



Youth Coalition on Electoral
Democracy in Uganda
(YCED)



THE NATIONAL YOUTH MANIFESTO

2021-2026

A Healthy and Productive Youth
Population Contributing to a
Peaceful and Prosperous Uganda

December 2020

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASM	Artisanal Small Miner
BTVET	Business Technical Vocational Education and Training
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FY	Financial Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IP	Intellectual Property
MDA	Ministry Department Agency
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan
NIMD	Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy
NYC	National Youth Council
NYM	National Youth Manifesto
PPI	Public Policy Institute
PWD	Person Living with Disability
RMNCAH	Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UGX	Uganda Shillings
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population
UPDF	Uganda Peoples Defence Force
UPET	Universal Post Primary Education and Training
USD	United States Dollar
YCED	Youth Coalition for Electoral Democracy

FOREWORD

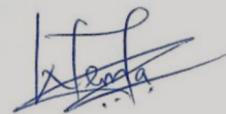
Youth in Uganda present an immense yet untapped potential for national socio-economic development. This National Youth Manifesto, building on other similar frameworks starting way back in 2010 is yet another reflection of the situation of youth but also a reminder of the necessary policy and programmatic shifts to mainstream the active participation in and contribution of youth to national development. The Youth Manifesto is also a commitment by youth leaders and organisations to further organise and inspire the diversities of young people in the country not to sit back but rather do something to change the status quo. It is hoped that youth, youth leaders and organisations will fully embrace this manifesto and use its policy recommendations to engage political parties, political aspirants/candidates and policy makers at the various levels of governance.

The Youth Coalition on Electoral Democracy appreciates the technical and financial input from partners towards the fulfilment of 2021 – 2026 framework. In a special way, we appreciate the African Youth Development Link (AYDL) that hosts the Youth Coalition on Electoral Democracy (YCED); the YCED core members¹ and other youth organisations spread across the regions of Uganda. We also appreciate the 1,218 youth in their

diversities across the country who endured the long phone calls and survey to give feedback and information which has informed this manifesto. We are indebted to the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Diakonia, Acton Aid Uganda, National Endowment for Democracy and Restless Development for financially supporting this process. We further appreciate the youth team of volunteers that undertook the consultations and produced the initial draft. Lastly, we appreciate the Public Policy Institute and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) for agreeing to incorporate the Uganda Youth Political Memorandum into this Manifesto framework.

We call on political parties, political aspirants and the subsequent government to take action to incorporate the youth aspirations and priorities entailed in this manifesto in their Manifestos, plans, programs and budgets.

Sincerely



Youth Coalition for Electoral Democracy

1. Core members of YCED - Open Space Centre, Uganda Youth Network, Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs, Show Abilities Uganda, International Foundation for Recovery and Development, Center for Policy Analysis

PREAMBLE

We the **YOUTHS** of Uganda who constitute the majority of the population are **ENTITLED** to recognition on issues of governance:

RECOGNISING that the youth population is heterogeneous² and that its participation in and influence of policy outcomes is not commensurate with their numerical strength;

NOTING that the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda realizes and recognizes this imbalance and thus explicitly calls for equal opportunity in several of its provisions;

FURTHER NOTING that young people have the right to work, associate, collaborate and network with others on shared values, aspirations, objectives, and goals on an equal and mutually beneficial basis;

ACKNOWLEDGING that government has made some progress against the 2011-2021 Youth Manifesto but major challenges still exist;

RECOGNISING that youths can be the solution not the problem and can be seen as a resource to drive national development;

RE AFFIRMING the belief that the government exists to serve the will of the people and in this case youths, and that youths as a significant proportion of the citizenry of Uganda are the source of all political power enjoyed by the state;

Do hereby **COMMIT** ourselves to:

1. Respect, promote and protect democratic and other values and, uphold and affirm the rights of all citizens of Uganda.
2. Use our strength in diversity to promote national harmony in all political, social, and economic affairs
3. Exercise political tolerance, maturity, sobriety and respect for other people's political views and opinions.
4. Desist from acts of violence, hooliganism, and lawlessness.
5. Desist from corrupt practices and promote transparency and accountability in public affairs.
6. Take active roles in the public affairs.
7. Be sensitive to the rights of people with disabilities and recognize the important roles and contributions they can make to national development.
8. Get involved in meaningful and acceptable activities that generate income.
9. Create safe and inclusive spaces for meaningful participation in decision making processes at local, national, and international levels.

