



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS



**THE NIGERIAN
YOUTH PARLIAMENT:**

FRAMEWORK



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INTRODUCTION:

Youth Parliament has now become a feature of many developed democracies in the world. It has become a training ground for the preparation of young people into leadership roles. Leadership training is a key component of youth development. Many international charters on youth emphasize youth participation in decision making processes on issues that concern them. Youth is intricately intertwined with leadership training. Youth Parliament not only provides a practical and ready avenue for young people's participation in governance and public administration, but also the opportunity for youth to make inputs in decisions that concern them.

Name:

1. The Youth Parliament at the federal level shall be called 'the Nigerian Youth Parliament'
2. State and Local government Youth Parliaments shall adopt a name in line with the names of their states and local governments.

Vision:

To create a platform for developing and empowering our youth to fully realize their potentials to compete favorably with youth in other democratic nations of the world.

Mission:

To build Youth with a sense of hope, self confidence, imagination, creativity and pride in the nation's heritage; Youth who are disciplined, well focused, law abiding and full of spirit of entrepreneurship; Youth committed to the ideals of national unity and development as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Parliament among others include to:

1. Prepare the Nigerian Youth for participation in the process of decision making especially in matters affecting them.
2. Inculcate in the Nigerian Youth leadership qualities for governance and public administration.
3. Equip the Nigerian Youth adequately for future challenges in the process of interaction with their environment and the world at large.

4. Foster national unity among our Youth.
5. Provide opportunities for sharing of experiences through peer learning.

Structure:

1. The Youth Parliament shall be a non-partisan establishment with standing organizational structure;
2. The Parliament shall hold mock legislative sessions on youth related issues and policies;
3. The Parliament shall sit in a chamber as provided by the Federal Ministry of Youth Development in collaboration with the National Assembly;
4. The Parliament's sessions will hold once a year during the period when schools are on long vacation;
5. Youth delegates in the Parliament shall be called "Youth Legislators" and shall be classified into government and opposition legislators;
6. Former leaders of the National Assembly and members at all levels are to be mobilized to support each sessions of the Youth Parliament;

7. Legislative staff from the National Assembly are to provide the usual procedural support before, during and after each session;
8. The Youth Parliament shall pass resolutions on youth issues and institutions such as the Youth Development Fund, Youth Bank, Youth Ministries, Youth Councils, Employment, Health and education etc;
9. The Parliament shall elect its leaders and officers;
10. Members shall hold caucus meetings as is consistent with the practice in the National Assembly.
11. An interactive web page including a list serve shall be developed to ensure networking among Youth Legislators.

Membership:

1. Membership shall be by selection through open competitive process.
2. The Parliament shall be made up of 109 members, made up of 3 members from each state (i.e. one from each senatorial district and 1 from the Federal Capital Territory.)

3. Each state delegation must include at least one female Member.

Tenureship:

1. Parliamentarians shall serve a non renewable term of two years.
2. If a seat becomes vacant due to any reason, the replacing legislators shall end their term by the end of the session.

Selection Process:

1. Selection shall be by open competitive process.
2. Opening for membership shall be advertised in the print and electronic media.
3. The Selection Committee shall observe due process and transparency in the conduct of its assignment.

Criteria for Selection:

Applicant must:

1. Be citizens of Nigeria aged between 18 to 30 years
2. Have a minimum of Senior Secondary School Certificate (SSCE) or its equivalent.
3. Have passion for youth issues and leadership
4. Not have been convicted of any criminal offence and must not belong to any secret cult.

Selection Committee:

1. Selection Committee will be made up of one member each from the following organizations:
 - Federal Ministry of Youth Development
 - Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
 - Federal Ministry of Education
 - Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN)
 - National Assembly (Senate)
 - National Assembly (House of Rep)
 - National Youth Council Of Nigeria (NYCN)
 - Nigerian Television Authority (NTA)
 - Federal Ministry of Justice
 - United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)
 - National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)
 - National Orientation Agency (NOA)

Parliamentary Activities:

- A. Pre Inauguration Activities
 - 1. The FMYD shall in collaboration with the National Assembly organize an orientation for the Youth Legislators on Parliamentary Practices and Procedures.

- B. Activities during each Parliamentary Session
 - 1. Each session shall last for a period of not less than two weeks.

 - 2. The Youth Parliament shall be inaugurated through a proclamation on the first day of sitting by Mr. President.

 - 3. The Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall address and host the youth parliamentarians during the sessions.

 - 4. There shall be Standing Orders for the Youth Parliament adopted from the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

5. The closing ceremony of the parliamentary session shall be hosted by Mr. President, to whom the Youth Parliamentarians will hand over their resolutions.

Elective Offices in the Parliament:

1. There shall be eight elective offices in the Youth Parliament, whose functions shall be in line with the provisions of those of the respective offices in the National Assembly. These offices are:
 - The Speaker
 - Deputy Speaker
 - Majority Leader
 - Deputy Majority Leader
 - Minority Leader
 - Deputy Minority Leader
 - Majority Whip
 - Minority Whip
2. The Ministry of Youth in consultation with the National Assembly shall appoint a Clerk and other legislative staff for the Parliament.

Sources of Funding:

1. Federal Ministry of Youth Development
2. National Assembly
3. National Youth Development Fund
4. Community Development Foundations
5. Organized Private Sector
6. Government Grants
7. International Donor Agencies

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