

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

The House is asked to note the following information regarding the Establishment of a National Youth Advisory Council by the Ministry of Education, Youth & Information (MoEYI).

OVERVIEW

The National Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica (NYACJ) is intended to facilitate continuous engagement of young people in youth development policy and programming actions of the Government of Jamaica. The NYACJ is one structure geared towards the fulfilment of the Goal VI of the CARICOM Youth Development Goals (CYDGs), which seeks to ensure and enhance youth participation in all levels of decision-making, programme implementation and oversight.

In this respect, the NYACJ will work to mainstream the needs of youth through Government of Jamaica (GOJ) programmes and activities during all phases of programme development, implementation and evaluation. The NYACJ will also act as a Steering and Planning Committee for the National Youth Parliament, toward ensuring that both the execution and deliberations of the parliament are effective for its participants and presented to, and discussed with relevant decision-makers.

The NYACJ will:

- Provide support to the GOJ in mainstreaming youth issues into national policies and development strategies in order to create spaces and opportunities for empowering young people and giving recognition, visibility and credibility to the contributions of youth;

- Provide support to the MOEYI in planning and executing the annual National Youth Parliament Leadership Workshop and Sitting;
- Develop partnerships between the GOJ and young people, to solicit and integrate youth views and priorities, and collaborate with youth in setting up projects and programmes to address their needs, concerns and requirements of youth;
- Monitor and evaluate projects targeting and involving young people and promote research on youth development;
- Promote the presence of youth on GOJ Boards, as well as in workshops, meetings and conferences organised by the GOJ and its partners; and
- Act as a hub of information concerning youth, towards updating member organisations on opportunities and initiatives in various sectors of government for youth development.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The NYACJ is being coordinated with the intent to facilitate dialogue between young people and all GOJ Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

For the period 2016-2017, the council will focus on the achievement of its objectives in relation to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, and its departments and agencies. The work of the NYACJ will subsequently be expanded to consider policies and programmes in other ministries.

The Chairman and the members of the NYACJ will be appointed by a NYACJ selection committee appointed by the Minister of Education, Youth & Information.

The NYACJ will comprise fifteen (15) young persons between the ages of 18-29 who have demonstrated exceptional potential in their achievements and their drive to make a contribution to their communities.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

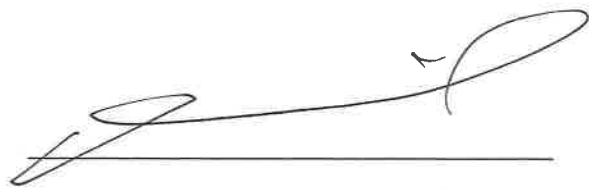
The table outlines the projected expenditure for the NYACJ for the 2016/17 Financial Year.

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

ITEM	COST (JA\$)
Bi-monthly Meetings among members	162,000.00
Quarterly Meetings with MoEYI	96,000.00
Publication of Communiqué in national newspaper	250,000.00
Administration	50,000.00
	TOTAL \$558,000.00

CONCLUSION

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Sen. The hon. Ruel Reid, CD, JP
Minister

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