2. Heterogenous nature of youth implies of their diversities including by gender (male or female); physical wellbeing such as youth with disabilities; educated and uneducated; those working in the formal and informal sectors; urban and rural including those in slums, remand homes/prisons; street youth; youth in refugee camps; unemployed youth; youth living with HIV/AIDS, among others.

GUIDING LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE YOUTH MANIFESTO

This manifesto was generated with full consideration of the legal and policy frameworks expressly provided for or implied in international, regional and Uganda's legal instruments and policy documents as illustrated below:

Table 1: Table 1: Key Legal Provisions for Youth Participation in Development and Governance

Legal/Policy Instrument	Key Provisions
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	The active engagement of youths in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies by the target date, and to averting the worst threats and challenges to sustainable development, including the impacts of climate change, unemployment, poverty, gender inequality, conflict and migration.
African Youth Charter	Uganda signed and ratified the African Youth Charter which is a regional convention that sets the principles underpinning the responsibilities to Member States for the development of youths.
Constitution of the Republic of Uganda	'The State shall take affirmative action in favour of groups marginalised on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom, for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them' Article 32 (1).
National Development Plan III (2020/21 - 2024/24)	A large youthful population consisting of 23 percent of the population (approx. 9.6 million people) creates more opportunities than challenges, including the potential demographic dividend from abundant labour force and future demand. To enhance skills and vocational development, Government will prioritize skills and vocational development to address unemployment, especially among the youths.
National Youth Policy 2001 (Revised 2016)	The NYP exists as a framework for harnessing the full potential of the youths for improved productivity and equitable socio-economic and political development.
National Youth Council Act (1993)	The NYC Act is a legal framework that establishes the National Youth Council and provides for its composition, objectives and functions, administration, and finances, among others. Most importantly, the NYC Act obligates government with the primary responsibility to champion youth development in the country.



INTRODUCTION

The National Youth Manifesto (NYM) is a youth led political framework that highlights key policy priorities/demands by youths to government, political parties, and candidates ahead of and beyond the 2021 general elections. The intention of the Manifesto framework is to bring forth the issues to policy makers during and after the general elections, for consideration to harness the youth potential for national development.

The manifesto is spearheaded by the Youth Coalition on Electoral Democracy in Uganda (YCED)³, a broad coalition of like-minded youth-led and youth-focused Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), united in the desire to create synergy in various electoral democracy efforts in Uganda. Through the Manifesto framework, YCED is amplifying the voices of youths on issued-based elections as a foundation for a credible electoral process which is a prerequisite for democratic maturity in Uganda.

The Youth Manifesto (2021 – 2026) was developed through a nation-wide consultative process involving youth leaders and youths in their diversities to arrive at the most pressing issues that require urgent attention to strengthen youth development and participation in governance. In addition, a review of the previous manifesto document and process (2016 – 2021) was undertaken to highlight and build on the achievements while underscoring the challenges. The final

framework was reviewed by youth development and governance experts and validated at various platforms to ensure ownership by all stakeholders.

The 2021-2026 Youth Manifesto is a product of three phases including;

Phase I: Identification of possible asks capturing as many policy asks - from the widest group of young people - as possible;

Phase II: Focused on prioritization of asks and brainstorming 'how success will look like'; and

Phase III: Mapping the 'how' and tracking success with a plan around each ask to measure/track progress.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 and the limitations occasioned by the measures to combat the pandemic, minimal face-to-face consultations were undertaken; instead, the team virtually consulted youths, youth leaders and organisations. Through this process, a total of 1218 youth (491 female and 727 male) were consulted. In addition, the team leveraged other youth frameworks including the Uganda Youth Political Memorandum⁴, which was designed to strengthen youth political participation⁵ and support current and prospective youth leaders to review the structures and current arrangements of youth entry into politics. The result Youth Memo and its policy proposals were incorporated into this manifesto under the youth political participation.

3. The Coalition was formed in 2014 as part of the process to improve coordination and action amongst youth-led and youth-focused CSOs.

4. The Uganda Youth Political Memorandum was an initiative of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and the Public Policy Institute (PPI) and incorporation into this manifesto was sought Youth political participation for this initiative is defined as 'the active state and non-state individual or collective participation of, and influencing by, young people of policy and practice decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their communities at local, national, and global levels'.

