

# **REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PETITIONS AND MEMBERS' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL OF THE 5TH MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE: YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2015**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers the Legislative arm of the state, particularly the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature with responsibilities inclusive of Law-making and Executive Oversight. Section 118 indicates that the legislature in executing its responsibilities must involve the public. As part of the mechanism, noting that public involvement in the Legislative process must find expression in all committees and activities of the Legislature, the Legislature has established a Select Committee on public participation, petitions and members' legislative proposals hereinafter referred to as the Committee to intensify public involvement in the Legislative Activities.

The Committee, in line with its delegated function, presides over sectorial parliaments. One of the Sectorial Parliaments which the Committee presided over is the Youth Parliament. The Legislature has therefore delegated the Committee to conduct Youth Parliament.

## **2. THEME**

The theme for this occasion was "The Legislature oversight facilitating youth in moving South Africa forward"

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

The broad objectives of the Youth Parliament are to:

- To educate and share information with the youth on matters affecting them.
- Debate contemporary issues facing young citizens of Mpumalanga.
- Create an opportunity for youth to engage with the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Provincial Local Government and other such structures.
- Encourage young people to take part in decision-making and legislative processes, which directly affect them.
- To facilitate participation of the youth fraternity in evaluating progresses made thus far in entrenching democratic values within our community in the context of democratisation of state and society.
- Provide a platform for the youth sector to come together and share their views.

#### **4. METHOD OF WORK**

The Legislature approved a slot for the hosting of Youth Parliament 2015 on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. The Committee subsequently conducted meetings to conceptualise on the sectoral parliament.

The following organisations were identified as core to the business and these parameters were used to select participants:

- Youth with disabilities in leadership
- Youth in politics in leadership
- Youth in Business in leadership
- Youth involved in poverty eradication programmes
- Youth in Agriculture in leadership
- Young Women in leadership
- Organized Youth(ANC)
- Organized Youth (DA)
- Organized Youth(EFF)
- Organized Youth ( BRA)

Preparatory workshops were conducted on 08-10 June 2015 in the three districts.

#### **5. COMMISSIONS INPUTS**

The commissions noted on:

##### **5.1 THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YOUTH ACCORD.**

###### **5.1.1. CHALLENGIES**

###### **5.1.1.1. On Education & Training**

There is a need for engineering and artisan skills and capacity in the province.

###### **5.2.1. RESOLUTIONS**

- The country's and Mpumalanga's institutions of higher learning need to prioritise engineering and artisanship training to be able to supply the Mpumalanga labour market.
- Government must take a special focus in funding student training in engineering and artisanship.

- Government must make use of young engineering and artisan graduates in projects implemented by government departments for them to gain experience.

#### **5.1.1.1. Youth Services**

- Most Youth Development offices are occupied by older people whom most of do not necessarily understand youth issues.
- Youth development officers must be appointed in local municipalities to initiate and speed up training to enable young people to render quality service at their area work to benefit communities.
- The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) should speedily open offices in all municipalities in the province.
- Poor commitment by local municipalities to deal with youth development. Seminars should therefore be convened annually at local municipalities' level to educate young people about the National Youth Development Plan (NDP) and the Youth Employment Accord.

#### **5.1.1.2. Skills Development Challenges**

- There is a government funded training programmes under the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT), aimed at equipping young people with skills. Upon conclusion of these programmes, the MRTT takes long in issuing certificates.
- There are closed training centres in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality that is, Hoshani and Mapulaneng.
- Poor training on rural youth about professional agricultural production.
- Certificates must be issued on all programmes provided by MRTT.
- Government must re-open all currently unutilised centres in the province and dedicate them to the training and skills development to cater for market-related needs.
- Extensive training must be provided for rural youth on the Masibuyele Emasimini Programme.

#### **5.1.1.3. On Youth Entrepreneurship**

- Young people do not have enough information on funding their projects and programmes aimed at economic sustainability.
- Government must maximise information dissemination and make funding to be easily accessible by young people.

