



# ***NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY***

**2017-2030**

**JAMAICA**


**Popular Version**



*“The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow”*

-NELSON MANDELA

An easy read guide based on NYP 2017-2030. Developed by the National Youth Policy Working Group supported by the Youth and Adolescent Policy Division within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. Copyright © 2019



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# ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENT***

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# ***PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO YOUTH***



The Government recognises the important role that young people play in national development. The National Youth Policy presents Jamaica's youth development framework, and reflects the values and priorities of young Jamaicans. I believe in the strength, creativity and resilience of our young people and their power to create positive change. The Policy expresses the Government's commitment to giving young people a voice

in matters of national importance and ultimately in Jamaica's development. I thank The National Youth Policy Youth Working Group and the Youth and Adolescents Policy Division within the MOEYI for dedicating time, effort and passion to the creation of this booklet. Together we will continue to improve our youth policy, and harness the strength, creativity and resilience of our young people towards a sustainable future for all Jamaicans.

**The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, MP  
Prime Minister**

# GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL'S MESSAGE TO YOUTH



I welcome and endorse this national policy which promotes a vision of empowered young people who are able to make informed choices so that they can lead meaningful, enjoyable and prosperous lives, and contribute to the sustainable development of our beloved island home, Jamaica. I extend high commendations to the team members of the Youth and Adolescents Policy Division (YAPD) for the creation of this well-needed document.

This National Youth Policy has established a framework within which our youth can be supported to pursue and achieve their goals.

It outlines and explores areas for action, and indicates six priority areas - education and training, health and well-being, employment and entrepreneurship, youth participation, social inclusion and reintegration, and institutional and youth sector arrangements.

This strategy and policy directive, has provided a broad outline within which the Government's youth management protocol will be executed. This groundbreaking method emphasizes youth empowerment while recognizing Government's responsibility to create a facilitative environment, in order to ensure the growth and development of our citizens and the inevitability and attainment of the ideals of Vision 2030.

It is my expectation that by the year 2030, Jamaica will become "the place of choice to live, work, do business and raise families". Jamaica's youth are intelligent, ambitious and eager to succeed and live prosperous lives. I support this comprehensive approach to the implementation and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for every area pertaining to the development of our most treasured human capital, the young people of Jamaica.

**The Honourable Fayval Williams, CD, MP**  
**Minister of Education, Youth and Information**

# GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL'S MESSAGE TO YOUTH

Jamaica's National Youth Policy 2017-2030 Popular Version is a welcome addition to the communication tools being used to share information with our young people and presents the Government of Jamaica's commitment to address the concerns of Jamaica's most critical asset, our youth. This National Policy will guide the youth development sector to ensure that youth development remains at the forefront of the National Development Agenda.

The youth of Jamaica are our nation's future, and this document outlines the importance of advancing youth participation in the socio-political, economic, cultural and spiritual processes of our society.

It is important that our youth are aware of the critical role they play in their development as well as national development. To ensure youth involvement in the creation of the Popular Version, the Youth and Adolescent Policy Division collaborated with a group of talented young persons to design and develop the popular version. This popular version is extremely youth friendly and outlines key areas such as: Youth Policy Vision, Policy Framework, Guiding Principles, Youth Rights and Youth Responsibilities.

This booklet should be widely distributed within our educational institutions and youth clubs to encourage youth participation in youth development as well as, encourage youth participation in the development of national policies that affect youth.

Congratulations to the team from the Youth and Adolescent Policy Division of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information on a job well done.

**The Honourable Robert Nesta Morgan, MP**  
**State Minister in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information**



# GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL'S MESSAGE TO YOUTH



The National Youth Policy promotes a vision of empowered young people who are able to make informed choices, lead meaningful, enjoyable and prosperous lives, and contribute to the sustainable development of our beloved island home, Jamaica. It is essential that our young people understand that the goals stated in the youth policy are their own goals, and that they are equal partners in the process of their development.

I extend high commendations to the team members of the National Youth Policy Youth Working Group within the Youth and

Adolescents Policy Division (YAPD) for the creation of this well-needed booklet. It is my privilege and honour to endorse this engaging approach to policy development and implementation for every area pertaining to the development of our most treasured human capital: the young people of Jamaica.

**Dr. Grace McLean, OD, JP**  
**Acting Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Education, Youth and Information**



# OFFICE OF THE POLITICAL OMBUDSMAN

## MESSAGE TO YOUTH

The Political Ombudsman, a Commission of Parliament is honoured to work with youth, the National Youth Parliament of Jamaica and all those who support our young people. We want to engage the creativity, passion, trust, integrity, intelligence, ideas and effort of all our young Jamaicans.

This Commission, will continue to provide a space for young people to learn and develop democratic values and practice to promote Good Governance, Rule of Law and Citizen participation. Politics as a means of creating policies and programmes or the benefit of all Jamaicans, will be better if there is positive participation of our young citizens as voters, influencers and representatives.

We commend this 2017-2030 National Youth Policy as it builds on work from 1985 and subsequent iterations.

I endorse this collaborative National Youth Policy Popular Version Booklet which will create enabling space so our young people may indeed find Jamaica to be "The place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business".



**Honourable Donna Parchment Brown, OD, JP**  
**Political Ombudsman**

# ***CIVIL SOCIETY MESSAGE TO YOUTH***



I want to first congratulate the National Youth Policy Youth Working Group for their outstanding work in the creation of this National Youth Policy Popular Version Booklet. The youth are our future but they are also our present, almost 30 out of every 100 Jamaicans are between the ages of 15 and 29, including outstanding world-class performers in academics, debating, entertainment, sports and culture. However, far too many of our youth succumb to being disadvantaged; join gangs,

commit crimes, go to jail and drop out of school. This youth policy urges young people to “take charge of their future” and sets out how to do so. Many at-risk youths have overcome their vulnerability, two such were National heroes: Norman Manley and Marcus Garvey. This booklet tells us how we may follow their example from humble origins to great achievements. I urge that our youths study and apply this roadmap.

**Professor Trevor Munroe, CD, DPhil (Oxon)  
Executive Director, National Integrity Action**

# THE POLICY AND **YOUTH**

This National Youth Policy was developed with **you**th in mind. Here are some of the views of our youth:

*"Fi mii, di palisi miin jab. Nou yuuts av uol iip a kwalifikieshan an kyaahn get no wok; das wai so moch bad man an bad uman out de kaaz iz iida yu put op wan likl staal aar yu go tun wan kriminal. It a liid tu wan a di tuu. It a benefit di uol a Jamieka pan a mieja skiel kaaz aal kram riet go dong an jab riet go op."*

– ANONYMOUS



"The National Youth Policy really gives you that feeling of being included in something of great importance. It reveals to me that young people do have a voice and one that is not just merely lost in the wind, but counted and considered."

