



# Policy Brief on Establishment of Tanzania National Youth Council

August 13, 2019

## 1.0. Summary

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania passed the National Youth Council Bill in 2015 as one of the way of fostering youth agendas. For many years youth in Tanzania failed to articulate for issues related to their welfare because they had no official body. The passing of this bill was celebrated by youth as they believed that the council will enable them to actively participate in the decision making process. However the celebration of the youth on the establishment of the National Youth Council is still not productive as the Council is yet not operationalized and functional. Since the passing of the said bills youth in Tanzania still face the same social, economic and political challenges as there is no a forum to foster their Agendas.

This policy brief examine youth situation in Tanzania, Previous and current effort regarding the operationalization of the National Youth Councils, why there is a argent need of operationalization's, the likely impact of the operationalization and recommendations for policy

## Policy Recommendations

### **Recommendation 1. Implement the National Youth Development Policy and Operationalizing of the National Youth Council.**

Implementation of the National Youth Development Policy has been slow. In 2015 a Youth Council of Tanzania Act was passed, with the aim of raising awareness of the National Youth Development Policy and putting into action the commitments therein. This council is not yet in place, however, and its prompt formation should be a priority for the government. The council should aim to build society-wide, cross-party consensus on what is needed if the potential of young people is to be realised, and adopt a longtermperspective that is robust to changes of government.

### **Recommendation 2. Step towards Youth Awareness in Policies and Youth programs.**

Steps should be taken to increase young people's awareness of policies and programmes aimed at youth, and to provide them with the knowledge and skills needed for effective civic participation. Channels of communication should be opened up between youth and local government bodies, with a view to increasing youth engagement in local policymaking. This should be done by both the Implementing partners and the government.

responses.

## **2.0. Introductions**

According to the United Nations Youth are those aged between 15 and 24 while in Tanzania Youth are people aged between 15 and 35 (Tanzania Youth Development Policy, 2007). Tanzania like any other African country has a large number of youth populations. According to the 2012 Census, Tanzanian youth are estimated to represent 60% of the total population of Tanzania which is equal to almost 45 million of the total population. More than 50% of the population in the working group are youth, but even they make the majority of the working class and they are inadequately represented in the decision-making organs.

Despite Tanzanian youths being the majority in the country's labour force, they are still challenged in issues around pursuing their destiny through decent employment, access to quality education and their participation in decision-making processes. These are largely the results of inadequate initiatives to support youth in search of economic empowerment opportunities especially through social entrepreneurship and formal businesses, minimal recognition in formal governance processes as well as mismatch between skills they get in schools with the job market requirements.

Despite constituting the majority of the population also young people are underrepresented at all levels of decision-making institutions, especially in the local governments.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is aiming at empowering youths in Tanzania. In doing so the government has enacted a youth development policy of the year 2007, with the aim to empower and engage youths in social, political and economic agendas. To create platforms where the youth will be empowered and included the government has passed the Tanzania National Youth Council Bill of 2015, aiming at establishing a national youth council which will serve as a platform to bring together youths to seek solutions on challenges facing the group.

Since the passing of the National Youth Council Bill in 2015, the Council is yet to come into operations. Therefore there is an immediate need to operationalize the National Youth Council. The existence of the Council will help youth to find solutions to challenges like unemployment, low representations in institutions and also lack of skills in development.

## **3.0. Overview of the youth Situations in Tanzania**

Every year the labour market receives more than 800,000 school leavers and college graduates while only 6.7% get formal employment and the rest remain struggling in petty businesses and poorly paid labor wages. Tanzania is one of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa which has the highest youth population. About 60% of the Tanzanian populations are youths aged between 15-35 years. While the youth population is expected to expand, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities remain limited and where the opportunities exist, they are poorly remunerated and do not meet the expected quality. This is further exacerbated by other youth challenges which include but not limited to less involvement in decision-making spaces, policy formulation and

reviews and inadequate participation in civic life and democratic processes, insufficient access to information and education and limited access to land.

The inadequate representation of youth in decision making processes leaves a room for inadequate address of the critical unemployment challenge. Limited skills in Business, self-reliance and entrepreneurship add to pity the government and other stakeholders. It is under this context that the operationalization of the National youth council remains vital and timely.

#### **4.0. What the Laws says about youth Development in Tanzania?**

Since Tanzania gained her Independence in 1961, there had not been any specific policy on youth development. Issues on youth development were implemented through other development policies, campaigns, deliberations and various guidelines which were issued by the ruling party and Government. Since the introductions the Government has enacted two documents which guide the issues of youth Developments;

**a) The National Youth Development Policy of 1996** which was replaced by **The National Youth Development Policy of 2007.**

The National Youth Development policy of 2007 focuses on youth development issues which include; economic empowerment, environment, employment promotion, youth participation, HIV and AIDS, gender, arts and culture, sports, adolescent reproductive health and family life issues. The policy also reorganized that in order to achieve the intended goal there must be the formation of the National Youth Council and establish a regulatory framework for the functioning of the Council.

