

# THE STATE OF THE YOUTH REPORT

2016/17

A summary of the  
report findings

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“Assessing Government Responses  
to the Youth Demands in the first  
one Year”



UGANDA PARLIAMENTARY  
FORUM ON YOUTH AFFAIRS

# The Report

In the run up to the 2016 general elections Uganda Parliamentary UPFYA and the Youth Coalition on Electoral Democracy (YCED) through a highly consultative process developed the National Youth Manifesto 2016-2021 that has a set of demands to be addressed by the government that takes up leadership. These demands are under five thematic areas: Jobs, Education, Health, Youth Participation and Sports and Creative Arts. The current NRM government committed massively to fulfill the demands of the young people as embedded in the National Youth Manifesto (2016-2021).

The NYM also has a set Monitoring and Evaluation framework code named the Technical National Youth Manifesto (NTYM) that provides a basis for tracking performance and the overall impact made in the target population by interventions of government. This report therefore reviewed the level at which government has been able to fulfil its commitments within the first one year 2016/17 especially on policy and legislative frameworks based on the demands in the National Youth Manifesto and the key indicators and expected progress indicated in the National Technical Youth Manifesto as of June 2017. The report highlights the demands and the response to the commitments made by government; recommendations and a conclusive statement.

## Why the Assessment?

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), projects Uganda's total population in 2017 at 37.6 million, with youth (18–30 years) constituting roughly 22 % (8.2 million) of that population. Children (below 18 years of age) constitute 55 % of the population- Result; youth numbers continue to bulge. Therefore, there must be concerted efforts to develop this group of the population given their numbers and potential to boost growth and development. It is important to keep track of the government commitments and how this has contributed to national development and growth.

## Methodology

- Desk review of the ministerial policy statements presented by the different ministries to Parliament, the government budget documents including the National Development Plan II, National Budget Framework Paper FY 2016/17 and 2017/18, Parliamentary committee reports on the Ministerial Policy Statements.
- Youth Voices generated from Youth Parliaments and National Reflection Platform

## What are Youth Parliaments?

These are reflection and accountability platforms between and their leaders (MPs and Local Government Leaders). UPFYA embarked on a country wide consultation campaign and organized regional youth parliaments on some of the issues that were embedded in the national youth manifesto. UPFYA further organized a national reflection platform with 100 youth and Members of Parliament from across the country.

## Participants:

District Youth Councils (DYC) structures, Youth Councilors, Youth Members of Parliament and other Members of Parliament, Youth focused CSOs and NGOs,

Numbers: 43 Districts with 90 participants in each regional youth parliament totaling to 540 participants consulted.



Representatives of PWDs, Local Government Officials, and informal Youth groups, representatives of the political parties especially youth wings, cultural leaders, students and the media.

## Regions and Districts:

Gulu Regional Youth Parliament ( Agago, Otuke, Amuru, Kole, Lamwo, Kitgum, Oyam, Lira, Amolatar, Gulu, Dokolo, Alebtong, Nwoya, Pader); Kasese Regional Youth Parliament ( Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kyenjonjo, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa); Soroti Regional Youth Parliament ( Soroti, Serere, Bekedea, Kumi, Ngora, Kaberamaido, Katakwi); Arua regional youth parliament (Arua, Nebbi, Maracha, Yumbe, Koboko, Moyo, Adjumani, Zombo); Rakai Regional Youth Parliament (Rakai, Masaka, Bukomansimbi, Kalangala, Kalungu, Lwengo, Lyantonde, Sembabule ).

## THE STATE OF THE YOUTH

*What was promised and what has been delivered*

### JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!

**Demand:** Institute measures to require employers, particularly foreign investors, to: - target at least 40% local youth in recruitment; - take steps to develop the local workforce such as offering internships; and - procure from the area within which they operate. In addition to regulations,

incentives such as tax breaks should be considered.