–TORI, 26 YEARS OLD



"For me, the youth policy means that struggling youth will have easier access to tertiary education so that the cycle of poverty can end."

– SHANNON, UTECH STUDENT, 23 YEARS OLD



"This policy comes at a time when it is needed most. It is not the final answer, but it is a foundation on which we can build enforcements for our rights as youth. *Mi glad fi it."*

–FABRIZIO DARBY, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL SECONDARY STUDENTS' COUNCIL, 20 YEARS OLD



# YOUTH LEXICON

*We di wad dem miin?*

**Adolescence:** A period of developmental change that is physical, mental and biological where the skills necessary for a productive life are acquired. This period lasts typically from age 10 to 19.

**Advocacy:** To show public support for a particular cause. Trying to convince other people because you are convinced yourself.

**Behaviour change:** The process of improving or influencing a positive change in attitudes and lifestyle.

**Childhood:** The period between birth and eighteen years. During these years physical and mental changes occur in preparation for adulthood.

**Decent jobs:** This involves opportunities for work that is productive with good pay, security in the workplace and social protection for families.

**Disabled (Varied Abilities):** Mentally, physically or psychologically challenged.

**Empowerment:** The process of increasing the capacity to influence behaviour, emotions and lifestyle in others.

**Gifted Youth:** Youth who show outstanding levels of ability or competence in one or more areas.

**Incarcerated Youth:** Young people in prisons or remand centres, whose freedom of movement is restricted by law.

**In-School Youth:** Young people who are registered in and are attending an institution of learning.

**Institutionalized Youth:** Young people who are in places of safety and children's homes as well as those who are taken care of by the state.

**Out of School Youth:** Young people who are neither registered nor attending an institution of learning.

**Privileged Youth:** Young people who enjoy special privileges or favours granted to them through the aid of family or other sources. For example, the privilege of education or employment opportunities.

**Parenting:** The process of promoting and supporting the physical, financial, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood.

**Positive Youth Development:** The process of engaging young persons within their communities, schools and organizations in a productive way. This is done by building on their leadership strengths and promoting positive outcomes.

**Street Youth:** Young persons between the ages of 15-29 years old who live on the street and carry out all activities on the street.

**Unattached Youth:** Young persons who are not employed, in school, participating in any training programmes or a part of any organization, youth groups, service club, church etc.

**Underserved Youth:** Young persons between the ages of 15-29 years old who receive inadequate support and services from the Government.

**Urban Youth:** Young persons living in highly populated towns and cities.

**Rural Youth:** Youth who live in farming or agricultural areas.

**Youth-at-Promise:** Youth who have the ability to use their natural talents when they are encouraged and supported.

**Youth-at-risk (of):** Youth who are vulnerable to particular circumstances or situations because of their lifestyle and or living conditions.

# PREAMBLE

By 2030, Jamaica desires to become “the place of choice to live, work, do business and raise families.” In order to achieve this, Jamaica’s youth need to be involved in all aspects of the nation’s development.

**“ The power of youth is the commonwealth for the entire world. The faces of young people are the faces of our past, our present and our future.”**

KAILASH SATYARTHI

The vision, goals and strategies of the National Youth Policy (2017-2030) are based on the personal experiences and expectations of Jamaica’s youth, and an analysis of issues affecting our young people. The National Youth Policy contains the following key points:

1. The importance of youth and youth development
2. A true understanding of the challenges our youth face on a daily basis
3. Guiding Principles
4. National Commitments
5. Policy Priorities
6. The Goals and Strategic objectives of the policy: What does the policy aim to do?
7. Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism to track the success of the policy

Jamaica can only achieve the outlined goals through the involvement of all stakeholders in youth development. This collaborative effort will allow for the creation and monitoring of appropriate and standardized programming, interventions and other policies which will lead to positive youth development within Jamaica.



## ***VISION OF CHILDREN***

Jamaican children realizing their full potential, with their rights to survival, protection, development and participation guaranteed in a peaceful, nurturing, protective and child-friendly environment.

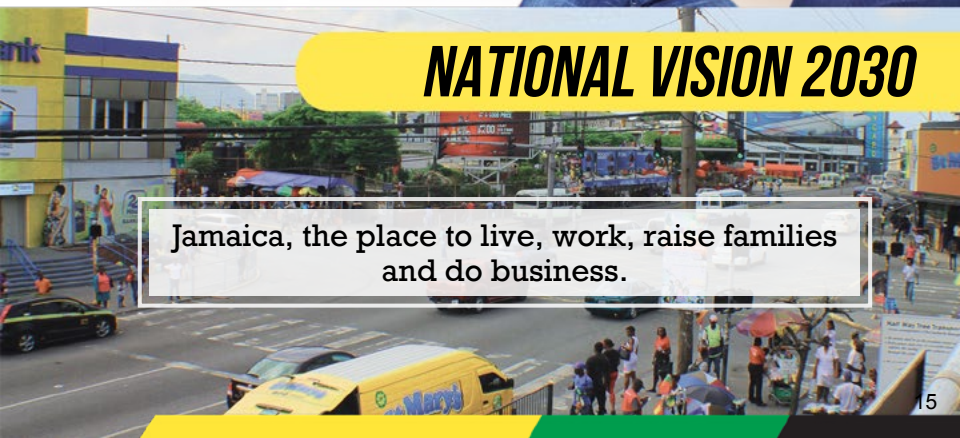
## ***NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY VISION***

All Jamaican youth realizing their full potential, through access to opportunities to develop, participate and contribute as responsible citizens to sustainable national development.



## ***NATIONAL VISION 2030***

Jamaica, the place to live, work, raise families and do business.



# BACKGROUND

Jamaica has made policy commitments to youth development from as early as the 1980s when the first youth policy was drafted. Dates that are important to the development of the youth policy and youth are listed below:



**1985**

**First Draft of the National Youth Policy (1985) introduced**

**3**

**1992**

**“Vision of Youth” paper published**

**5**

**1995**

**The re-introduction of the National Youth Service**

**7**

**2000**

**Establishment of the National Centre for Youth Development (NCYD)**

**9**

**2013- 16**

**Review of the National Youth Policy 2004 by a multisectoral committee**

**1991**

**2**

**Jamaica ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

**1994**

**4**

**Jamaica's First Comprehensive National Youth Policy developed**

**1999**

**6**

**The establishment of the National Youth Service Act**

**2004**

**8**

**The National Youth Policy (2004) 2nd Iteration**

**The Child Care and Protection Act signed**

**2017**

**The National Youth Policy (NYP) 2017-2030 developed to reinforce the Government's commitment to Jamaica's youth**






## ***NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY PURPOSE***

The National Youth Policy serves several key purposes:

1. Bring forward a youth development framework which can be funded, implemented and monitored.
2. Ensure partners focus on youth development as a key part of the national development plan.
3. Address gaps which currently exist in youth development programs, policy and legislation.
4. Strengthen coordinating mechanisms to ensure that the policy benefits Jamaica's youth.



