

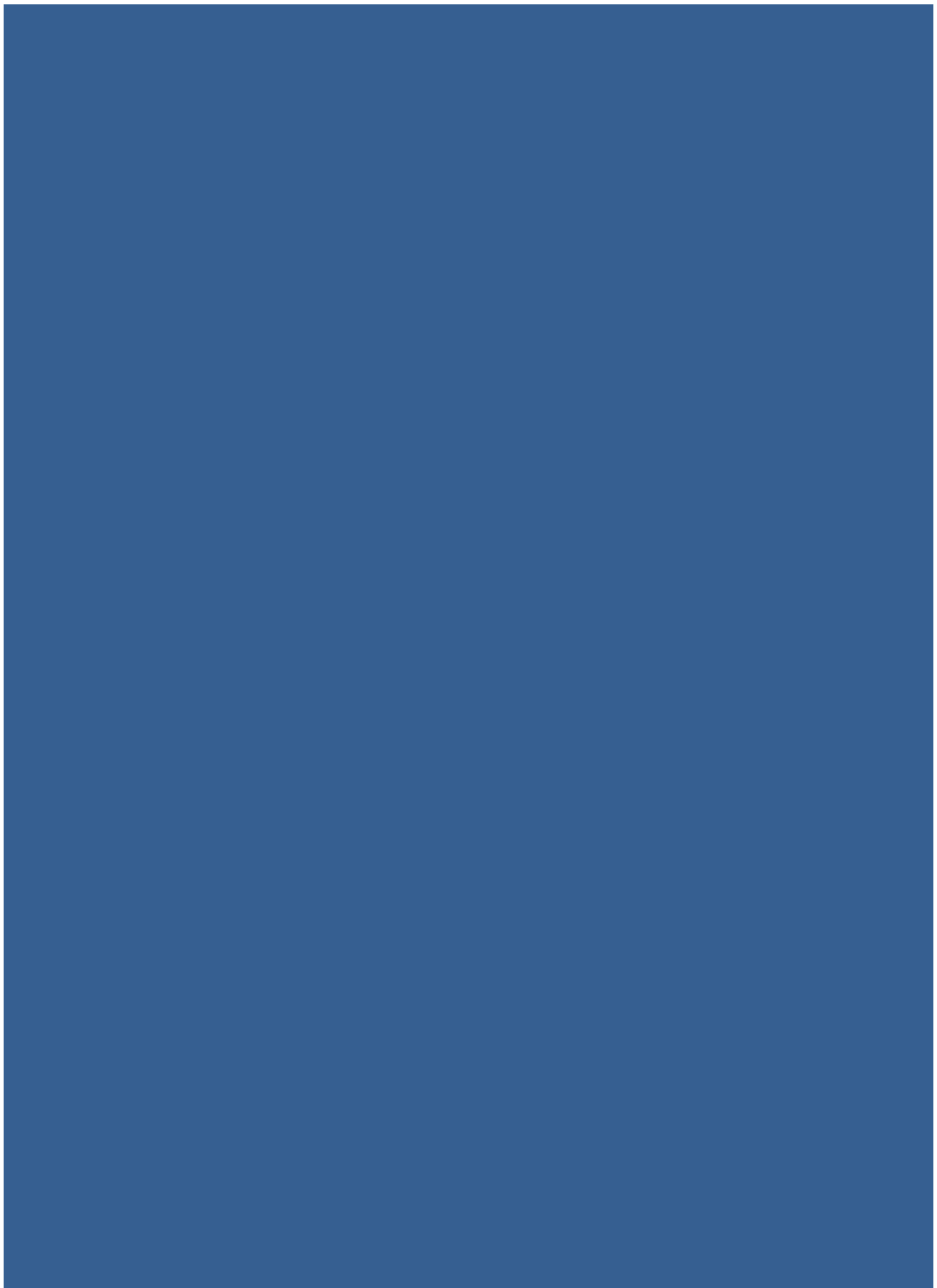
**BASSA  
YOUTH  
CAUCUS  
FIVE  
YEAR  
PLAN**

SEPTEMBER 23

**2013**

**"PASSION REBUILDS THE WORLD FOR THE YOUTH. IT MAKES  
ALL THINGS ALIVE AND BEAUTIFUL"**

**A STRATEGY FOR  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
AND INTEGRATION**



# BASSA YOUTH CAUCUS

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## **BACKGROUND**

Grand Bassa County with its capital city Buchanan is centrally located along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. It contains a multi-functional port that is being used by some major companies like Arcelor Mittal, Buchanan Renewable and other. There are approximately ten (10) companies operating within the borders of Grand Bassa County. These companies have on a minimum level provided jobs with low salaries to the resident and citizens of Grand Bassa County and Liberia at large while foreign nationals getting the lucrative jobs. However, the averages Bassonian earn their living by making small business and motorcyclist transport to survive.

