

OSUN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (OYDC) ESTABLISHMENT BILL, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Osun Youth Development Commission (OYDC) Establishment Bill, 2020 seeks to create a law that ensure a clear and strategic youth development framework through the establishment of a Youth Development Commission in Osun State that would govern the administration of youth development programs in Osun State. This brief aims to set out the need for strategic youth development framework and the justification for the creation of a youth development law that will establish the Osun State Youth Development Commission to coordinate all youth related programs of the state government.

Objectives of the Bill

The Osun State Youth Development Bill is aimed to achieve the following:

1. Establishment of Osun Youth Development Commission
2. Set out a clear and strategic youth development framework
3. To inculcate in Osun youth the culture of service, resilience, commitment and loyalty to the state by creating platforms for the total development of the Osun youth.

Key Highlights of the Bill

1. Establishment and Function of Osun Youth Development Commission

KEY FEATURES

- The bill highlights and make clear the validity of setting up the proposed Osun Youth Development Commission and lay the groundwork for the proposed Commission.
- With specific actions and activities assigned to or required of the Commission:
 - be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; May sue and be sued in its corporate name
 - To be the policy-making and coordinating body for all youth-related Institutions, programs, projects and activities of the Government;
 - Provide leadership in the setting of priorities and direction for all youth promotion and development programmes and activities;
 - Implement the priority developmental needs of Osun youth which include ensuring quality education, promoting agriculture, improving health care delivery, job creation, entrepreneurship and economic development;
 - Encourage and enhance state-wide active participation of the youth in all governmental and non-governmental programmes, projects and activities affecting them;
 - Harness and develop the full potential of the youth as partners in Nation-Building;
 - Complement government appropriations for youth promotion and development with funds from other sources;
 - Carry out all other activities that are appropriate and /or are referred to them by appropriate authorities of state;

RATIONALE

Osun State 2019 estimated population, according to the National Population Commission (NPC) was said to be 5,179,720 million. 2009 National Youth Policy stated that youth ranges between 18-35; 1,690,811 million (33%) of the 2019 estimated Osun population falls between this age range. 2,577,637mil (49.8%) of the estimated population falls between ages 15-45 as posited by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that productivity age ranges between 15-45. The Youth, as defined at all these levels using age categorization is the largest demographic in Osun State. The youth are, in particular, the vital resource in the country's development. The future prospects of Nigerian Youth are inextricably tied to the development of Nigeria. "Without the youth, there can be no future". However, Osun continues to experience a glaring mismatch between the aspirations of its youth and the opportunities available to them despite their high hopes and ambitions. Osun Youth face issues threatening their development and wellbeing, including poverty, inadequate education, restiveness, substance abuse, delinquency, inadequate access to services and economic opportunities. These issues are intricately linked to the follow causes

- **PRECARIOUS YOUTH CENTRED MINISTRY:** The largest demographic which is the youth population since the reintroduction of democracy has been operating on a roller-coaster principle where the ministry in charge of the largest demographic is either merged with another ministry or as a subset of another ministry with little or no significant attention to Youth Development or growth plan.
- **LACK OF YOUTH CENTERED POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN:** Osun State neither have an operational Youth Policy nor possess a Youth Development Plan that could catalyse transformational assistance in skills development, job creation, improved agriculture, integrated health services and local economic development as well as opportunities to become involved in competitive businesses and industries through SMEs.
- **LACK OF SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION TO GAINFUL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT:** Since the inception of Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme (OYES) in 2010, the scheme has been the only way the youth receives attention from the government. Comparatively, using the NBS characterisation as a touchstone, OYES modalities can be said to be one of the foremost reasons Osun State with 14.6% ranked second in South-West Nigeria after Ondo State (17.6%) in Unemployment and Underemployment according to the Labour Force Statistics released by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in April, 2019.
- **UNTAPPED YOUTH POTENTIALS:** The potentials of Osun youth are not fully tapped. As the energy of these colossal numbers of youths is used on civil unrest. The youths are full of restiveness and civil despondency. Ultimately not contributing the GDP of the state.