## Response:

- Public Procurement Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDA) issued guidelines on reservation schemes to promote local content in public procurement to increase input of local labour, goods and services in the procurement of public sector projects, goods and services within the country.<sup>1</sup>
- Cabinet yet to approve the national public procurement policy and proposed PPDA Amendment Bill 2015 to encourage promotion of local businesses under the preference and reservation schemes, and efficiency in public procurement
- Buy Uganda Build Uganda, and other policies that have the potential to promote local businesses and create employment opportunities for youth
- Parliament of Uganda in the process of legislating on the Local Content Bill 2017 as a Private members bill.

## However

- Government expedites needs to expedite the concrete policy to operationalize the law on Local Content.
- All the laws and regulations lack clear allocated percentage of the quotas reserved for youth in employment and public procurement
- Most youth are not actively engaged in the sectors reserved for local content by PPDA

**Demand: Facilitate the formalization of the informal sector in such a way as to generate new job opportunities for young people. However, care must be taken not to stifle innovation or inhibit the development of small scale enterprises.**

## Response

- Shs.0.245Bn provided in the FY 2016/17 to Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) to operationalize the National Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAPYE) and National Action Plan for Youth (NAPY).
- Shs 0.100Bn allocated to MGLSD to offer Internship Programme through the Programme for Green Jobs and Fair Labour Markets (PROGRE) for youth at Universities and tertiary institutions to gain experience

## However,

- National Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAPYE) is still awaiting cabinet approval
- PROGRE is underfunded to the tune of Shs.52.8billion

**Demand: Strengthen implementation and monitoring of legislation that requires all foreign contractors to develop and implement a technology transfer plan.**

## Response:

- Uganda has an Investment Code Act and National Science, Technology and Innovation Plan 2012/2013 - 2017/2018

## However:

- The plan indicates that studies on Uganda's Science Technology and innovation system have shown that technology forecasting, assessment and transfer is the weak link in the technology development chain
- There is no clear evidence of how foreign companies are developing and implementing technological transfer plans as required by the Investment code Act.
- There is increased number of expatriates in several key sectors, like manufacturing, construction, extractives and industrial based forms of employment

**Demand: Institute labour export regulations and policies to eliminate human trafficking and improve the working conditions of youth in the Diaspora**

## Response:

- About 50,000 Ugandans have been deployed to 11 different countries through 63 licensed companies under the Externalisation of Labour Programme under the MGLSD
- Following a resolution of Parliament passed in 2014 banning the export of domestic workers to the Middle East, the MGLSD has since instituted key reforms to protect all Ugandans including youth in the diaspora
- Uganda has signed a bi lateral agreement with Jordan, and has initiated negotiations with Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar.
- MGLSD plans to review and strengthen the National Labour Externalization Policy, and has revised the regulations for externalization of labour and sensitize Labour Exporting Companies on guidelines on recruitment and placement of Ugandans abroad
- Parliament has been instrumental in fighting for the protection of Ugandan Migrant workers especially in the Middle East.
- The youth MPs have partnered with government security agencies to deal with illegal and unscrupulous labour export companies.
- MPs planning to table a labour export fund bill to cater for most of the gaps in the sector.

<sup>1</sup> Guidelines on reservation schemes to promote local content

## However

- The sector is still marred by several illegal labour export companies
- Cases of human rights violation against Uganda export labourers on the rise
- Uganda has not signed bi-lateral agreements with Several countries where Uganda exports labour

**Demand:** Instigate measures to support youth business start-ups and to nurture new businesses

## Response:

- Government set up of the Youth Venture Capital Fund (YVCF), the Youth Livelihood Programme, Agricultural Credit Facility and through broad initiatives like Operation Wealth Creation (OWC).
- Since inception, a total of 119,857 youths (55% male and 55% female) have directly received technical and financial support for 9,438 projects worth Ugx.68.4 Bn.
- Distribution of heifers to youth leaders through OWC as start-up capital
- MPs have recommended for the establishment of the Youth Development Bank to deal with the structural challenges and gaps in youth funding across all sectors.

## However:

- YLP has been bedeviled by a spate of challenges, both implementation, accountability and funding gaps and many youth complaining about the high number of people in the groups (15 Pax) among other challenges
- In the 4th budget call circular of the FY 2016/17 the MoGLSD experienced budget cuts worth Shs.8bn affecting 1300 groups.
- The Youth Venture capital fund has been redundant since the introduction of the YLP yet the funds are allocated by government.
- Heifers under OWC are not given on a revolving basis and have only be accessed by a few of them.