Grand Bassa County contains five statutory and electoral districts making up five representatives and two senators. There are also two government senior high schools, one Community College in Bassa and one government Hospital in the county. The presence of the community college has led to the young people and adults of Buchanan enrolling in the community college and reduction in students who graduate from high schools to not leave for Monrovia to pursue higher education, but the limited number of these institutions and materials has resulted to the inadequate health service delivery and education services in the county. The increase in entertainment center establishment has led to the increase in girls between the ages of 15 to 30 years involve into prostitution and young men involve in drinking alcoholic drinks and other narcotic drugs.

The Mano River Union Youth Parliament was established in August 2003 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The Mano River Union Youth Parliament – Liberia Chapter is an offshoot of the regional body which is

composed of thirty parliamentarians with two (2) persons from each of the fifteen political subdivisions of Liberia. The Mano River Youth Parliament (MRUYP) is a sub- regional network of young peace builders, student journalist, development practitioners and human rights activist within the MRUYP based in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

The youth of Bassa through the Mano River Union Youth Parliament in collaboration with the Bassa Youth Caucus held their third annual General Assembly on the civil compound of district # 2 from January 27 – 29, 2012 bringing together, 96 youth from the five electoral districts of Bassa and Buchanan city, under the theme:” during the general assembly, the youths were able to identified issues affecting them. The issues identified are condensed in the following bullet points.

- Lack of technical and vocational skills
- Lack of modern youth resource and recreational center
- More exposed/Vulnerable to STIs, HIV & AIDS infection, Sexual Gender Base Violence (SGBV), Human Trafficking among other due to the risky sexual behavior.
- Increased in Teenage pregnancy and prostitutions of girls between the ages of 13 – 19 years
- Less participation in major decision making process of Grand Bassa County and involvement of youths in the implementation of the county development agenda.
- Teenage girls are being used as breadwinners for their families
- The increase in early marriage of teenage girls and forcing young girls into harmful traditional practices against their will.
- Most of the young people are illiterate
- There is a high rate of poverty among the youth

We must be aware that the youth populace constitute the highest percentage of our country’s population and as such, requires serious attention. In another word, the growth and development of every country rest upon the shoulders of the young people who are the active working force. Unfortunately, the senseless civil conflict that engulfed our country for fourteen years left behind trauma and frustration to the greater number of our youth. This is because the war was dominantly fought by the youth who were not trained to the use of arms. Many of them lost their moral rectitude during their early childhood while some lost their immediate relatives and friends. In addition, the civil war left many of the youth uneducated and unskilled thus, giving them uncertain life. Consequently, these youths are the perpetrators of all kinds of violence in our country and if left unattended to, will plunge our country into another calamity that will seriously embarrass the peace and democracy we now enjoy. In recent time, the Government of Liberia had been holding consultative meetings with the people of Liberia on a long term development plan called “VISION 2030” for Liberians. But the question is, what are the relevant program this undertaking will have for youth empowerment and development in order for the government to achieve its goal.

Based upon the numeral problems identified by the youth at the general assembly, the youth of Bassa through the Bassa Youth Caucus in collaboration with the Mano River Union Youth Parliament has come up with a 5 year strategic work plan that will help in the economic, social and human resource development for the youth of Bassa

### **GOAL**

In the five years time, we envisage 50% of the youth of Grand Bassa becoming technically and vocationally trained and educated, responsible, intelligent citizens and leader as well as be involved in the major decision making process of our noble county, Grand Bassa.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives for the five year strategic work plan are:

- To build and established a modern resource center that will contain technical and vocational skills training area for both literate and illiterate youths of Bassa as well as internet facility and books for students of both secondary and post secondary institutions.
- To conduct technical and vocational training for 750 youths in the 5 statutory districts and Buchanan city of Grand Bassa in the following areas and the training will be conducted in three phases.
  - a. Corps production and preservation skills
  - b. Electronic and Electricity
  - c. Soap making
  - d. Computer skills
  - e. Cosmetology
  - f. Mechanical skill
  - g. Tailoring
  - h. Marketing and business enterprise establishment skill
- To reduce, stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV and AIDS, Sexual Gender Base Violence, Child Trafficking through Education for Life/Behavior Change Process (EFL/BCP) program through capacity build training and awareness workshop with youths in schools and out of school, both in rural and urban communities and youth with disability.
- To work with the Grand Bassa Legislative Caucus, the local government, Bassa Youth Caucus and other stakeholders in the county in-order to acquire twenty (20) acres of land in each of the five statutory districts for agricultural activities, for the youth of Grand Bassa in keeping with the Poverty Reduction Strategy And Vision 2030.
- To work with the Grand Bassa Legislative Caucus, the local government, Bassa Youth Caucus and other stakeholders in the county to direct at least twenty thousand United States Dollars (\$25,000.00 USD) annually to the young people of Bassa through the Bassa Youth caucus for youth empowerment such as; agricultural activities in the nine (9) administrative Districts of Grand Bassa County, for the implementation of local scholarships to deserving youths in vocational areas, primary and secondary

## **METHODOLOGY**

The methodologies to be used for the implementation of the five years strategic work plan include:

- The participatory rural appraisal (PRA) method
- The REFLECT method  
visitation of schools and communities
- Focus group discussions
- Awareness workshops on diverse issues affecting the youth community
- Consultative meeting with youth leaders CSOs and other stakeholders in the county for youth development in the county

## **BENEFICIARIES**

All youth residing within the borders of Grand Bassa County will directly and indirectly benefit from this project. The direct beneficiaries of this five years work plan are the 750 youths that will be trained technically and vocationally in order to sustain themselves, While the indirect beneficiaries are the entire youth community of the Grand Bassa County.

## **MONITORING AND SUPERVISION**

Daily monitoring and supervision will be conducted by qualified staff, executives of the Bassa Youth Caucus ,MRUYP Bassa Representatives, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders of the youth community in the county. The conduct of monitoring and supervision is to ensure that the goal and objectives of this five year plan be achieved.

## **EVALUATION OF THE FIVE YEARS STRATEGIC WORK PLAN**

Evaluation of the five year strategic work plan of the youth of Bassa will be conducted at the end of every year through survey such as: questionnaires, interviews with Bassa Youth Caucus executives, MRUYP Representatives, CSOs and technicians hire to conduct the survey and analyze the data collected. This is to measure the impact and effect of the activities being conducted and how to either redesign new approach or continue with the same approach.

## **ACTIVITIES PLAN AND TIME LINE**

- Recruitment of 5 technical and training staffs as well as 10 supports staffs
- Recruitment and training of 750 youth in technical and vocational skills training
- Agriculture activities (crops planting, production, preservation and marking
- Enterprise establishment and job creation
- Recruitment and training of 35 youth to serve as Trainers of Facilitators (TOF) for the Education for Life and Behavior Change Process (BCP/EFL) program
- Construction of a modern resource center for illiterate, literate and disable youths
- Conducting Education for Life and Behavior Change Process activities as well as recreation and reconciliation activities with youths in schools and Communities of the five statutory districts in Grand Bassa County
- Monitoring and Supervision of activities being conducted
- Evaluation of activities
- Reporting

## **EXPECTED OUTCOME**

The expected outcomes for the five year strategic work plan are as follows:

- A modern resource will be built and established and contain technical and vocational skills training area for both literate and illiterate youths of the Bassa as well as internet facility and books for students of both secondary and post secondary institutions and a sustainability plan will be put in place for the management of the center.

- A technical and vocational skills training for 750 youths in the 5 statutory districts and Buchanan city of Grand Bassa will be conducted in the following areas while youth enterprise will be established and jobs will be created.
  - i. Corps production and preservation skills
  - j. Electronics and Electricity
  - k. Soap making
  - l. Computer skills
  - m. Cosmetology
  - n. Mechanical skill
  - o. Tailoring
  - p. Marketing and business enterprise establishment skill
- Stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV and AIDS, Sexual Gender Base Violence, Child Trafficking will reduced by among youths, through Education for Life/Behavior Change Process (EFL/BCP) program through capacity build training and awareness workshop with youths in schools and out of school, both in rural and urban communities and youth with disability.
- Through advocacy, the Grand Bassa Legislative Caucus, the local government, Bassa Youth Caucus and other stakeholders in the county, the twenty (20) acres of land in each of the five statutory districts for agricultural activities will be acquired.
- Through advocacy, the Grand Bassa Legislative Caucus, the local government, and other stakeholders in the county, United States Dollars (\$25,000.00 USD) annually will be given to the young people of Bassa for youth empowerment such as; agricultural activities in the nine (9) administrative Districts of Grand Bassa County, the implementation of local scholarships for deserving youths in vocational areas, primary and secondary, training workshops, seminar and other educational programs.