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NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY 1983

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THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

Introduction

In a developing nation like Nigeria, Youth is a vital source of manpower for development. The task involved ranges from the economic to the governmental, as well as from the technical to the cultural. Developing countries, therefore, look to their youth for qualities of leadership, knowledge, integrity and enthusiasm without which no nation can hope to prosper. Because of the importance of youth in the framework of national development, the older generation must assume responsibility for their education and moral guidance.

In Nigeria, youth activities date back to the pre-colonial era when youth organised themselves on age basis in their various communities. Today, youth in Nigeria constitute the bulk of the population. From statistics available, persons between the ages of 6 and 30 years account for about 59 per cent of our population. Consequently, youth are not merely an object of passing concern or academic study, but a factor to be reckoned with.

To aid the effective planning for youth, the Federal Ministry responsible for Youth Development requested Dr Akinde Olumuyiwa Sanda of the Nigeria Institute for Social and Economic Research (N.I.S.E.R.), in Ibadan, to conduct a survey on, "The Needs and Interests of Nigerian Youth". Dr Sanda found out that the most pressing needs of Nigerian youth were education, employment, and leadership being uppermost, with patriotism, understanding, sense of purpose and recreational facilities bringing up the rear.

The youth is first and foremost seeking for an identity in Nigeria. They need this before they will be able to accept obligations as rational beings. Studies have shown that one of the reasons why people could be deviant with abandon, is anonymity.

When persons are recognised as personalities by others, it becomes morally impossible for them to commit certain acts of deviance, at least publicly. Governments and indeed the public must accord the youth this fundamental recognition.

This can best be done through a National Youth Policy. The absence of such a policy has had restrictive effects on achieving optimum results with regard to Youth Work in the country.

SECTION I

OBJECTIVES

The increasing awareness of the role of Youth in National Development buttresses the need for a purposeful youth policy. The Nigeria National Youth Policy is therefore oriented towards the National objectives. The objectives of the National Youth Policy are therefore as follows :—

(*a*) involvement and participation of Nigerian Youth in the social, economic and cultural development of Nigeria.

(*b*) fostering of national understanding and unity among the youth.

(*c*) inculcation of the virtues of patriotism, discipline, selfless service, honesty and leadership in the youth with a view to ensuring a purposeful sense of direction for the nation.

(*d*) provision of opportunities for vocational training for schooled and unschooled youth oriented primarily towards self-employment and self-reliance.

(*e*) encouragement of active complementary role of voluntary youth organisations in overall development of Nigerian youth.

2. To accomplish a positive youth development in consonance with our National objectives, our Youth Development Programmes must be of great virility and should be applied in certain crucial areas such as the following :—

(*i*) *Education*

The Policy recognises the fact that education of the Nigerian youth is a joint responsibility of the home (parents), school, religious bodies and the community. The National policy on education should, therefore take cognisance of our tradition, culture and acceptable norms in bringing up the youth.

(*a*) *Non-formal Education.*—Non-formal education is an organised and planned educational activity operating outside the normal educational structure.

By our extended family system, our elders set good examples to the young people. The young people in the family are the concern of all members in the large compound. A healthy foundation of good citizenship must be laid in them. Equally, religious activities play a good role in influencing their moral values positively.

(*b*) *Formal Education.*—This has been taken care of by the National Policy on Education. It must, however, be borne in mind that while education provides an opportunity to the youth for articulation, it should also provide the opportunity for association.

3. Other areas which are amplified in subsequent sections are :—

(*i*) Programme of Youth Activities ;

(*ii*) Youth Award Scheme ;

(*iii*) Youth Employment Scheme ;

(*iv*) Youth Organisations ; and

(*v*) National Youth Service Corps.

