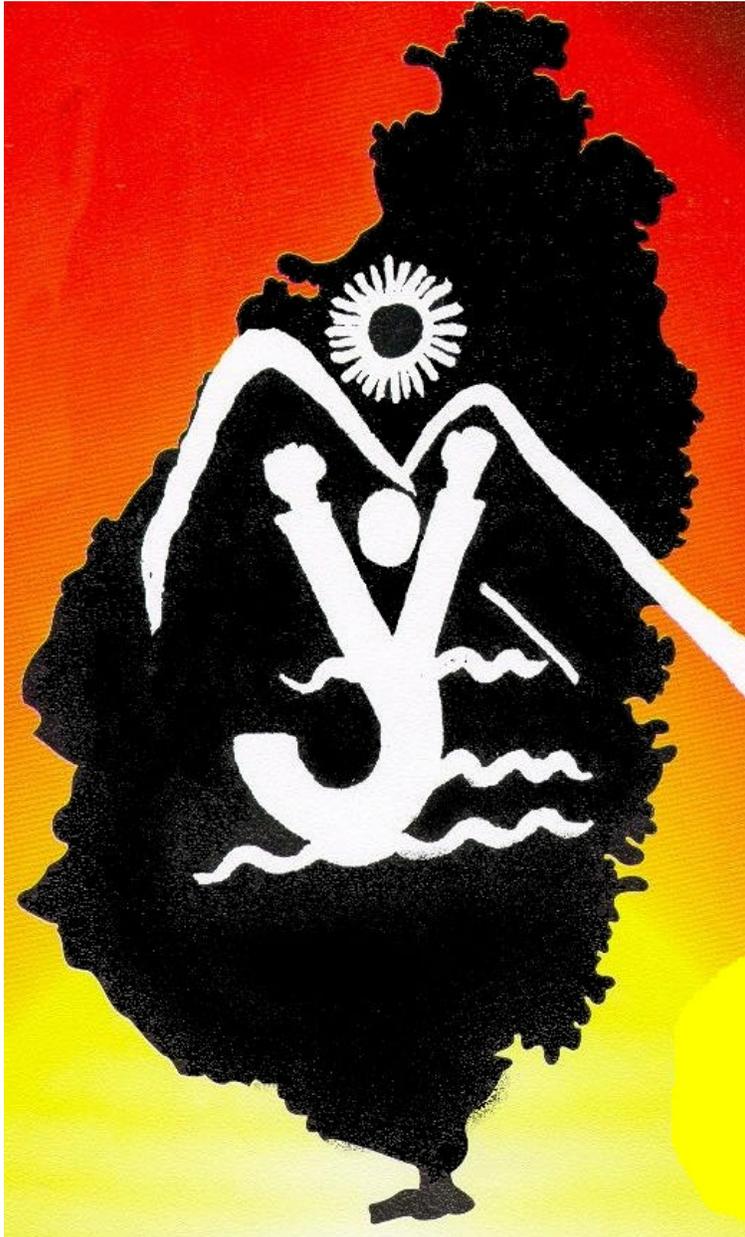


NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY SAINT LUCIA



**Ministry of Education,
Human Resource
Development,
Youth & Sports**

**Second Draft
May 2000**

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background/Purpose/Rationale

The first attempt at a National Youth Policy was in February 1987, when the National Youth Council presented a white paper highlighting problems that seemed to cripple our nation's youth and made valid recommendations for the improvement of the quality of life of young people. At the time, the White Paper was not given political approval and commitment of resources.

Since then, other attempts have been made by Government to formulate a National Youth Policy, but have been futile. In May 1999, the National Youth Policy formulation process was revived to provide a framework for the development of Saint Lucian young people.

Over the past decade St. Lucia has experienced a phenomenal increase in its youth population. In 1998, approximately 54.3% of St. Lucia's population comprised young people between the ages of 10-35 years.¹ This increase in the youth population has caused many deficiencies in several critical areas that would affect national development.

These include inadequacies of the formal education system, unemployment, teenage pregnancy, insufficient sporting and recreational facilities, substance abuse, crime and social deviance. Such deficiencies have also caused idleness and widespread disillusionment that have virtually left most young people disenchanted.

In preparing the National Youth Policy, the Department of Youth and Sports and the National Youth Council have undergone an extensive consultation process with youth organizations, church organizations, service groups, uniformed groups and unattached young people.

The participation of these groups and persons in the formulation process ensured that the design of the policy would address the major needs and challenges facing young people. The process also gave young people the

¹ Source: St. Lucia Government Statistics Department

opportunity to make recommendations to government and non-governmental organizations for youth development.

