



**RESOLUTIONS OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (AFRICA  
REGION)**

**WHEREAS** the Youth Parliament is premised on Article 5 of the Constitution of the Africa Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which provides for the aims and objectives of the CPA Africa Region and specifically Article 5(e) provides for the promotion of peace, democracy and good governance in all member countries;

**AND WHEREAS** as a means of implementing the provisions of the Constitution of the Africa Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the CPA Africa Region adopted a Regional Strategic Plan where in Objective 3 seeks to pursue the ideals of democracy and good governance and specifically target 4 provides for an annual Youth Parliament as a platform through which the youth can be reached and sensitized on Article 5 of the Constitution;

**AWARE THAT** in accordance with target 4, the first annual Youth Parliament was hosted by Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, Nigeria in 2012; the 2nd Youth Parliament was hosted by the Parliament of Malawi in 2013; the 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Parliament was hosted by the Parliament of Zambia in 2014; and the 4<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament is being hosted by the Parliament of Uganda;

**FURTHER AWARE** that Rule 37 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the CPA (Africa Region) Youth Parliament provide for the adoption of the resolutions as agreed and passed by the youth Parliament which there after shall be presented at the next CPA (Africa Region) Annual General meeting;

**NOW THEREFORE**, we the Members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament of the Common wealth Parliamentary Association (Africa Region) having attended plenary for two days on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 in the Chambers of Parliament of Uganda hereby adopt the following as our

resolutions to be presented at the next CPA (Africa Region) Annual General meeting;

**1. MOTION ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT: TACKLING RAMPANT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN AFRICA THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX.**

**It was resolved that:**

- (i) African countries should promote agriculture which is the backbone of most African countries to enable youth get employment opportunities;
- (ii) Governments need to develop and impact youth with the requisite skills to gain employment. The youth need more than just a game plan to be successful in achieving their goals. They must be equipped with the adequate knowledge, *skills* and support;
- (iii) The youth should be provided with startup capital to enable them start doing business.
- (iv) Governments should tailor make the education systems to better suit the African continent; students should be taught subjects that are relevant and beneficial to the students to better prepare them for employment;
- (v) There should be total change of mindset of the youth. The youth should be taught not to solely depend on their governments but to use the resources provided by the governments as stepping stones and to empower themselves;
- (vi) There is need to support the entrepreneurship subjects in the tertiary institutions that help to develop the various skills of the youth;
- (vii) There is need to develop and utilize the natural resources in Africa to create more employment opportunities;

- (viii) There is need to improve the resources and infrastructure in Africa that will attract more investments in the African continent thus creating more employment opportunities for the youth;
- (ix) There should be policies by governments to improve the skills of the youth;
- (x) Governments should enter into free trade agreements amongst themselves. This will promote movement of labour thus creating job opportunities for the youth;
- (xi) There should be deliberate effort by Governments to have value addition to the innovations by the youth. This not only encourages the youth to make more innovations but also creates more jobs and opportunities for the youth;
- (xii) There is need to revise and evaluate the youth policies in place. This evaluation will enable the Governments to make a reasoned judgment of what policies are best suited for them;
- (xiii) The youth should be provided with information that will guide them in making their choices; this can be through television or radio talk shows;
- (xiv) There is need to have exchange and benchmarking programmes for the youth to enable them learn from their counterparts and to better understand the peculiar circumstances applicable to different countries;
- (xv) There should be an association or organization for the youth in Africa to help them better front their issues and concerns; and
- (xvi) Governments should put in place a policy to employ the youth who have just completed their studies to enable them gain experience.

## **2. MOTION ON TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND HIV/AIDS: TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND HIV / AIDS EPIDEMIC - MITIGATION MEASURES.**

During the debate, members observed that the main causes of teenage pregnancy and HIV epidemic are: lack of parental guidance, peer pressure, failure by parents to provide basic needs and alcoholism, among others.

