



Vocational, Homecraft & Recreation Sections

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YOUTH POLICY FOR THE CITY OF BULAWAYO

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

- ❖ To provide conducive recreational centres for the youth of Bulawayo.
- ❖ To build a positive image of the Bulawayo and indeed the Zimbabwean community through the inculcation of sound moral growth.
- ❖ To remove the youth from the streets and hence stop delinquent behaviour.
- ❖ To assist the youths who would have academically failed to go beyond secondary school education
- ❖ To equip youths with life skills and prepare them for adult and working life.
- ❖ To assist the youths to develop into wholesome and responsible individuals and citizens of the city.
- ❖ To alleviate and/or eradicate the social scourges of drug abuse and sexual indulgence by engaging youths in productive and constructive social dispositions.
- ❖ To facilitate funding for Youths Programmes, including budgeting for Capital and Revenue projects. To solicit for funding on their behalf from NGO's and assisting public private partnership projects and applications to benevolent individuals

BACKGROUND

On the 4th December 1957 Council passed a resolution establishing dancing activities such as square dancing, ball room dancing etc in the then African townships, for both boys and girls. In 1958, the concept of youth week was introduced and with this more activities were brought in such as athletics. The concept of youth week's objectives were to demonstrate the scope of youths work and the need for further development and to give the youth itself an added sense

of responsibility in the matter of citizenship. Consequently, on the 20th February 1958, the Bulawayo Student League was formed.

On the 21st February 1959, Council passed a resolution establishing African Youth Clubs. This was on a trial basis on one or two clubs. These were organized in such a manner that there would be a member's committee working together with the clubs, registered membership, segregated age groups, payment of subscription as well as planned programmes of activities.

The subscriptions were to be used to support the youth activities as well as fundraising activities.

During the time of the federation, such activities as athletics, soccer, netball, dancing and camping were organized intra-cities to give them an international flavour.

With the success of the pilot Youth Centres, more were established in almost all the townships. A lot of interest was generated and patronage was very high. Council, through its liquor undertaking section supported these clubs financially.

To involve Africans in the running of Native Affairs, the Bulawayo Advisory Board was formed. This was charged with a variety of responsibilities such as social services and the liquor undertaking. It was at this time that Parents-Youth Associations were born to specifically assist with the running of the Youth Clubs. In the event of jobs occurring in commerce and industry, it was from these centres where recruitment took place.

In 1961, the African Education introduced a system that graded pupils passing standard 6 into grades 1, 2 and 3. Only those passing with grades 1 and 2 were admitted to secondary schools. The rest were considered not good enough for further academic education. In 1963 two more grades were added up to grade 5. Grade 1 and 2 pupils proceeded to formal secondary education and grade 3 to junior secondary schools whose syllabus was more biased towards practical subjects. The rest of the pupils after standard six had nowhere to go.

The problem of the grade 7 (standard 6) school leaver after 1970, aged between 13 and 14 years affected both the towns and the rural areas. But, as towns were perceived to have better opportunities for study groups, there was a sudden and determined influx into towns.

Bulawayo Local Urban Authority had to expand and re-appraise its welfare activities to this special problem area. Clearly the traditional recreational activities were not enough to meet the needs of the Grade 7 drop-outs. There was therefore need to develop skills and talents of these children to equip them to engage in income generating projects. To this end the pre-vocational workshops were established. The Mzilikazi Arts and Craft centre, Bulawayo Home Industries, were expanded to accommodate more youths.

The 1970s saw the strengthening of the Youth Centres activities and the pinnacle of events was, each year, the Youth Festival Week where for a full week the youths showcased their different activities. Such activities included the festival queen, displays by formal clubs and school leaver groups etc.

✓ Academic passes are not a prerequisite for enrolment. The targets are youths/young adults below twenty five 25 years of age. Courses on offer include motor mechanics, welding, building, carpentry, plumbing, agriculture, art and craft, cutting and designing, catering and home décor. The objective is to equip the youth with technical skills for either formal employment or self employment.

Trainees are trade – tested by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education at the end of a three year training programme. Industry affords the trainees attachment opportunities. During the course of training, funds so generated are ploughed back for the acquisition of training materials. *Pupils also pay fees for training but at affordable rates.

c) **COMMUNITY GROUNDS**

Council shall provide community grounds in all its residential areas for use by the youth. The community grounds shall be big enough to cater for a wide range of sporting disciplines. The said grounds shall be used by the youth for free and will be open for use all days of the week. Council on its part shall maintain the grounds in a reasonable state for safe use by the youths. The grounds shall cater for all the age groups between 5 years and 20 years. Individual communities are encouraged to provide the sporting equipment for use in these grounds by forming committees to work with the youths.

8. **LINK WITH MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- a) Millennium Development Goal number 1 is about the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. By engaging the youths in vocational training, Council will be actually empowering them by giving them skills which they will use either to create self employment or to look for formal employment in the fields they would have been trained in.
- b) Millennium Development Goal number 3 is about promoting gender equality and empowering women. Bulawayo Home Industries was established to cater for destitute young women and school leaver girls by equipping them with skills in the areas of knitting and embroidery. After that they are expected to work on their own at home or in groups and thus get income for self sustenance. Home Craft cents are also meant to empower women by equipping them with skills in cookery, baking, home décor, sewing and embroidery. Of late due to gender sensitivity enrollment in various skills training courses does not discriminate based on sex or stereotyping
- c) Millennium Development Goal number 6, is about combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. The Council Recreational Centres (Youth Centres) besides engaging the