Throughout the process it was recognized by young people that there is an urgency to give the needs of youth priority on the national agenda. If young people are tomorrow's adults, then it is with immediate effect that youth be placed at the center of development. There has to be planned attention given to the problems and issues that challenge youth so that policy makers can create the suitable environment that would develop the capabilities and harness the energies of young people.

The integration of youth in national development necessitates the formulation and implementation of a youth policy. The National Youth Policy represents a practical declaration of the priority and direction that the Government of St. Lucia is giving to the development of young people. This declaration recognizes young people as meaningful contributors to the society and a major resource for investment. The policy addresses the major concerns and issues critical to the wholesome development of youth in our nation.

The articulation of a youth policy places young people in the broader context of national development in which government ministries, non-governmental agencies and other youth organizations will be provided with a framework that is consonant with the vision that youth have for nation building and development. This policy is also a gender inclusive statement, which provides the framework and guidelines from which strategies and initiatives can be developed to facilitate meaningful youth participation and development within St.Lucia.

There are many examples of youth throughout the country who have registered their disenchantment with the existing political, social and educational institutions. Many young people, specifically in disadvantaged areas, have a prevailing sense of apathy and disaffection with all institutions in society. It is hoped that through the creation of appropriate policy implementation mechanisms, sufficient resources will be allocated to benefit the growing youth population.

1.2 Definition of Youth

Social definitions of youth in the Caribbean are quite normative, often subjective and more varied than public policy definition. Hence, the definition of youth is not absolute, but varies from place to place and from time to time and even from person to person.

For many persons youth is the stage in life when young people strive for and attain social autonomy. It is also considered as the period where persons are being equipped for economic independence primarily through training and employment. Additionally, youth may be viewed as the stage where young people begin to assume responsibility for their actions and are required to begin making major decisions. This can start as early as 10 years.

On the other end of the spectrum, it is usually expected that persons who have reached the age of 35 years have achieved a measure of independence and probably own property such as house and land, enjoying a stable job and a settled family life. However, contemporary social reality is characterized by persons facing unemployment well into their thirties with the resultant dependency on kinship for survival, lack of ownership of property and a reluctance to accept the responsibility of parenthood. A great majority of men and women at this age are still faced with a myriad of constraints, which impedes their capacity to become fully independent.

For the purpose of this youth policy, the term youth refers to young people who are between the ages of 10 and 35. While this is the primary age parameter, the policy recognizes and makes provisions to include those outside of this age range. In spite of several connotations of youth, they remain the category of persons who must be adequately invested in and who must contribute as architects and agents in the development of themselves and the nation.

1.3 Principles and Values

The National Youth Policy is enshrined in essential principles and values that have influenced its blueprint and direction.

Key principles on which the policy has been formulated are:

Youth Participation

Promotion of the involvement of young people's participation in the formulation and implementation process of the National Youth Policy, including the creation of mechanisms for participation in community and national development.

Responsiveness

The policy responds to needs, challenges and experiences of young people through the consultative process.

Gender Sensitivity

The National Youth Policy promotes a gender-inclusive approach to the development of young people. It acknowledges the many differences between men and women and advocates treatment to each accordingly.

Benefits of the policy

The youth policy will benefit young people regardless of gender, race, physical and mental ability, political affiliation or social status.

Access to services

Provide equitable access to resources and services required to fulfill the physical, economic and social needs of young people and to provide an awareness of institutions and organizations involved in youth development.

Integrated Development

Recognition of the total development of young people including social, economic, emotional and spiritual development.

Youth Empowerment

The realization that young people are a vibrant sector of the population and that their decision-making capacity must be enhanced for participation in community and national development.

These principles and values are the basis on which the goal, objectives and implementation mechanism of the National Youth Policy have been formed.

1.4 Youth Policy Goal

The National Youth Policy will pursue the establishment of a framework and structure that will provide the youth with a voice, equal opportunities and autonomy, with a view to developing their full potential and ensuring their role and participation in all aspects of nation building.

The National Youth Policy will:

1. Provide a vehicle for full participation of youth in national development.
2. Reflect the needs, aspirations and interests of youth in all spheres and at all levels.
3. Encourage self-assertion and the development of self-esteem.
4. Facilitate the holistic development of youth.
5. Guarantee equal opportunity for all young persons regardless of gender, race, ability, political affiliation or social status.
6. Support the self-development and autonomous governance of the youth movement.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Economic Participation

The most serious problem confronting young people in St. Lucia is unemployment.² This has led to increasing economic deprivation and social degradation for a majority of young people. Unemployment is even now more pronounced in the rural areas because of the displacement of young farmers in the banana industry.