### **It was resolved that:**

- (i) Governments should design appropriate sex education programmes that should be incorporated in the School curriculum to help the youths gain information, skills and motivation to make healthy decisions about sex and sexuality. This will ultimately curb teenage pregnancies and prevent HIV/AIDS.
- (ii) Laws relating to teenage pregnancies and HIV epidemic should be strictly implemented to curb the consequences associated with the vice.
- (iii) There is need to create more jobs for the youths or empower them to create jobs to ensure that they are actively engaged and occupied to prevent redundancy.
- (iv) Governments should encourage and sensitize parents about the need for parents' involvement in nurturing children. This will promote good parent-child communication and relations, a foundation for parental guidance and counseling of teenagers.
- (v) There is need to encourage the youths to participate in religious activities, programmes and teachings that will enhance life values like abstinence until marriage.
- (vi) Governments should create awareness among the youth about self-awareness and respect for self. This will enhance self-dignity and integrity.
- (vii) Governments should promote information sharing among teenagers through peer counseling since teenagers easily learn from their peers than any other group or person. This will promote problem solving and good decision making.

- (viii) Governments should evaluate cultural practices to discourage those that promote teenage pregnancies and early marriages.
- (ix) There is need for Governments to promote gender equity to ensure that girls are not perceived as the only ones responsible and affected by teenage pregnancy. This will ensure collective responsibility of both genders.
- (x) Parents should be sensitized about the need to provide for the needs of their children to minimize the likelihood of teenagers being taken advantage of through provision.

### **3. MOTION ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE; WHY ARE MANY YOUNG PEOPLE IN AFRICA RESORTING TO ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE? HOW CAN THIS BE REVERSED?**

Members highlighted the following as the major causes for alcoholism and drug abuse among the youth in Africa: peer pressure, family neglect, idleness, inducing advertisements for alcohol, easy access to and cheap cost of alcohol and drugs, among others.

#### **It was resolved that:**

- (i) African Governments should collectively prioritize measures to address drug abuse, illicit production and trafficking in narcotics.
- (ii) There is need to sensitize youth against the dangers of alcoholism and drug abuse.
- (iii) Governments should enact clear legislations with deterrent punishments and strictly enforce laws on minimum age for alcohol consumption.
- (iv) Governments should increase tax on alcohol to make it expensive for the youth to afford and consequently, discourage them.
- (v) There is need to strengthen the implementing agencies like police to ensure effective implementation of policies and laws on alcohol consumption and drug abuse.

- (vi) Governments should establish free counseling and rehabilitations centers for proper management of alcohol and drug abuse victims.
- (vii) Governments should formulate policies that prohibit the sale of cheap alcohol especially through local brewing.
- (viii) Youths should be encouraged to take up leadership positions that will instill in them a sense of responsibility and life values.
- (ix) Youths should be encouraged to participate in religious activities and programmes to enhance good morals and life values that will poster self-discipline and positive living.
- (x) There should be a collective move by Governments to ban certain drugs like shisha which appeals more to the youths.
- (xi) Governments should create peer counseling programmes and ensure that the youths understand the dangers of alcoholism and drug abuse. The peer counselors will then apply the knowledge and skills acquired to assist and support their peers to discourage them from engaging in alcoholism and drug abuse.
- (xii) Governments should establish strong partnerships to acquire high-tech equipment for effective detection of alcoholism, drug abuse and drug trafficking.
- (xiii) There is need for Governments to promote games and sports programmes for the youths. This will ensure mental and physical engagement to curb idleness.

**4. MOTION ON THE YOUTH AND SOCIAL MEDIA; DO THE BENEFITS OUTWEIGH THE RISKS? HOW CAN THE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO THE YOUTH BE ADDRESSED?**

During the debate, members observed that there are both benefits and risks involved in the use of social media;

The benefits include; provides a platform for individual ideas to be known by the general public, it's used as a voice for the voiceless and

dis-advantaged members of society, it increases collaborations and online-marketing platforms for business products and ideas, online employment opportunities, improved communication, boosts self-esteem, used for advocacy and encourages research.

The risks include; time wasting, promotes pornography and immorality, platform for black mail, malice and slander, cyber-crime and bullying, adaptation of bad habits such as homosexuality, health risks, promotes terror activities, promotes laziness due to perceived convenience in communication and reduces face to face communication skills.

