

# **REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PETITIONS AND MEMBERS' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL ON YOUTH PARLIAMENT HELD AT MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE 15 JUNE 2018**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature with a responsibility, In terms of section 118(1), to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Legislature and its committees, conduct its business in the open manner and its sittings and those of its 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 Women Parliament, among others, which provide a platform for discussing critical issues with women in the province.

The Committee tables this report, in terms of Rule 118 of the Rules and Orders, to give full account on the subsequent hosting of the 2018 Youth Parliament at Mpumalanga Legislature.

## **2. THEME**

**2018, the year of effective oversight and accountability, moving Mpumalanga Province forward.**

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Youth Parliament, within the broad strategic objective of increasing public involvement in the processes of the Legislature, are to:

- Create a platform for the youth to interact with the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature around issues affecting them;

- Encourage the youth participation, as key role players, in the oversight and public involvement processes of the Legislature.
- To do oversight on mainstreaming youth issues into priorities of public and private sector

#### 4. METHOD OF WORK

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature hosted the Youth Parliament in Mpumalanga Legislature Chamber on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The Cross-Functional Task Team was established and assigned a responsibility to work on the hosting of the Youth Parliament, including the conceptual documents and the enabling logistics. This included the identification of the venue, mobilisation, public education, reports of the previous parliament and others.

The parliament's target was three hundred (300) participants from all the three districts of the province, namely, Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala. The 300 participants were distributed proportionally to the political parties represented in the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature but to also include other youth formations outside political parties, drawn from various sectors of society. Below is the table representing the allocations of participants:

<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS</b>
Members of the Legislature (MPLs)	20
Bushbuckridge Residence Association (BRA)	1
Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)	2
Democratic Alliance (DA)	3
African National Congress (ANC)	24
Youth who attended from day one	50
Youth who joined in the following day	150
Legislature Support Staff	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>

#### **4.1 Welcoming Address by the Speaker of the Legislature, Hon VS Siwela**

Speaker of Mpumalanga Legislature, Mrs. VS welcomed all participants to Youth Parliament, on behalf of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. The Speaker acknowledged the presents of the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms. SJ Manzini and all Members of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (MPLs).

The Speaker referred the youth to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa as mandating the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, in terms of section 118 (1) to facilitate public involvement in legislative and other processes of the Legislature and its Committees. She also referred to the Rules and orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature which establishes and empowers the Select Committee on Public Participation, Petitions and Members' Legislative Proposals (the Committee) to facilitate Youth Parliament, which provides a platform for discussing critical issues with the youth in the province.

The government wants the youth of South Africa to be free from HIV, AIDS, alcohol and drugs and wish they can leave a healthy life style. Education is the true instrument at disposal for the young people to achieve their positive and envisaged goals in life. Government is developing a programme called Nutrition Programme for those children who come to school without food in their stomachs and they encourage young farmers to form cooperatives to produce vegetables for feeding schemes at schools.

All the youth in attendance should feel free to be in this (Legislature) place because they are here to talk about issues that concern them and how to make South Africa a better place for everyone, including the following matters that affect the youth of Mpumalanga Province:-

- Learners, especially girls not reaching or finishing Grade 12 due to circumstances beyond their control.
- High dropout rates at institutions of high learning due to high fees that are being charged.
- Drugs, alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancies.
- Healthy lifestyle – the scourge of HIV and AIDS
- Access to quality education

- Land related matters
- Lack of access to funding

## **5. KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MEC SJ MANZINI**

The MEC reminded the youth that they are commemorating and celebration the annual June 16 Youth Day. As the department they have notice that the youth of today do not celebrate or commemorate this day in the correct way, and thanked the leadership for reminding them (the youth) of what happened to the gallant youth generation of 1976. One leading African Scholars Frantz Fanon once opined that each generation must discover its mission.

The governing party had its 54<sup>th</sup> National Conference (ANC) and they reaffirmed that education remains an apex priority of government and the fight against the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment as outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP) or Vision 2030. As government of this province they have noticed that the following issues, facing the young democratic nation are among others the following:-

- Inequality;
- Unemployment; and
- Poverty

As government they have acknowledged that education is a central pillar as mentioned by the former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, as renowned for his passion and love for education, the father of the nation said education is the great engine for personal development, and it is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor and the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine and the son of farm worker can become the president of a great nation.

Since 1994, demarcating government has put in place a plethora of legislations, enacted many progressive laws, all seeking to comprehensively respond to the current situation as it pertains.

The MEC assured the youth that there are enough legislations aimed at addressing the plight of the young people. The MEC emphasised that government across all (three) spheres has put the issues of the youth empowerment as the main item in the developmental agenda. The following account for what has been done by the government of Mpumalanga Province to-date;

- Introduction of Early Childhood Development (ECD) institution as part of building a strong educational foundation, and the institution has already provided training to 1806 practitioners at NQF Level 1 and 1300 at NQF Level 4 qualifications.
- Since 2009 the province has built over five (5) state of the art boarding schools and they are found in rural areas and they are afforded good quality education and nutrition programmes.
- Over 60 000 children are transported daily, as part of Pro-poor Scholar Transport Programme, this are learners that travel 5km to and from school.
- The government is expanding vocational and technical and occupational education in schools.
- The government is working hard on expanding Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and they are adequately funded and all deserving student will be covered fully by government as part of phasing in free-education. During this financially, government has awarded 608 bursaries to the youth who are currently studying at different universities nationally. This numbers includes 81 students who are studying Medicine, Veterinary Science, Information Technology and Aviation in Russia.
- The Mpumalanga Province has put aside R20 million towards intervention in the Mining Incubation Programme for young people in the province.
- The Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) has funded the Galito's Franchise initiative which is run by the Youth Chamber of Commerce to the tune of R5 million benefiting the then unemployed and creating 77 jobs in the province.