Large-scale unemployment not only promotes the drug trade, but other social ills such as sexual promiscuity, unstable family life, crime and deviance, whereas employment brings independence, security, dignity and self worth.

Accordingly, it is recommended that:

1. Skills training should be provided to increase youth employment and employability.
2. Entrepreneurship should be actively and aggressively promoted among youth.
3. Creation of an employment agency that provides unemployed young people with information about job opportunities.
4. Credit facilities should be made more readily accessible with minimum prerequisites to create an environment that nurtures entrepreneurship.
5. Self-employment agencies supported by government and non-governmental organizations research the feasibility of individual investment and facilitate loans for young entrepreneurs.
6. There be proper and effective dissemination of information on agencies that provide assistance to young entrepreneurs.

² National Youth Survey (1999)

7. There be the promotion and encouragement of programs that harness the entrepreneurial skills of students such as the Junior Achievement Program.
8. Good work ethics must be infused in our youth through workshops and seminars organized by the private/public sectors, non-governmental organizations, youth groups and other such organizations.
9. An intensive apprenticeship program be created specifically for out-of-school youth who did not have access to secondary education.
10. Employment of retirees should not be encouraged by the public sector.
11. Young people should be involved in the decision-making process that plans pension programs for retirees.
12. Job training must be given immediate attention at all secondary schools.
13. The provision of career guidance and counseling programs for all secondary schools and unemployed youth.
14. A program be designed to transfer the experience and skills of retirees to youth in productive ways.

2.2 Education & Training

Education and training is important for young people if they are to contribute to national development. The National Youth Policy acknowledges the Education Development Plan (EDP) and endorses the vision to raise levels of achievement for all learners to benefit as individuals and also to contribute to national/regional socio-economic development.

The National Youth Policy also recognizes the philosophy of education as a life-long process as outlined by Education Development Plan (EDP) and subscribes to the need for education as:

- a. A basic human right;
- b. An activity that initiates, facilitates, accelerates and sustains peaceful development; and
- c. A major force of transmission of common culture and common standards of citizenship

Qualitatively and quantitatively, the system needs to make a forceful paradigm shift from the emphasis on academics to placing equal weight on academics and technical/vocational subjects. This adjustment in the education system has been given priority, specifically with the development and implementation of the action plan for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in St.Lucia.

There are still many young people who have no access to secondary education, which compounds the unemployment problem. Even with universal primary education, illiteracy is a problem in the society and poses a serious impediment to an individual's growth and to socio-economic development.

Accordingly it is recommended that:

1. Technical and vocational training be given equal emphasis as the academic subjects in the school curriculum.

2. A specialized technical and vocational education institute to be established.
3. There be a reconsideration of the difference between basic and general proficiency since employers disregard the basic subject as a qualification.
4. Sixth form should be added in some of the mainstream secondary schools to increase access to tertiary education.
5. The potential of individuals be harnessed at an early age in singing, dancing, arts, theatre and other forms of cultural expression through integration in the school curriculum.
6. The dissemination of information on scholarships more effectively and efficiently.
7. The criteria for scholarships should be advertised and the economic situation of the applicant should be considered.
8. The criteria for scholarships should not rest solely on academic ability but also involvement in community life.
9. The education system makes provisions for physically and mentally challenged young people. Immediate attention should be given to integrate them in mainstream schools.
10. The elimination of illiteracy should be a priority of the education system through adult education and that the Adult Education Program should be effectively marketed to address the issue of illiteracy.
11. There should be access to advanced technology in all schools as the information age necessitates a thrust in technology in our schools.
12. As articulated in the EDP, the Ministry of Education must work towards compulsory secondary education.

13. Problem solving and life skills should be an integral part of the school curriculum and attention be given to changing the culture of the classroom.
14. The establishment of all new schools should facilitate access for those who are physically challenged.

2.3 Crime

Increasing violence and crime among our youth calls for the immediate intervention of all social institutions. Possession of unlicensed firearms, stabbing, shooting, and murders are gradually escalating. The approach to solving the problem of crime and violence requires all members of the society and specific institutions to act urgently to curb this problem, and to seek ways to promote peace.

Accordingly, it is recommended that:

1. Improved community relations with the Police Force be seen as an urgent component of any crime prevention plan.
2. The Police Force should be reorganized and undergo major reform to redress issues such as its capacity to expedite the judicial process, adequate remuneration and compensation and training in human resource development.
3. Police officers should have specialized training in areas such as psychology, criminology and criminal prosecution.
4. An independent body be established to investigate allegations of police misconduct for the promotion of greater public confidence in the Police Force.
5. Greater use be made of members of the Police Force to give talks to students, youth groups and organizations in understanding their role as citizens in promoting peace and upholding the laws of the country.
6. A program of community service be established for young offenders as a means of punishment and rehabilitation.
7. The prison system be reformed to encourage the rehabilitation and counseling of convicts so that they can be re-integrated in society and also to reduce recidivism.
8. Conflict management has to be integrated into the school curriculum

and other programs of youth groups as a major life skill for peaceful resolutions to confrontation.