5. Youth political participation for this initiative is defined as 'the active state and non-state individual or collective participation of, and influencing by, young people of policy and practice decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their communities at local, national, and global levels'.

6. Furlong, Andy (2013). Youth Studies: An Introduction. Routledge: New York.

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Youthfulness is a socially constructed intermediary phase that stands between childhood and adulthood⁶. Globally, the United Nations defines a youth as being between the ages of 15 and 24 years old. The African Youth Charter, which is a regional framework, defines youth as any individual between 15-35 years of age⁷ while the Uganda National Youth Policy stipulates that the youth bracket encompasses all persons aged 15 to 30 years and recognizes that youth are a heterogeneous group⁸. Constitutionally, a youth in Uganda is a person between the ages of 18 – 30 years. In view of the fact that this is an advocacy framework to inform policy and programming, the definition of a youth is a young person between the ages of 15 – 30 years in line with the National Youth Policy.

As highlighted in the guiding legal and policy framework for this Manifesto, Youth political inclusion is clearly provided for in the 1995 Constitution⁹,

the National Youth Council Act (1993), and the Local Government Act (1997)¹⁰. To some extent, these legal and policy documents have domesticated several regional and global protocols including the African Youth Charter and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Institutionally, Uganda established and operationalized the National Youth Council (NYC) in 1996 to act as an agency that mainstreams the active participation of youths in decision-making at the various levels of governance. Besides the NYC, there are a multiplicity of youth-led and youth focused non-governmental organisations that constitute the Uganda youth civil society eco-system. Despite the robust legal and institutional framework, the state of youths in Uganda remains precarious as a high proportion of the youth has not benefitted fully from the education system, while the quality of employment has remained low for most of them.

41.6
million

currently estimated
population of Uganda

78%

of the population is
30 years and below

12
million

estimated population
of young people
between 15-30 years of
age living in Uganda

03%

growth rate per annum

7. The African Youth Charter 2006

8. The Uganda National Youth Policy

9. Article 78 (c) of the 1995 Constitution provides for the election of youth representatives in the national parliament to represent the interest of the youth.

10. The Local Government Act (1997), section 10 (C) provides for 'two councilors, one of whom shall be a female youth, representing the youth in the district' at both sub county and district local government councils.

11. UBOS (2014). National Population and Housing Census Report

12. UBOS (2020). Population Day Celebration Report

In 2014, Uganda's population was estimated at '34.9 million'¹¹ and is currently estimated at 41.6 million people¹². With a growth rate of 3 percent per annum coupled with a high fertility rate of 5.4 children per woman, Uganda has the third fastest growing population in the world. About 32.4 million people (78 percent of the population) is 30 years and below with an estimated 12 million young people (15 – 30 years). Uganda's youth face several social challenges including poverty and poor health. There are high rates of teenage pregnancies because the median age for sexual debut is 16.4 years. 24 percent of girls (below 20 years of age) in Uganda are mothers or pregnant with their first, sometimes second child. Many factors contribute to high teenage pregnancies, including social pressures, the low status of women, religious pressures, unemployment, and lack of equitable access to family planning methods, including contraceptive information, education, and services for the adolescents.

Nationally, youth unemployment and poverty as indicated in the NDP III is one of the binding constraints to growth and development and young people are hit harder as they face numerous challenges transiting into the labour market. The unemployment rate for youth aged 18 – 30 years stands at 13.3%, higher than the national average which stands at 9.2%. The unemployment rate is however highest in Kampala at 21%. This is despite

the fact that Uganda's economy measured in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been growing with an estimated worth of UGX 109.9 trillion in FY2018/19 in nominal terms according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. However, majority of youths are not financially included as a large 'proportion of households (68.9 percent) is still stuck in the subsistence economy'¹³ (UBOS, 2014).

The 'percentage of people living below the poverty line (USD 1.00 per day) was 21.4 percent in FY2017/18 corresponding to nearly 8 million persons'¹⁴. UNFPA in Uganda estimates that 10.9 percent of young males aged 10-24 years are heading households and 38.5 percent of young people aged 10-19 years live in the two poorest wealth quintiles. UNFPA further estimates that up to '8.8 million young people aged 15-24 years are not engaged in education, employment or under any training'. The unemployment situation of youth has been worsened by COVID-19 and the measures to combat its spread. UBOS (2020) statistics indicate that about 29.4% of the businesses closed operations during the lockdown period, majority of these in the real estate, arts, entertainment, and recreation sectors.