SECTION 2

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

4. The Youth that this document deals with fall within the age range of six to thirty years (6-30 years). The central figure of Youth Development Service is 'Youth'. Everything about the service converges on and radiates from this group. The service, therefore, is a youth-centred one. Youth is a period of complex change which is characterised by a rapid physical change and development, intellectual change and awakening, mental alertness and a search for the truth and the meaning of life. There is emotional development and upsets, resulting in sudden changes in mood and behaviour. There is also a change from childhood to adulthood and a feeling of growing up with all the assumptions (right or wrong) of what it means to grow up. This complex change makes the youth unstable and insecure. They are attached one day and detached the next, but are active and adventurous.

5. The youth therefore, among others, need understanding, affection and patience. They need activities which will give scope to and outlet for their psychological and physical energies. They need opportunities to pursue interests already formed and develop new talents and sense of responsibility. They need opportunities for services, to be seen, heard, and listened to. They need to meet and know young persons of their age range for fun, friendship and novelty and also standard, an ideal and a goal to look forward and work up to. Hope, energy and enterprise make youth an age of great possibilities which have to be creatively developed for the good of the individual young person, his community and the nation. It is for this creative development of youth and society that youth development service has a leading role to play today.

Youth Situation in Nigeria

6. (*a*) The youth situation in Nigeria today indicates that young people who are within the age of thirty and below form about eighty per cent (80%) of the population.

(*b*) The youth, as defined, persons of age six to thirty years (6-30 years) form about fifty-nine per cent (59%) of the population.

(*c*) Young persons, fifteen to thirty years (15-30 years) of age, constitute about forty-seven per cent (47%) of the economically active population.

(*d*) The youth population in the labour force is comparatively mobile and this is a factor to be reckoned with.

(*e*) The youth form the majority of the people being catered for in our institutions of learning.

7. In view of the youth situation highlighted above, the case for youth participation in national development programme is indisputable as they are invaluable assets which contribute immensely to production. It is also important to develop their potentials which are necessary for the achievement of our National Objectives.

8. The needs and aspirations of young people, therefore, require attention as no government will take the risk of ignoring youth development. Youth are invaluable material in nation building as they are the leaders of tomorrow. As such, it is the responsibility of Government to see that youth in their early years are properly nurtured in preparation for their effective role in the society.

SECTION 3

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

9. Youth work is a concurrent subject in Nigeria ; there is Youth Development Department/Division at the Federal and State Government levels. For Administrative convenience, however, each state would be free to make a Local Youth Council serve a group of Local Government Areas constituted into a zone.

10. There shall be appointed Youth Advisory Committees at the Federal, State and Local Government levels by the respective governments, to advise the Federal and the State Youth Development Department/Division as well as the Local Youth Councils.

Functions

11. (*a*) *The Federal Youth Development Department*

(*i*) Youth Employment Scheme ;

(*ii*) Youth Education and Training ;

(*iii*) Research, Evaluation and Publication ;

(*iv*) Planning and Co-ordination ;

(*v*) General Welfare and Development (Projects and Budgetary Matters) ;

(*vi*) Liaising with State Youth Department/Division and International Organisations ;

(*vii*) National Youth Award Scheme ;

(*viii*) International Youth Exchange Programme ;

(*ix*) Youth Holiday Programme ;

(*x*) National Youth Camps ; and

(*xi*) Co-ordinating activities of National Voluntary Youth Organisations.

(*b*) *The State Youth Development Division*

(*i*) Youth Employment Scheme ;

(*ii*) Youth Education and Training ;

(*iii*) Research, Evaluation and Publication ;

(*iv*) Planning and Co-ordination ;

(*v*) General Welfare and Development (Projects and Budgetary Matters) ;

(*vi*) Liaising with the Federal Youth Development Department, State Youth Councils and National Voluntary Youth Organisations ;

(*vii*) Community Development Activities ; and

(*viii*) State and Local Council Youth Award Scheme.

(*c*) *The Local Council Youth Office*

(*i*) Youth Employment Scheme ;

(*ii*) Youth Education and Training ;

(*iii*) Community Development Activities ;

(*iv*) Research and Evaluation ;

(*v*) Planning and Co-ordination ;

(*vi*) General Welfare and Development (Projects and Budgetary Matters); and

(*vii*) Contact with the State Youth Development Division and Voluntary Youth Organisation in the area.

