

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Youth Societies and Youth Development Act 2007.

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ENACTED by the Parliament of Malaysia as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Youth Societies and Youth Development (Amendment) Act 2019.

(2) This Act comes into operation on a date to be appointed by the Minister by notification in the *Gazette* and the Minister may appoint different dates for the coming into operation of different provisions of this Act.

Amendment of section 2

2. The Youth Societies and Youth Development Act 2007 [Act 668], which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Act, is amended in section 2—

(a) in the definition of “youth”, by substituting for the word “forty” the word “thirty”;

- (b) in the definition of “office-bearers”, by substituting for the words “means any person who is” the words “means any person who, on the date of his appointment, is a person of not less than eighteen years old and not more than thirty years old, and is”; and
- (c) in the definition of “youth society”, by substituting for the word “forty” wherever appearing the word “thirty”.

Amendment of section 12

3. Section 12 of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the words “at the national level shall hold office for a period not exceeding six years continuously” the words “, on the date of his appointment shall not be less than eighteen years old and not more than thirty years old, and shall hold office for a period not exceeding four years continuously”.

Amendment of section 15

4. Section 15 of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the word “forty” the word “thirty”.

Amendment of section 20

5. Subsection 20(6) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “and such cancellation shall be published in the *Gazette*”.

Saving

6. (1) Any member appointed or elected as an office-bearer in a youth society who has attained the age of thirty years or has exceeded the age of thirty years before the date of coming into operation of this Act shall, on or after the date of coming into operation of this Act, be permitted to hold office until the end of his term.

(2) Any procedure relating to the cancellation of registration of any registered youth society which is pending or commenced before the date of coming into operation of this Act shall, after

the date of coming into operation of this Act, be continued and concluded as if the principal Act had not been amended by this Act.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Youth Societies and Youth Development Act 2007 (“Act 668”) to lower the maximum age limit in the definition of “youth” to thirty years old, to provide for the minimum and maximum age limits of the head and office-bearers of a youth society and to remove the requirement of publication in the *Gazette* for any cancellation of registration of a youth society.

2. *Clause 1* provides for the short title of the proposed Act and the power of the Minister to appoint different dates for the coming into operation of different provisions of the proposed Act.

3. *Clause 2* seeks to amend section 2 of Act 668 to alter certain existing definitions as follows:

(a) to amend the definitions of “youth” and “youth society” to lower the maximum age limit of youth and members of a youth society from forty years old to thirty years old as sets out in the Malaysian Youth Policy (“MYP”). The MYP was formulated based on four concepts that is to overcome the challenges faced by youth by strengthening and highlighting the youth potential. One of the concepts of MYP is to ensure that the age limit of youth is in line with international standards. The rationale for lowering the maximum age limit of youth is to ensure the sustainability of future leadership of the nation, reduce the generation gap among youth, accelerate the process of youth maturity and reduce the risk behaviours in the youth group; and

(b) to amend the definition of “office-bearers” to provide for the minimum and maximum age limits of an office-bearer of a registered youth society. With the proposed amendment, the minimum and maximum age limits of any member appointed or elected as an office-bearer shall not be less than eighteen years old and not more than thirty years old on the date of his appointment.

4. *Clause 3* seeks to amend section 12 of Act 668 to provide for the minimum and maximum age limits of a head of youth society. With the proposed amendment, the minimum and maximum age limits of a head of youth society shall not be less than eighteen years old and not more than thirty years old on the date of his appointment. The proposed amendment also seeks to shorten the period to hold office as head of youth society from six years to four years continuously. The purpose of this amendment is to create more opportunities for members of youth societies to hold office as head and to enhance the leadership skills of more youths.

5. *Clause 4* seeks to amend section 15 of Act 668 to reduce the maximum age limit of the cessation of disqualification of an office-bearer of a registered youth society. This is a consequential amendment to the amendment of the definition of “office-bearers”.

6. *Clause 5* seeks to amend subsection 20(6) of Act 668 to remove the requirement of having to publish in the *Gazette* a cancellation of the registration of a youth society.

7. *Clause 6* deals with the saving provisions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This Bill will not involve the Government in any extra financial expenditure.

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