9. Existing rehabilitation centers for young people be upgraded.
10. A branch of the Police Force be trained to deal with the crimes of young people.
11. An institution be established with adequate support for neglected and abused young people needing care and protection.
12. Government should provide legal aid to all young persons (where necessary) appearing before the court for charges of criminal offenses by them or against them.

2.4 Substance Abuse

According to popular views, many young people are drug users in the society. Legal substances such as alcohol and tobacco are now being recognized as contributing to terminal illnesses. The increasing substance abuse among young people calls for practical intervention by all institutions: home, school, church, and the State.

Accordingly, it is recommended that:

1. The laws governing the sale of liquor and tobacco to minors be reviewed.
2. The public should be educated on the laws regarding the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors.
3. New methods of educating youth on the effect of drug use be introduced on a community level.
4. There should be greater advocacy for a drug free lifestyle.
5. Stiffer penalties be imposed to serve as a deterrent for drug trafficking.
6. Government should seriously tackle the problem of supply and consumption of both legal and illegal substances.
7. Drug free clubs be formed in every school with the full endorsement and support of the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports and the National Substance Abuse Advisory Council.
8. The Drug and Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) program be reviewed for greater suitability to the socio-economic and cultural influences faced by young people.
9. Local sporting associations should comply with international regulations as exists in their specific sport with regards to doping.

10. Alcohol should not be used to celebrate the victory of sport teams.

2.5 Religion

St. Lucia is a society where Christian values and principles are upheld and many young people have deep religious convictions. The spiritual development of our young people has to be given priority, just as their physical, mental and social development.

The church needs to play a greater role in ensuring the spiritual development of our young people. The spiritual strength of the nation will ensure the promotion of peace, upholding of ethics, perpetuation of morals and values, fostering of national unity and greater appreciation for our fellowmen.

Accordingly, it is recommended that:

1. Persons be allowed religious freedom as guided by the Constitution of the State and should not be victimized because of their religious beliefs.
2. The church must be more proactive in addressing the needs of young people and initiate practical and relevant programs to transmit morals and values.
3. Prayers and ecumenical services remain in schools.
4. The pronouncement of St. Lucia as a religious society makes it imperative to deliberately instill and maintain the religious values and principles in all aspects of the nation's affairs.
5. Tolerance towards other religions be encouraged.

2.6 Sports and Recreation

Sports and recreation are valuable means of physical, social, mental and moral development for young people. Not only does it promote good health but fosters discipline, builds leadership and other social skills. Sports and recreation is a constructive way for youth to utilize their leisure time productively. It is evident that sport and recreation produces wholesome leisure time and can significantly reduce the incidence of crime, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, vandalism and idleness.

The National Youth Policy recognizes and supports the philosophy of the Sports Policy in endorsing the vital importance of sports in the total life of the individual, the community and in the integrated development of the nation. A national rethinking of the role of sport and recreation must be filtered to every individual in the society.

Accordingly, it is recommended that:

1. The upgrading of playing fields should meet the standards of having a changing room, seating arrangements, toilet/bath facilities, and pipe-borne water.
2. Playing fields and playing courts be established in all communities.
3. A clear concept on the management of sporting and recreational facilities should be undertaken by the Department of Youth and Sports.
4. Members of the community, through the Youth and Sports Councils, must be trained in the proper management of the facilities that would benefit all sectors of the community.
5. The Department of Youth and Sports, through the deployment of more Youth and Sports officers, must forge greater links with the communities to strengthen and provide institutional support to promote sport and recreation.

6. Each community should obtain maximum benefit from Youth and Sports Officers
7. Young people must be given time off to represent the country in their field of endeavor.
8. A sports academy should be established in St.Lucia.
9. Sport persons who have done the country proud must be given more national recognition.
10. Physical education must be integrated in the curriculum of all schools and the appropriate resources such as coaches and facilities be provided.
11. The role of the Youth and Sports Officers must be effectively communicated to the people they serve.
12. There should be a separation of the roles of Youth Officer from that of Sports Officer.

2.7 Youth and Culture

Culture plays an integral role in the holistic development in young people. Although culture has varied definitions, it is often described as the as a sum total of the way a particular group of people respond to, reflect or express their historical and continuing experience of life. Culture extends to the acquisition of values such as human rights, tolerance, respect for democracy and peace. The involvement of young people in understanding their cultural heritage will no doubt empower them for creative self-development, thus contributing significantly to nation building.