*This policy ya  
kambout fi mek  
shour di ting set  
right fi di youths dem!*

# ***YOUTH AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT***

Our youth are an important part of the nation's development. In Jamaica, "youth" is defined as persons between the ages of 15-29 years of age. Youth make up almost 28% (approximately 759,757) of the overall population. Therefore, greater attention must be paid to creating opportunities to promote positive youth development.

**Youth development** focuses on their experiences and the ways in which these experiences provide opportunities for youth to achieve their full potential.



*"Yuuts bi wan  
Waakin W  
lorn fram yuh Ls!"*

# YOUTH ISSUES

Youth are affected by several issues which can negatively impact their development. The following issues were used to develop and inform the policy's priority areas, key goals and strategic objectives :

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**GAPS** in quality of educational services despite universal access which results in social and economic exclusion.



## CRIME AND VIOLENCE

**1609 YOUTHS**  
between age 15- 24  
arrested for either murder,  
shooting, robbery, break-  
in, larceny, rape and  
aggravated assault in 2015







## EMPLOYMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES



14- 24 year olds in labour  
force **UNEMPLOYED**

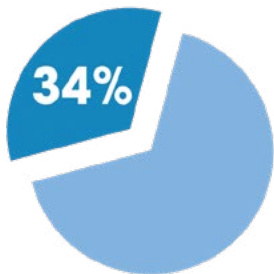
## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### Major health issues affecting youth

-  external causes  
(homicides)
-  degenerative  
diseases
-  communicable  
diseases
-  mental  
health issues

## POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

High levels of youth apathy and lack of trust in the political process has led to:



Youth **DISINTERESTED** in **VOTING**

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Young persons in Jamaica are **NOT ACTIVELY INVOLVED** in **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLITICAL PROCESS**



## CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Young people are **UNAWARE** and **DISINTERESTED** in cultural activities



Young people are **NOT VISIBLE** in environmental causes



# ***POLICY FRAMEWORK***

The National Youth Policy is shaped by Vision 2030: National Development Plan, The World Programme of Action for Youth Development, CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan and the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment.

**Policy starts with a vision...**

# ***POLICY OUTCOME***

Through effective implementation of the strategies under the six policy goals, Jamaica should become

***“a nurturing and secure environment in which youth thrive and become empowered, achieve their full potential and understand their roles and responsibilities in making meaningful contribution to national development.”***



**... and ends with change.”**

# ***GUIDING PRINCIPLES***

The National Youth policy is guided by the following principles:

**Committed Leadership:** At every level and sector to create a safe society for our youth and ensure their voices are heard in decision-making.

**Positive Youth Development:** The process through which youths are assisted in building assets and competencies to ease their transition into adulthood by perfecting their talents, skills and abilities.

**Youth Mainstreaming:** This ensures youth are involved in national development affairs at all levels of governance, especially those matters that affect them directly.

**Recognition and Fulfillment of Rights:** While the state ensures the rights of youth are upheld, youth must take their rights seriously and not abuse them.

**Stakeholders Involvement and Participation:** Youth participation in creating youth programmes is necessary for them to become active citizens as well as work along with stakeholders involved in their development.

**Partnership and Collaboration:** Every sector of society is needed to support youth. To do this, society will need to work together to create quality services for all youth.

**Gender Equality:** The policy will work towards a gender-balanced approach across all youth programmes and projects.

**Non-Discrimination and Equity:** No young person or group should be excluded. Youth from different circumstances and with different needs must have equitable access to all programs and services.

# YOUTH'S RIGHTS

Our youth play an important role in their own development. Youth must know and understand their rights. The government's definition of "youth rights" aligns with the internationally defined rights of young people as presented in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that all youth have the right to the following:

1. Life
2. Freedom from discrimination
3. An identity, name and nationality
4. Freedom of expression, culture and religion
5. Basic healthcare and education
6. Protection from abuse, both physical and psychological
7. Participation in decision-making that affects their wellbeing
8. Opportunities to optimize their growth and development
9. Access to services and information that will enhance their development

*"Wa a fi yu  
kyaahn bi  
an-fi yu"*



# ***YOUTH'S RESPONSIBILITY***

To achieve the previous rights, youth must understand their responsibilities:

1. Take charge of their future
2. Find opportunities that allow them to grow and develop
3. Get the best education possible
4. Respect self, others and the environment
5. Make sure to contribute to their country and be a good citizen
6. Take care of persons who are in need of special care, support or protection because of age, disability, or those who are less fortunate.
7. Find ways to fight for their rights





# NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

## PRIORITY AREAS & GOALS

The National Youth Policy has identified *six* major *Priority Areas* with specific *Goals* for youth development. To achieve these goals, it requires partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders who are needed to improve existing programmes and develop new ones to address the needs of our youth.



### EDUCATION & TRAINING

**GOAL 1:** Improved Access to Quality Secondary Education, Tertiary Education and Vocational Training Opportunities



### HEALTH & WELLBEING

**GOAL 2:** Increase Youth Access to Sexual, Reproductive & Mental Health Care Services



### EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**GOAL 3:** Increased Youth Access to Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities



