Factsheet: Mauritius

Last update: 8 June 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Mauritius’ National Youth Policy (2010) defines youth as between 14 and 29 years of age and notes that “all persons within this age group are not homogeneous. A number of subgroups exist” depending on factors such as residence or religion.

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>Upper House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partially appointed</td>
<td>Unicameral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

LITERACY RATES

- Male: 98.72% (98.36% 15-24) %
- Female: 99.09% (99.03% 15-24) %

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

NET ENROLMENT RATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Secondary School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>80.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>80.13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNESCO

VOTING AGE

- Male: 18
- Female: 18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Male: 14
- Female: 14

Source: Criminal Code of Mauritius (1838)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The goal of the national youth policy (2010) is “to empower the youth of the Republic of Mauritius”. Youth empowerment is defined as “an attitudinal, structural and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability and authority to make decisions and implement change”.

The strategic areas of youth empowerment include education, health, substance abuse prevention, employment and access to ICT. The policy also recognises the National Youth Council as a “major implementing, supervisory and facilitating agency for youth development programmes”.

As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Mauritius is a signatory of The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015. It lists 13 action points for member nations, including youth empowerment, participation and gender equality.

Is there a national youth policy?

Yes

The national youth policy of Mauritius covers 2010-2014. A 2011 briefing is available.

Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The mission of the Ministry of Youth and Sports is “to create an enabling environment and act as a catalyst and facilitator for the promotion and development of youth and sports at regional, national and international levels”. It has the overall responsibility for coordinating the 2010 national youth policy. The Youth Section within the ministry runs its programmes primarily through youth centres throughout the country. The section is led by a Director of Youth Affairs, and each of Mauritius’ ten regions is under the responsibility of a Principal Youth Officer.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

Mauritius’ National Youth Council (NYC) is established by the National Youth Council Act (1998) and is made up of national youth organisations and regional councils. It is administered by a board that includes appointees by the minister of Youth and Sports, a member elected by youth organisations and a representative nominated by regional youth councils. Its main objectives include maintaining effective communication between government and youth organisations, and ensuring coordination of youth organisations. The NYC is a member of the Commonwealth Youth Council.

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the Summary Table of Expenditure by Programme (2014) from the Ministry of Finance, the revised estimate of expenditure for Youth Services within the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2013 was MUR 70.5 million (USD 2.3 million). According to the World Bank, Mauritius spent 14.96% of its government expenditure and 3.49% of its GDP on education provision in 2012.