

# ACT

*Supplement to the Sierra Leone Gazette Vol. CXLVII, No. 17*  
*dated 24th March, 2016*

## THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE ACT, 2016

### ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

#### PART I-PRELIMINARY

##### SECTIONS

1. Interpretation.

#### PART II-ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE

2. Establishment of Service.
3. Common seal.
4. Members of Board.
5. Term of office of members.
6. Remuneration of members.
7. Functions of Board.
8. Meetings of Board.
9. Disclosure of interest.
10. Committees of Board.
11. Independence of Service.

#### PART III-FUNCTIONS OF SERVICE AND OTHER RELATED PROVISIONS

12. Functions of Service.
13. Ministerial support.
14. Regional Advisory Committee.
15. District Advisory Committee.

#### PART IV-NATIONAL DIRECTORATE

16. National Directorate.
17. Functions of National Directorate.
18. Executive Director.
19. Deputy Executive Director.
20. Departments.
21. Other staff of Service.
22. Regional offices.

#### PART V-FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

23. Funds of Service.
24. Accounts and audit.
25. Annual report.

#### PART VI-ENLISTMENT AND OTHER RELATED PROVISIONS

26. Compulsory service.
27. Form.
28. Exemptions.
29. Deferment.
30. Pledge.
31. Code of conduct.
32. Register.
33. Notice in gazette.
34. Deployment.
35. Criteria for deployment.
36. Evaluation report .
37. Certificate of Service .
38. Production of certificate for employment .
39. Collaboration.
40. Obligation of public and private sector.
41. Right of appeal.
42. Appeal panel.

#### PART-VII OFFENCES

43. Failing to report.
44. Obtaining admission by fraud.
45. False information.
46. Wearing uniform.
47. Unlawful possession of articles supplied to service participants.

#### PART VIII-MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

48. Trade union prohibition.
49. Labour laws not applicable.
50. Regulations.

#### SCHEDULES

SIGNED this 7th day of March, 2016.

DR. ERNEST BAIKOROMA,  
*President.*

LS

No. 4



Sierra Leone

2016

**The National Youth Service Act, 2016**

Short title.

**Being an Act to establish the National Youth Service and to  
provide for other related matters**

[ ] Date of commencement.

ENACTED by the President and Members of Parliament in this  
present Parliament assembled.

**PART I—PRELIMINARY**

Interpretation. **1.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

“Chairman” means the Chairman of the Board;

“members” means members of the Board ;

“Executive -Director” means the Executive -Director of the National Youth Service appointed under section 18 ;

“Minister” means the minister responsible for youth affairs and "Ministry” shall be construed accordingly;

“Service” means the National Youth Service established under section 2;

“service scheme” means the National Youth Service scheme that service participants undertake for a period of one year;

“service corps” means graduates who are enlisted in the National Youth Service scheme;

“graduates” means Sierra Leonean college or university graduates who obtain their degrees at the end of each academic year and are below the age of thirty five years .

**PART II—ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE**

Establishment of Service. **2.** (1) There is hereby established a service to be known as the National Youth Service .

(2) The Service shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and capable of acquiring, holding and disposing of any property, whether movable or immovable and of suing and being sued in its corporate name and subject to this Act, of performing all such acts as bodies corporate may by law perform.

**3.** (1) The Service shall have a common seal, the affixing of which shall be authenticated by the signatures of— Common seal.

(a) the Chairman or other member of the Board generally or specifically authorized by the Board for that purpose; and

(b) the Executive-Director or other officer of the Service authorized by the Board for that purpose.

(2) Every document purporting to be an instrument executed or issued by or on behalf of the Service and to be sealed with the common seal of the Service authenticated in the manner stated in subsection (1) shall be deemed to be so executed or issued without further proof, unless the contrary is proved.

(3) In appropriate cases, the seal may be affixed to documents outside of Sierra Leone.