### YOUTH PARTICIPATION

**GOAL 4:** Maximize Youth Participation in National and Political Decision-Making



### SOCIAL INCLUSION AND RE-INTEGRATION

**GOAL 5:** Minimize the Number of At-Risk and Vulnerable Youth

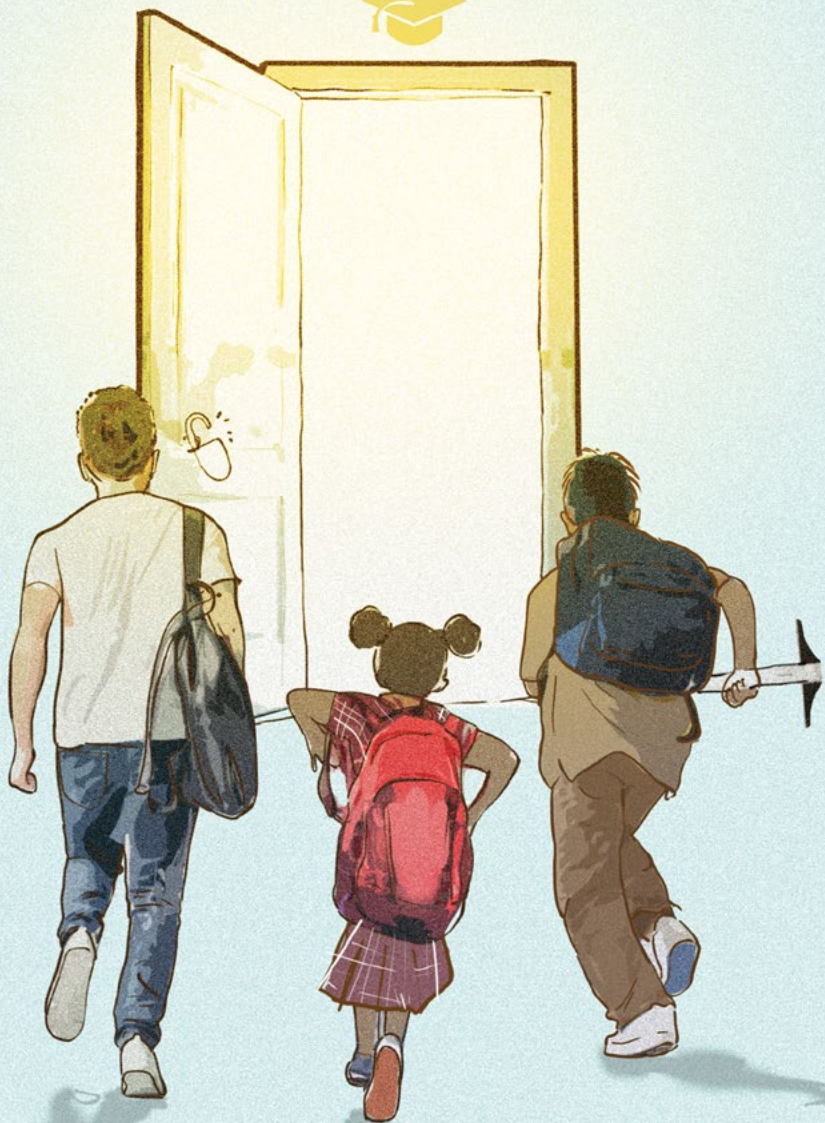


### INSTITUTIONAL AND YOUTH SECTOR ARRANGEMENTS

**GOAL 6:** Professionalization and Strengthening of the Youth Sector



*"Education is important to our youth's development and  
is key to unlocking their potential."*



# PRIORITY AREA 1: **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**



**Priority Area 1** will create more educational and career training opportunities to prepare our youth for the world of work by creating jobs that are of higher quality, relevant to the economy, diverse, affordable and equally accessible to all.

## **Why is it important?**

*Wa mek dis impuotant?*

Education is a right not a privilege. Youth are the future of Jamaica, and increasing access to learning opportunities prepares youth with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed for themselves and as a nation. All youth should have the opportunity to empower themselves through education and career training regardless of who they are, where they are from and other financial circumstances.

## **Problems faced by our youth:**

*Wa a bada fi wi yuuts?*

Not all of our youth have the same access and quality to education as a result of various social, cultural and economic factors including the following:

1. Unequal access to education and training opportunities
2. Overcrowding of schools and training centers
3. Poor quality of teaching
4. Deficient curriculum not geared towards youth interests or labour market needs
5. Security issues

# GOAL 1:

## Improved Access to Quality Secondary Education, Tertiary Education and Vocational Training Opportunities

### What is the purpose of this goal?

*Wa mek wi a dweit?*

This goal area focuses on increasing the quality of education and career training opportunities available to our youth, by addressing inequalities within the system that prevent youth from having access to quality education and training.

### Who will be impacted by this goal?

*Uu dis a go elp?*

- Out-of-school youth
- Teen mothers
- Youth with disabilities (varied abilities)
- Youth in poor rural areas
- Youth at Secondary School level
- Youth-at-promise

**Apatuuniti  
taim now!**



### How will this be achieved?

*Ou wi a go dwiit?*

This goal will be achieved by the following measures:

1. Improving access to quality education and training
2. Delivering quality education and training
3. Encouraging youth participation and governance in educational or training institutions
4. Promoting gender equality
5. Addressing the psychological and social needs of youth at the secondary level

### Outcome:

*Wa ago kom out a aal a dis?*

If youth access to quality Secondary Education, Tertiary Education and Vocational Training Opportunities is increased, young persons will have:

- Equal opportunity to access quality education and training.

*"Adolescence is an important period for developing positive health and social behaviors that will shape our young persons into productive citizens."*



# PRIORITY AREA 2: **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**



**Priority area 2** speaks to youth having timely access to health services and information which will help them maintain physical, sexual, mental and emotional well-being.

## **Why is it important?**

*Wa mek dis impuotant?*

Our youth suffer from sexual and reproductive health issues, substance abuse, mental health issues, nutritional problems and lifestyle diseases. To reduce these health risks, youth require full access to information, social support and services to maintain healthy habits and lifestyles to reach their full potential.

## **Problems faced by our youth:**

*Wa a bada fi wi yuunts?*

Youth face several health and wellbeing challenges which should be addressed, some of which are as follows:

1. Sexually transmitted diseases: HIV/AIDS is high among youth especially young females
2. Reproductive Health: high rate of unplanned pregnancies among youth
3. Mental and emotional health: approximately 20% of youth are at risk of suicide
4. Substance Abuse: alcohol, ganja, tobacco, inhalants are the main substances being abused by young people

## GOAL 2:

# Increase Youth Access to Sexual, Reproductive & Mental Health Care Services

### What is the purpose of this goal?

*Wa mek wi a dwiit?*

This goal area focuses on increased health and wellness amongst our youth by giving them increased access to health services that cater to their physical, sexual, mental and emotional wellbeing.

### Who will be impacted by this goal?

*Uu dis a go elp?*

- Youth at risk of early pregnancy, substance abuse, HIV and other STIs
- Underserved youth (particularly youth in rural areas)
- Youth in state care
- Youth with varied abilities (disabilities)
- Youth at secondary school level
- Privileged Youth







# “Privenshan beta!” dan kyuor!

## How will this be achieved?

*Ou wi a go dwit?*

This goal will be achieved by the following measures:

1. Increasing access to appropriate and quality healthcare facilities
2. Developing policies and programmes that focus on mental, emotional and physical well-being
3. Facilitating youth involvement in the design and implementation of youth health services
4. Increasing youth awareness on their role in health choices and consequences

## Outcome:

*Wa ago kom out a aal a dis?*

If youth access to sexual, reproductive and mental health care services are increased, young persons will have:

- Access to programmes and policies focused on mental, emotional, sexual and physical health will enable them to make healthy lifestyle choices

*"It is important for our youth to participate in economic activities that not only allow them to contribute to nation building but leave them empowered to achieve their fullest potential."*



# PRIORITY AREA 3: **EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**



**Priority area 3** speaks of steps to be taken to reduce youth unemployment through the avenues of skill development in many areas and using culture as a tool to advance youth entrepreneurship.