2. Establishment and Power of the Osun Youth Development Commission

KEY FEATURES

- The bill also establish for the Commission a Board structure which consist of: A Chairman who would be appointed from the Private Sector, who has demonstrated commitment, exposure and deep interest in Youth development with a minimum of ten years' experience as a professional; A Commissioner in Osun State, or in the absence of a commissioner, a Permanent Secretary, whose portfolio covers or is closely related to youth development who shall be the Vice Chairman; A Youth Entrepreneur; A Civil Society Representatives; A Representative from the National Youth Council of Nigeria; The Director of Youth Development at the Ministry in charge of Youths in the State; A Director each from the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Education and Health; and the Executive Secretary of the Commission who shall be the Secretary to the Board.
- The Board will:
 1. approve policies, strategies and procedures to be adopted by the Commission for the achievement of its objectives;
 2. exercise control over the management of the commission with a view to ensuring accountability and proper utilization of the Fund of the commission;
 3. appoint, as and when necessary, technical committees comprising of persons with requisite technical competence from the private or public sector to advise the Commission on such technical matters as may be determined from time to time;
 4. set guidelines for the selection of beneficiaries and make regulations for the performance of the roles

and responsibilities, as well as, engagements with youths and for other activities and programmes of the Commission;

5. receive monies accruing to the Commission;
6. apply for grants to fund initiatives in the area of Youth Developments;
7. source for counterpart funding to invest in the Commission;
8. disburse monies from the Commission;
9. hire staff and Consultants for the Commission;
10. liaise with Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government to identify and execute youth related projects;
11. enter into Contracts on behalf of the Commission for the purpose of executing approved projects;
12. perform such other functions as may, from time to time, be necessary to achieve the objectives of the Commission; and
13. render quarterly report to the State House of Assembly.

3. Establishment of the Management Team

KEY FEATURES

1. The bill also establish for the Commission a management team which comprises of the Executive Secretary and the Head of Departments of the Commission.
2. The management team shall, under the direction of the Executive Secretary, be responsible for the implementation of the policies of the Board and the day to day administration of the Commission.
3. The Governor shall appoint for the Commission as its Chief Executive Commissioner, an Executive Secretary who shall be from the Civil Service of the State and not be below the level 12 Cadre or the rank of a Deputy Director.
4. The Board shall appoint for the Commission; such other number of employees as may be expedient and necessary for the proper and efficient performance of the functions of the Commission.
5. The terms and conditions of service (including remunerations, allowances, benefits and pensions) of the employees of the Commission shall be as is obtainable in the Civil Service in the State.

4. Staff regulation

KEY FEATURES

1. The Board may make staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the employees of the Commission and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such regulations may provide for:
2. the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control (including dismissal) of employees of the Commission; and
3. appeals by such employees against dismissal or such other disciplinary measures and until such regulations are made, any instrument relating to the conditions of service in the civil service of the State shall be applicable, with such modifications as may be necessary, to the employees of the Commission.
4. Staff regulations made under sub-clause (1) of this clause need not be published in a State Gazette but the Board shall cause them to be brought to the notice of all affected persons in such manner as it may, from time to time determine.

5. Establishment of a fund for the commission

KEY FEATURES

1. There is established for the Commission, a fund from which all expenses incurred by the Commission shall be defrayed.
2. There shall be paid to the Fund:
3. any allocation to the Commission from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the State;
4. such monies as may, from time to time, be granted or lent to the Commission by the Federal Government, a State Government or a Local Government;
5. such monies as may, from time to time, be granted or lent to the Commission by International Organizations, Private Organizations, or Private Individuals;
6. all monies raised as counterpart funding for the purpose of investment in the Commission;

7. all monies raised for the purpose of the Commission by way of gifts, loans, grants-in-aid, endowments, testamentary disposition or otherwise; and
8. all monies and assets that may, from time to time, accrue to the Commission.
9. The Fund shall be managed in accordance with the rules made by the Board and without prejudice to the generality of the power to make rules under this sub-clause, the rules shall in particular contain provision-
10. specifying the manner in which the assets or the Fund of the Commission are to be held, and regulating the making of payments into and out of the Fund; and
11. requiring the keeping of proper accounts and records for the purpose of the Fund in such form as may be specified in the rules.

6. Reporting

KEY FEATURES

1. The Board shall prepare and submit to the Commissioner for Youth Development not later than 30th June of each year, a report in such form as the Commissioner may direct on the activities of the Commission during the immediately preceding year, and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the Commission for that year. Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of such report, the Commissioner shall forward a copy each to the Governor and the State House of Assembly.

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