**b) The National Youth Council Act No.12 of 2015**

This Act provide for the existence of General Assembly, Regional District youth Councils and for matters related thereto. Section 4 of the Act, Establishes the Youth Council of Tanzania. The Act was passed, with the aim of raising awareness of the National Youth Development Policy and putting into action the commitments therein.

**c) Tanzania Development Vision 2025**

According to Tanzania Development Vision 2025, a nation's development should be people centered which means that the creation of wealth and its distribution in society must be equitable and free from inequalities and all forms of social and political relations which inhibit empowerment and effective democratic and popular participation of social groups (men and women, boys and girls, the young and old and the able-bodied and disabled persons) in society.

The current government under the leadership of president Magufuli has expressed so far commitment to youth development. Apart from reviewing the National Youth Policy of 2007, it has maximized allocation and disbursement of the Youth revolving fund under the prime minister's office and local government authorities.

Despite the legal framework, this council is not yet in place and isn't operational. Therefore youth empowerment and representation at all levels of decision making institutions is still a

challenge. It is therefore hoped that operationalization of the National Youth Council Act will holistic help intervene the prevailing situation through wider coordination and mobilization of necessary resource for Youth development.

### **5.0. Views from Stakeholders and Youth**

Vijana Assembly (a nonprofit organization) in collaboration with Zanzibar Youth Council has conducted a series of stakeholders meeting with the aims collecting their views on the Operationalization's of National youth Councils.

The participants being a random sample of Tanzanian youths and Youth Led Organizations, 5 stake holders meeting were conducted. The first conference was held in Arusha April 2016 and the number of youths participated was 857. The second meeting was held at Dodoma in November, 2016 and 1,129 Youth participated. The third meeting was held in Morogoro in May, 2017 and 520 youth participated. The fourth meeting was held in Arusha in November, 2017, and 716 youths participated. The last meeting and the most recent one was held in April 2019 and the number of youths participated was 412, this bring a total of 3634 youth who have been reached and expressed their views on the establishment of the National Youth Council.

During all this meeting resolutions were developed by stake holders, youth representatives and other stakeholders. These resolutions were validated by the stake holders meeting held in 12 August, 2019.

**Kindly let add the resolutions here by review the previous TNYA's resolution document with the resolutions (I hope 30 minutes) will be enough to pick and reshape 3 or 5 best Resolution.**

### **6.0. Good practice from the Established National Youth Councils.**

Regarding the establishment and existing of the youth council in Tanzania, there are positive lessons to be learned from our neighbor countries. For example East Africa and the some Common wealth countries, have already established the Youth Councils. To mention few;

1. The Zanzibar Youth Council,
2. Kenya National Youth Council,
3. Uganda National Youth Council,
4. Namibia National Youth Council

The existence of these councils has helped youth in respective countries to be easily represented in the International forums, their voices heard and their efforts well-coordinated for collective influence and positive change.

## **7.0. Why do we need the council?**

During both Meetings youth had an agreement on the importance of bringing into operational of the National Youth Council.

1. Youth councils have the power to have a lasting effect on both individuals and communities. These effects range profound behavioral or societal changes (e.g., increased self-esteem, development of youth policies).
2. At the individual level, the council will improve confidence, self-esteem, and sense of purpose to most youth in the Country.
3. Youth councils will also provide youth with opportunities to acquire new skills, such as self-reliance.
4. Youth councils will also foster intergenerational dialogue and improve the image of youth in the eyes of policymakers.
5. The youth Council will allow young people to voice their opinions and guide interventions to address their needs.
6. Youth council will promote youth interests, from lobbying for specific, desired outcomes on issues that affect youth (e.g., representation in decision making, access to financial capital etc.) to encouraging general youth participation in government, organizations, and society as a whole.
7. In addition to advising and advocating, a youth council can also link between government and other youth organizations – particularly if it is an umbrella organization of numerous youth-serving organizations and coordinate and manage youth projects

## **8.0. Concussion**

The delay in the operationalization of The National Youth Council in Tanzania increases the challenges for youth and even the old generations. Therefore the implementation of Tanzania Youth Development Policy is urgent, timely and much needed action for the development of youths and nation.

## **REFERENCE**

**URT,2007 National Youth Development Policy ,Ministry of Labor, Employment and Youth development, Dar es Salaam.**