## **Why is it important?**

*Wa mek dis impuotant?*

Youth participation in the economic process is important to reduce poverty and improve standards of living. Youth can look forward to training, apprenticeship programmes, educational and vocational training opportunities that will work to provide a better job environment for youth and promote youth entrepreneurship in the process.

## **Problems faced by our youth:**

*Wa a bada fi wi yuuts?*

1. Discrimination in the job market based on varied abilities
2. Youth with varied abilities are excluded from entrepreneurial activities
3. Youth struggle to find decent work and capital for start-up companies
4. Lack of gender equality in the agricultural sector
5. High unemployment rate among young women

# GOAL 3: Increased Youth Access to Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities

## What is the purpose of this goal?

*Wa mek wi a dweit?*

This goal highlights areas where our youth can contribute to the economy by learning new skills to create a better workforce and starting businesses to hire people.

## Who will be impacted by this goal?

*Uu dis a go elp?*

- Rural youth
- Unemployed youth
- Young women
- Youth with disabilities (Varied abilities)
- Youth infected and affected by HIV/AIDS
- Youth working on the streets
- Youth with certification from HEART Trust/NTA and other training agencies
- Youth-at-Promise
- Privileged Youth





### How will this be achieved?

*Ou wi a go dwit?*

This goal will be achieved by the following measures:

1. Creating more public-private partnerships to allow for secure job placements
2. Expanding the national apprenticeship and work experience program to provide our young people with decent job experience after graduation
3. Promoting young entrepreneurs within the sport and agricultural sector which is guided by the Cultural and Creative Industries Policy and Youth in Agriculture Policy

### Outcome:

*Wa ago kom out a aal a dis?*

If youth access to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities are increased:

- Able and disabled youth will have access to career-enabling resources

*“Youth participation plays a vital role in the country's sustainable development as it ensures youth contribute to issues of national importance.”*



# PRIORITY AREA 4: **YOUTH PARTICIPATION**



**Priority area 4** speaks to the need for young persons to be more involved in the decision-making process. Young persons may be involved in community-based activities but are often times unaware of national issues and not involved in finding solutions for these.

## **Why is it important?**

*Wa mek dis impuotant?*

Youth participation enables the creation or expansion of platforms for young people to assert their ideas or recommendations to address challenges as well as represent their views at every level of governance.

## **Problems faced by our youth:**

*Wa a bada fi wi yuuts?*

Youth participation is crucial to Jamaica achieving Vision 2030. Our youth are highly involved at the community level but not involved in political or national issues as a result of the following:

1. Lack of interest or knowledge of political issues
2. Lack of cultural and civic awareness



## GOAL 4:

# Maximize Youth Participation in National and Political Decision-Making

### What is the purpose of this goal?

*Wa mek wi a dwiit?*

This goal seeks to involve youth in the decision-making process, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes concerning development.

### Who will be impacted by this goal?

*Uu dis a go elp?*

- Unattached youth
- Mainstream youth
- Youth with varied abilities(disability)
- Youth infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and others

*“Jaak op yuuts,  
a fi wi taim nou!”*





## How will this be achieved?

*Ou wi a go dweit?*

This goal will be achieved by the following measures:

1. Increasing youth awareness of their rights and responsibilities
2. Expanding facilities to support youth participation
3. Creating platforms for youth engagement in the decision-making process
4. Fostering youth involvement in decision making by strengthening and encouraging student governance and leadership in schools

## Outcome:

*Wa ago kom out a aal a dis?*

If youth participation is increased, young persons will have the following outcomes:

1. Know and understand their rights and responsibilities.
2. Contribute to their own development as well as national development
3. Participate at the national level through formal government structures and processes





*"Many youth in our society run the risk of becoming isolated due to extreme circumstances."*

# PRIORITY AREA 5: **SOCIAL INCLUSION AND RE-INTEGRATION**



**Priority Area 5** speaks to the different strategies that can be implemented for the smooth inclusion of at-risk and vulnerable youth into nurturing environments.

## **Why is it important?** *Wa mek dis impuotant?*

Many young persons fall within the “at-risk and extremely vulnerable” group. These youth experience extreme poverty, crime and violence, neglect, abuse and abandonment, which limits growth in all areas of their lives. Vulnerable groups require care. Research shows that it is important to expose these youth to life-changing experiences that can influence a positive outlook on life.

## **Problems faced by our youth:** *Wa a bada fi wi yuuts?*

A significant portion of the youth population are at risk and extremely vulnerable. These youth are consistently faced with:

1. Circumstances such as poverty, neglect and abuse
2. Lack of proper rehabilitation for juveniles in correctional facilities

## GOAL 5:

# Minimize the Number of At-Risk and Vulnerable Youth

What is the purpose of this goal?

*Wa mek wi a dwiit?*

This goal promotes improving Jamaica's ability to provide the right care and intervention to help vulnerable and at-risk youth overcome their challenges and become smoothly reintegrated into mainstream society.

Who will be impacted by this goal?

*Uu dis a go elp?*

- Youth in rural areas
- Youth with varied abilities
- Youth in state care
- Youth in correctional facilities

*“Aal a wi mata.”*



## How will this be achieved?

*Ou wi a go dwiit?*

This goal will be achieved by the following measures:

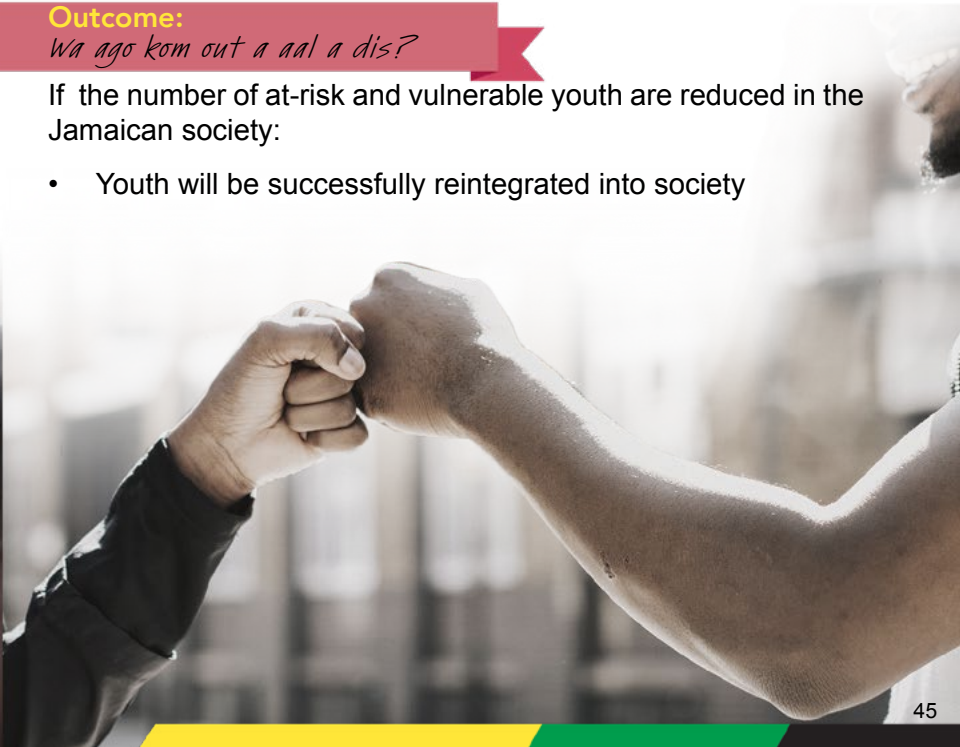
1. Providing a secure and nurturing environment for youth in state care
2. Strengthening the social protection system to better assist vulnerable youth. Creating safe spaces for continued holistic development of youth in conflict with the law
3. Prioritizing preventative policies and programmes aimed at “juvenile offending”
4. Developing rehabilitation plans for youth in correctional facilities
5. Promoting restorative justice practices and interventions for youth who come in conflict with the law