**Demand:** Allied to the Skills Development Centres of Excellence

that will be established through NDP II, establish regional Incubation Centres for invention and innovation to create opportunities for business growth thereby increasing the pace of job creation. Steps must be taken to ensure these are accessible to all youth and ensure they are geared to the NDP II growth areas.

## Response:

- The ministry of ICT and National guidance has been allocated Shs.15bn to establish incubation centres. Of this Shs.5bn has been allocated to establish the state-of-the-art National ICT Innovation Hub at the Institute of ICT, Nakawa.

## However:

- The process of establishing these incubation centers is taking too long yet they are meant to contribute to job creation and training

**Demand:** Fast-track the establishment of National Youth Service and Internship Schemes by all sectors including Government.

## Response

- MGLSD plans to Establish of National Youth Service Scheme to promote patriotism, mentoring and skills to youth
- National Youth Service Scheme Bill as one of the priority pieces of legislation.
- Members of Parliament have come up with a private members bill: National Graduate Service bill which seeks to regulate the provision of internship opportunities for graduates and build their civic competence
- A number of government agencies and the private sector are currently proving internship opportunities for gradates.

## However:

- The National Youth Service Scheme Bill is taking long to be drafted by government
- The National Youth Service Scheme remains an unfunded priority requiring Shs5.000Bn for implementation.

**Demand:** Support the development of clear guidelines for the implementation of the National Disability Policy (NDisP) ensuring enforcement is robust where it applies to youth with disabilities.

## Response:

- National policy on disability review on-going
- National youth policy provides specific guidelines of how government will support youth with disabilities.

## However:

- National policy on disability review has been planned for all the FYs 2015/16, FY 2016/17 and FY2017/18.

**Demand:** Institute mechanisms to encourage youth involvement in the agricultural sector across the value chain by promoting the establishment of youth cooperatives and availing public land to youth.

## Response:

- Government with support from development partners has finalized the National Youth Agriculture Strategy, aimed at encouraging youth to join agriculture.
- Text Box: Agricultural sector has the largest share of the labour force (73%), followed by the service sector (21%). The vast majority of employed youth live in rural areas, with at least 70% mainly engaged in agriculture (UBOS, 2012).

**Demand:** Institute mechanisms to encourage youth involvement in the agricultural sector across the value chain by promoting the establishment of youth cooperatives and availing public land to youth.

## Response:

- Government with support from development partners has finalized the National Youth Agriculture Strategy aimed at encouraging youth to join agriculture.
- NARO in the FY 2016/17, planned to provide agricultural production extension services and enhance youth participation in agriculture

- Women, youth, and PWDs are to be supported with approximately 10% of the value addition equipment budget in order to improve agricultural value chains development. FY2016/17 provided Shs.2.4Bn for this intervention
- Shs.2.1 Bn provided to sensitise and support the youth, women and PWDs on farming as a business
- During the 2016 youth council sitting government committed to allocate 30% of the Operation Wealth creation interventions to youth
- Government has started allocating heifers to the national youth council leaders as a way of motivating youth in agriculture.
- MGLSD started campaign to start youth co-operatives

### However:

- Many youth complain of not being involved in all the government agricultural interventions like NAADS and OWC
- The campaign to start youth co-operatives has not taken off
- There is no clear plan to allocate land to youth who wish to engage in mechanized agriculture
- The heifers distributed are not given on a rotational basis but they

also reach a few

**Demand: Stimulate the establishment of special products through the banks to facilitate youth access to finance for agricultural activities**

### Response:

- Establishment of Youth Venture Capital Fund to be accessed by youth through commercial banks

### However:

- Youth Venture Capital Fund remains redundant given the requirements from commercial banks which youth fail to produce
- The Agricultural Credit Facility, which was intended to facilitate the provision of medium and long term loans to projects engaged in agriculture and agro-processing on more favorable terms than are usually available from the financial institutions has remained elusive to youth agricultural enterprises.

