

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PETITIONS AND MEMBERS' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON 2017 YOUTH PARLIAMENT HELD ON THE 24 JUNE 2017 IN LEGISLATURE CHAMBERS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature with the responsibility, in terms of section 118(1), to facilitate public involvement in legislative and other processes of the Legislature and its committees. It further directs the Legislature to conduct its business, its sittings and committees in public.

As part of the mechanism, the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature establishes and empower the Select Committee on Public Participation, Petitions and Members' Legislative Proposals (the Committee) to facilitate Youth Parliament, which provide a platform for discussing critical issues with the youth in the province.

The Committee tables this report, in terms of Rule 118 of the Rules and Orders, to give full account on the recently hosting of the 2017 Youth Parliament held on 24 June 2017.

2. THEME

The theme for this occasion is "Celebrating 20 years of the Constitution and the existence of NCOP: 2017 a year of public accountability".

3. OBJECTIVES

Within our broad strategic objective of increasing public involvement in the processes of the Legislature, the objectives of this sectoral parliament are:

3.1.1 To celebrate 20 years of the Constitution and existence of the NCOP

3.1.2 To educate and share information with the youth.

- 3.1.3 Creating a platform for the young people to interact with the Legislature and government on issues affecting them and oversight around the youth sector issues.
- 3.4.1 Reporting back on the deliverables emanating from the previous parliament following on commitments made.

4 THEMATIC AREAS

The sector parliament will focus on the following thematic areas as enriching deliberations and consolidating on gains of freedom.

- **Socio-Economic Transformation** in responding to poverty, unemployment and inequality as a thematic area with sub-themes as stated below.
 - 1.1.1. Progress on Youth and access to Education.
 - 1.1.2. Youth as a Centre of Economic Opportunities.
 - 1.1.3. Youth and Rural Development and Land Reforms.
 - 1.1.4. Health care and health lifestyle.

5 METHOD OF WORK

A Cross-Functional Task Team was established and assigned a function to work on the hosting of the Youth Parliament. The conceptualization process was championed by the Office of the Speaker since the program of the Legislature did not provide space for Committee meetings.

District workshops were conducted in the Province on the following dates

06 June 2017 Ehlanzeni

12 June 2017 Nkangala and

13 June 2017 Gert Sibande

The workshops were meant to ensure that participants are taken through the concept document, Government Departments were allowed space to reflect on

progress made in implementing the resolutions of the past parliament and prepare them for the ahead event. The mobilisation was targeting the attendance of three hundred and fifty participants drawn from youth in politics, business and other sectors of society.

The Parliament was pitched to the level of seminar geared towards empowering participants in navigating the economic space young people find themselves in.

6. STAKEHOLDERS

The Legislature identified the following stakeholders in the Province as central to the success of the project.

- Youth Formations
- The Legislature
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Safety & Security
- Department of Agriculture
- NYDA

7. ADDRESSES

7.1. OPENING AND WELCOMING REMARK: HON. BT SHONGWE MPL, MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Speaker of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Hon TB Shongwe welcomed all participants to Youth Parliament, on behalf of the 5th Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. Hon BT Shongwe acknowledged the Minister of State Security Mr D Mahlobo, and the MEC for Public Works, Road and Transport Ms SJ Manzini.

In her address she reminded the session, that “The Mpumalanga Legislature commemorates the historic struggle of the 1976 generation which on June 16

protested against policies of the oppressive apartheid government. These policies continued to dehumanize our youth as subjects to an education system that made them inferior. The uprising symbolized the historic struggle for the right to dignity and the right to self-determination in a democratic society. The bravery of the youth 1976 generation was able to impact significantly on the face of politics in South Africa.

The Mpumalanga Legislature, through this youth parliament calls upon young people to work with the government to ensure that they live in decent homes in communities with roads, electricity, water and recreational facilities. The government wants the youth to access quality higher education and professional training. The youth must be free from HIV and AIDS, alcohol, drug and substance abuse.

Mpumalanga Legislature is working on ensuring that the colonial structure of our economy is dismantled and responds to the general needs for our people. In this regard education is the true instrument at the disposal of the youth for economic emancipation.

It is due to this reason the Mpumalanga Legislature has undertaken, this year to deliberately attract youth from different sectors of our province to attend our parliament so we can tap into the various experiences. The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature charged with the responsibility to discuss, share experiences; transfer knowledge and inspire the youth to be their own liberators.

