

YAA SMS POLL ON MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS PERFORMANCE

QS: IS THE MINISTRY FO YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS EFFECTIVE?

QS: DO YOU AGREE WITH THE BOTTOM 10 MOYAS PERFORMANCE RATING?

Total Votes: 248

Yes votes: 19 (7.66%)

No votes: 229 (92.33%)

REASONS FOR YES VOTE – Total YES Vote 19

- The creation of MOYAS various funds for the funding of youth development.
- The creation of training programmes for the youth in entrepreneurship skills.
- The successful implementation of various sports programmes and the development of sports around the country.

As is evident from the clear majority voting in agreement with the Government rating on the performance of MOYAS, many citizens believe that the MOYAS is neither effective nor carrying out its mandate effectively. Majority of those in agreement feel that the Ministry has been effective in dealing with youth issues and providing opportunities for the youth to engage in entrepreneurship as well as improving their general standard of living. These apparent success however should be put in context and should be viewed in contrast to the majority who voted disagreeing with this sentiment and whose main contention is that the Ministry's programmes are unfairly distributed and benefit only a select few and is not available to particularly to youth and other stakeholders in the rural areas where service delivery is either nonexistent or highly inefficient and lacking in any sort of programme development and creation. Those who voted no also stated that the Ministry had in fact focused on the development of sports at the expense of their youth projects.

REASONS FOR THE NO VOTE - Total NO Votes 229

1. Failed and Ineffective policy and programmes – 117 (43.98%)
2. Lack of visibility sensitization on MOYAS programmes as well as a lack of effective outreach programmes – 30 (11.27%)
3. Mismanagement of MOYAS funds and poor administration practices – 57 (21.42%)
4. MOYAS staff are of the older generations and the Ministry has failed to recruit youths in the Ministry – 22 (8.27%)
5. Failure to effectively and adequately address youth issues – 26 (9.77%)
6. Lack of fair access to MOYAS programmes especially the loan facilities offered by the government as well as various others funds marked for distribution to youth initiatives – 11 (4.13%)
7. Lack of sufficient Government funding and support – 2 (0.75%)

1. Failed and Ineffective policy and programmes 43.98% of NO Vote

- a. Majority of those who cited this problem said that they were disappointed with the failure by MOYAS to focus its policy adequately on youth issues and its disproportionate support of sports projects. There were numerous allegations that the MOYAS has erected and opened offices country wide however they allege majority of these offices are dysfunctional in some areas or are completely lacking in any kind of creation and development of youth programmes. Many actually stated that some offices are not staffed and appear to be there without any working purpose. Majority of voters felt that the Kazi Kwa Vijana project has been one of the biggest failures of the Ministry due especially to the fact that most youth were not in fact paid and many felt that the idea that youth issues could be solved by menial temporary jobs was very out of touch with the reality of what the needs of the youth are. For this reason many did not feel the Ministry should even continue functioning (many voters actually stated that they were so dissatisfied with MOYAS performance and actual progress that they did not feel the Ministry had justified its own continued operations and the cost to the taxpayers who feel excluded from their programmes).

2. Mismanagement of MOYAS funds and poor administration practices – 57 (21.42%)

- a. Many of those who felt the MOYAS has been inefficient cited the problem of mismanagement of youth funds as a key problem due to the fact that majority of the funds are lost through corruption and a huge lack of transparency and accountability in the manner in which the funds are managed and distributed. One voter stated that in his area there were some officials receiving funds as participants/managers/coordinators on projects that do not actually exist in the ground.

3. Lack of visibility sensitization on MOYAS programmes as well as a lack of effective outreach programmes – 30 (11.27%)

- a. Many voters highlighted the point that the MOYAS has failed to effectively reach the youth in rural areas and have cited a disproportionate focus on youth in urban areas who already have access to many youth development initiatives. Many stated that those in the rural areas had no information whatsoever on the Ministry or its programmes and they felt that MOYAS has failed to develop its own profile amongst the youth in the rural areas who stand to benefit the most from some of their programmes. Many voters complained that the Ministry's policy had failed to reach the wider public due to the fact that there appeared to be in practise a habit of waiting for the youth to find and locate the various MOYAS programmes available to them

and do not take the initiative to reach and educate the youth on their programmes themselves.