#### **5.1.1.4. On Youth Set-Asides**

- Government departments have no clear policy in place targeted on projects aimed at youth empowerment.
- A quota implementation system must be set for the beneficiation of youth, a target of 40% of government projects must be dedicated to the youth.

#### **5.1.1.5. On the NYDA**

- The NYDA takes time to respond in assisting clients with business plans.
- The NYDA needs to speedily respond on service requests by young people. At least within 30 days of application.

## **5.2 . ACCESS TO HIGH EDUCATION.**

**The Commission therefore recommends to the House to resolve that:**

- The Department of Education should strengthen the prior-learning higher education to improve access and success in higher education
- School Governing Bodies (SGBs) must be encouraged to co-opt individuals with relevant expertise and skills in education to help with curriculum related matters.
- The Department of Education must review the parallel offering of tuition in Mathematics and Mathematics Literacy with a view to phasing out Mathematics Literacy.
- The department must reconsider publishing schools with higher pass rate but emphasise on the quality of the passes that a school has recorded against the background of whether the learners will access higher education.

### **5.2.1. Admission on higher education**

The Commission has noted that universities have increased the admission requirements of their institution with an aim to curbing access to higher education. The Commission believes that this has a detrimental effect on poor and rural students.

The Commission believes that normal admission policies must be adhered to, rather than taking the highest students with highest marks.

**The Commission recommends the House to resolve that:**

The Department of Higher Education must intervene to develop a uniform admission policy in all institutions of higher learning that will increase access of African students, blacks and female students in particular.

**5.2.1. The University of Mpumalanga**

The Commission noted that there is work being done to accelerate the fully establishment the University of Mpumalanga. However, the Commission has noted that the university is offering a few modules and not responding to the challenges of Mpumalanga.

The Commission recommends therefore that the House to resolves that:

- The University of Mpumalanga must expand its offerings to include degrees in engineering, health science and other qualifications in the near future.
- The construction of the structure and infra-structure of the University must be accelerated like it was done with the 2010 World Cup stadia.
- The University must advertise its programmes and ensure that there is an online application and registration on the University website.
- The University must put emphasis on the recruitment of students from rural areas.
- Bursaries and other financial aids offered at the university must be popularised and well marketed in all the districts of the province, particularly in rural areas.
- The capacity of the university in relation to students' in-take must be improved to accommodate and admit more students.
- The University of Mpumalanga must review its language policy to include one of the indigenous languages as a language of tuition.
- The University must provide evening classes to accommodate students who are working and offer part-time and block release qualifications.
- The Council of the University must be re-composed to include young people in the and in the Senate, as well as other governance structures of the University
- The Siyabuswa Campus of the University must be expanded to offer other qualification and increase the number of admissions.

- The curriculum of the University of Mpumalanga must respond to the developmental challenges of Mpumalanga in particular and Africa in general.
- The Department of Education, Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT), Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Land Administration (DARDLA), Municipalities, Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) and Mpumalanga Gambling Board (MGB) and other developmental institutions must be coordinated to synchronise training and education at the University of Mpumalanga to increase experiential learning of students in the University.
- The Department of Education must regulate on the upfront payments and registration fees to ensure that they are not used as an exclusionary tool of the rural and poor students from accessing higher education.
- The Department of Higher Education must ensure that the NSFAS beneficiaries and bursary holders are exempted from making upfront payments and registration fees.
- The Department of Higher Education must ensure that the Mbombela and Emalahleni Campuses of the Tshwane University of Technology are integrated and merged into the University of Mpumalanga.
- The Office of the Premier must lobby all municipalities in the province to provide bursaries to students wishing to pursue qualifications in higher education.

### **5.2.2. (TVET) Colleges**

**The Commission having discussion the issue of TVET colleges and is recommending that the House to resolve that:**

- The Department of Education must ensure that students from rural areas have access to TVET colleges.
- Government should strive to ensure that each municipality has its own TVET College.
- The curriculum and quality of education in the TVET colleges must be improved.
- There must be synchronisation of the TVET education to other higher education to ensure easy transference of students from TVET colleges to other higher education institutions such as Universities and Universities of Technology.