Mpumalanga legislature is aware of the robust discussions that took place at district level, matters that affect our youth with some special attention to the following:

- The spate of gender based violence against woman and children.
- Drug, alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancy.
- HIV & AIDS
- High school dropout rate.

- Access to quality and relevant education.
- Social Cohesion and nation building noting the increase in the incidence of racism.

7.2. MS SJ MANZINI MPL, MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS ROADS AND TRANSPORT

MEC SJ Manzini, reminded the youth of today about those who perished in struggle on 16 June 1976 and many years that followed. To ensure that the youth of South Africa achieve what we have set for ourselves, which is to build a better life for all South Africans, in particular the youth of today. It is recorded in history that on that fateful day 41 years ago, the youth of South Africa shook the nation and rejected the slave education that the apartheid regime had implemented, with the hope of making blacks accept their bantu education and slavery. The youth of South Africa changed the course of history, and accelerated the downfall of the apartheid system.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government vowed never to betray the generation of 1976. The Premier of Mpumalanga Province DD Mabuza's on his State of the Province Address he paid a significant amount of time deliberating on the need to create opportunities for the youth as appropriate tribute to the generation of 1976 and the countless sacrifices of youth like Solomon Mahlangu, Andrew Zondo, Ashley Kriel and Nokuthula Simelane who laid down their lives for a free South Africa.

The greatness amongst young people did not start in 1976 and it did not end then. It is important that Mpumalanga Province youth remember the following people:

- John Langalibalele Dube, who became the first president of the ANC at the age of 41, had already attained laudable achievements such as setting up the legendary Ohlange High School at 30;
- Sol Plaatjie, who became the first secretary general of the ANC at 35 and already in his 20s, he was a renowned writer and editor

- Charlotte Maxeke, who led the anti-pass campaign in 1956 at 39 years of age, she had emerged as South Africa's first woman BSc graduate, as an organiser of the Women's Mite Missionary Society and established a training college in Evaton.
- Duma Nokwe ,who became the Secretary General of the ANC at the age of 31
- Steve "Kalamazoo" Mokone, who at 17 made football history as the first black player to play in a professional European league
- Aaron Mokoena, who debuted in Bafana Bafana at 18 and became captain at 23 years of age
- Dr Chris Barnard, who at 32 had acquired his doctorate in medicine and set out to start experiments that led to the first human heart transplant
- Fidel Castro and Che Guevara,whom in their twenties liberated Cuba
- Moses Kotane, who became General Secretary of the Communist Party of South Africa at 34 years of age!

Department of Public Works and Road Transport have made it a point that the department adopts a policy for 30 percent set aside for young people their expenditure on capital projects. This is monitored quarterly.

The Premier has also made a noble call that the Provincial Government must ensure that the school nutrition program empowers surrounding communities. Those who are already participating in *FORTUNE 40* (a program designed to introduce young people to agriculture), must begin taking their farming activities serious. They must be ready to provide vegetables, milk and meat to schools within their communities.

Future Miners Incubation Program: Mining project in association with the private sector to create small to mid-sized (5-10 million tons coal reserves) mines which will be minimum 40% owned by the youth.

Mine Rehabilitation Program: Developing mine rehabilitation competency amongst youth owned SMMEs and establishing farming projects in rehabilitated old mining sites.

Litsemba Lethu Job Creation Programme: The program is targeting to create opportunities for 1 500 young people in partnership with Lulaway. Lulaway is a youth development and placement facilitator with a large national network of Job centres and digital job kiosks where unemployed youths register for job and training opportunities.

National Youth Service (NYS): The Provincial Government will continue to give beneficiaries of these programme opportunities in building maintenance and assessment of state owned buildings. This year, a different approach is being explored to radicalise this programme. As part of the paradigm shift, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport will review the NYS exit strategy and extend it beyond the opportunities within the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport. The Department will work with the Department of Education and other departments in this regard.

Sakh'abakhi and Siyatentela: Siyatentela is a roads maintenance programme aimed at using labour intensive methods to maintain the provincial network. In the current year, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport plans to enrol 4000 beneficiaries by 01 July 2017. On the other hand, Sakh'abakhi is an emerging contractor development programme. The Department is in discussion with the Department of Human Settlement to consolidate their Contractor Development Programme with DPWRT's in order to upscale the programme into a provincial initiative. Going forward, the recruitment in Sakh'abakhi and Siyatentela programmes will be biased towards the youth.

