

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH & INFORMATION

YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Members are being asked to note the following updates on the completion of the National Youth Policy (2015-2030) by the Ministry of Education, Youth & Information (MoE, Y&I).

BACKGROUND

The National Youth Policy establishes a framework within which each young person can be supported to pursue and achieve his or her goals. By establishing goals and areas for actions that are transformational and achievable, this new policy builds on the groundwork laid by previous National Youth Policies and seeks to advance the overall development of the Jamaican youth.

The vision for the Policy extends to 2030, but it will be reviewed on a five-year basis. The Policy will be supported by a Strategic Plan, which will be closely linked with and supported by the Government's long-term development plan and medium term socio-economic planning frameworks and corporate and strategic plans of the Ministry.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

To date, the Green Paper was tabled in Parliament in May 2015 and four (4) public consultations with over two hundred and forty (240) youth representatives were conducted. The Ministry is now in the process of modifying the Green Paper to reflect the views of the youth ascertained during these public consultations. A submission to Parliament for approval for a White Paper will be done before the end of 2016/2017. Supporting policy instruments will also be completed to ensure the implementation and monitoring of the policy.

The implementation of the National Youth Policy will occur within Ministries and Agencies of the Public Sector, and will also involve partnerships with the Private

Sector, local and international development partners, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), communities, the media and other stakeholders in youth development.

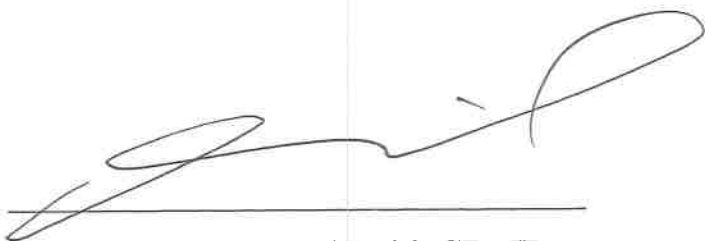
The Policy therefore requires strengthening the capacity of the Youth Division to provide the policy, planning, administrative and oversight functions as appropriate, and to ensure sufficient authority and credibility.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The completion of the Policy will require further technical assistance. The projected administrative cost for completion of the policy is approximately JA\$3M.

CONCLUSION

The Government of Jamaica is committed to supporting the development of the country's youth. It recognizes that the translation of this commitment into action is a key national development strategy. The successful revision and implementation of this policy is only possible with coordinated effort of multiple stakeholders who are involved in the youth development sector, and those whose work have a significant impact on the environments in which youth thrive.



Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, CD, JP
Minister

June 6, 2016

File No. *G 655/131*