13.UBOS (2014). National Housing and Population Census 2014
14.UBOS (2017). Uganda National Household Survey 2016/2017



THE NATIONAL YOUTH MANIFESTO 2021-2026

To address the youth situation in Uganda, and as highlighted in the background to this manifesto, the youth in their diversities present the underlisted policy propositions that are specific and directed at the respective policy-making institutions. To implement and track progress of realisation of these recommendations, Manifesto Stakeholders including, government MDAs, development partners, youth led and focused organisations will identify the recommendations that speak to their mandate and programmatic aspirations and mainstream them in their planning frameworks. The YCED host institution will be responsible for developing a monitoring dashboard to inform progress and report to stakeholders on a regular basis.

01 | YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



Photo credit: www.welthungerhilfe.org

A) Employment and Livelihoods

Uganda's national unemployment rate is 9.2%. The unemployment rate for youth aged 18 – 30 is 13.3%¹⁵.

Recommendations

- 1.1 **The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development should amend the Mining Act, 2003 to provide for youth participation in the extractive industry** as follows;

There is need to mainstream Artisanal and Small Scale (ASM) into the Act and thereby formalize their activities. In addition, the Ministry should consider zooming specific mining areas exclusively for ASM. Youths will directly benefit from these amendments because they constitute the majority of ASMs.

9.2%

Uganda's national
unemployment rate

13.3%

The unemployment rate
for youth aged 18 – 30

15.CDA, UBOS Uganda National Household Survey 2016-2017 Uganda Scoping Study Report 2019-Youth Employment Challenge

- 1.2 **The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development should expedite the passing and implementation of the National Graduate Scheme Bill and facilitate a professionally staffed National Youth Services Secretariat accessible by all youths in their diversities and across the country.**

The National Graduate Scheme Bill recognises that transition from school to work is a major challenge for graduates due to several obstacles in Uganda's labour eco-system. Relatedly, the UBOS identifies limitation in hands-on skills and negative attitude of graduates as some of the main challenges that affect labour productivity in the private sector. This is further emphasised by employers that the current mandatory internship program is inefficient due to the short period of the internship (2 months) and is always held during the middle of the student's academic journey. Consequently, the need to extend the internship period to at least 6 months after the student has graduated out of the university.

- 1.3 **The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should expedite development, publishing, and gazetting of a national local content plan which contains mechanisms for achieving local content obligations prescribed by the Act.**

More specifically, youths are demanding participation in government procurements through ring fencing at least 30 percent local contracts for youth owned companies. Since the passing of the Local Content Act, 2019, government has been slow in developing and passing the Local Content Plan to implement the Act, thereby undermining this important legislation.

- 1.4. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should gradually implement a 24 hour economic system through legislation, starting with the new cities to generate increased job opportunities and systemic expansion of the service sector to accommodate more youths in business and other productive activities.
- 1.5. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should consider affirmative provisions for youth participation in the ongoing wealth creation and COVID-19 (post pandemic) economic response interventions.



Photo credit: www.ghmgstrategies.com

b) Youth in Agriculture

We recognize recent efforts by government to encourage the mainstreaming of youth in the agricultural sector in line with the National Agricultural Extensions Policy and Strategy (2016) and the NDPIII. About 75% of the workforce and 55% of youths in Uganda are engaged in the agriculture sector. Agriculture as a productive sector presents an opportunity for youth employment creation for Ugandans since about 70% of the households depend on agriculture. However, little effort has been made in commercializing the sector to make it attractive to youths. Additionally, the backward and forward linkages between agriculture and agro-industries have the ability to sustainably transform agro value chains to ensure sufficient supply for domestic industries to undertake transformative sustainable business.