**Demand: Support access to markets for youth engaged in agriculture at home, within the EAC and beyond to increase the likelihood of business sustainability and maximize the contribution to strengthening the economy.**

### Response:

- The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives are undertaking trade policies, legislations strategies such as Market and

Supermarket guidelines, and kick starting Buy Uganda Build Uganda Implementation.

- The ministry boosted by additional Commercial Services Conditional Grant worth US\$2 billion to market linkages to domestic, regional markets, improvement of standards of products, promote consumption of locally produced goods.

### However:

- Many young people that are engaged in agriculture struggle to find market for their produce especially those dealing in small quantities with no value addition

**Demand: Support infrastructure development, such as storage facilities, that enable small-scale producers to increase their efficiency**

### Response:

- 10 storage units constructed and the of 60 cooperative union stores refurbished by Ministry of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives through a project aimed at improving and increasing storage capacity of agricultural commodities across the country

### However:

- Most of these cater for the large-scale farmers leaving most of the youth involved in small scale farming without support

## HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

**Demand: Expedite the passing of the National health insurance bill which will provide universal and affordable healthcare for all**

- Parliament has been urging the executive to introduce the National Health Insurance Bill in the house for the last three years.

### However:

- The bill has not yet been introduced in Parliament for first reading although government keeps promising to do so

- Ministry of health reported that there is a funding gap of Shs.5bn in the FY 2017/18 to kick start the post-legislation phase of the scheme

**Demand: Provide accurate and comprehensive health information to the youth through the most convenient, affordable and effective method; including support to ensure language and formal education levels are not barriers to access to information especially for young people with disabilities.**

### Response:

- Ministry of health in advanced stages of producing a school health policy
- The MGLSD initiated the drafting of guidelines for Sexuality Education for out of School Youth
- Ministry of Education and Sports initiated the drafting of guidelines for Sexuality Education for Youth in schools

## However:

- The lack of consensus among stakeholders on the form and content of sexuality education remains an impediment in developing health information especially for the youth.

**Demand: Strengthen multi-sectorial partnerships between the health sector and other like-minded sectors to ensure coordinated access to health information and services to youth.**

## Response:

- Ministry of Health in its MPS has invested in inter-sectoral collaboration to address determinants for health, e.g safe water, education, and housing among others especially key in areas of adolescent reproductive health rights and education as well as fighting gender based violence and practices such as FGM that have severe health indications for young people affected.

**Demand: Invest 5% of the annual ministry of health budget as a stand-alone allocation for the establishment and sustenance of youth corners in all public health facilities at all levels**

## Response:

- There hasn't been any strategic intervention by government to establish youth corners in all public health facilities at all levels

**Demand: Invest in health research to explore the unique health needs of young people according to different determinants such as age, disability, gender, orphan hood status and school status and include evidence based decision making**

## Response:

- The Ministry of health has undertaken a number of research processes on adolescent and youth related issues.

## However:

- Most of the publications are only accessed on the ministry's website and moreover in English which many youth can't access due to the high levels of the digital divide and the language barriers

**Demand: Eliminate harmful traditional practices such as FGM and child marriages**

## Response

- MGLSD implementing the National Policy and Action Plan to eliminate Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- The ministry continues sensitizing and raising awareness, enforcing the law as well as providing support to communities to abandon FGM
- With support from UNFPA the ministry has joint programs to end child marriages (Shs.35m), joint program on FGM (Shs.155M).

- FY 118/17 and FY17/18 Shs.200M was provided specifically for elimination of FGM in eastern Uganda.

**Demand: Institute mechanisms to reduce teenage pregnancies**

## Response

- Ministry of Education and Sports and MGLSD has invested in providing information about prevention teenage pregnancy among youth and in communities.
- The National Youth Policy and Action Plan emphasizes the plans to support female youth and prevent teenage pregnancies.

## However:

- The Uganda demographic and health survey 2016 reported that teenage pregnancies had increased from 20% in 2011 to 25% in 2016.
- Funding for the dissemination of health related guidelines on prevention and management of HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy remains limited with only Shs0.250B provided for in FY2016/17 and FY 2017/18 to MGLSD.
- There poor education retention in schools for girls, lack of consensus on the messaging on reproductive health education and increasing levels of poverty has highly contribute to the high rates of pregnancy.

