

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH & INFORMATION

**RECONVENING OF NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT JAMAICA
(NYPJ)**

INTRODUCTION

Members are asked to note the following information regarding the reconvening of National Youth Parliament Jamaica (NYPJ) by the Ministry of Education, Youth & Information (MoE, Y&I).

BACKGROUND

The National Youth Parliament was initially implemented as an annual Youth Month Activity, with seven (7) sittings being hosted between 2003 and 2009. The activity was coordinated by the National Centre for Youth Development (NCYD), and sought to provide a forum for youth aged 15 to 24 years to have their opinions articulated to local and national government, and provide services to young people.

Further, the sitting of the National Youth Parliament was intended to provide Jamaican youth with an opportunity to become involved in the process of democratization and governance at both the national and local level. The sitting was also coordinated to introduce youth to parliamentary processes and procedures, while ensuring a greater understanding and appreciation of good governance.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The National Youth Parliament will consist of youth from varying demographics, organizations and circumstances from across the island, and will be structured to:

1. Encourage active citizenship among youth and promote involvement in democracy and governance;
 2. Analyse and provide feedback from a youth perspective on statements, Ministry Papers, Green Papers and Bills before the Houses of Parliament;
- and

3. Promote youth mainstreaming into national policies, strategies and programmes.

At the Youth Parliament Leadership Training Workshop, participants will be assigned to one of the committees of the Youth Parliament. The committees will operate throughout the term of the Youth Parliament. Committees will fulfil the parliamentary watch responsibilities of the Youth Parliament, by analyzing and providing feedback on statements, ministry papers, green papers and bills before the Houses of Parliament that fall under the purview of that committee.

The Parliament of 70 members will include Clerks to the House and Press Gallery members. Clerks will provide administrative support to the Youth Parliament. Press Gallery members will prepare opinion pieces, and other publications of the Youth Parliament/Advisory Council.

The committees that are proposed will be aligned with the goals of the National Youth Policy. In this way, Youth Parliamentarians will be actively monitoring the implementation of the National Youth Policy, and will be making recommendations to advance progress in achieving the policy goals.

Feedback from the deliberations at a committee level will be forwarded to the National Youth Advisory Committee for discussion with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Through the National Youth Advisory Council, the National Youth Parliament will provide input for the development of communiqués to be issued which speak to key youth development issues.

Through the National Youth Advisory Council, the National Youth Parliament will provide input for the development of communiqués to be issued which speak to key youth development issues. Two (2) months following the NYP Leadership Workshop, the National Youth Parliament steering committee (MoE, Y&I & NYACJ) will host a sitting. One sitting will be held during each parliamentary year. For each sitting, members will raise motions on a maximum of four (4) youth development issues.

Committees would have prepared for Parliament among with their members over the one month period. Following parliamentary procedure, the dialogue will focus

on putting forward the research examined as part of the parliamentary committees, and making comprehensive proposals to government on policy and programme actions to address the issues.

To date, discussions have been initiated with the Houses of Parliament in order to re-institute the National Youth Parliament and technical support in terms of a model will be received from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The table outlines the projected expenditure for the NYPJ for the 2016/17 Financial Year.

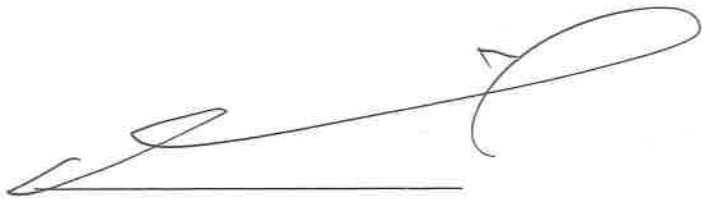
Table: Projected expenditure for the NYPJ for the 2016/17 Financial Year

ITEM	COSTS (JAS)
Administration	1,611,000.00
Training and Support	1,600,000.00
Youth Parliament Leadership Workshop	1,453,500.00
Parliamentary Sitting	1,453,500.00
	TOTAL
	\$6,118,000.00

CONCLUSION

Reconvening the National Youth Parliament Jamaica (NYPJ) will strengthen the democratic process in by deepening the understanding of parliamentary democracy among young people. The NYPJ will build self-awareness and inspire young people to understand and engage with social issues towards initiating citizenship action and promoting positive social change.

The Parliament will provide young people in Jamaica with both the leadership skills and a platform for expressing their ideas, concerns, expectations and proposals as it relates to the themes of democracy and development.



Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, CD, JP

Minister

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