Learnership and Internship Program: The Provincial Government continues to give young people an opportunity to participate in learnership and internship programs which are aimed at making them ready for their first jobs. This also serves as a skill development program.

Mpumalanga nursing and traffic college: The Mpumalanga Department of Health has an annual allocation of R 23 100 000 for 250 students in the nursing field of study and the Province will recruit 64 young people from all corners of the Province into the Traffic College.

Artisan Development Programme: The Provincial Government will train 1000 learners through an apprenticeship programme towards artisanship status at a budget of R 127 000 000. The Office of the Premier will train 120 young TVET Graduates with LEVEL 4 as artisan in Mechanical Fitting, Diesel Mechanic and Electrical Engineering, through a funding secured from Mining Qualifications Authority.

Bursaries Program: The Provincial Government continues to issue out bursaries to many impoverished learners to study in any university and pursuing a career of their choice. This year the Province will fund 750 students and 10 will be sent to CUBA to study medicine. This is done to improve the skills profile of the province and ensure that we produce sufficient accountants, engineers, doctors, nurses, teachers and other careers you need”.

7.3. MR D MAHLOBO, MP: MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY

The address of the minister was as follows, “The sitting of the House forms part of the Youth Month activities and programmes, as our country marks the 41st anniversary of the history and heroic 1976 Soweto uprising where the youth took their fight with the apartheid government to the streets in a show of force. This generation of 1976 had to deal with the apartheid policies which came with the introduction of Bantu Education back in the 1950s. When the language of Afrikaans alongside English was made compulsory as a medium of instruction in schools, students began mobilising themselves. On June 16 1976, up to 10000 students mobilised by the South African Students Movement Action Committee supported by the Black Consciousness Movement took the streets. When the regime recognised the might of these fearless

students, they opened fire and teargas on them, resulting in hundreds of injuries and deaths, the youngest of which was Hector Peterson. Many others went missing and we remember the pain of their families such as Mbuyisa Makhubu.

Mpumalanga Province Legislature acknowledge the leadership of the June 16, 1976 mass student revolt who contributed to moving our struggle forward such as Tsietsi Mashinini, Khotso Seatlholo, Seth Mazibuko, Super Molo, Murphy Morobe, Daniel Montsintsi. Women also played their part in historic event but the current history omits them. These include Margaret Masabalala, Patience Banda, Sibongile Mkhabela and Eunice Sithole amongst others. The 1976 youth showed bravery and leadership of the highest order, which must be emulated by all members of this House. They changed the course of history and the face of politics in our country. The uprising moved from Soweto to other parts of the country, as our people said enough is enough they wanted to be free from the yoke of apartheid oppression.

The government is building a truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society is a long and arduous journey which our former President Nelson Mandela spoke of when he said “Yinde lendlela esiyihambayo”. This society could not just emerge on the dawn of our democratic dispensation but needed to be harnessed and built consciously by all the progressive forces of fundamental change as led by the ANC Government.

Indeed, South Africa today is better place to live in than it was before 1994, but the journey of people of South Africa is far from complete as reflected in the petition: “We shall not rest until we have won for our children their fundamental rights of freedom, justice and security”. Poverty, unemployment and inequality remain stubborn. We must therefore soldier on towards the implementation of various government policies and programmes to turn around our country.

Our population in this country and this province blacks in general, African in particular are economically disempowered and are already understandably impatient and dissatisfied with lack of real economic gains from our freedom. The depressed

economic climate, largely due to global financial conditions, is having an impact on the extent to which government is able to implement its vision for the future, as espoused in the National Development Plan as well as other strategic plans of government.

President Zuma noted in Parliament, and remains confident that the country will emerge sooner than expected from its first recession in 8 years. In this regard, as government we invite people to take centre stage and make a contribution in generating solutions to the challenges we face.

For its part, government is playing its role to empower young people and cushion them from the harsh impact of the economic situation, through creating job opportunities, training opportunities and also providing funding support for those who want to open businesses. There are various programmes already within government's Economic Sectors, Employment and Infrastructure Development Cluster towards youth empowerment, at the national level, while provinces and municipalities have various programmes in place as well. The Office of the Premier in this province has developed the Provincial Youth Development Programme of Action (PoA) which clearly outlines a number of high impact interventions, to advance youth development and empowerment across all key sectors of government work.