4. Failure to effectively and adequately address youth issues – 26 (9.77%)

- a. A large portion of voters felt that the Ministry was out of touch with the needs and interests of the youth today and this had caused them to fail to be relevant to the youth and resultantly it has caused them to fail to address their problems in any tangible way. A recurring criticism of the Ministry was that it had failed to address the issues of unemployment amongst the youth as well as their lack of access to entrepreneurship opportunities. Many felt the youth are not consulted or involved in the decision making process and they do not feel they are given adequate platforms for them to voice their problems to the Ministry as well as other organs of government.

5. MOYAS staff are of the older generations and the Ministry has failed to recruit youths in the Ministry – 22 (8.27%)

- a. A major criticism of the MOYAS has been the fact that the staff at the Ministry is comprised of a majority of people over the age of 35. Many felt that this has greatly undermined the ability of the MOYAS to effectively articulate and solve youth issues due to the fact that most people within the ministry are not themselves part of the demographic so are not tangibly aware of or in touch with the challenges faced by the youth today. Another criticism has been the fact that the manner in which the Ministry recruits its staff is biased and many cited nepotism and corruption in the recruitment of staff.

6. Lack of fair access to MOYAS programmes especially the loan facilities offered by the government as well as various others funds marked for distribution to youth initiatives – 11 (4.13%)

- a. A lack of fair access to MOYAS programmes especially the various funds meant for youth generated initiatives was a recurring critique. Many felt that the restrictions and many requirements one had to attain before qualifying for a loan or benefit from the fund made access to the funds very difficult and had resulted in many becoming discouraged and disillusioned with the actual success of the programme. Many felt that the funds are disproportionately distributed to a few young people particularly in urban areas at the expense of the youth in rural areas. There was a general critique that the Ministry officials in charge of the funds were distributing the funds unfairly to people of their choosing rather than using the criteria that is meant to be used to assess the qualifications of persons and projects for the funds.

7. Lack of sufficient Government funding and support – 2 (0.75%)

- a. A few voters mentioned a possible cause for the low performance of the Ministry has been a lack of adequate finding as well as support from the Government.. it should however be noted that most voters felt the cause of lack of performance had been corruption and the unfair and discriminatory disbursement of funds so this particular complaint should be contrasted with and analysed in relation to the contribution mismanagement of the funds already allocated to the MOYAS might have made.

CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATIONS

It appears from the responses received that the main criticism of the MOYAS has been its failure to actualise its mandate and to perform to the expectations of the public. It should be noted that majority of the youth who voted felt alienated from the MOYAS and felt that the Ministry has failed to engage them in any significant way particularly in the decision making process as well as in programme development. A huge critique was the Ministry has failed completely to address the ever increasing rate of unemployment amongst the youth. While it remains to be said that the Ministry might also be facing the challenge of hard economic times that has befallen the country, it still stands that there appears to be a lack of initiative on their [MOYAS] part to initiate and create programmes that would lead to employment for the youth or to ensure free and fair access to its youth entrepreneurship development programmes. Addressing the issue of failure in service delivery particularly in the rural areas and the creation of effective programmes on the ground in these areas should be amongst the top agendas for the ministry in its aim to improve its performance. The Ministry would benefit from engaging in more stakeholder consultations in tis bid to engage the public and to understand the problems facing the youth as well as to address the general feeling amongst the youth of alienation from the MOYAS. The same will go far to inform their development of more relevant and effective programmes as well as improve the general public opinion of the Ministry particularly in the face of calls for the abolishment of the Ministry altogether.