Recommendations

- 1.6. The Ministry of Science and Technology should increase its investments in agri-business incubation centres to enable youths across the country access modern agribusiness equipment and technical advisory services.
- 1.7. The Ministry of Science and Technology should popularise existing agribusiness innovation hubs such as the Uganda Industrial Research Institute to enable more youths to acquire hands-on entrepreneur training.
- 1.8. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives should promote youth-led agro-based cooperatives to enhance youths' chances of access to credit and technical advisory services.



c) Youth Employment under the Creative Arts/ industry

We commend government for recognising the importance of culture especially in promotion of identity, cultural diversity through the National Cultural Policy and as an enabler for youths in accessing culture. This is one of the emerging non-traditional industries that can greatly contribute to employment creation, foreign exchange earnings, revenue generation and tourism promotion in the country. However, the sector is dogged with limited access to finance, high levels of piracy of intellectual work due to absence of mechanisms to counter cyber piracy, lack of access to high-end production equipment, inadequate professional capacity resulting into poor quality market products, including films. As an economic failure, this has led to low incomes and low status for the artists, majority of whom are youths. The creative industries are therefore less profitable to those who invest their knowledge and capital to produce creative goods and services.

Recommendations

- 1.9 The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development should create a Cultural Capital Fund to build and renovate public libraries, museums, and galleries across the country to enable youth access to culture and support youths in the creative arts.
- 1.10 The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development should design and implement a programme that supports the employment of youth curators at museums and other national heritage establishments.
- 1.11 The Uganda Registration Services Bureau should strictly enforce the Intellectual property (IP) Act (aka the copyright law) as a means to professionalizing the Arts and Creative Industries.

02 | YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING



Youth Participation in Decision Making

We commend government for a fairly respectable legal, institutional and normative framework for youth inclusion in decision and policy making processes. However, youth participation in governance and decision making is affected by limited access to relevant and timely information, limited accountability of leaders to the young people, inadequate capacity and leadership skills for youth leaders, highly commercialized politics including nomination fees for LCV Candidates at UGX1m while Member of Parliament nomination fee was increased from UGX 200,000 to UGX 3,000,000 and the presidential nomination fee was increased to UGX 20,000,000. Such fees are too high and push out many youth that harbour aspirations.

Recommendation

2.1. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development should propose amendment to the National Youth Council Act and the Parliamentary Elections Act to provide for Two (2) Youth MPs per region, one of which must be female.

Youths in Uganda are represented by only 5 MPs, yet they constitute 8.6 million Ugandans (22.9 percent of the total population), which translates to approximately 46 percent of those eligible to vote in the 2021 general elections. Unlike other special interest groups, youths are disproportionately represented in the various political structures, which has hampered effectiveness and accountability in representation. For instance, the multiplication of districts from 39 in 1995 to over 140 in 2020 has enabled a fair representation of the women in the national parliament while some other groups like the UPDF estimated to be 100,000 in number is represented by 10 MPs. In addition to the 4 regional Youth MPs, youth are also represented by the National Female MP, whose constituency is the whole country, making it logistically expensive.

2.2. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development should propose amendments to the National Youth Council Act and the Parliamentary Elections Act and abolish the Youth Electoral College System and have youth MPs elected through adult suffrage

The Electoral College system which is used to vote for youth MPs and local government councilors deprives youth the opportunity to directly vote for their leaders and is neither used as an avenue for interest aggregation nor accountability by the Youth leaders. Ahead of every election, little is done by the Electoral Commission to provide the necessary information and logistical support, making the system a ground for manipulative politics, and denying the youths the opportunity to make informed choices. For instance, while the Electoral Commission in its 2021 Election Roadmap committed to conduct workshops for Special Interest Groups to sensitize and create awareness about the electoral process, this was never conducted, denying youths timely and certified information regarding the SIG Youth Committees elections.

2.3. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs should propose amendment of the Political Parties and Organisation's Act to provide for affirmative representation of youths up to 40 percent in political parties and organizations' Governance Structures

Youths are not adequately represented in key governance structures in political parties despite their demographic significance and activism in political party processes. Several party constitutions have lacunas and do not fully recognize and provide for youth structures and representation across the governance structures.

2.4. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs should propose amendments to Parliamentary Elections Act and propose a reduction of the Electoral Commission nomination fees for Youths running for Presidency and Parliament.

The nomination fees set by law for those intending to stand for Presidency and Member of Parliament are high for majority youths and limits the candidature of many deserving young people. The nomination fees should be reinstated to the original figures of UGX: 200,000 for Member of Parliament and UGX: 2,000,000 for President.