Notes on the Functions

12. (*a*) *Youth Employment Scheme*

Its target is solving youth unemployment in the country.

With the co-operation of other agencies, this problem could be tackled effectively.

(*b*) *Youth Education and Training*

This involves both formal and informal training of the youth. In this regard, the inculcation of the five National Objectives should be pursued seriously and vigorously.

(*c*) *Research, Evaluation and Publication*

The importance of research, evaluation and publication in youth work cannot be over-emphasised. This will form the basis of progressive improvement in youth development programmes.

(*d*) *Planning and Co-ordination*

This involves the development, planning and co-ordination of youth programmes and projects.

(*e*) *General Welfare and Development*

This will involve the management of such institutions as youth camps, youth development centres, farms, small-scale industries and any other youth projects. Specially designed programmes such as holiday camps for students on long vacation, children and youth week celebration, inter-state visits, etc., come under this umbrella. This unit will also be responsible for assisting voluntary youth organisations financially.

(*f*) *Liaison*

This is for the overall interest and development of youth work. Policy makers need constant feedback for effective planning and implementation of youth development programmes.

13. *Personnel of the Department/Division*

FEDERAL	STATE
Director of Youth	
Assistant Director of Youth	Chief Youth Development Officer
Chief Youth Development Officer	Deputy Chief Youth Development Officer
Assistant Chief Youth Development Officer	Assistant Chief Youth Development Officer
Principal Youth Development Officer	Principal Youth Development Officer
Senior Youth Development Officer	Senior Youth Development Officer
Youth Development Officer I	Youth Development Officer I
Youtn Development Officer II	Youth Development Officer II
Assistant Youth Development Officer	Assistant Youth Development Officer
Senior Youth Development Assistant	Senior Youth Development Assistant
	Youth Development Assistant
	Youth Development Assistant in-Training

14. *Overall Authority.*—The Conference of Minister and Commissioners responsible for youth development service in the Federation shall see to the effective implementation of the National Youth Policy.

SECTION 4

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

15. The objectives of the National Youth Policy can only be achieved by a well defined programme of activities, drawn up by the various governments and voluntary organisations. These will include physical, intellectual, mental, moral, social, cultural and vocational activities that will suit the needs of our young people. It is therefore incumbent on the youth workers/leaders and other agencies while preparing youth development programmes to ensure that the following guide-lines are taken into consideration—

(*a*) participation of the youth in National Development ;
(*b*) involvement of the youth in decision-making at all levels ;
(*c*) remodelling of youth activities to conform with Nigerian circumstances ;
(*d*) inculcating National Consciousness and the need for National Unity ;
(*e*) inculcating the right type of values and attitudes for the survival of the individual and the Nigerian society ;
(*f*) training the minds of the youth in the understanding of the world around them ; and
(*g*) providing opportunities for the youth to acquire the appropriate skills, abilities and competence both mentally and physically.

16. *Activities*

(*a*) Cultural and Entertaining activities ;
(*b*) Sporting activities ;
(*c*) Recreational activities ;
(*d*) Citizenship and Leadership Training Programmes ;
(*e*) Volunteers' Training ;
(*f*) Student Long Vacation Programmes (SLOVAP) ;
(*g*) Youth Exchange Programme, *viz* ;
  (*i*) Inter-Local Government ;
  (*ii*) Inter-State ; and
  (*iii*) International

(*h*) Skills Opportunities Training Programmes (to make the youth job-creators instead of job-seekers)
(*i*) Youth Public Work Services (Agro-based and Community-based).