Accordingly, it is recommended that:

1. Awareness of cultural values and heritage traditions be promoted through diverse means.
2. Develop the facilitative mechanisms to promote and enhance cultural heritage and traditions.
3. Facilitate processes and programs to deepen cultural and historical art forms.
4. The preservation and strengthening of cultural heritage be given priority.
5. Programs be instituted to encourage the appreciation of our cultural heritage and identity.

2.8 Teenage Pregnancy

The phenomenon of teenage pregnancy has been identified as one of the most challenging problems facing the society. Teenage pregnancy continues to contribute to an average 20% of all births that occur every year since 1989, with a slight decrease between 1994-1998.³

In spite of the decline and small strides made over the past decades to reduce teenage pregnancy, adolescent fertility is still extraordinarily high. This high rate of teenage pregnancy in St.Lucia has placed the country as one of those with the highest proportion of teenage births in the world.⁴

The UNICEF Situational Analysis of Children and their families (1995-1996) give a comprehensive analysis of the causes of teenage pregnancy in St.Lucia. According to the researchers, several immediate and underlying causes including structural conditions contribute to teenage pregnancy.

The immediate causes identified by the researchers were unprotected sex, sexually active and promiscuous behavior and early sexual exposure. Among the underlying causes were male irresponsibility, lack of social coping skills, eroding moral ethics, poor parenting skills programs to engage youth in meaningful activity. Structurally, there are scarce employment opportunities, absence or lack of reproductive and sexual health services and facilities.

Accordingly, it is recommended that:

1. The family life education curriculum makes provision to develop a more holistic approach to personal relationships and sexual responsibility among students.
2. The State needs to provide support for teen parents by formulating a policy to encourage teen parents to complete their education.

³ St.Lucia Government Statistics

⁴ St.Lucia Draft Population Policy

3. The establishment of adolescent reproductive and sexual health services that will create the appropriate environment where teens can access information, receive counseling on the use of contraceptives and reinforce the concept of family planning and the implications of child rearing and caring at an early age.
4. There should be increased education on the use of contraceptives by young people via various mediums.
5. Government should enact legislation for mandatory reporting by medical professionals of all cases of abuse, neglect and abandonment of young persons.

2.9 Participation in Clubs and Organizations

A stark reality exists in many communities as many young people do not belong to any organization or club. The lack of participation in most organizations by the youth of this nation indicates the level of idleness and increasing alienation they face in society. The current dilemma is that while there is a deficiency of clubs and organizations, most young people are not affiliated to clubs and organizations that operate within the community.

Strong youth organizations predispose young people to participate in meaningful development. Thus, the Department of Youth and Sports should have the authority, responsibility and accountability for youth affairs in the nation and seek to strengthen youth groups and organizations through institutional support.

Accordingly, it is recommended that:

1. All youth organizations be registered with the Department of Youth and Sports.
2. A databank be formulated and maintained by the Department of Youth and Sports.
3. The revitalization of youth and sports councils in every district to collaborate the efforts of clubs within their respective areas.
4. Strengthening of the NYC to provide the institutional support for youth organizations.
5. Youth and Sports Officers should act as liaison officers for greater collaboration between the Department of Youth and Sports and Service and Uniform groups.
6. Student Councils should be functional in all secondary and tertiary institutions to foster their involvement in decision-making.
7. Youth participate actively in organizations that would enhance the development of communities and society.

8. The month of April be officially recognized as National Youth Month.
9. April 14th be officially recognized as National Youth Day.

2.10 Health

The exponential growth in population has placed tremendous pressure on the health services of the country. A healthy youth population assures that young people are capable of playing a vital role in national development.

Accordingly, it is recommended that:

1. Professional Counseling Services be provided for young people to maintain psychological and emotional balance.
2. Government should enact legislation to control advertisements of alcoholic beverages and tobacco to reduce the consumption of these harmful substances.
3. The Ministry of Health should initiate a more aggressive campaign to educate the youth population on HIV/AIDS.
4. Young people be involved in the planning and development of HIV/AIDS program.
5. The capacity of the AIDS Unit be increased.
6. Government should seriously tackle the problem of the supply and consumption of both legal and illegal substances in the State by continuous monitor and review of the role of the National Substance and Abuse Advisory Council.
7. Government should encourage and promote the establishment of associations that provide support and education for patients and members of the public.
8. The Golden Hope Hospital be upgraded to adequately and efficiently provide psychiatric services.
9. Smoking in non-smoking areas should be considered an offence.