2.5. Political Parties should scrap nomination fees for youths at party primary elections

The nomination fees set by some political parties for youths intending to stand for President and Member of Parliament are high for majority youths and limits the candidature of many deserving young people.

2.6. The President should appoint a Cabinet Minister for Youth Affairs

The youths despite their numerical strength and vulnerabilities are clamped under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, which is under-resourced and overburdened by its huge constituency of children, workers, women, elderly, and PwDs. The Ministry should be headed by a person in the youth bracket (18 – 30 years).

2.7. Political parties should establish a Political Parties' Leadership Academy for young Women

There are low levels of subscription of young women (relative to young men) in political parties, which, among other factors, underlines male dominance. Young women are not technically and logistically empowered to fully participate in political parties.

2.8. The National Youth Council should mandatorily be held at least twice a year as an interest aggregation and accountability forum for youth leaders

Once elected, youth leaders at the various levels neither consult nor account to the electorate. For this reason, it is necessary for government to facilitate the convening of all the Youth Councils right from the village level to national level at least twice a year with sufficient number of days. Government should also increase the funding for the National Youth Council from the current UGX: 1 billion to UGX: 10 billion to facilitate its activities and electoral processes as well as involving them in Government programs.

03 | EDUCATION AND SPORTS



a) Education

The ministry of education implements the BTVET program intended to train and educate all individuals in need of BTVET with relevant skills that will raise their productivity and income. However, youth enrolment rate in BTVET is very low. Part of this is due to the low quality and poor reputation of many BTVET institutions, but also because young people are not aware of TVET education¹⁶. This coupled with a mixture of challenges are a hinderance to the attainment of quality education that matches the required skills for employment.

Covid 19 also exposed a weakness in the use of ICT to promoted education.

Recommendations

- 1.1. The Ministry of Education and Sports should adopt a comprehensive School Feeding Policy to provide free meals to learners to enhance adequate learning.
- 1.2. The Ministry of Education and Sports should adopt and implement a Menstrual Health Policy for Girls in Primary and Secondary School to provide free sanitary pads to all deserving girls.
- 1.3. The Ministry of Education and Sports together with the Directorate of Industrial Trainings should popularize the free skills training opportunities available through UPPET and BTVET institutions.
- 1.4. The Ministry of Education and Sports should adopt and implement a schools ICT policy through which each student at secondary school level should receive a free laptop.

¹⁶. Uganda Scoping Study Report 2019-Youth Employment Challenge



b) Sports

Sport participation has a positive impact on youth development because it creates motor and sport-specific skills convertible into physical capital, improves health, fitness, and an overall sense of physical well-being, increases self-confidence, self-esteem, and positive body image, builds character in the form of discipline, teamwork, and responsibility. This is critical for positive youth development.

Despite an augmented increase in the government funding to sports to a tune of UGX 16,550,353,776 in the FY 2018/19, there remains a deficit to support all sports activities of the 48 compliant National Sports Associations to nurture talent and invest in sports infrastructure.

Recommendations

3.4 Capitalize and directly invest in sports towards talent development, expand venues community tourism motivate patriotism and income generation in the sector.

Invest in sports infrastructure at the local and national level including, securing land for sports grounds in each district.

17. Journal of Sport and Social Issues 35(3) 306–324

18. National Council of Sports annual report 2018/19 State of Uganda Population report 2018

04 | HEALTH CARE FOR ALL





Health

Lack of access by the sexually active adolescent girls to sexual and reproductive health information education and services, including contraception is a major factor contributing to unplanned youth and teenage pregnancy and maternal deaths. Only 21 percent of the currently married girls aged 15- 19 years are using modern contraception with the unmet need for family planning at 30.4 percent¹⁹.

Recommendations

- 1.1. The Ministry of Health should develop, implement, and popularize a national RMNCAH action plan
- 1.2. The Ministry of Health should support the production and distribution of re-usable pads to unprivileged school going girls as part of its sexual reproductive minimum care package.

21%

of the currently married girls aged 15- 19 years are using modern... contraception

19.State of Uganda Population report 2018

05 | CLIMATE ACTION AND YOUTH FRIENDLY CITIES



a) Climate Action

Youths commend Government for the efforts to fight and reduce the adverse impacts of climate change in Uganda by contributing to the global calls towards climate Action (SDG 13) and for signing global institutional frameworks through the UNFCCC COPs among which include: the Paris Agreement (2016) and the Kyoto Protocol (2013). Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are central to these global commitments as the Paris Agreement for ensuring that national climate plans highlight climate actions, including climate related targets, policies and measures. However, Uganda's development frameworks are not explicit on how to address climate variations, climate change and the role of youths.