SECTION 5

YOUTH AWARD SCHEME

17. Bearing in mind the fact that young people growing up in an age of increasing leisure are eager to grasp opportunities for enjoyment, for developing their personalities and for working out their place in a world of which the individual seems to be an insignificant part, the objectives of the scheme are as follows :—

(*a*) training for the physical, mental, social and moral development of the individual youth ;

(*b*) developing a machinery for implementing the National Youth Policy, the National Youth Service Corps Scheme and other similar programmes ;

(*c*) serving as a means of promoting and strengthening national unity ; and

(*d*) inculcating in the youth qualities of self-discipline, self-reliance, honesty, selfless service and patriotism which are essential for the realisation of the National Goals.

Classification

18. There shall be three Awards namely :—

(*a*) Head of State's Award ;
(*b*) Governor's Award ;
(*c*) Chairman's Award.

19. *Age Categories for the Awards*

(*a*) Head of State's Award	.. ..	21-25 years
(*b*) Governor's Award	.. ..	16-20 years
(*c*) Chairman's Award	.. ..	10-15 years

20. *The Awarding Authority*

(*a*) A Certificate of merit and a Gold medal shall be awarded by the Head of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(*b*) A Certificate of merit and a Silver medal shall be awarded by the State Governor.

(*c*) A Certificate of merit and a Bronze medal shall be awarded by the Chairman of the Local Government.

Conditions and Requirements for the Awards

21. There shall be certain minimum standard conditions and requirements which must be fulfilled before a youth could qualify for an award. There shall be four main sections to be entered for :—

(*a*) Service Section ;

(*b*) Adventure Section ;

(*c*) Skills Section :—

(*i*) Interests ;
(*ii*) Agriculture and Gardening
(*iii*) Culture (Arts and Crafts) ; and
(*d*) Physical Development Section.

Specific Aims and Activities for each Section

22. (*a*) *Service Section*

(*i*) *Aim.*—To encourage young people to realise that as members of a community, they have a responsibility to others and that their help is needed.

(*ii*) *Activities.*—The activities are general to all the Awards but performances shall be judged on varied degrees, depending on the ages of the individuals.

The activities include the following :—

(*a*) Life Saving ;
(*b*) Child Care ;
(*c*) Community Services ;
(*d*) Duties to Parents ;
(*e*) First Aid ;
(*f*) Fire Service ;
(*g*) Home Nursing ;
(*h*) Safety in the Home ;
(*i*) School Safety ;
(*j*) Industrial Safety ;
(*k*) Police Service, Traffic Control, Ceremonial Guards, etc. ;

(*l*) National Security ;
(*m*) Civil Defence ;
(*n*) Service to the handicapped ;
(*o*) Domestic Service—Cooking, Serving at Table, Canteen Management in Clubs and Schools ;
(*p*) Helping on Self-help Projects ;
(*q*) Sunday School teaching, teaching Koranic classes, etc. ;
(*r*) Adult Education class—teaching villagers about nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, etc. ;
(*s*) Care of Public Utilities—parks, markets, lawns, gardens, fountains, streams, toilets, etc.; and
(*t*) Citizenship and Leadership Training.

(*b*) *Adventure Section*

(*i*) *Aim.*—To encourage the spirit of adventure and discovery in young people.

(*ii*) *Activities.*—

(*a*) Camp Crafts ;
(*b*) Map Reading ;
(*c*) Use of Compass ;
(*d*) Forest and Bush Regulations ;
(*e*) Highway Codes ;
(*f*) Cycling ;
(*g*) Canoeing ; and
(*h*) Mountaineering.

(*c*) *Skills Section*

(*i*) *Aims.*—To encourage young people to discover and develop leisure interests.
(*ii*) To encourage self-sufficiency in food production and to provide opportunity for self employment.
(*iii*) To rejuvenate our cultural heritage.

Activities

(*i*) *Interests.*—Activities under this section include:—
(*a*) Folklore ;
(*b*) Self Defence ;
(*c*) Drama ;
(*d*) Dancing ;
(*e*) Music ;
(*f*) Stamp, coin, postcards and feather collections ;
(*g*) Studies—Languages, Civics, Piants, Anthropology, Criminology, Religions of the World, etc. ; and
(*h*) Youth in Government—Knowledge of the various types of Government, e.g. Presidential and Parliamentary systems, decision making processes, etc.