**4.** (1) The governing body of the Service shall be a Board Members of Board. which shall consist of the following members—

(a) the Chairman;

(b) the Director of Youth Affairs ;

(c) the Financial Secretary;

(d) the Commissioner of Labour;

(e) the Chief Education Officer;

(f) the Chief of Defence Staff;

(g) the Inspector-General of Police;

(h) the Secretary-General Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce;

- (i) the Chairman National Commission for Persons with Disabilities;
- (j) the Chairman Tertiary Education Commission;
- (k) Director of Local Government;
- (l) the Commissioner National Youth Commission;
- (m) President of the National Union of Sierra Leone Students;
- (n) Chairman of National Youth Council;
- (o) The Head Inter-religious Council;
- (p) Chairman Council of Paramount Chiefs;
- (q) Two persons with knowledge and practical experience in matters relevant to the functions of the Service appointed by the President; and
- (r) the Executive-Director.

(2) The Chairman shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister subject to the approval of Parliament from among persons with knowledge and practical experience in matters relevant to the functions of the Service.

(3) The Executive -Director shall be the Secretary to the Board.

**5.** (1) The Chairman and members referred to in paragraph (q) of section 4, shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for not more than one term.

Term of office of members.

(2) A person shall cease to be a member of the Board on any of the following grounds:-

- (a) inability to perform the functions of his office by reason of infirmity of mind or body;
- (b) proven misconduct ;
- (c) if he becomes bankrupt or insolvent;
- (d) if he is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty;
- (e) if he fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board without reasonable cause;
- (f) if he resigns by written notice to the Minister
- (g) if he ceases to be an employee of the organisation of which he is a representative;
- (h) if he dies

(3) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, a replacement shall be appointed who shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the person replaced and shall subject to this Act be eligible for reappointment.

**6.** The Chairman and the other members of the Board shall be paid such remuneration, fees and allowances and shall be reimbursed by the Service for any expenses incurred in connection with the discharge of their functions as the Board may determine, subject to the approval of the Minister. Remuneration of Members.

**7.** (1) Subject to this Act, the Board shall have the control and supervision of the Service. Functions of Board.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) it shall be the function of the Board to-

- (a) provide policy guidance and advice to the Ministry and the National Directorate that will ensure the efficient implementation of the functions of the Service and enhance the overall performance of the Service;
- (b) monitor and evaluate the implementation of plans and programs of the Service and make recommendations for its improvement;
- (c) approve budgeted funding for the activities undertaken by the Service;
- (d) identify, undertake and administer investments on behalf of the Service;
- (e) develop guidelines for selection of participants
- (f) advise the Minister on matters relating to the service.

Meetings of board.

**8.** (1) The Board shall meet for the discharge of its business at least once every three months at such times and places as the Chairman may decide.

(2) A special meeting of the Board shall be convened by the Chairman at the written request of not less than one third of the members of the Board to be held at such time and place as the Chairman may decide.

(3) The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Board at which he is present and in his absence a member elected by the members present from among their number shall preside.

(4) Each member shall have one vote but where there is equality of votes, the Chairman or other member presiding shall have a casting vote.

(5) All acts, matters or things authorized or required to be done by the Board shall be decided at a meeting where a quorum is present and the decision is supported by the votes of the majority of the members.

(6) The quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be eleven members.

(7) The Board may co-opt any person to attend and participate in its deliberations on any matter but such person shall not vote on any matter for decision by the Board.

(8) Subject to this Act, the Board shall regulate its own procedure

**9.** (1) Any member or employee of the Service having a Disclosure of personal interest whether pecuniary or otherwise, direct or indirect interest in any matter to be considered by the Board, shall disclose the fact of such interest and the nature thereof, and such disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board and such member shall take no part in any deliberation or discussion of the Board relating to such matter.

(2) A member who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to be removed from the Board

**10.** (1) The Board may, for the discharge of its functions, Committees appoint one or more committees to perform such functions as the of Board. Board may determine.

(2) A committee shall consist of members of the Board or non-members or both as the Board may determine.

**11.** Subject to this Act, the Service shall not be subject to the Independence direction or control of any person or authority in the selection and of Service. placement of participants.

**PART III—FUNCTIONS OF SERVICE AND OTHER RELATE PROVISIONS**

**12.** (1) The object for which the Service is established is to Functions of train graduates to serve the nation. Service.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), it shall be the function of the Service to—