### **5.2.3. The NSFAS**

The Commission believes that NSFAS is being defrauded by the rich and affording students and parents and measures must be taken to protect the NSFAS funds.

The Commission recommends the House to resolve that:

- The Department of Higher Education, NSFAS, HAWKS and other crime prevention institutions must work together to develop strategies of curbing the defrauding of NSFAS by rich and affording parents and students.
- The Department of Higher Education and SARS must develop mechanisms to ensure that the NSFAS undue beneficiaries payback the loan.
- The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the Department of Social Development should be roped in to help in curbing the defrauding of NSFAS.
- The Department of Social Development should also intervene in institutions of higher learning to curb poverty and hunger amongst students.

### **5.3. FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY NATION: THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS AND TEENAGE PREGNANCIES AMONG THE YOUTH**

#### **5.3.1. HIV/AIDS**

**CHALLENGES** -There is an increase on the rate of HIV and AIDS infections among the youth, which is a clear indication that they engage in unprotected sexual activities, especially when they are under the influence of alcohol.

The commission have noted that the educational programmes that used to be provided by Love Life are no longer there and even more so in primary schools.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** - The commission acknowledges that the government has made some strides around this issue; it is however recommended that the Department of Health intensifies intervention programmes on this matter. This includes being visible even in areas such as taxi ranks, bus terminuses and shopping malls. The dual protection campaign must also be intensified and young men should also be involved in such programmes.

The Departments of Health and Education should re-introduce such programmes, especially to learners in grade 6-10.

#### **5.3.2. CONDOMS**

**CHALLENGES** - The commission has noted that there is no monitoring of expiry dates on the freely distributed condoms.

**RECOMMENDATION** - The commission recommends that this be monitored closely by the Department of Health. There should also be an innovation for condoms that are attractive even scented.

### **5.3.3. THE STIGMA**

**CHALLENGE** - It has been noted that there is still too much stigma on people living with HIV and AIDS. The methods of separating queues at our health institutions also contribute into people living with HIV and AIDS being discriminated.

**RECOMMENDATION** - The commission recommends to the Department of Health to entrust health professionals who are well equipped on issues of HIV and AIDS and who will be able to deal with the unpredictable attitudes of our youth.

### **5.3.3. ROAD TO HEALTH CHART**

**CHALLENGE** - The commission is noting with serious concern that the Road to Health charts have information which disclose the status of the patient. For instance if the mother has been found to be HIV positive, the chart is written so.

**RECOMMENDATION** - The commission recommends that the Department of Health to find another way of recording such information instead of the chart. Such information should be kept on files or have another method of reading such information.

### **5.3.4. FOREIGN LABOURERS**

**CHALLENGE** - The youth in the commission have noted also that our brothers from other countries are a contributing factor in the increase of HIV and AIDS as they often do not want to be seen in public areas due to the fact that some of them are not properly legally documented.

**RECOMMENDATION** - The commission recommends that our government put some measures in ensuring that our brothers are also involved in these programmes and finds it necessary to protect their loved ones



### **5.3.5. ADVERTISEMENTS**

**CHALLENGE** – Some media advertisements are biased, they seek to despise the integrity of young women, and they make them perceived as people who are mostly affected by this ailment.

**RECOMMENDATION**- There must screening of such advertisements to make sure that they strike a balance on the question of gender. (Both print and electronic).

### **5.3.5. HOME-BASED CARE FACILITIES**

**CHALLENGE** - It has been noted that there is lack of training of Home-Based Care facilities and their payment is delayed. This result in them is discouraged in doing their job.

**RECOMMENDATION** -The Department Social Development should provide proper training to such people and their payment must be monitored that they get it on time.

### **5.3.6. ANTI RETRO-VIRALS (ARVs)**

**CHALLENGE** - It has been noted that some people sell ARVs and some are robbed of such due to the “need” to manufacture the Nyaope drug.

**RECOMMENDATION** - The commission recommends that the Department of Heal to come up with an injection instead of a pill.

