth groups and youth-serving organisations, and

(i) do all other things as will contribute to the attainment of the object stated in subsection (1).

PART IV - STAFF OF COMMISSION

11. (1) The Commission shall have a Commissioner and a Deputy Commissioner who shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister and on the terms and conditions that the President may determine.

(2) The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner shall be persons with administrative qualifications and extensive knowledge and experience in matters relating to the youth.

- (3) The Commissioner shall be responsible to the Board for-
- (a) the day-to-day administration and management of the Commission;
 - (b) the formulation and implementation of operational policies, programmes and plans relating to the functions of the Commission as may be approved by the Board;
 - (c) recording and keeping of minutes of the Board in a book kept for that purpose;
 - (d) supervising and disciplining the other employees of the Commission;
 - (e) determining the needs of the Commission, subject to the directions of the Board; and
 - (f) performing any other duties that the Board may determine.

(4) The Deputy Commissioner shall assist the Commissioner in the performance of the Commissioner's functions and shall act in the Commissioner's absence.

Other staff of Commission. 12. (1) The Board shall appoint other employees on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine, for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Commission.

(2) Public officers may be seconded or otherwise give assistance to the Commission.

(3) The Board may engage the services of consultants and advisers that it may consider necessary for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Commission.

13. (1) The Commission shall have departments which shall be created by the Board. Departments and offices of Commission.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the Commission shall have the following departments:-

- (a) Department of Programmes, Youth Empowerment and Human Resources;
- (b) Department of Finance and Resource Mobilisation; and
- (c) Department of Research, Planning, Publicity, Monitoring and Evaluation.

PART V –FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

14. The activities of the Commission shall be financed by a fund consisting of Funds of Commission.

(a) monies appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of the Commission;

(b) gifts or donations from any person, organisation or authority, whether local or external.

15. The financial year of the Commission shall be the same as the financial year of the Government.

Accounts and Audit. 16. (1) The books and accounts of the Commission shall each year be audited by the Auditor-General or an auditor appointed by the Auditor-General and a report on the audit shall be submitted to the Board.

(2) The report referred to in subsection (1) shall include a copy of the audited accounts of the Commission together with the Auditor-General's report on it.

(3) The Minister shall lay before Parliament within six months after the end of each financial year the report on the activities of the Commission during the preceding year.

Functions of Minister. 17. Without prejudice to other provisions of this Act, the Minister shall-

- (a) oversee the proper implementation of this Act;
- (b) formulate and review youth policy and its implementation; and
- (c) ensure that regulatory and operational structures under this Act have the capacity to perform their respective functions.

Local councils to establish youth advisory committees. 18. (1) Every local council shall establish a youth advisory committee.

(2) A youth advisory committee shall-

- (a) assist the Commission in the performance of its functions in that locality;

(b) sensitise the youth in the locality on the objectives of the Commission and mobilise them to achieve the objectives;

(c) submit recommendations to the Commission on the measures to be adopted for the achievement of the object of the Commission.

19. Any person or organisation which employs ten or more youth shall be eligible for such incentives as the Minister, after consultation with the Cabinet, prescribe. Incentives.

20. The Board may, by statutory instrument make regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. Regulations.