10. Government provides training of persons in psychiatry to increase the staff at the only mental hospital in the nation.
11. A Drop-in Center be established for abused young people where they can seek protection, counseling, career opportunities, family support, and completion of school and a sense of stability.
12. Educators make mandatory referrals for problem youth at relevant social agencies before problems become uncontrollable.
13. Laws be enacted to curb the increasing number of 'street kids' who are likely to become vulnerable to social deviance.
14. A strong sense of responsibility be inculcated in our youth towards the protection of the environment.

3.0 Implementation Mechanisms

The implementation of the national youth policy assumes a forceful and well-integrated inter-sectoral approach of all institutions and agencies that play a key role in facilitating youth development. This mechanism is only a guide to the roles that must be played by all the stakeholders in realization of the youth policy. The approach is to foster greater collaboration and increase the network among service providers that impact on young people.

The following ministries and agencies will work in collaboration to ensure the successful implementation of the policy.

Government:

1. The Department of Youth and Sports will increase the number of Youth and Sports Officers to adequately serve all the communities.
2. The Department of Youth and Sports will attach Youth and Sports Officers to service and uniform groups.
3. The Ministry of Education will implement the action plan on the TVET program that would seek to restructure the curriculum and place emphasis on technical and vocational skills.
4. The Department of Youth and Sports and the National Youth Council through National Youth Awards shall confer recognition on young people who have excelled in their social responsibility and made an outstanding personal contribution towards national development.
5. The Department of Youth and Sports will encourage and ensure the integration of physical education and sports into the school curriculum and promote sport and recreation as a way of life.
6. The Ministry of Health through its educational programs will encourage young people to practice good/safe health environmental and nutritional habits.

7. The Department of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Community Development will work together to place emphasis on the community management of facilities through training, workshops and seminars.
8. The Ministry of Education will hold extensive consultations with stakeholders in Education to expedite a policy on teenage parents returning to school to complete their secondary education.
9. The Ministry of Education through its Adult Education Unit will seek to eradicate and reduce illiteracy among young people.
10. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education will work in partnership to tackle teenage pregnancy using more contemporary approaches to educating young people.
11. The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Department of Youth and Sports will pool resources to increase community-based workshops on substance abuse.
12. The Ministry of Health and the Substance Abuse Advisory Council should initiate a special program for young drug users.
13. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education will collaborate to initiate an accessible professional counseling service for young people.
14. The Department of Youth and Sports will allocate financial resources and reorganize the summer camps geared to provide an environment for the creative and productive use of leisure time.
15. The Department of Youth and Sports will allocate resources to all youth groups including community, school, church, sports, and to strengthen and build a culture of groups in society.
16. The Department of Youth and Sports will provide short and long-term training in youth work for persons involved in youth organizations.

17. The Ministry of Education will put measures in place to deal with the increasing dropout rates at primary and secondary school levels.
18. The Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders will hold discussions on the compulsory education issue as it relates to street kids.
19. The Department of Youth and Sports should work closely with the Ministry of Health to intensify projects dealing with the increasing number of HIV/AIDS.
20. The Department of Youth and Sports will serve as an inter-linkage mechanism to assist in the projects, processes and programmes outlined in the policy in collaboration with community based organizations, religious youth organizations, non-governmental organizations and sports organization.

The Private Sector:

1. Assist in the establishment of a well coordinated on the job-training program with the National Skills Development Centre and the Ministry of Education for senior students at secondary schools.
2. Create a mechanism to provide the Government of St.Lucia with information on present market demands and labor trends that would assist in directing employment creation.

The National Skills Development Center:

1. Develop an employable skills training program for all persons who are employable who require job skills to be more marketable to employers.
2. Integrate the services of training providers for entrepreneurial development, business development and acquisition of competency skills for career development.

3. Provide information service to investors, employers, schools, employed and unemployed on the availability of jobs, skills requirement and training for St.Lucia, OECS, CARICOM and other international countries.
4. Provide the services of job attachment and apprenticeship.
5. Offer a wide range of employment services to job seekers and employers.
6. Engage in skills assessment, career coaching/exploration, self-marketing and skills development.
7. Collaborate with NGO's, private and public sector, training providers e.g. Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU), St.Lucia Rural Enterprise Project (SLREP), Rural Enterprise and Diversification Incentives Project (REDIP), Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) and National Research and Development Foundation (NRDF) to provide information on the services offered by these agencies and process referrals to the said agencies.