**Demand: Eliminate laws and policies that contribute to gender based violence and inhibit access to sexual and reproductive health services**

## Response:

- Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) requested government to set up specialized courts on gender based violence issues.
- MGLSD partners with other government agencies to organize the 16 days of Activist Against Gender Based Violence Annually
- The Sexual Offences Bill, 2015 currently being debated Parliament seeks to consolidate laws relating to sexual offences and combat sexual violence

## However:

- The rates of gender based violence are still high with The 2011 Uganda Demography survey showed that 59.6% of women from the age of 15 have experienced physical violence, while 39% women in Uganda have been sexually harassed.

**Demand: Support youth involvement in efforts to prevent drug and substance abuse**

## Response:

- The new Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances Act 2016 passed by Parliament to deal with drug dealers and traffickers
- Tobacco Control Act, 2015 is being enforced after passed by Parliament

- National Youth Policy and Action Plan indicate plans and structures of preventing drug and substance abuse

### However:

- Enforcement of the laws on drug and substance use is very challenging as requires a multi-sectoral approach

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The banning alcohol consumption in sachets which many youth abuse has failed to be enforced as there is no law guiding this.

**Demand: Enhance free skills training opportunities through UPPET and BTVET which provide an opportunity for creating new vocational centres and utilizing the available community polytechnics.**

- Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) is undertaking the Development of BTVET project 2015-2020 “Skilling Uganda” a donor funded project to a tune of Ugx.55.435 Bn in the FY 2016/17. The project aims to rehabilitate and equip technical Institutes, Technical Colleges, College of Commerce and Instructors’ Colleges.
- Uganda Skills Development Project (USDP), the Reform Task Force (RTF) which is already in place is working towards the development of the Skills Development Authority.
- The task force spearheaded by Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is drafting Skills Development Authority Bill
- Presidential Initiative on Youth Skilling has supported approximately 1791 youth in the informal sector to acquire vocational skills

### However:

- The process of youth skilling still lacks central coordination that leads to efforts duplication
- Vocational skills remain unattractive to youth in Uganda as they prefer White collar jobs because of the formal education training and curriculum

**Demand: Incentivize private sector investments in education in hard to reach areas**

### Response:

- Ushs 7.9bn for monitoring and supervision moved to the construction of non-residential building and construct facilities in 293 schools and teachers houses for schools in hard to reach areas.
- Government partners with Private Schools through providing capitation grant at shs.47,000 for Universal Secondary Education per student per term under for Ordinary Level Secondary education and shs.85,000 per student per term for Advanced level to support private schools reach the hard to reach areas where government has not yet invested.

### However:

- In the FY 2017/18 government has indicated a move to abolish Public Private Partnerships and yet there is no plan fill that gap where government can’t reach.
- In the FY 2017/18 only 12 secondary schools are expected to be constructed at a cost of UGX 8.8 billion.

**Demand: Create and implement clear policies to regulate the operations of schools both in the private and public sector**

### Response:

- MoES has revised the guidelines for Licensing and Registration of Private Secondary Schools.

### However:

- Enforcement mechanisms have remained weak. In the budget for the FY 2017/18, the inspection function remains an unfunded priority

**Demand: Increase funding to the education sector over the next 5 years**

### Response

- Budget increased FY 2016/17 to 2.730Tn from Ushs 2,029.07bn in FY2015/16.
- The wage for the Sector increased from Ushs 1,191.98bn in 2015/16 to Shs 1,377.28bn in FY 2016/17 to cater for salary enhancement for staff including staff in education institutions.

### However:

- Universal Primary Education capitation grant has a funding gap of UGX 3,000 per pupil: the anticipated increase of capitation grant from UGX 7,000 to 10,000 has not been effected

**Demand: Improve teachers’ welfare (including food, housing and salaries)**

### Response:

- The government made an undertaking to give teachers SACCO some funds to enable teachers’ access financial credit at reasonable rates in an attempt to improve teacher’s welfare So far 6.8bn has been released from MFPED to Micro Finance Support Centre.