Recommendations

- 1.1. The Office of the Prime Minister should expedite the Change Bill to enable effective implementation that enhances the NDCs across 3 dimensions; Mitigation, Adaptation and Communication across all sectors which clear indicators for young people.
- 1.2. The Minister of Water and Environment should prioritise investment in adaptation actions to encourage youth participation in promotion of key sector steps towards Green House Gas emission reduction to achieve the below 2% emission country target along Agricultural extension pathway, renewable energy sources and technologies and promotion of sustainable transport/ mobility options in cities.
- 1.3. The Ministry of Water and Environment should deliberately focus on youths to engage in the restoration and management of environment and natural resources by creating opportunities for education, wise use, and innovation especially in forests and wetlands through school clubs, communities Development initiatives, etc. to reduce climatic risks and vulnerabilities as droughts, and flooding etc, caused by climate change.

b) Youth Friendly Cities

Kampala City has an estimated day time population of 1.6 million people. Most of the population is young people who migrate to the city to seek opportunities for employment, social amenities and leisure. Despite this surging population, the city has grown organically without proper planning. The addition of extra 10 Cities approved by parliament in 2020 - are likely to face similar issues if plans are not in place for ensuring greening cities, creating safe spaces, housing, transport etc to make the cities friendly to the growing youth population.

Recommendations

- 1.4. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development ought to capitalize on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (2016) to further domesticate taking action for innovative, socially minded, green cities by clearly spelling out the role of youth in the National urban policy.
- 1.5. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development should proactively ensure that the proposed Urban Development Policy mainstreams the involvement of young people in shaping the urban development path as well as developing their urban skills that enable them to become responsible leaders, create a sense of citizen ownership and support the realisation of integrated, inclusive and sustainable cities.



20. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS).

06 | Financing the Youth Manifesto 2021



1. Financing the Youth Manifesto 2021

We agree to the fact that all the above policy recommendations/ asks require massive investment to be realized. We therefore provide viable alternatives to political actors and duty bearers on how and where we can get resources to finance the issues in this youth manifesto. Our recommendation is to enhance Domestic Resource Mobilisation At both the national and local government level;

Recommendation

6.1 A fair and progressive taxation including having in place a comprehensive policy on tax incentives through streamlining the awarding, tracking and terminating of incentives. There should be deliberate effort to make sure that everyone pays their main fair share of taxes; especially Multinational Corporations, enhancing the taxation of High Net worth Individuals, Improving tax collection/administration at local government, Improving and implementation of the Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy.