The St.Lucia National Youth Council:

1. Ensure youth representation on all statutory boards and decision-making agencies that affects our young people.
2. Restructure the Youth and Sports Councils to ensure viability and sustainability.
3. Revive and launch student councils in schools where they have ceased to exist and or never existed.
4. Re-establish and build Youth and Sports Councils in areas where they have become dysfunctional and/or have never existed.
5. Revisit and re-institute the programs that have a great impact on youth development such as on employment and youth enterprise, leadership training and community development.
6. Increase their field officers to better serve the communities.

4.0 Policy review and monitoring

The Department of Youth and Sports and the National Youth Council shall be responsible for reviewing the National Youth Policy through consultation with key stakeholders. Generally, the policy shall be reviewed every five years, although specific policy areas may be reviewed every three years.

When monitoring and reviewing the youth policy, the Department of Youth and Sports and the National Youth Council will supervise the following:

1. Evaluate the manner in which the policy has contributed to a holistic response to the major issues that confront young people.
2. Document actions that have been derived out of the policy.
3. Ensure government and non-government structures are continued to be established and developed to implement the policy.
4. Re-evaluate the goal and objectives of the youth policy.
5. Review the role and performance of the Department of Youth and Sports and the National Youth Council in relation to the youth policy.

5.0 Conclusion

The effective attainment of the National Youth Policy is a societal responsibility, incorporating all the major stakeholders in its successful implementation. This Youth Policy signifies government commitment to the importance of youth development not only for nation building but also for social, economic, cultural and spiritual prosperity. Hence, the Government of St.Lucia will commit all the essential resources needed for execution of this policy.

The National Youth Policy seeks to promote a pro-active response in empowering St.Lucian young people to participate meaningfully in the optimum development of the society and will ultimately reap the immense benefits from the unified, integrated and cohesive approach to youth development.

Appendix 1

Status of Services that impact on Youth

Agency/Ministry/Organization	Programs/Activities	Concerns/Issues
Rural Economic Diversification Project (REDIP)	Diversification Support Fund Technical Training in Agribusiness Special treatment assistance for project development	Employment generation (self) Skills Development Development of Entrepreneurial development
Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and International Finances	Local essay competitions and quizzes Regional essay Competitions Students Attachment Program	
Division of Community Services and Local Government	Human Resource Development Program Infra structural Development Program Servicing of Community Based Programs National Programs Disaster Management	Provision of leadership skills Provision of skills in identification of critical micro enterprise projects Liaison with NGO's-UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO Teach /raise awareness on issues through theatre
Ministry of Finance and Planning	Poverty Reduction Fund	Access to training and employment Access to credit Integration and greater participation of young people in mainstream development initiatives
National Skills Development Center *	Vocational training-social skills, technical and business skills for the job market Self-employment training e.g. craft development program Job placement and recruitment for employers Craft Development Program Attachment or Apprenticeship Program	Reducing under employment Improving the standard of living and quality of life Unemployment among youth and rural women Empowerment of youth
National Research and Development Foundation (NRDF)	Micro Enterprise Lending program Safer Housing Loan program Business and Skills Training	Providing credit to start up and improve small business Improving business skills Improving technical skills
Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU)	Entrepreneurial Development	Fitness for owning and managing a small business

Agency/Ministry/Organization	Programs/Activities	Concerns/Issues
	Market and Product Development Small Enterprise Development Project Rural Diversification Small Business Networking Small Business Consulting Small Business Management Training Preparation of Business Plans for Financing	Development of products and services Development of markets for products and services Developing a sense of responsibility through entrepreneurship Motivation Development of business ideas
Department of Culture	Dance Drama Art Music (National Heroes Park, Carnival, La Maguerite, La Rose, St. Cecilia, Emancipation Day, National heroes Day, Nobel Laureate Week)	Identifying and recognizing heroes Use of popular theatre
Department of Co-operatives	Making the cooperative philosophy an ideology to the youth	Using co-operatives for generating employment and rendering services to themselves by pooling resources Exposure to opportunities for putting co-operatives into practice Foster values of community care and people helping people
Upton Girls' Centre	Day Care Self Development Family Support and Counseling A joint job training placement with CARE	A Day Rehabilitation Center for girls which gives them the opportunity to continue their education in specific areas, provides counseling