(*ii*) *Agriculture/Gardening*

(*a*) Poultry ;
(*b*) Piggery ;
(*c*) Cattle-rearing ;
(*d*) Bee-keeping ;
(*e*) Rabbit-keeping ;

(*f*) Fish-Farming ;
(*g*) Horticulture—growing flowers, trees and shrubs ;
(*h*) Farming ; and
(*i*) Forestry.

(*iii*) *Culture (Arts and Crafts)*

(*a*) Handicrafts—Basket-making Handy-man's jobs, Leatherwork, Carving, Shoe-making, Clay modelling and Sculpture ;
(*b*) Pottery ;
(*c*) Spinning ;
(*d*) Drawing ;
(*e*) Painting ;
(*f*) Lettering ;
(*g*) Dyeing ;
(*h*) Printing ;
(*i*) Canoe Building ;
(*j*) Traditional Religion ; and
(*k*) Comparative Culture.

(*d*) *Physical Development Section*

(*i*) *Aim.*—To encourage the development of a healthy body and mind.

(*ii*) *Activities*

(*a*) Aquatic activities ;
(*b*) Fitness programmes ; and
(*c*) Sports.

SECTION 6

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

23. Work opportunities as a means of subsistence must be viewed as an important aspect of a youth policy. Undertaking of employment oriented activities and organisation of extensive programmes of small cottage industries must necessitate the establishment of facilities for technical entrepreneurial training. National Youth Centres should be established in each state of the Federation to provide employment orientation to the youth. This will help to increase rural employment opportunities and incentives in an attempt to avoid the worsening and more difficult urban unemployment problems and youth drift to urban centres.

24. The principal objectives of the National Youth Employment Scheme is to relieve unemployment in Nigeria by the removal of the unemployed youth from the labour market and the streets and train them in specific skills and aptitudes necessary for their eventual employment and responsible citizenship either as self-employed persons or as wage earners.

25. To this end, the national youth employment programme shall develop a youth service organisation with a view to :—

(*a*) removing the unemployed from the labour market and channeling their energies and talents to national service in a spirit of community responsibility ;

(*b*) giving the youth vocational training in the areas of agriculture such as fisheries, animal husbandry, poultry, electrical work, motor and tractor driving, automobile repair, bricklaying, home economics, weaving, commercial practice and other skills as to foster further self-support and self-respect ;

(*c*) inculcating in the youth the spirit of voluntary social service, by deploying them in voluntary services on social development projects involving construction of roads, bridges, schools, etc. ;

(*d*) instilling discipline into the youth especially self-discipline, and promoting unity and team spirit among them, coming as they do from different social, ethnic and religious background—so as to develop national outlook and consciousness ; and

(*e*) promoting in the youth an all-round education—moral, physical and intellectual so as to engender in them self-reliance and healthy attitude to work and play.

26. *Scope.*—The scope of the programme should cover the following categories of youth :—

(*a*) primary school leavers ;

(*b*) youth who cannot complete primary/secondary education; and

(*c*) unschooled youth of the minimum age of 12 years.

27. *Operational Aspect.*—This shall be in three parts :

(*a*) ORIENTATION

(*i*) Instructions on general objectives of the programme ;

(*ii*) civics, and

(*iii*) physical education.

(*b*) TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

(*i*) *Optional*

(*a*) Automobile Service and Repairs;

(*b*) Brick/Block Making/Laying ;

(*c*) Carpentry and Joinery ;

(*d*) Electrical installation (Industrial and Domestic) ;

(*e*) Leatherwork and Upholstery ;

(*f*) Painting and General Art Work ;

(*g*) Radio, TV and Electronic Services and Repairs ;

(*h*) Tailoring and Dress-making ;

(*i*) Typing and Shorthand;

(*j*) Catering and Hotel Management ;

(*k*) Home Economics and other crafts ;

(*l*) Welding; and

(*m*) Hair Dressing and Beauty Care.