## Outcome:

*Wa ago kom out a aal a dis?*

If the number of at-risk and vulnerable youth are reduced in the Jamaican society:

- Youth will be successfully reintegrated into society





*"Under the Ministry of Youth, there are trained and qualified youth workers who will champion the cause and aid in ensuring that all these goals are achieved."*

# PRIORITY AREA 6: **INSTITUTIONAL AND YOUTH SECTOR ARRANGEMENTS**



**Priority Area 6** speaks to the strengthening of the youth sector by improving the knowledge and skill set of youth development workers.

## **Why is it important?**

*Wa mek dis impuotant?*

Youth workers are necessary for a productive and organized youth sector. Without qualified youth workers, the priority areas of the policy will not be achieved, and Jamaican youth will not reap any benefits from this policy.

## **Problems faced by the Youth Sector:**

*Prablem we di Yuut Sekta fies?*

1. Little to no monitoring and evaluation of the sector
2. No guidelines describing how youth work should be done
3. Youth workers are undervalued despite their qualifications and dedication
4. Inefficient and uncoordinated approach amongst stakeholders

# GOAL 6: Professionalization and Strengthening of the Youth Sector

## What is the purpose of this goal?

*Wa mek wi a dwiit?*

This goal will address challenges faced by the youth sector by providing legislative and institutional support. This will lead to qualified youth workers who can better meet the dynamic needs of youth.

## Who will be impacted by this goal?

*Uu dis a go elp?*

- Youth workers
- Youth-serving organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Youth-related ministries, departments and agencies







### How will this be achieved?

*Ou wi a go dwiit?*

This goal will be achieved by the following measures:

1. Implementing legislation to support a more organized youth sector
2. Implementing training programs for youth workers
3. Improving dialogue on youth development issues between all ministries, departments and agencies, non-state agencies and the private sector
4. Promoting youth work as a rewarding field of study and increasing recognition of youth workers

### Outcome:

*Wa ago kom out a aal a dis?*

The professionalization and strengthening of the Youth Sector will lead to the following outcomes:

1. A modernized institutional framework to support youth development
2. Achievement of the five other goals in the National Youth Policy (2017-2030)
3. Programmes and initiatives that address the needs of youth

# THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY IN ACTION

The successful launch of The National Youth Policy 2017- 2030 relies on the Government agency with responsibility for youth to effectively partner with key stakeholders such as public sector, private sector and civil society.

The Youth and Adolescents Policy Division within the Ministry responsible for youth development, will lead on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Youth Policy.

The effective implementation of the National Youth Policy depends on the execution of key actions to ensure that the policy is beneficial to our young people.

*"Aksan,  
nat a bag a mout!"*



# KEY ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

## Key Actions

## Key Actors

Strengthen the capacity of the Youth and Adolescents Policy Division (MOEYI)

MOEYI/MFP

Development of an Action Plan Implementation Plan & Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Youth and Adolescents Policy Division

Develop a Youth Development Act and Supporting Legislation

MOEYI/Office of the Parliamentary Council

Re-establish an operational arm of the Youth and Adolescents Policy Division

MOEYI/MFP

Formulate a Youth Professional Workers Policy

MOEYI/MLSS/ JPYWA

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Like all change, youth development is dynamic and requires continuous assessment of the current trends and issues being faced by youth. To ensure the NYP is being carried out to the fullest potential, routine reporting is critical for monitoring and evaluation of the policy's effectiveness. A detailed review of the policy will be done by an Inter-Ministerial Committee every five (5) years.

The Monitoring and Evaluation strategy includes:

1. Monitoring of short, medium and long term goals of all partner agencies to ensure they are being achieved, and to explore and agree on corrective actions
2. Yearly reviews leading to the development of the yearly operational plans
3. Planned detailed evaluations resulting in the development of a new strategic plan



# ***CONCLUSION***

The Government of Jamaica is committed to the development of the country's youth. It recognizes that the implementation of the National Youth Policy(2017-2030) is important to national development.

The government considers the achievement of the six policy goals outlined above as essential, not only to the development of the country's youth, but also to the development of the country as a whole.

In summary, the policy's success depends on the collaborative efforts of all parties involved in the youth development sector and will have a long-lasting impact on youth and their holistic development enabling the young people of Jamaica to reach their highest potential.



# CRASH COURSE 101: READING JAMAICAN

## KWIK LESN: OU FI RIID JAMIEKAN

Did you know there is an official writing system for the Jamaican Language, otherwise called Patwa/Jamaican Creole? The research for “The Dictionary of Jamaican English” compiled and published in 1961 formed the basis for the Cassidy-JLU writing system, which was created by the **Jamaican Language Unit** in the early 2000s. Here is a crash course about the writing –system to help you to read the Jamaican section of this booklet.

- There are five (5) short vowels- *e, i, a, o, u*

<i>Jamaican Word</i>	<b>English Translation</b>
<i>sik</i>	sick
<i>bel</i>	bell
<i>ban</i>	band
<i>kot</i>	cut
<i>kuk</i>	cook

- There are three (3) short vowels- *ii, aa, uu*

<i>Jamaican Word</i>	<b>English Translation</b>
<i>tii</i>	tea
<i>baal</i>	ball
<i>shuut</i>	shoot

- There are four (4) double vowels- *ie, uo, ai, ou*

<i>Jamaican Word</i>	English Translation
<i>kiek</i>	cake
<i>gruo</i>	grow
<i>bait</i>	bite
<i>kou</i>	cow

- There is a special vowel- *hn*

You know that nasal sound Jamaicans make at the end of a sentence that is used for emphasis? In English, it is usually written as “**eee**”. In Jamaican, it is written as *iihn* which is a nasalized version of the *ii* sound. We add ‘*hn*’ to signify the nasal sound at the end.