### However:

- The state of teachers’ housing is still wanting as most them are not provided with accommodation. The current MoES planning doesn’t have plans for constructing teachers’ houses

**Demand:** Refresher courses for teachers to keep them relevant to the changing academic demands of the world. Teachers must also be equipped with skills to teach students with special needs at all levels.

### Response:

- The MoES has plans for teacher training courses in a number of field including in special needs education.

### However:

- There are no clear budgetary allocations under MoES for teacher's refresher courses apart from a few specific training courses.

**Demand:** Provide free daily school meals for all primary school children

### Response:

- The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development noted that the proposals on school feeding have serious budget implications which Government cannot accommodate within the constrained budget. They advised that feeding of school learners should remain a responsibility of parents as stipulated in the Education Act 2008.

**Demand:** Strengthen School Management Committees through capacity building

### Response:

- MoES only managed to train 6000 members of 1200 primary schools under the Uganda Teacher and School Effectiveness Project (UTSEP) in school leadership, management and accountability.
- Demand: Establish a secondary school in each sub county to cater for those completing primary education and lower secondary

### Response:

- MoES requires to construct at least 20 schools per year requires Ushs.660,302,598 including capitation, wages and Civil Works however, his remains an underfunded priority still, even though the MoES plans to build only 12 secondary schools.

**Demand:** Emphasize mandatory vocational education in secondary schools

- The National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC), carried out curriculum reforms which were eventually rejected because of poorly consultative process that didn't involve the required stakeholders. The curriculum is currently undergoing review.

**Demand:** Establish six regional centers of excellence in special needs education to address the issues of capacity in infrastructure, access, knowledge and skills etc.

### Response:

- MoEs was able to monitor and supervise schools implementing SPE, train 293 teachers and coordinating tutors in functional and specialized skills; develop specialized training manuals for Special Needs Education; train 65 staff from Wakiso and Mbale in sign language; undertake civil works for 5 classrooms at Mable School for the Deaf.

### However:

- MoES deos not indicate plans to establish the Special Needs Education regional centres. The MoES has special needs education project whose approved budget of Ushs.3.54bn is not sufficient to address special needs education interventions.

**Demand:** Establish library services in places where they are absent and integrate them into the educational system to promote holistic learning.

### Response:

- There are no plan/ Interventions to address this

**Demand:** Increase investments in research and development to generate knowledge and stimulate growth

### Response:

- The Parliamentary Education Committee, in its report on the Ministerial Policy Statements for the FY 2017/18 observed that there is inadequate funding for research at universities to carry out scientific research.

## SPORTS AND CREATIVE ARTS

**Demand:** Establish community sports recreation centres and institute mechanisms towards making sports accessible in schools as part of the study program albeit in very practical terms (including strengthening school sports competitions) as a means of enhancing talent identification, nurturing and development

### Response:

- No clear plans on how this will be undertaken

**Demand:** Review the structure of major sports in consultation

with key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan of action to revitalize the sector

### Response:

- MoES currently reviewing a Physical Education and Sports Policy.
- MoES plans to finalize the Physical Activity and Sports (PAS) Bill and submit to Parliament for debate and enactment. The bill will repeal old laws and create a more dynamic legal framework of the sports sector in the country.

**Demand:** Gazette land for sports facilities and establish sports complexes at regional level and revamp district stadia that have fallen into disuse.

### Response:

- MoES plans to construct a National High Altitude Training Centre in Kapchorwa, rehabilitate 6 regional stadia across the country, fully equip the 6 regional stadia and the National High Altitude Training Centre.
- The ministry also indicated plans of development of Aki-Bua stadium in Lira.

### However:

- Funding for the sport as a whole is still insufficient and it has constrained the development of the sports to match the growing needs of the young people.

**Demand:** Provide tax incentives to the private sector to encourage investment in sports.

### Response:

- No clear plans to respond to this demand

**Demand:** Support the expeditious passing of the Lotteries and Gaming Bill to provide for the re-allocation of revenues realized from lotteries to sports activities.

### Response:

- The Parliament of Uganda passed the Gaming and Lotteries Bill, 2015

### However:

- The Bill doesn't provide for the re-allocation of revenues realized from lotteries to sports activities.