Appendix 2

Youth Policy Consultations

District/Organization	Venue	Facilitator	Date/Times
Belle-Vue	Belle-Vue Combined School	National Youth Council	August 18, 1999
Micoud	Micoud Secondary	Ernest Hilaire	October 02, 2PM
Vieux-Fort	Vieux_Fort Primary	Ernest Hilaire	October 09, 10AM
Babonneau	Multi Purpose Centre	Ernest Hilaire	October 12, 7PM
Students	SALCC Conference Room	Dr. Didacus Jules Ernest Hilaire	October 22, 10AM
Mabouya Valley	La Ressource Parish Hall	Ernest Hilaire	October 25, 6PM
Dennerly	Multi Purpose Centre	Ernest Hilaire	October 27, 7PM
Anse la Raye	Anse La Raye Parish Hall	Ernest Hilaire	October 28, 7PM
Choiseul	Choiseul Secondary	Mary Wilfred	October 30, 10AM
Soufriere	Old Primary School	Mary Wilfred	November 03, 7 PM
Bexon	Bexon Infant School	Mary Wilfred	November 07, 4 PM
Mon Repos	Mon Repos Combined	National Youth Council	November 10, 7 PM
Desruisseaux	Multi Purpose	Ernest Hilaire	November 11, 7 PM
Canaries	Community Centre	Dr. Didacus Jules	November 18, 7 PM
Evangelical Community	Castries Evangelical	Ernest Hilaire	November 21, 4PM
Roseau Valley	Roseau Combined	National Youth Council	November 25, 7 PM
Monchy/Desrameau	Monchy	Dr. Didacus Jules	December 02,

District/Organization	Venue	Facilitator	Date/Times
	Combined		7 PM
Archdiocesan Youth Council	Mon Repos Combined	Mary Wilfred	December 04, 10 AM
Laborie	Laborie Boys'	Winston Lubin	December 04, 2 PM
Adventist Youth	La Bayee Church	Ernest Hilaire	December 05, 10 AM
Service Groups	NI S Conference Room	Ernest Hilaire	January 22, 2000 10 AM
Ciceron	Ciceron Combined School	Mary Wilfred	February 09, 6:30 PM
Uniform Groups	Department of Youth and Sports	Mary Wilfred	February 26, 10 AM
Total	23		

Block Rap Sessions

Area	# Blocks Visited	Date	Facilitating Team
Marchand	4	Wednesday, December 08	Uralise Delaire Mary Wilfred Bennette Charles Perry Thomas & Group
Anse la Raye	7	Wednesday, December 15	Rose Joseph-Medar Ligorius Marquis Mary Wilfred
Dennerly	4	Saturday, January 08	Ligorius Marquis Mary Wilfred
Bagatelle	3	Tuesday, January 11	Angela Jeremie Daryle Mathurin Mary Wilfred Cleophas Albertinie
Mon Repos La Pointe	2 1	Thursday, January 13	Claudia Noel Mary Wilfred Ligorius Marquis

Area	# Blocks Visited	Date	Facilitating Team
Desruisseaux Anse Ger Blanchard	1 0 2	Monday, January 17	Mary Wilfred Claudia Noel Ligorius Marquis
Ciceron	5	Thursday, January 20	Mary Wilfred Patrick Mathurin
Micoud Dugard La Couville Ti Rocher	2 1 1 1	Monday, January 24	Claudia Noel Ligorius Marquis Mary Wilfred
Faux-a-Chaux	3	Thursday, January 27	Michael Pierre Lesley Ann Modeste Mary Wilfred
Maynard Hill Rock Hall	1	?	Angela Jeremie Veronica Cenac
Bocage Guesneau	1 0	?	Uralise Delaire Lyndell Hyacinthe Angela Jeremie
La Caye La Perle Derniere- Riviere	1 1 1	Tuesday, February 01,	Marcus Edward Ligorius Marquis Anselma Calderon Mary Wilfred Youth & Sports Council
La Clery	1	Wednesday, February 02	Angela Jeremie Uralise Delaire
La Ressource Aux Lyon Despin Gadette	1 4 2 2	Wednesday, February 03	Mary Wilfred Ligorius Marquis Anselma Calderon Marcus Edward
Grand Ravine Grand Riviere	2 1	Thursday, February 10	Anselma Calderon
Fond Assau Babonneau	2 1	Wednesday, February 16	Mary Wilfred Michael Pierre Lesley Ann Modeste
Shanty Town Vieux-Fort Town Mangue La Ressource	2 2 1 1	Thursday, February 17	Claudia Noel Mary Wilfred Marcia Dolor-Clarke Winston Lubin

Area	# Blocks Visited	Date	Facilitating Team
Gros I slet Monchy La Bourne Desrameau	3 1 1 1	Wednesday, February 23	Michelle Rogers Patrick Mathurin Mary Wilfred
Jacmel Bois Den Morne Ciseaux	1 2 1	Wednesday, March 01	Hendrickson Charles Mary Wilfred Ligorius Marquis
Laborie	4	Thursday, March 02	Mary Wilfred Winston Lubin
Choiseul	3	Saturday, March 04	Theophila Charles Mary Wilfred
Total	81		