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NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION**

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**PHILIPPINE Medium-Term Youth Development Plan
2005-2010**
(National Framework for Youth Development)
Executive Summary

MTYDP

1. The **2005-2010 Medium-Term Youth Development Plan (MTYDP)** is the result of a **nationwide consultation process** that sought to get the ideas and concerns of different sectors working for or with the youth across all 17 regions of the country. It was a fruit of a dialogue among the delegates of the National Youth Parliament to ensure that the goals, issues being addressed, and strategies embodied in the plan are truly representative of the youth.
2. It was ushered in by a **study entitled “Youth Attributes, Participation, and Service-Providers” (YAPS)** conducted from April to July, 2004 that involved youth participants and regional and local youth serving organizations in nine regions of the country. The YAPS analyzed the social and economic characteristics of youth in the country and identified trends in youth participation, dimensions of vulnerability, and other issues confronting the youth sector. Also, the YAPS assessed the youth services and institutional capacities of various government and non-government agencies implementing youth policies and programs/projects. The MTYDP took off from the challenges and implications highlighted by the YAPS.

Scope of the Plan

3. Republic Act 8044 declares that **Youth** is “**the critical period in a person’s growth and development, from the onset of adolescence towards the peak of mature, self-reliant and responsible adulthood; comprising (a) considerable sector of the population from the age of 15 to 30 years.**” With this definition, the youth population in the country is estimated at 23.2 million in 2004 (or 28.05% of the total Philippine population of 82.7 million).
4. **This document is a guiding framework** for implementing strategies and activities that responds to the youth’s most pressing issues, concerns, and needs. This plan is not meant to be a comprehensive compendium of solutions; but a springboard from where local governments, enterprises, organizations and youth groups can begin to implement programs and projects that work.

5. The policies and strategies are meant to address the following **youth development concerns**:

Education	Involves the knowledge, skills, and learning processes of the youth
Employment	Involves the youth’s engagement in economic activities
Health	Involves the intellectual, emotional, psychological, spiritual and physical well-being of the youth
Specific Youth Groups (SYGs)	Involves youth sub-sectors who have experienced and/or are vulnerable to experience discrimination, exploitation, abuse, and disintegration in society.
Participation	Involves the youth’s involvement in decisions and actions that affect their lives
Values Formation	Involves the character-building of the youth
Institutional Responses	Involves organized support systems of the youth

Vision

6. The plan envisions the Filipino youth to be

“Empowered and enlightened ...

**Actively participating in governance and decision-making,
Self-reliant and confident,
Recognized as agents of change;**

**Globally competitive, productive, and well-informed
Patriotic, with a strong love for country and culture; and
Physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy”**

7. To fully realize this vision, the Filipino youth should to be able to exercise certain rights and fulfill certain responsibilities

Youth Rights	Youth Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to quality education • The right to employment and social protection • The right to basic health services • The right to participate in youth policy decision-making • The right to be free from all forms of abuse and exploitation • The right to be free from any form of discrimination • The right to be informed and to avail themselves of basic services and opportunities • The right to live in a peaceful and sound environment • The right to privacy and freedom of choice (to practice respective religions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To perform their duties well as students, workers, etc. • To represent the youth in policy-making bodies • To participate in community development, and also in environment-related activities • To establish health-seeking behavior • To be law-abiding citizens • To help maintain peace and order • To maintain a healthy lifestyle • To develop and maximize the use of their talents and potentials • To practice self-discipline and social responsibility

Policy Agenda

8. A ten-point youth agenda was drawn to uphold and promote the rights of the youth and to ensure that the youth become responsible members of society, the agenda includes the following:
1. **Enable access to quality and responsive education at all levels.**
 2. **Develop globally competitive youth.**
 3. **Decrease youth unemployment and underemployment.**
 4. **Prevent the exploitation of young workers and working children.**
 5. **Ensure the acceptability, accessibility, availability, and affordability of cultural and gender sensitive/responsive and user-friendly health services and facilities for adolescents and youth, especially in regard to adolescent health and youth development (AHYD).**
 6. **Reduce the adverse effects of risk behavior among Filipino youth.**

7. **Strengthen youth participation in community and youth development activities, such as in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating youth programs and projects.**
8. **Integrate the youth agenda and concerns in local and national development plans.**
9. **Eliminate all forms of discrimination and abuse against youth.**
10. **Promote a positive and healthy self-image, critical thinking, love of country, social responsibility, and the spirit of volunteerism among youth.**

Integrative Strategies

9. Strategies and courses of action recommended to implement the above policies revolve around:

Building Youth-Caring Communities wherein:

- Youth are valued and respected in society.
- Opportunities are equally provided for the youth (regardless of gender, culture, or faith) to engage in activities that enhance life skills and livelihood skills
- Families, schools, religious organizations, and other civil society groups work together in cultivating environments that support the youth.
- Government organizations mainstream youth concerns in their structures, plans, and programs
- Business groups view the youth not just as potential market segments but also as future co-investors.

Developing Community-Caring Youth by:

- Affirming and rewarding youth-initiated community development efforts
- Raising youth awareness on social issues
- Providing opportunities for the youth to engage in community/socio-civic activities according to their individual and collective capacities and interests

Re-engineering Youth Service Delivery Mechanisms by:

- Designing *hip* or *cool* youth-oriented programs and approaches to service-delivery
- Strengthening youth-organizations and youth-serving organizations
- Creating synergy among youth service providers (national government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations and people's organizations)
- Localizing youth development efforts
- Having a better and deeper understanding of the youth and their Development concerns

Becoming more responsive to the needs of specific youth groups (SYGs), which include:

- youth in indigenous communities
- abused and exploited youth
- differently-abled youth
- youth in conflict with the law and juvenile delinquents
- drug-dependent youth
- abandoned/neglected youth
- street youth
- young victims of natural calamities
- youth in situation of armed conflict

All these must be done through crisis-response, curative, preventive, and developmental interventions

Implementing the Plan

10. The success of the plan will be measured through a set of monitoring and evaluation indicators developed for each key youth development concern.
11. The National Youth Commission (NYC), as the youth policy-making body in the country, shall take the lead in advocating for the implementation of the Plan and coordinating with organizations pursuing youth development as defined in this Plan. Specifically, the following are the envisioned roles of the youth development stakeholders:

Government

- review and reform existing policies and laws, or create new ones
- enforce youth development-oriented policies/laws and implement programs
- provide leadership in advancing the cause of the youth

Civil Society (including NGOs, religious organizations, and the academe)

- reach vulnerable communities
- complement government in providing more services
- share knowledge and skills
- garner more influence, or broaden successful community-based pilot projects.

Business Sector

- provide much-needed skills and material/financial resources to improve the quality of youth projects
- encourage the business community to take on social leadership roles especially where the youth are concerned.

Mass Media

- help raise awareness level on important issues
- enable youth organizations and youth-serving organizations reach a wider audience.

And the most important stakeholder of the plan:

YOUTH

- who are envisioned to be “empowered and enlightened” through the implementation of the plan
- who are expected to continue pursuing their own development and the development of the communities they belong
- with whom all youth-oriented groups/organizations should work with to ensure successful implementation of the plan.