The partnership sought with the private sector in supporting the dream of every young person in the Province, through the provision of target mentorship and financial support is critical. For instance, the recent engagement with the mining sector industry players has yielded a commitment from the mining companies to fund the establishment of the Skills Hub in eMalahleni, as indicated by the Premier in his Budget and Policy Vote Statement last month.

As part of driving economic emancipation, the National Youth Development Agency has been directed by Cabinet to focus on promoting youth entrepreneurship and the improved coordination of the National Youth Service across all sectors of government. In the current financial year, the Agency will invest R72 million in the economic participation programmes. 18 000 young and aspiring entrepreneurs will receive business support services such as vouchers, the registration of new companies,

mentorship, and training at different levels, to encourage advancement of the entrepreneurship agenda.

Furthermore, the NYDA has positively responded to the call of young people and all branches shall be equipped with free Wi-Fi services to provide young people with access to technology. The NYDA will continue to prioritise education as well, and the Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund supports 500 students annually.

The generation of young leaders who from the 1930s rose to prominence and dominated our political life for more than six decades includes Peter Mda, Anton Lembede, Yusuf Dadoo, Joe Slovo, Oliver Tambo, Albertina Sisulu, Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela, Ray Alexandra, Lilian Ngoyi, IB Tabata, and Robert Sobukwe. They changed the face of the national liberation struggle. They were followed in the 1970s by leaders such as Steve Biko and Rick Turner, who inspired the thousands of young people who played active roles in the Durban strikes of 1973 and the 1976 student uprising, events that brought about the changes that led to freedom.

The rise of youth to political leadership came as a result of education. Many young people received an education, while their parents may have belonged to a generation in which education was not considered a key to a good life.

People of South Africa are all witnesses of the massive government led programme to make higher education a reality for many disadvantaged and poor but deserving students. The NSFAS has grown its annual allocations since its inception to R9, 2 billion rand in 2014/2015, assisting well over 450 000 students in 25 universities and 50 TVET colleges across 320 campuses.

Additionally, the Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund launched by President Zuma in March 2014 aimed at poor, rural youth who achieve academic excellence has paid more than R40 million and helped 586 poor, mostly rural youth to access higher education in 2014.

Government has taken reasonable and practical measures in ensuring that young people are enrolled in schools and study in decent schools and not mud schools and other inappropriate structures. Through the Education Infrastructure Grant and the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative, more new schools have been built, refurbishments made and new school furniture delivered. For the current financial year, government has allocated R12 billion in total to improve our schools infrastructure needs.

Many learners come from poor homes where they go to school without having had something to eat. It is for this reason that we started the National School Nutrition Programme, which benefits 9 million learners from 21 000 schools per day to improve their performance in class. For the current financial year, government will spend some R6.8 billion rand on the nutrition scheme. Improving access to tertiary institutions is one of government's key priorities.

For the 2017 academic year, almost 70% of all undergraduate students in universities and colleges are covered by latest interventions of government through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme which has disbursed more than R72 billion rand in loans and bursaries to students from poor households since its inception

Our law enforcement agencies in the Security Cluster continue to work tirelessly in keeping our communities safe and apprehending suspects that break the law, but the war on crime and many social ills that are prevalent in our communities cannot be won by the police alone. Young people need to at the forefront of the Community Safety Initiatives.

The use of various forms of drugs and substances by particularly young people in our communities is a matter of grave concern to us all. The reports indicate that schools in various parts of this Mpumalanga Province are targets of organised criminal syndicates who use learners as both pushers and users. Rates of addiction amongst teenage users

The government can't stand by and watch while youth of South Africa specially of Mpumalanga consumed by this new "urban culture" of abusing alcohol and other forms of substance abuse. The Minister urge the youth to join the war against the abuse of

alcohol and drugs which are tearing families apart and destroying the lives of our young people. We must defeat nyaope, whoonga, dagga and all substances that seek to derail the march of our youth to a better future.

The advent of cyberspace and electronic computing has provided many opportunities, particularly for young people to become entrepreneurial, to maintain relationships, for government, the opportunities meant the delivery of better services through government, health. However, we have noted a growing trend by those with nefarious intentions to use this space to propagate all kinds of unlawful activities.

We remain concerned over threats posed by the use of social media, amongst other things, to create instability through the circulation of false messages, violation of citizen's private lives, advancing of racism, terrorism, ethnic and sectarian strife.

The government call on the leadership of young people to work together with us in civic education campaigns on the safe use of the cyberspace that has revolutionised the way of life today. Join hands with us and let us isolate those amongst us who use this platform to propagate illegal acts.