- There are some special consonants

There are some consonants in English that are not in the Jamaican alphabet. So **X** is ‘*ks*’ and **Q** is ‘*kw*’, so **six** in Jamaican is spelt ‘*siks*’ and **queen** is spelt ‘*kwiin*’.

- There are 22 consonants, made of 18 single and 4 double consonants.

Here are some more examples of Jamaican translations.

<i>Jamaican Word</i>	English Translation
<i>biek</i>	bake
<i>choch</i>	church
<i>fuud</i>	food
<i>guot</i>	goat
<i>joj</i>	judge
<i>nais</i>	nice
<i>tu</i>	two
<i>wail</i>	wild
<i>vorzhan</i>	version

# DI YUUTS DEM FI NUO WA DI GOVAMENT AGO DU FI DEM

A lang taim nou Jamieka mek a plej tu di yuuts dem, fram wie bak ina di 1980s. Di govament si se muor aad wok afi put iin an di yuuts dem pruogres ago plie wan big paat ina di plan fi mek Jamieka get beta an beta. It naa go iizi fi du dis, aal a di minischri dem, an di impuotant piipl dem afi go wok tageda. Ef dis apn ino, aal a di yuuts dem kyan mek it ina laif.

Jamiekan yuuts mek op muo an kwaata a di smadi dem we liv ina Jamieka, an dem av wan big paat fi plie ina Jamiekan pruogres. Wi ago niid muor piipl fi pie atenshan an supuot di yuuts dem pruogres. Ef di yuuts dem gruo, dem kyan mek di chienj ina di sosaiyati an di iikanami we wi waahn si.

Di **Revised National Youth Policy** did mek wen nof prablem did de bout. It kyan muuv fram wa a apn ina di envairnement, laka ou tавvvim a get ata (gluobal waamin), tu wa a gwaahn ina di schriits wid kraim an vailens. Bot fi evri prablem wan wie dede fi fiks it. No chuu? So wa di govament riili se dem ago du fi wi?

Dem a se di yuuts dem afi staat tek chaaj a dem uona pruogres an tek rispansibiliti fi di chienj dem we dem waahn si roun dem. It naa go iizi bot wid di sopuot fram di govament pruogres plan we ago put iin fi wan lang taim an wid di rait an propa strokcha, wi kyan mek it wok. Afta raal, wi likl bot wi talawa!



# A WA DI GOVAMENT AGO DU FI WI?

Wel, dem a luk fi aal a di prablem dem we a stap wi fram riich wi aiyes ina laif. So, prii dis. Di govament kom op wid siks guol we dem waahn du an du gud, so wi kyan bi uu wi supuo2z fi bi ina laif. Kom mek wi luk pan di guol dem no! Yuuts, memba se a wi rispans fi wi fyuucha ino.



## **GUOL 1: "MEK IT IIZIYA FI PIPL GET A AI SKUUL, YUUNIVORSITI AAR VOKIESHANAL (CHRIED) EDIKIESHAN"**

Dis jos a se, aal a wi fi go a skuul fi get wan gud edikieshan, no mata uu wi bi. Di govament ago luk pan aal a di tingz dem we wrang, we a tap wi fram bi di bes we wi kyan bi. Dat nais iihn? So, it no mata ef yu a bwai pikni aar gyal pikni, aal a wi ago get sopm fram it. Di govament a prii som ekscha sopuot, no jos fi di suoshal paat bot fi diil wid wi filingz tu. Dis ago ina di Ai Skuul dem.





## **GUOL 2: "MEK IT IIZIYA FI YU GET DI SORVIS DEM FI DIIL WID ENI TING WID YU SEKS LAIF, YU BADI PAAT DEM WE MEK BIEBI AN YU MENTAL ELT."**

Yu did nuo se nof Jamiekan yuuts av HIV/AIDS an av prablem wid di badi paat dem we mek biebi, bot dem kyaahn get fi yuuz di elt sorvis dem we dede? No wori yu ed duo, da guol kom bout fi chienj op di ting. It kom bout fi mek shuor se aal a wi get di apatyuuniti fi yuuz di elt sorvis dem we de bout fi saat out wi badi, eni ting fi du wid seks, wi mental elt aar jos ou wi fiil.

Bwai, dem se dem ago tel wi wa dem ago du fi wi plos dem ago tel wi di pruogram dem we a luk aad pan eni an evriting fi du wid elt, Bot, dem jos waahn fi nuo se wi a plie di biges ruol ina wi uona elt chais dem an eni ting we apn kaaz a di chais dem we wi mek. Da guol ya eksplien wa di seks chais dem bi, so mek shuor yu wais bout wa yu a du. Ef yu no memba notn els, jos memba wi a tel yu dis, "Wi a buus yu op fi buuts op".





### **GUOL 3: “WI AFI MEK DI NOMBA A YUUT WE KYAN GET GUD WOK AN AV DEM UONA BIZNIZ GO OP”**

If wi a go kot dong pan pavati an fiks op di ikanamik kandishan, den di yuut dem afi go gi bak tu di iikanami ina wan gud wie. Bot dis fiil aad aad wen wi kyaahn get wok ina di fos plies. So ou dem ago mek shuor se wi kyan get wok fi tek kier a wi self, wi fambili an bil wi konchri?

Dem se Poblik an Praivit Sekta a go wok tugeda fi elp wi get wok. Govament a go chrai dem bes fi mek di nashinal chienin piiriyad an wok ekspiiriyens pruogram biga fi gi di yuut dem gud wok, aafa dem don skuul. Bot a di en a di die, aal a wi no waahn wok fi sombadi els. Som a wi av jriimz fi bi wi uona baas! Wel, govamnet a se wi mos du dis, an dem a big op enibadi uu waahn bi dem uona baas ina di Spuutz an Agrikolcha Sekta. Afta aal, yuuts, a fi wi taim nou.



### **GUOL 4: “GET DI YUUT DEM INVALV INA NASHINAL, EKANAMIK AN POKLITIKAL DISIJAN MIEKIN”**

Di govament waahn fi ier yu vais! Memba wi did se wi a big diil. So dem waahn wi fi bi ina evri paat a di disijan dem we a mek. Di govament waahn di yuuts dem fi taak op an no fried fi mek wi ier yu vais. Di govament waahn fi ier ou yo fiil bou di program dem an di palisi dem we dem waahn mek fi yu. So dem no mos waahn nuu if it ago elp yu aar ou dem kyan wiil an kom agen.

bout wa yu a du. Ef yu no memba notn els, jos memba wi a tel yu dis, “Wi a buus yu op fi buuts op”.



## **GUOL 5: "WI AFI KOT DONG PAN DI NOM-BA A PIKNI WE MAIT INA DIENJA AAR JRAP OUTA SKUUL"**

Di govament kier bout aal a wi, dem waahn fi tek di rait akshan fi elp aal a wi, espeshali di yuut dem we niid ekscha elp. Di govament a go elp aal a wi chuu di chalenj dem we wi fies so wi kyan bi paat a sosaiyati.



