

## **1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Youth are one of the greatest assets that any nation can have. Not only are they legitimately regarded as the partners of today, but also huge human resource investments for a future country's development. Young women and men are, in particular, recognized as the vital human resource whose prospects are inextricably tied to that of their country. Youth have also been considered to be an enormous resource for a nation's growth, development and the potential long-term benefits of the human capital accumulated during adolescence and in youthfulness. Therefore, this makes a strong macro-economic argument to support increased investment in health, education and economic development.

Youth in Tanzania consists of a very heterogeneous group with a variety of needs determined by age, sex, marital status, educational levels, residence and other socio-economic characteristics. According to the Integrated Labour Force Survey of 2020/21, the total youth population in Tanzania Mainland stands at 17.71 million of whom male are 8.4 million (48%) and female are 9.3 million (52%). Out of 17.7 youth population, 14.2 million youth labour force is active and the remaining 3.5 million are inactive. This implies that a large proportion of youth (80.3%) are ready to participate in the production of goods and services with high rate for male (82.4%) as compared to female (78.3%). Out of the active youth population, 12.5 million are employed and 1.7 million are unemployed.

Tanzania has always recognized the importance of youth in all aspects of the country's development. Thus, it has had plans for youth development since independence where in the 1970s the Government established a specific Unit at the Ministry level to coordinate youth affairs where it continued to expand into a full Department in the 1990s.

## **2.0 THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES**

The contribution of young people in maintaining peace is great and peace cannot be achieved if they are not involved because youth are good agent of peace if they are properly contained. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has made effort of enacting various Laws, Policies, Regulations and Guidelines to ensure productive participation of community, especially youth in matters of peace and security. These efforts include the enactment of The Prevention Terrorism Act 2002, the National Guidelines for the Office of Defense and Security, the Prevention of Terrorism Regulations and various criminal laws. Along with these efforts, the government has continued to create an enabling environment and cooperate with development stakeholders in motivating the community, especially the youth, to live in peace and stability, as well as providing training to empower women and youth economically, leadership, self-awareness, independence and encouraging the good use of social networks in order to maintain Peace. These efforts are done as follows;

1. To organize and implement the Youth and Peace project that provides education to young people on peace building through scout clubs as well as conveying peace building education to various groups of young people and society in general through workshops and education through campaigns and discussions on social networks to promote youth participation in peace building, defense and security. This program has reached more than 15000 youth from 2021/22.
2. Establishing a Peace and Security Youth Forum that brings youth from different parts of the country together with important government and private sector stakeholders to discuss the participation and involvement of youth in the construction of Peace and Security.
3. Approving the East African strategy for Youth Participation and Involvement in matters of peace and security in 2021 and its implementation and Accord for the Establishment of the Regional Youth Forum of The International Conference on The Great Lakes Region.
4. However, the most important to note is that, the practical experience drawn from the implementation of these programs has informed a need for policy and strategy directives to ensure holistic participation of youth in peace building and therefore the aspect of peace and security has now be considered as the most important agenda in the review of National Youth Development Policy of 2007.
5. Other important toll which have been used by the Government in engaging youth in peacebuilding is to design entrepreneurship and livelihoods programmes that will keep youth engaged. Thus the government through the PMO Office has designed a ***Youth Economic Empowerment programme*** with the focus is to empower and support Tanzanians youth in terms of access to soft loans (capital), Train in business and entrepreneurship skills, Mentorship and Coach, Business Development Services, Link to business programmes and networks and other initiatives geared to empower youth economically. Under this programme there are the following initiatives are implemented;
  - i. **Youth Development Fund**; The fund targets young people within the age bracket of 15 to 35 years. The fund was established to Provide loans for on-lending to youth-owned enterprises; To Instigate the culture of saving and reasonable borrowing for the youth and Support youth-oriented micro, small and medium enterprises to develop linkages with large enterprises. Since 2015 More than **8.7 Billions Tanzania Shillings** have been provided to the youth as start up capital

The objective of YDF is to promote and create employment opportunities through soft and affordable loans with an ultimate aim of supporting growth and sustainable youth businesses. The Specific Objectives are;-

- To encourage out of schools, unemployed and underemployed youth to venture into sustainable and viable income generating projects;
- To promote and stimulate active participation of youth in the strategic projects;
- To promote the development of competitive, sustainable and growth-oriented citizens through youth-led enterprises;
- To identify and mentor youth-led entrepreneurial initiatives by making them competitive and sustainable;
- To provide continued business support services such as training, mentorship and advice for the development of sustainable youth- led enterprises;
- To provide capital funds and/or equipment through soft and affordable loans to viable youth projects; and
- To build and encourage saving culture as well as financial and borrowing disciplines.

ii. **Local Council Five Percent of internal Revenue for Youth;** Each council has sets aside five percent of their revenue for youth empowerment activities. The funds are used to finance projects of registered youth groups within the Constituency such as group loans for startup businesses or other income generating activities whereby in the last three years **Tanzania Shilings 54.7 Bilions** have been disbursed to more than **163,051 youths**.

iii. **Local Council Land Allocation Programme;** The lack of land and the economic dependence that it entails, have a deep impact in rural youth means of support strategies, since they prefer to develop their livelihoods based on rural-urban migration rather than staying as unpaid workforce under their parent's authority.

In order to solve the challenges of youth access to land the Government through Local Government Authorities established a Land Allocation strategy in 2016 which need each of the 185 Local Council to set aside special land for youth which for the purpose of maintaining their livelihood. Currently a total of **274.091.33 Acres and 435,642.50 Square meters** of business premises has been allocated.

**iv. Youth Access to Government Procurement Opportunities**

The PMO in collaboration with PPRA are coordinating this programme. Through the Public Procurement Act of 2001 (PPA) which was amended to enhance the participation of special groups which include youth, women, elderly, and people with disabilities as they have a great impact on the country's economy whereby 30% of government procurement opportunities are set aside specifically for these enterprises. The distribution with respective percentages includes Youth (10); PWDs (10); Women (5) and Elderly (5). It is affirmative action aimed at empowering youth, women and persons with disability-owned enterprises by giving them more opportunities to do business with Government.