The future of this country lies squarely on the hands of this collective of young people gathered here. It is upon this generation of today to respond to the challenges which they are confronted with and make a determination as to how they respond. The 1976 youth chose to fight the apartheid regime with all its might and in the process, many of them paid the ultimate price, death.

Young people of this province who are also in leadership positions, you are charged with this enormous responsibility of ensuring Mpumalanga is able to achieve its developmental objectives which will provide young people with a better life. In your hands you hold the dreams, hopes and aspirations of future generations of this province and the country.

The NYDA representative reported that from the last year's youth parliament, the NYDA took a decision on the following:

- There is a process to have the Act changed from Section 75 to Section 76 and it is soon going to be released for public consultations.
- Regarding the issue of accessibility of the NYDA, they have taken a decision to have at least a desk in all municipality

8. PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

Procurement during youth activities

- The youth indicated that a pronouncement was made that there must be 40% of all procurement of goods and services set aside for the youth.
- The NYDA indicated that they are engaging with the National Treasury to relax some rules in order to accommodate young entrepreneurs.
- A plea was made to parliamentarians with regards to their behaviour in parliament.
- There was a concern about the development in townships that malls are being built but most of the townships do not have proper infrastructure like roads and clinics which is viewed as the creation of "Corporate monopoly".
- A concern was raised that there is no safety in scholar transport as this service exposes learners to abuse and possible abduction.

- She indicated that government has built boarding schools as a measure in addressing a challenge for learners who are travelling long distances to schools.
- A request was made that there should be a Mpumalanga Youth Charter which will deal amongst other issues with the issue of land, and businesses towards the youth development.
- There was an outcry about the unemployment rate especially amongst youth, and that the EPWP does not help much as it is a temporary measure and there is no plan after the expiry of the contract.
- Request is made that the governments should provide sanitary towels freely given to young girls especially those from disadvantaged families, just like condoms.
- Internship programme should be reviewed to provide for absorption of youth into the work stream. Graduates should be absorbed into the system instead of being put on internship programme.
- In order to deal with unemployment, the MEC for PWRT indicated that they have developed some programmes like the Nutrition Programme where they encourage young farmers to form cooperatives so that when the government is looking for stock especially for feeding schemes and when they are building houses they can use those cooperatives as suppliers. She further indicated EPWP is not a permanent measure however poverty alleviation programme where one needs to learn particular skills that they can use to apply for another job.
- Young people indicated that there are talented kids in their areas, however, due to the lack of information on the recreation programmes and sport facilities their talents go to waste.

- Learners from Khaliphani Secondary School requested that they be provided with a qualified maths teacher in their school. Also the youth requested that history becomes compulsory at schools as means of preserving our history such as the background on June 16 and other days like Sharpville.
- Youth in Business indicated that there are buildings especially in Thembisile that are not used and are owned by MEGA. A request was made that such buildings be provided to them for their business as they lack property for their business.

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8.2. FINDINGS

- I. The Committee noted that there is lacks of diverse skills amongst the Youth.
- II. Most young people lack knowledge and innovation to establish co-operatives or forums that will assist them in fully participating in the mainstream economy of their areas.
- III. Youth empowerment sessions and information sharing meetings are only visible during the June month.
- IV. The committee noted that there are many old government buildings that the Youth can use to start their own businesses.

- V. The committee noted that the young people of Mpumalanga are less interested in the Agriculture Sector.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. The Department of education must visit all High schools and have workshops on career guidance for the Grade twelve students.
- II. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the NYDA must conduct workshops to educate young people on how to apply for funds to start their own businesses.
- III. The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, NYDA and Economic Development and Tourism must take an inclusive integrated approach on its Mass Participation programmes for the youth in an ongoing process throughout the year.
- IV. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport should conduct an investigation into all unused government buildings and advise accordingly on how these could be better utilized by the youth for business purposes.
- V. The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration together with the Mpumalanga University should come up with a strategy to market agriculture in the province, especially amongst the youth.

11. CONCLUSIONS

On behalf of the Select Committee, the Chairperson wishes to thank all the Honourable Members of the Legislature and all role players who contributed in the preparations towards the successful hosting of the 2017 Youth Parliament.

This Committee report on the 2017 Youth Parliament is hereby tabled to the House with a request to adopt it with the recommendations for implementation by the respective Departments. A progress report must be tabled to the Committee by no later than 30 October 2017.



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

06-09-2017
DATE