In weighing the benefits and risks, Members agreed that the benefits outweigh the risks and thereafter made the following resolutions;

- 1) Government to sensitize the youth in Africa to utilize social media for education purposes and as a platform to raise awareness of matters of public importance.
- 2) Governments to sensitize the youth on use of social media as a platform to air out ideas and innovations to the public and not for exposure to harmful activities;
- 3) Governments to advocate for proper use of social media as a platform to boost entrepreneurship and online transactions thereby creating employment for the youth;
- 4) Governments to establish recreational facilities like parks, sports centers and youth development programmes to keep the youth active in a constructive way;
- 5) Governments to sensitize the youths on the risks that may arise out of unregulated use of social media such as health complications of the eyes, ears and other body organs.
- 6) Governments should put in place policies that provide for;

- (i) the control and regulation of the content produced on social media;
  - (i) stringent measures for those who abuse social media;
  - (ii) moderation and monitoring of the content of social media so as to eliminate pornographic and immoral content;
  - (iii) age limit for access to social media;
  - (iv) creation of local social media platforms that are in tandem with the cultural and social set up of the African society;
  - (v) to skill and train the youth to positively utilize social media as a means of helping them to compete globally for online jobs;
  - (vi) deliberate measures to ensure equality amongst the youth by availing them with internet and internet gadgets; this will offer an opportunity to skill all the youth for online jobs.
7. Parents should be exemplary in the use of social media and should be encouraged to take keen interest in the material that their youthful children are exposed to.
8. Governments to create awareness programs for the youth to be sensitized on the proper use of social media and how to exercise self-control and personal protection while using social media.
9. Governments to employ experts in cybercrime to sensitize the youth on how to handle cases of cybercrime and how to expose fraudulent characters.
10. Governments to establish tribunals and disciplinary Committees to specifically manage cyber-crime and defaulters of social media use.

## **5. MOTION ON HARNESSING THE YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP; HOW CAN YOUNG PEOPLE PLAY A MORE TRANSFORMATIONAL ROLE IN POLITICS AND LEADERSHIP?**

During the debate, it was observed that presently the world is home to the largest generation of youth in history, with 1.2 billion aged between 15 - 24 years and about 1.9 billion young people projected to turn 15 years old by 2030.

Young people have a proven capability to bring change, and are a vital and valuable resource for the present and the future and therefore need meaningful participation and equal partnership in driving Africa's development agenda.

The youth form an instrument for transformational change in leadership. Transformational leadership is a style of leadership where a leader works with subordinates to identify needed change, creating a vision to guide the change through inspiration, and executing the change in tandem with committed members of a group. Cognizant of the above, it was resolved that;

1. Government should put in place appropriate policies and legal framework aimed at increasing representation of youth in decision-making at local, national, regional and international levels, and in particular;
  - (i) To prioritize youth leadership development programmes in the national agenda;
  - (ii) establish integrated mechanisms for meaningful participation of youth leadership; and
  - (iii) enhance youth capacity and employability skills building;
  - (iv) prioritize partnership building and resource mobilization for the youth;
2. Government should increase funding to the education sector to at least 15% of each Member State's national budget in order to empower the youth. This was agreed by African Leaders at the Abuja African Union Summit and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

3. To provide appropriate platforms for the development, training, skilling and tooling of youth in leadership and development;
4. Youth should form different fora and Associations such that they have a bigger voice to advocate for the issues of the youth such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;
5. The youth should not make themselves cheap and be used by others to fight their battles. The youth should use their knowledge and talent to achieve their own interests and goals;
6. The youth should be given opportunities by the older persons to take up leadership positions;
7. The youth should be encouraged to participate in politics and developmental issues. This will enable the youth to make decisions on matters affecting them;
8. The youth should be encouraged to participate in leadership right from the onset when they are young. This helps the youth to gain the skills and experience needed for leadership;
9. Governments should promote access to technology by the youth since technology improves communication, networking and innovations thereby creating jobs;
10. Community development programmes for the youth should be supported by the government;
11. The youth should undertake voluntary work and technical work to increase their experience;
12. The youth should be patriotic and show interest to issues affecting their countries;
13. The youth should be permitted to determine their own mission and mandate. This will enable them achieve their objectives and define their purpose;

14. The youth should demand for accountability from their leaders. This will keep the leaders in check;

**HON. TIMOTHY KADAGA**  
*Speaker of the 4<sup>th</sup> CPA Youth Parliament*  
*(Africa)*