

**N.R.C.D. 241**  
**NATIONAL YOUTH AUTHORITY ACT, 1974**

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**N.R.C.D. 241**

**NATIONAL YOUTH AUTHORITY ACT, 1974<sup>1</sup>**

**AN ACT to establish a national youth authority and to provide for related matters.**

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1. This Act was issued as the National Youth Council Decree, 1974 (N.R.C.D. 241) made on the 31st day of January 1974 and notified in the *Gazette* on the 5th February, 1974.

*Establishment of the Authority***1. Establishment of the Council**

(1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the National Youth Authority.

(2) The Authority is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

(3) The Authority may, except as otherwise directed in writing by the Minister, for the purpose of carrying out its object, purchase, hold, manage, and dispose of movable or immovable property and may enter into contracts and other transactions as may be expedient.

**2. Object of the Authority**

(1) The object of the Authority is to develop a strong and disciplined youth imbued with a spirit of nationalism and a sense of public service and morality.

(2) In furtherance of the object mentioned in subsection (1), the Authority is charged with the responsibility for the formulation of policies and programmes which will promote in the youth

- (a) a sense of self-reliance, leadership, discipline and civic responsibility, and
- (b) a sense of friendship and co-operation through exchange of ideas with youth organisations in other countries in Africa and the world.

*The Board***3. Governing body of the Authority**

(1) The governing body of the Authority is a board of trustee consisting of

- (a) the chairman,
- (b) the deputy chairman,
- (c) the national co-ordinator,
- (d) ten members of the public nominated by the Minister,
- (e) one representative of the Ministry of Education,
- (f) one representative of the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs,
- (g) one representative of the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development,
- (h) the representative of the National Union of Ghana Students.<sup>2</sup>

(2) The chairman, the deputy chairman and the other trustees, other than the national co-ordinator, shall be appointed in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution.

(3) A trustee, other than the national co-ordinator and the ex officio trustees shall hold office for a period of three years, but any of them is eligible for re-appointment.

(4) A trustee, other than an ex officio trustee, may resign from office by notice in writing addressed to the Minister and the appointment of a trustee may be terminated by the President if satisfied that it is in the public interest so to do.

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2. Added by the National Youth Council (Amendment) Decree, 1974 (N.R.C.D. 300).

(5) A trustee may be paid the remuneration or allowance determined by the Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for Finance.

#### **4. Functions of the Board**

(1) Subject to this Act, the Board shall have general control of the management of the Authority on matters of policy.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the Board is responsible for the efficient functioning and co-ordination of the activities of youth organisations and for the formulation of policies and programmes in respect of youth activities and also generally for the carrying out the object of the Authority.

#### **5. Meetings of the Board**

(1) The Board shall meet at least once in every four months and the meeting shall be convened by the chairman in consultation with the national co-ordinator.

(2) An extra-ordinary meeting of the Board may be summoned at the request of not less than two-thirds of the trustees at which a business shall not be transacted other than that stated in the agenda for that meeting.

(3) Notice of an ordinary meeting of the Board shall be given to each trustee at least fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting.

(4) The chairman, the national co-ordinator and not less than one-third of the other trustees constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board.

(5) The chairman shall preside at meetings of the Board and in the absence of the chairman the deputy chairman shall preside and in the absence of both of them a trustee elected by the trustees present shall preside.

(6) Questions proposed at a meeting of the Board shall be determined by a simple majority of the trustees present and voting and in the event of an equality of votes the chairman or the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(7) The validity of the proceedings of the Board shall not be affected by a vacancy among its members or by a defect in their appointment.

(8) The Board may co-opt a person to act as an adviser at a meeting of the Board but a person co-opted is not entitled to vote at the meeting.

(9) The Board may appoint the committees that it thinks fit to assist in the performance of its functions.

#### *Youth Committees and Co-ordinators*

#### **6. Regional youth committees**

(1) There shall be appointed in each Region a regional youth committee consisting of

- (a) the chairman appointed by the Minister,
- (b) one person appointed by the chairman of the Board,
- (c) the regional co-ordinator appointed by the Minister,

- (d) one representative from each of the youth groups mentioned in subsection (1) of section 9,
- (e) the regional education officer, and
- (f) the regional social welfare and community development officer.

(2) A regional youth committee shall assist the Board in its functions and is responsible, subject to the directions of the Board, for the implementation of the policies of the Authority in the Region.

(3) A regional youth committee shall meet at least once in very every three months at the times and places determined by its chairman.

(4) A regional youth committee may prescribe its own procedure for the conduct of its meetings.

#### **7. District youth committees**

(1) There shall be appointed in each district a district youth committee consisting of

- (a) the chairman appointed by the Minister,
- (b) the district co-ordinator appointed by the Minister,
- (c) the district education officer, and
- (d) the district social welfare and community development officer.