## **GUOL 6: "MEK DI YUUT SEKTA MUOR PROFESHANAL"**

Unu nuo se di yuut worka dem impuotant fi mek di palisi wok rait? Wel if yu neva nuo a dem sorv di yuut papilieshan. So dem afi av di rait skil dem fi miit di niidz dem a di yuut ina di sosaiyati an mek shuur se di sekta ron gud. So dem afi go bak a skuul an get muor edikieshan fi sopuot wi fi mek shuur se dem kyan elp wi. Wail dat a gwaan, di govament waahn evribadi ina di konchri nuo se di yuut worka dem impuotant an dem disorv muor big op!



Bwaai, di palisi soun nais, iihn? So, tel aal a yu fren dem bout it! Dis a di govament plan fi di yuut dem riich di aiyes dem kyan ina laif. Ina dis ya palisi ya, di govament paint out siks mien tingz we dem afi du prapali ina yuut development. Mi nuu se yu a tingk ou dem a go du dis an dwiit gud? Wel, dem a go wok wid evribadi fi mek di yuut pruogram dem beta fi elp wi. Dat miin se aal wi di yuuts dem afi ina it. So ier wa mi waahn yu an yo fren dem du. Nuu unu raitz an rispansibiliti. So wa riili iz yuut raitz an rispansibiliti? Iz simpli dis

1. Yu av a rait tu laif so tek chaaj a yu fyuuucha
2. Yu av a rait tu edikieshan so tek yu buk
3. Yu av a rait fi get gud chriitment so rispek evriting an evribadi.
4. Yu av a rait fi piipl ier yu so mek shuor di govament ier wa yu a se.

*So if evribadi du dis...*



# ***SPONSORS***

## **NATIONAL INTEGRITY ACTION**

National Integrity Action (NIA) was registered as a not-for-profit organisation in March 2011 with the objective of combatting corruption in Jamaica on a non-partisan basis.

The establishment of NIA grew out of the necessity to raise levels of national integrity and to combat corruption more effectively in Jamaica.

While maintaining its presence as an effective civil society actor, NIA is engaged in the process of building the core of a social movement for integrity. This process involves accepting members and partnering with diverse organisations to strengthen good governance in Jamaica.

## **JONES AND REDWOOD CONSULTANCY**

Jones and Redwood Consultancy is a consultancy firm based in Kingston, Jamaica that specializes in creative, marketing and communication consultancy. The firm was co-founded by Anabelle C. Jones and René K. Redwood.

We help our clients to build value by ensuring their vision is captured and creates the right impact. Delivering this value requires a gamut of talents and capabilities found in our highly unique team of professionals who possess the ability to adapt and apply their skills to suit our clients needs. We offer specialized services in agile project management, logos and branding, graphic design, marketing, event planning and management.

Feel free to contact us at [jonesredwoodconsultancy@gmail.com](mailto:jonesredwoodconsultancy@gmail.com) or (876)790-7187 or (876) 583-1006 we would be happy to bring your project to life!

## **RICHARD NATTOO**

Richard Nattoo has always had an interest in colour, texture, form and shape. He is a graduate of the School of Architecture and has been exhibiting his work since 2012. Richard's background in architecture has given his work precision and direction commonly not found in the local art landscape. He has garnered much acclaim for his surreal dreamlike creations that explore human emotions on a raw cerebral level. To view Richard Nattoo's work you may visit [www.richardnattoo.com](http://www.richardnattoo.com) or contact him via email at [richardnattoo@gmail.com](mailto:richardnattoo@gmail.com).

## **JAMAICAN LANGUAGE UNIT**

The JLU was set up within the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, UWI, Mona, in 2002.

The JLU has created a standard writing system for Jamaican (also called Patwa or Jamaican Creole). The Unit advocates for making the Jamaican Language official alongside English, through research and educational and social outreach. The JLU also monitors state agencies with respect to the non-discriminatory provision of services in English and Jamaican and provides public education on the language issue.

# ***THE YOUTH AND ADOLESCENT POLICY DIVISION OVERVIEW***

The Youth and Adolescent Policy Division (YAPD) operates within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. The YAPD is charged with the primary responsibility for the development, implementation and the management of policies and programmes relating to Jamaican youth aged 15-29 years old. The Division is responsible for the operation of eleven (11) Youth Innovation Centers islandwide and two (2) Youth Access points. These spaces are support structures or youth friendly spaces that are utilized by youth for the dissemination of information, engagement and participation in activities that facilitate personal and national development. Also, the Division is charged with overseeing the bilateral agreements with International Development Partners and the subsequent execution of funded programmes.

## **THE DIVISION PROMOTES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT THROUGH:**

1. Strengthening the legislative and policy framework of the youth development portfolio
2. Empowering our youth through leadership, mentorship and volunteerism
3. Providing young people with the tools to be competitive both locally and globally
4. Facilitating alternative avenues for self-employment and financial independence for the youth and the population in general
5. Identifying, providing information or facilitating the creation of opportunities for the unattached youth

## **YAPD VISION STATEMENT**

A Dynamic Department operating under the Ministry with responsibility for Youth Affairs; leading, supporting and facilitating mechanisms that ensure the optimum development of all young people, enabling them to compete globally and regionally, while contributing to national development.

## **YAPD MISSION**

To support, facilitate and coordinate holistic and positive youth development through research, advocacy, policy initiatives, programming actions, youth participation, partnership and collaboration.



# ***MORE QUOTES FROM YOUTH***

*"For me, the youth policy means that struggling youth will have easier access to tertiary education so that the cycle of poverty can end."*

*- Shannon, 23, UTECH Student*

*"It creates the opportunity for me to express my views and be engaged in affairs, matters and issues that not only affect me and my peers, but Jamaican citizens on a whole."*

*- Anonymous, University Student*

*"This framework is ideal for youth to grow and live in Jamaica. It is simply an awesome opportunity."- Fabian Morris, 19, Former NSSC President*

*"From my perspective, the National Youth Policy provides a basis which will give youth a chance to have a better future in Jamaica"-Nickela Taylor, 18, High School Student*

*"The revised Youth Policy will work mainly because it incorporates the voices of the youth themselves as an agent of their own development and therefore the importance of their individual responsibility and accountability..." - Kamar Brooks, 20, St. Catherine Parish Youth Council*

*"Comprehensive and practical! The policy is inclusive with evident gender consideration and a feasible multi-sectoral approach. Its strategic yet clear cut language makes it reader-friendly and digestible for youth. The overall hierarchy of the national policy shows linkages to international standards and goals such as the SDG"- Davoreen Gaynor, 23, UWI Student*

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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