### **5.3.6. MEDICAL MALE CIRCUMCISION**

**CHALLENGE** - There is a shortage of Medical Male Circumcision (MMC) schools and knowledge around the programme.

**RECOMMENDATION** - The Departments of Health and Education should rolls out the MMC educational programme in all schools from Grade 6 up to tertiary institutions.

### **5.3.7. ILLEGAL ABORTION FACILITIES**

**CHALLENGE** - Most girls who involve themselves in these illegal abortion facilities do not get counselling or testing for HIV and AIDS and as they continue to have unprotected sex and hence spread the virus.

**RECOMMENDATION** - The commission recommends that government put an end to such facilities and fliers.

### **5.3.8. TEENAGE PREGNACIES**

#### **5.3.8.1. "SUGAR DADDIES"**

**CHALLENGE-** The commission has noted that most girls get involved with the so-called "Sugar Daddies" due the high rate of unemployment.

**RECOMMENDATION** - Our government must put measures in place to deal specifically with old men who patronise young girls with money for sex.

### **5.3.9. CONTRACEPTIVES**

**CHALLENGE** - In the province's local clinics, for a young lady to take contraceptives they must take a pregnancy test first. In some cases you will find such kits not available hence girls must come back the following month. The commission have noted that only girls are allowed to take contraceptives.

**RECOMMENDATION** - There must be an interim measure given to girls for contraceptives as they are waiting for pregnancy test kits or their monthly periods.

The commission recommends that the Department of Health researches the possibilities of men also taking contraceptives.

### **5.3.10. PARENTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

**CHALLENGE** – Most mothers do not talk to their daughters about relationships.

**RECOMMENDATION** - Government should initiate programmes that will encourage engagements between mothers and their daughters on issues relationships.

#### **5.3.11. PEER PRESSURE AND MOB PSYCHOLOGY**

**CHALLENGE** - Some girls get into wrong relationships due to peer pressure

**RECOMMENDATION** -There must be sessions at schools for girls or boys talks

#### **5.3.12. DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

##### **5.3.12.1. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

**CHALLENGE** - There are little or no recreational facilities in our communities, which results into young people resorting drugs to keep themselves busy.

**RECOMMENDATION** -The Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation (DCSR) should focus their programmes on building such facilities within most communities.

##### **5.3.12. UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY**

**CHALLENGE** - Research has shown that there is high rate of unemployment among our youth in the province.

**RECOMMENDATION** - The commission recommends for the joint efforts amongst government departments to have programmes that will assist with job opportunities for the young people in the province.

##### **5.3.13. ALCOHOL ADVERTISEMENTS**

**CHALLENGE** - Most alcohol adverts are very deceptive.

**RECOMMENDATION** - They show very beautiful and handsome young people taking alcohol with showing the result there after. Such adverts must censored by the government.

##### **5.3.14. REHABILITATION FACILITIES**

**CHALLENGE** -There is very little or no rehabilitation facilities in our communities.

**RECOMMENDATION** - Government should lobby international communities to assist in this regard.

## 6. FINDINGS

The Committee, after consideration of the deliberations in the various commissions of the Youth Parliament made the following findings:

- There was no political Torrance in the youth when they delivered the messages of support in youth parliament.
- The youth raised a serious concern about the progress report on the resolutions that were taken in the previous youth Parliament.
- The students in the rural areas do not have access to TVET colleges.

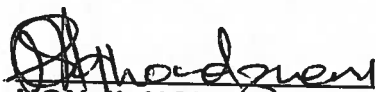
## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

- The political parties must not be allowed in the Youth Parliaments because it does not save the purpose of the event.
- In the future parliaments the concept document must go with the previous resolutions.
- The Department of Education must ensure that students from rural areas have access to TVET colleges.

## 7. CONCLUSION

On behalf of the Select Committee, the Chairperson wishes to thank the Honourable Members of the Legislature and all role players who showed commitment in the preparations for the Youth Parliament of 2015.



HON J.L. NGHONDZWANI

CHAIRPERSON: SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PETITIONS AND MEMBERS'  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

04/09/2015  
DATE