(2) A district youth committee is responsible, subject to the directions of the regional youth committee, for the organisation of the youth activities in the district.

(3) A district youth committee shall meet at least once in every three months at the times and places determined by its chairman.

(4) A district youth committee may prescribe its own procedure for the conduct of its meetings.

#### **8. National co-ordinator**

(1) The Council shall have a public officer as a national co-ordinator who shall be appointed by the President in accordance with article 195 of the Constitution, on the terms and conditions specified in the instrument of appointment.

(2) *Omitted.*<sup>3</sup>

(3) The national co-ordinator is charged, subject to the general control of the Board on matters of policy, with the direction of the day-to-day business of the Council and of the administration, organisation and control of the employees of the Council.

(4) Where the office of the national co-ordinator becomes vacant the Board shall notify the Minister who in turn shall notify the President.

(5) Where the national co-ordinator is unable by reason of illness or absence from the Republic to perform the functions of office under this Act, the Board shall authorise one of the deputy national co-ordinators to perform those functions until the national co-ordinator is able to perform those functions.

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3. Incorporated in subsection (1).

**9. Deputy national co-ordinators**

(1) The Council shall have four public officers as deputy national co-ordinators who shall be in charge of the religious, adventure, student and settlement groups of the Council.

(2) The deputy national co-ordinators shall be appointed by the President on the terms and conditions determined by the President.

(3) Subject to the directions of the national co-ordinator on matters of policy, a deputy national co-ordinator is responsible for organising the activities and programmes of the youth group mentioned in subsection (1).

**10. Regional and district co-ordinators**

Public officers shall be appointed as regional and district co-ordinators and shall be paid the salaries or remuneration determined by the Minister.

**11. Secretary and other officers**

(1) The Authority shall have a secretary to the Board and any other staff as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions of the Authority.

(2) The secretary and the other members of the staff of the Authority are public officers.

(3) The secretary shall arrange the business for and record and keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board and shall perform any other functions in relation to the functions of the Board assigned by the Board.

*Finance***12. Funds of the Authority**

The funds of the Authority consist of

- (a) grants-in-aid received from the Government or the National Trust Fund, and
- (b) donations and voluntary contributions received from an individual or a body.

**13. Accounts and audit**

(1) The Board shall keep proper and correct account of the moneys received and expended by it, in the form approved by the Auditor-General

(2) The accounts shall be audited by the Auditor-General within three months after the end of the financial year.

(3) The financial year of the Authority shall be a period of twelve months ending on the 30th day of June in each year.

*Miscellaneous***14. Application of seal of the Authority**

(1) The common seal of the Authority shall be kept in the custody and control of the national co-ordinator and shall be applied in respect of documents as determined by the Board.

(2) Subject to subsection (1), the application of the seal of the Authority shall be authenticated by the signatures of the national co-ordinator and two other trustees.

(3) The Board may by writing under its seal empower a person to execute an instrument or to enter into a contract on behalf of the Board.

### **15. Annual reports**

The Board shall submit reports on the activities of the Authority to the Minister as soon as may be after the 30th day of September in every year, but not later than 31st of March in the following year.

### **16. Registration of youth organisation**

(1) A youth organisation shall not engage in a youth activity unless that organisation has been registered by the Authority.

(2) The Authority shall charge in respect of a registration the fee determined by the Board with the prior approval of the Minister.

(3) Despite the provisions of any other enactment, a youth organisation in existence immediately before the commencement of this Act shall, within thirty days after the coming into force of this Act, apply to the Authority to be registered.

(4) A youth organisation which fails to register within thirty days after its formation or if in existence before the coming into force of this Act, fails to register within thirty days after the Act had come into force, shall be proscribed by the Board.

(5) A person shall not do an act likely to promote the activities and operations of a proscribed youth organisation.

(6) A person who does an act in contravention of a provision of subsection (4) or of subsection (5) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred penalty units or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months or to both the fine and the imprisonment.

(7) The Board shall proscribe or refuse to register a youth organisation the aims or objects of which are contrary to the object of the Authority.

### **17. Interpretation**

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

“**Auditor-General**” includes an auditor appointed by the Auditor-General;

“**Authority**” means to National Youth Authority established by section 1;

“**Board**” means the board of trustees appointed under section 3;

“**district**” means the area of authority of a District Assembly;

“**District Assembly**” includes a Municipal Assembly and a Metropolitan Assembly;

“**Minister**” means the Minister responsible for Youth’s Affairs;

“**trustee**” means a member of the board of trustees established under section 3.

**18. Repeal***Spent.*<sup>4</sup>**19. Commencement***Spent.*<sup>5</sup>

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**4. The section provided that:**

The Central Advisory Committee on Youth Decree, 1967 (N.L.C.D. 171) and the Central Advisory Committee (Amendment), 1968 (N.L.C.D. 289) are hereby repealed.

**5. The section provided that the Decree shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of February, 1974.**

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