(*ii*) *Compulsory*

(*a*) Basic Remedial Educational Programme ;

(*b*) Agriculture, e.g. farming, poultry, etc., and

(*c*) Commercial Practice.

(*c*) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

(*i*) General building and construction work (road making, construction of markets, etc.) ;

(*ii*) Re-aforestation projects ; and

(*iii*) Agricultural extension work, etc.

28. *Role of The Federal Youth Development Department.*—The Federal Youth Development Department shall encourage the State Youth Development Division to implement this programme of activities and render assistance to them through broad policy guide-lines and as well, offer technical and financial support. In addition, the Federal Youth Development Department should provide grants to supplement State's resources. It shall also be the role of the Federal Youth Development Department in conjuction with the State, to plan, harmonise and evaluate the programme within its set objectives. Furthermore, the Federal Youth Development Department shall monitor the implementation of the whole programme.

29. *Role of the State Youth Development Division.*—The State Youth Development Division shall initiate the programme within the State and undertake such preliminary functions necessary for establishing the Centre such as land acquisition, and the setting up of infrastructural and informational facilities. The day to day management of the centre shall be the responsibility of the State Youth Development Division. This shall include admission policy, course contents and general financial control within the broad guide-lines laid down by the Federal Youth Development Department.

SECTION 7

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

30. CLASSIFICATION

Youth Organisations are broadly classified as :—

(*a*) Statutory : which could be parastatals for example, the National Youth Service Corps, the Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre, and any State Youth Institution/Association.

(*b*) Voluntary : e.g. Boy Scouts Movement, Girl Guides Association, Young Men and Women Christian Associations, Islamic Youth League, Youth Clubs and Age-groups.

(*c*) Residual : These are youth organisations that operate mostly in institutions of learning and others that are run principally on utilitarian basis, e.g. Students' Unions, Junior Chambers of Commerce, etc.

31. NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

The establishment of the National Youth Council of Nigeria on 28th August, 1964 filled the long existing vacuum in search of an apex organisation that would co-ordinate the activities of all the various voluntary youth organisations in the country. The legality of the Council was solely based on the recognition accorded it by the then Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, which also subvented it.

32. *Composition of the National Youth Council of Nigeria*

(*a*) A President to be elected at the annual general meeting of all National Voluntary Youth Organisations ;

(*b*) Chairman of all States' Youth Councils;

(*c*) The Heads of all National Voluntary Youth Organisations ;

(*d*) Four members interested in youth organisations to be appointed by the Federal Minister charged with Youth Development ;

(*e*) A representative of the Federal Youth Development Department ; and

(*f*) The Secretary of the Council.

Other arms of the Council include the State branches and the Management Committee which runs the affairs of the Council.

33. *The Functions of the Council*

(*a*) To co-ordinate the various programmes of the National Voluntary Youth Organisations;

(*b*) To study various problems confronting the youth of this country ;

(*c*) To be responsible for active mobilization of youth for youth development programmes ;

(*d*) To serve as the link between the Federal Government and all voluntary youth organisations ;

(*e*) To ensure that all international engagements by voluntary youth organisations are properly cleared with the Federal Ministry responsible for Youth Development through the council before such engagements are undertaken ; and

(*f*) To evaluate at the end of each year the programmes of activities of each youth organisation and submit its recommendations to the Ministry responsible for Youth Development.

CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

34. For the purpose of recognition the following conditions should be fulfilled :—

(*a*) The organisation must have a name that stands on its own ;

(*b*) The Association shall be a voluntary and non-profit making organisation established solely for the promotion and development of youth services in Nigeria ;

(*c*) The organisation must have a properly written constitution with the aims and objectives clearly defined. A copy of such constitution must be lodged with the Federal and/or State Government(s) ;

(*d*) The organisation must be affiliated with National/State Youth Council ;

(*e*) The organisation shall operate on national basis with its units spread all over in at least more than half of the total number of States in the Federation, if it is a State's Youth Organisation, in at least more than half the total number of Local Government Areas in the State ;