**Demand:** Provide incentives to the entertainment, arts, and creative industries to fully develop the sector to enable it compete effectively on the world stage.

### Response:

- No clear plan on how to implement this

- Demand: Strengthen the copyright regime to enhance protection for creative works

### Response:

- MGLSD in the FY16/17 and 17/18 plans to strengthen the enforcement of the Copyright Law and also work with artistes to fight piracy,

### However:

- There is not corresponding funding for the activity.

**Demand:** Establish a series of 'creative industry hubs' with full infrastructure facilities such as high-speed internet facilities and design studios as low-cost incubators for new creative industries and artists.

### Response:

MGLSD plans for the redevelopment of national theatre under a Public Private Partnership.

### However:

- There is need to construct more creative industry hubs to support the youth who are highly involved in this industry.

**Demand:** Strengthen Music, Dance and Drama competitions to enhance talent identification, nurturing and development

### Response:

- MoES has undertaken a number of initiatives to strengthen music dance and drama competition through the regional and national school competitions.

**Demand:** Equip the big traditional schools to serve as centres of excellence in sports and creative arts which can be used by other schools and stakeholders within their respective regions who lack these facilities.

### Response:

- No clear plan on how to implement this

**Demand:** Revise provisions of the National Youth Council Act to place it at the center of addressing issues of youth.

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

### Response:

- H.E the President listed the National Youth Council (Amendment) Bill as a priority legislation from the executive for the year 2017/18.

### However:

- The MGLSD has not indicated plans to amend the Act.

**Demand:** Recruit Youth Engagement Officers in Ministries, Departments and Agencies

### Response:

- Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) and has a

specific position for youth officer to cater for youth engagements

### However:

- Most of the government agencies don't have designated officers to cater for youth engagements. Under the Local Government structure, youth work is still being undertaken by the Community Development officers instead of recruiting Youth Officers.

**Demand:** Increase budget allocations to youth activities

at a district level i.e. at least 5% of the local revenue and at least 5% of the unconditional grants from the central government should go to youth.

### Response:

- There is no indicative response from the Ministry of Local Government to increase the youth budget allocations that renders most of the district youth councils to be redundant as there are insufficient funds to undertake their planned activities.

**Demand: Establish a Multi-Sectoral Working Group on youth development to represent youth in the various government decision making platforms and act as a link between youth and government bodies.**

### Response:

- MGLSD has been in the process of setting up a national youth coordination mechanism which has taken long to be effected.

**Demand: Reinvigorate the existing student's movement (UNSA) to enable the student community to meaningfully participate in and influence decision making processes. Strengthen the governance systems of UNSA to ensure that it acts as a training ground for leaders.**

### Response:

- This requires an amendment of the Education Amendment Act which MoES has not yet planned to table before Parliament

**Demand: Establish an independent Youth & Sports Ministry to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate youth and sports development programs in the country**

### Response:

- There are plans to implement this. The National Youth Council has been demanding for an Independent Vote under the MGLSD budget.

**Demand: Lower the age to contest for LCV seats and harmonize with the age for contesting for other political positions like MP**

### Response:

- The constitution Amendment Bill (2) 2017 which is before Parliament seeks to amend 183(2) of the Constitution to lower the age limit for LCV seats to 18 years of age.

## How do we progress?

### JOBS! JOBS! JOBS

- The MGLSD should expedite the review of the Employment (Recruitment of Ugandan Migrant Workers Abroad) Regulations, 2015.
- MGLSD should also establish a labour export fund to support victims of labour export, provide Ugandans going broad with financial support as they transition both in their new work environments and when they return.
- YLP should be reviewed to deal with the multiple challenges faced especially in ensuring that output is product based other than the funds returned.
- The government should set up a youth development bank, as an initiative dedicated to addressing the financial and credit needs of young people, focusing on a whole range of economic activities, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and farmers.
- Government should fast track the tabling of the Graduate Service Scheme Bill. The scheme will help the youth to gain experience, which is critical when seeking formal employment in the current dynamic job markets nationally and internationally
- Overall, the plans to have the National Youth Service Scheme Bill should also be expedited to cater for the non-school going youth
- The Agricultural Credit Facility should be reviewed with a view of easing restrictions to access to credit and establish youth quotas to encourage young people to apply for credit.
- There is need to continuously improve the agriculture value chain to support small holder farmers where most youth are involved.

### EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- The National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) should expedite the review of the curriculum and involve all the stakeholders to generate consensus to avoid it being rejected again.
- The MoES and the MFPED should prioritize the construction of secondary schools in every sub county over the medium and long term to ensure equal access for all.
- The MoES should also provide incentives to encourage private sector investment in education, in order to plug the deficits of government and ensure equal access to education for all.
- The school feeding policy should integrate the participation and contribution of parents and caregivers. The government should conduct vigorous community mobilization campaigns to encourage parents to provide food for their children.
- The MoES should expedite the review of the Physical Education Policy with a view of tabling in Parliament for enactment.
- The MoES and MoFPED should increase funding to scale up inspection and enforcement of standards in schools in order to

improve quality of education and learning environment.

- The Ministry of education should expedite the process of tabling the Skills Development Authority Bill
- Conduct targeted mindset campaigns to encourage youth to join BTVET institutions especially targeting the girl child.
- MoES should expedite the approval of the Skills Development Project by Parliament
- Funding for research should be primarily driven by government as opposed to the current trend where it is mostly donor funded and therefore not addressing the primary needs of the country but geared towards donor preferences.
- Government should increase funding for Special needs Education with a view of establishing regional centres of excellence.

## HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

- Government should expedite the introduction of the National Health Insurance bill in order to support citizens in accessing universal health care.
- Government should scale up campaigns against practices such as FGM, child marriages and enforcement of existing laws like the FGM Act. Increase government funding to the MoGLSD in the areas of sensitization and enforcement, considering that this project is mainly donor funded.
- The government bodies and stakeholders responsible for providing health information to the youth should harmonize and generate consensus on content, form, appropriate age for comprehensive sexuality education and other related health information for youth.

## SPORTS AND CREATIVE ARTS

- Government should increase its funding to the sports sector as it engages many youth in Uganda. Initiatives of crowd source funding like when MPs contributed part of their emoluments to the Uganda Cranes team can be considered.
- The private sector investing in all forms of sports and arts promotion should be motivated with incentives like tax holidays and other subsidies
- There is need to expedite the process of construction of the National High Altitude Training Centre in Kapchorwa and rehabilitation of all the regional stadia across the country
- Enforcement of the Copyright Law is very paramount and also working with artistes to fight piracy, which is a big threat to the industry

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

- Government must deliberately include young people in all its programs, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation.
- MGLSD should expedite the process of providing a National Youth Coordination Mechanism to ensure that all sectors and non-state actors' interventions among youth are harmonized.
- Expediting the review of the National Youth Council Act is paramount as a way of addressing the representation gaps within the National Youth Council especially for female youth representation.

## IN CONCLUSION:

Government has made steps in responding to most of the youth demands especially within the legal and policy framework. Of all the five thematic demand areas, Health seems to have had the highest level of productive response from government. While government is still trying out all the means to create jobs for youth, there still needs to be coordinated efforts to ensure that all youth are supported to be gainfully employed. There is need for government to improve on the process of effective and meaningful participation of youth in all their programmes as part of promoting inclusiveness and ownership of the programmes. Investment in the education sector and more so in innovation and technology is likely to contribute to job creation and improvement of other sectors like health. Parliament of Uganda should be commended for actively advocating for youth demands. The demand for government to create jobs and question the implementation status of the government programmes meant for youth has been highly observed in most of the Parliamentary processes. Therefore, all government agencies should be encouraged to harness and support youth development by reviewing the plans and implementing them with the bias toward youth development since they have potential to champion development.



Plot 16-18 Parliamentary Avenue  
Parliamentary House, North wing, Rm 021  
P. O. Box 7178, Kampala - Uganda  
Call: +256414377673, +256393516911  
Email: [info@upfya.or.ug](mailto:info@upfya.or.ug)  
Web: [www.upfya.or.ug](http://www.upfya.or.ug)

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