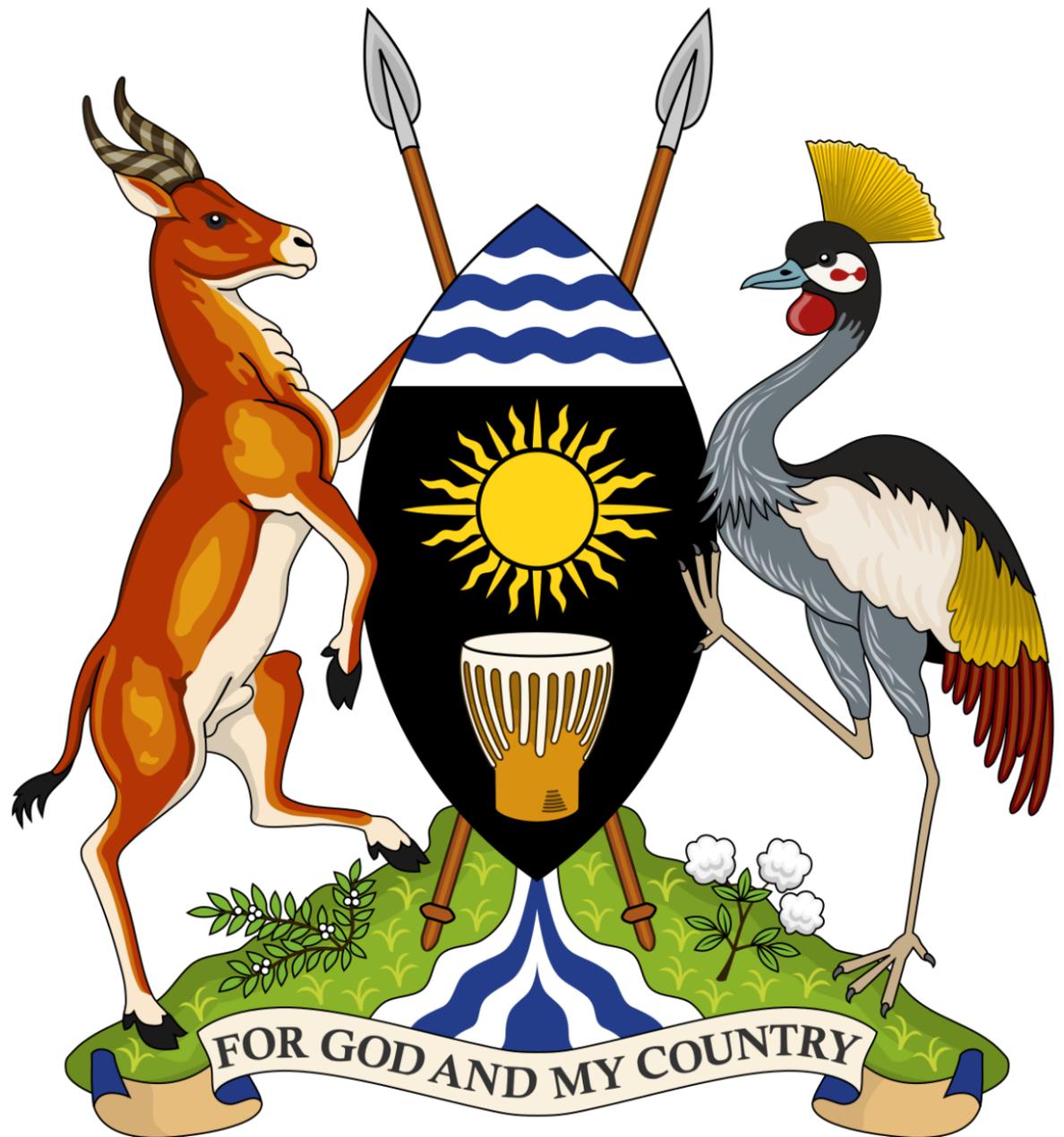
6.2 National Resource Revenue Collection and management through Effective

taxation of mining activities in Uganda; i.e Gold and Oil Change of policy on Petroleum fund from only financing infrastructural development to also funding youth priority sectors, Increase transparency in the Oil and Gas industry (Monitor Adhering to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative-EITI)

6.3 Debt management and sustainability because debt repayment and financing has an impact on key asks for youth(budget allocations), government Internal borrowing makes credit finance expensive for youth as it leads to regressive tax regimes (Low hanging fruits-indirect taxes) that disproportionately affects young people.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND PARTNERS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MANIFESTO

African Youth Development Link (AYDL)	Youth Forum for Social Justice
Uganda Youth Network (UYONET)	National Youth Organisation for Development
Open Space Centre (OSC)	Girls to Lead Africa
Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA)	Teso Youth Network
Show Abilities Uganda (SAU)	Youth Environment service
International Foundation for Recovery and Development (IFRAD)	Change Lead Agency Social Support
Smart Girls Foundation	Kolir Women Development
Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA)	Ngabo Youth Friendly Services Centre
Restless Development	256 Platform Uganda
West Nile Youth Empowerment Network	Kayunga Youth Network
Recreation for Peace and Development (RDP)	Hatua Uganda
Sensitise Uganda	Creation Forum Africa
Youth for Tax Justice Network	Uganda Youth Guidance Development Associations
TEENS Uganda	Palisa Civil Society Organisations' Network
Eastern Uganda Civil Society Network	Masaka Youth Development Associations
National Youth Advocacy Platform	Bugisu NGO Forum
Tororo District Advocacy Network	Kampala Youth Advocacy Network - KYADNET
Grassroots Alliance for Rural Development	Platform For Youth Inclusion in Politics- PYIP
Mororto Community Initiative for Development	Actionaid
Tadoba Youth Foundation	



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