(*f*) The organisation must be registered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs before recognition could be accorded it ;

(*g*) Membership shall be open to all youth irrespective of political, religious and ethnic differences ;

(*h*) Membership shall be drawn from young persons between six and thirty years. The need for and presence of persons above this age limit who may serve as youth leaders is recognised ;

(*i*) The Association should keep proper minutes and maintain a bank account which should be audited periodically;

(*j*) The organisation must have programmes for character training, citizenship and leadership training and other youth development activities ; and

(*k*) Period of effective operation before such an organisation is recognised should be at least one year.

FUNDING YOUTH ORGANISATION

35. *Sources of Finance.*—Funds should come from :

(*a*) Enrolment dues ;

(*b*) Donations/gifts from commercial firms and philantropists ;

(*c*) Club activities generating funds such as, Bob-a-job, Clean-up-campaigns, Drama, Co-operative farming, etc. ; and

(*d*) Government subventions.

SECTION 8

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

36. With the promulgation of Decree No. 22 of 1973, the National Youth Service Corps Scheme (NYSC) came into existence. The programme has been extended to all institutions of higher learning.

37. The purpose of the scheme is primarily to imbue Nigerian youth with the spirit of selfless service to the community and to emphasise the spirit of oneness and brotherhood of all Nigerians irrespective of cultural, religious or social background. The history of our country since independence has clearly indicated the need for unity among all our people and demonstrated the fact that no cultural or geographical entity can exist in isolation.

38. *Objectives of the Scheme*

(*a*) to inculcate discipline in our youth by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work and of patriotic and loyal service to the nation in any situation they may find themselves ;

(*b*) to raise the moral tone of our youth by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement and social and cultural improvement ;

(*c*) to develop in our youth attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training which will make them more amendable to mobilisation in the national interest ;

(*d*) to develop common ties among our youth and promote national unity by ensuring that :—

(*i*) as far as possible, youth are assigned to jobs in states other than their states of origin ;

(*ii*) each group, assigned to work together, is as representative of the country as possible ;

(*iii*) the youth are exposed to the modes of living of the people in different parts of the country with a view to removing prejudice, eliminating ignorance and confirming at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians, of all ethnic groups ;

(*e*) to encourage members of the Corps to seek, at the end of their Corps Service, career employment all over the country, thus promoting the free movement of labour ;

(*f*) to induce employers, partly through their experience with corps members, to employ more readily qualified Nigerians irrespective of their states of origin ; and

(*g*) to enable our youth to acquire the spirit of self-reliance.

39. *Operation of the Scheme*

(*a*) The Decree sets up a Directorate comprising a Chairman, a Director, representatives of Institutions of Higher Learning, the Armed Forces, Police, the Ministries for Education, Labour, Social Development, Youth, Sports and Culture, the Nigerian Employers Consultative Association, and three Special Members.

(*b*) The Directorate is the governing and policy-making body of the National Youth Service Corps. The Director is the Chief Executive of the Scheme.

(*c*) The Decree also provides for the establishment of a State Committee in each State of the Federation. The State Committee has a statutory responsibility to assist the Directorate in the smooth operation of the Scheme in the State.

SECTION 9

SCHEME OF SERVICE

40. To meet the requirements of the National Youth Policy, the need for skilled personnel cannot be over-emphasised. It is essential therefore, that efforts should be made to secure the services of qualified personnel to perform the duties of Youth Development Officers.

41. A uniform nomenclature for professionals of Youth Work throughout the Federation shall be, "Youth Development Officers".

42. The required qualifications for all cadres in the Youth Development Department/ Division are similar to those applicable to the unified scheme of service for Social Development Services.

SECTION 10

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

43. There shall be regular training of Youth Workers/Leaders to attain a high professional standard of working with the young people. In this connection, youth workers shall have opportunity for training at Commonwealth Youth Centres, the National Youth Development Centre, Jos, and other institutions of higher learning within or outside the country.