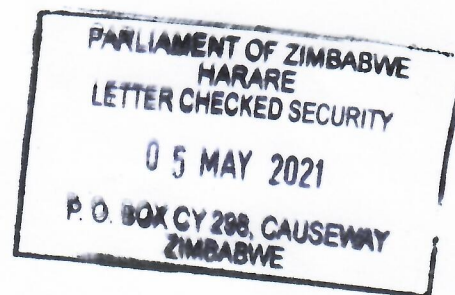


TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

3RD SESSION – NINTH PARLIAMENT

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT ON THE 5TH OF MAY 2021



FORM OF PETITION

The petition of the undersigned:

National Association of Youth Organisations (NAYO) of Number 4 Drummond Chaplin, Milton Park, Harare, and whose Coordinator is Mr MacDonald K. Munyoro, a citizen of Zimbabwe;

Your petitioner, being a member-based organisation whose funding methods are membership subscriptions and grants by various development partners, and having consulted its partners in civil society, are supported in this petition by the following civil society organisations (CSOs):

1. Community Advocacy Development Association,
2. Vision Africa,
3. Zimbabwe Organization for Youth in Politics,
4. Berina Arts,
5. Zimbabwe National Students Union,
6. Better Life Foundation,
7. UNIZIM Trust,
8. Great Indaba Zimbabwe,
9. Zimbabwe Human Rights Platform, and
10. Youth Against Corruption.

And whose Board members are represented in the petition herein by:

- Dr Prolific Mataruse
- Chiedza Manyere
- Tinashe Chirape



Respectfully shows that your Petitioners:

- i. Being citizens of Zimbabwe; and
- ii. Whose funding method are grants from various development partners operating in Zimbabwe as well as members' subscriptions;

Mindful of the fact that section 20(1) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013, being Amendment Number 20) mandates all institutions of government at every level to take reasonable measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that youths-

- a) *have access to appropriate education and training;*
- b) *have opportunities to associate and to be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life;*
- c) *are afforded opportunities for employment and other avenues to economic empowerment;*
- d) *have opportunities for recreational activities and access to recreational facilities; and*
- e) *are protected from harmful cultural practices, exploitation and all forms of abuse.*

Also Mindful of section 20(3) of the Constitution which provides that the measures and programmes referred to under section 20 must be inclusive, non-partisan and national in character.

Recognising the right to non-discrimination under section 56 of the Constitution, and further recognising the dictates of the African Youth Charter (AYC) to which Zimbabwe is a signatory which recognizes the rights and freedoms of Youth to non-discrimination (Article 2), Freedom of association (Article 5), Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Art, 6), Youth Participation (Article 11), Health (Article 16);

Acknowledging the United Nations Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (UNSCR 2250) which underscores the role of youth in preventing and resolving conflict, as well as in building and maintaining peace and advocates for Member States to include Youth in decision-making processes across all these areas;

Recalling the controversies and allegations on issues of justices and human rights that were associated with the NYS under the First Republic between the years 2000 – 2008;

Mindful of the fact that the National Service Act¹ (Chapter 11:08,) the legal instrument under which the National Youth Service Programme was established and remains governed by at law may be inconsistent with the 2013 Constitution, having been passed many years before the current Constitution, as it permits coercion and compulsory recruitment;

Perturbed by the announcement of the Cabinet of Zimbabwe on the 10th of April on the establishment of the following the proposal presented by the Minister for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, Honourable Coventry;

Convinced that Zimbabwe's young people who constitute approximately 70% of the population are the country's greatest resource and that through their active and full participation, Zimbabwe can surmount the difficulties that it faces now, and those that lie ahead;

NOW THEREFORE your petitioners beseech the Parliament of Zimbabwe to exercise its constitutional role and address the following issues of public concern:

1. The Government of Zimbabwe should reconsider the proposed re-introduction of the NYS until such time as there is national consensus on the policy guiding the programme;
2. The implementation of the NYS programme under the First Republic was characterised by activities that led to a perception and belief that it was a ruling party programme, and therefore that there was abuse of incumbency;
3. The proposed introduction of the programme several months into the Financial Year begs the question: where are the funds to roll out the programme being derived from? Are funds being channelled from another objective that was approved by Parliament in order to resuscitate the controversial programme?
4. Your petitioners request Parliament in the exercise of its mandate to enquire into the manner in which the NYS will be funded, and the exact nature of the programme.

¹ Act 19/1979, amended by Act 22/2001



5. Your petitioners further request Parliament to direct that the relevant ministry craft amendments to the Youth Act that will align it to the Constitution, and thereafter craft a programme that is consistent with the values of the Constitution of Zimbabwe;
6. The petitioners accordingly hereby request Parliament, pursuant to its powers under the Constitution, to ensure that there is consultation for a national, inclusive, non-discriminatory process in shaping issues that affect the youth of Zimbabwe, in line with the Constitution and best practice.

PETITIONER'S PLEA AND PRAYER:

The petitioners beseech the Parliament of Zimbabwe to exercise its executive oversight and constitutional protection functions in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution of 2013, and ensure that the proposed NYS in its current format is not implemented

WHEREFORE, we pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to take their case into favourable consideration, and grant any other such relief as it may deem fit,

AND your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Dated at Harare, this the 5th day of May, 2021

Signatures:

MACDONALD KUMBIRAI MUMYORO

FULL NAMES for NAYO

63-1318005XSP

I.D Number for Representative