As part of the township development and rural development programme, MEGA has funded the development of shopping centres in Bushbuckridge, Govern Mbeki and Nkomazi municipalities with R19 million.

The MEC Kholwane, during the tabling of the department's Policy and Budget Speech announced that the provincial government spent about R10.24 billion on goods and services annually and using this procurement power to favour women, people with disabilities and the youth and R2.3 billion spent on black on women, R1,1 billion on people with disabilities.

The MEC challenged the youth of Mpumalanga to make the education fashionable and that it is the only weapon that they can use to cut the circle of poverty. Through education and training young people can be innovators, pioneers, discoverers and real leaders of tomorrow.

The youth of 1976 played their part, now it is time for the youth of today to play theirs. She said as youth, they cannot afford to stand aside and look while their fellow young people are being oppressed, abused and side-lined.

Many youth of today are on the driver's seat and they have a responsibility to steer this vehicle to its destination. Youth in positions of leadership and influence need to make a mark in the different roles they play within society. The young people of today who are now key role players in politics, media space, banking, agriculture, mining, Information Technology and other sectors of the economy, cannot afford to cry foul when decisions about youth are taken in the presence of those who are in high position and keep quiet. Youth are part of the decision making processes and we need to be honest with our fellow young people if indeed we are failing them.

It is everyone's responsibility as leaders of different sectors of our economy to unlock such opportunities for our fellow young people. We need to create an enabling environment for the youth to actively form part of the countries.

## **6. DELIBERATIONS BY THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

The young people have during the Youth Parliament both in commissions and plenary deliberated on a number of issues affecting them in particular and the society in general. In their deliberations they had acknowledged the work done by the Legislature, government departments and other institutions of democracy.

They have identified some challenges that are still facing them as sector and they also came up with recommendations on how those **challenges should be addressed.**

## **7. YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE**

### **7.1. THE COMMITTEE FINDINGS**

1. The Youth Parliament had commended government for having introduced numerous policies that are aimed at the betterment of the quality of life of the young people, whilst addressing the issues of inequality, unemployment and poverty.
2. Many young people, especially from the rural and farming areas do not understand the role of the youth developmental structures like NYDA, SEDA, SETAs and others are created with an aim to assist them with skills and funding to create business and other opportunities.
3. The Fortune 40 initiative is aimed at promoting participation and development of young people in the province, however there are no mechanisms in place to ensure that young people are taken on board.
4. The government introduced the EPWP programme but it is not adding value around youth emancipation. Young people are not considered where there are vacancies advertised.

## **7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. Government must develop a Youth Development Charter to deal with all the issues affecting the young people of the province. This will help to streamline youth issues in the province.
2. The Youth Desk in the Office of the Premier should come up with and implement awareness and development programmes that are aimed at youth development.
3. Government and the youth formations/structures that are mentioned above should ensure that the Fortune 40 initiative serves the purpose that it was created for, by taking care of youth development in the province.
4. The EPWP should consider young people when there are vacancies that are available.

## **8. EDUCATION FOR YOUTH**

### **8.1 THE COMMITTEE FINDINGS**

1. The number of teenage pregnancies at schools, especially in the former townships are rapidly growing from the age of 13 years and upwards.
2. That young girls who don't have funds to further their studies in the rural areas get married to foreigners because they promise to give them money to further their studies or support their families.
3. That the schools for people living with disabilities are inadequate in the province.
4. The TVET Colleges curriculum is not in line with the skills needs for the job market and therefore not responding to the socio-economic challenges facing the country.
5. Young people from rural areas are still suffering and don't know anything about the assistant funds and student loans that they can apply for in Tertiary Institutions.
6. That there is inadequate allocation of the bursary funds through NSFAS as per the TVET Colleges.



5. That there is growing number of fly-by-night learning institutions that are taking advantage of unsuspecting learners of all over the province and the government seems not to be addressing the issue.

## **8.2 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. The Department of Basic Education should come up with awareness programmes that are aimed assisting learners to understand the dangers of engaging in unprotected sexual activities, especially at a young age.

2. The Department of High Education (DHE) should ensure that there is equitable funding for TVET Colleges through NFSAS.

3. That the Department of Education should consider increasing the number of schools for people living with disabilities and their accessibility should be improved.

4. The Department of Higher Education should come up with a funding model which will address the challenges of financial assistance to students at TVET Colleges.

5. The Mpumalanga Department of Education must make agriculture to be compulsory at all Lowveld region TVET colleges, and the youth welcomed the progress made by the Department of Education.

## **9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **9.1 FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. That the economy still remains in the hands of the few and who were previously advantaged by the previous system.

### **9.2 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. There should be deliberate progress made in transferring the economy to majority of the countries men, women and youth especially Africans, in actual fact the

economy remains in the hands of the few and corruption and nepotism have undermined the intention of the democratic state.

## **10. YOUTH IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM ECONOMY**

### **10.1 FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. The issue of land expropriation without compensation and borders in Mpumalanga Province still a challenge in the rural areas.
2. People are still suffering in the hands of Traditional Leaders who do not want to distribute land to the youth for farming.
3. In the rural areas tribal authorities own large portion of land and they stand against development.

### **10.2 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. The issue of land expropriation should be sped up with an aim to ensure that those who were deprived of land be given their land back.
2. Government should have an engagement with some traditional leaders who are keeping the land that belongs to the people, with an aim to release that land to the people.
3. Government should engage in a process whereby the size of the land that is owned by some traditional leaders be revisited.

## **11. CRIME AND CORRUPTION**

### **11.1 FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. That human trafficking and drugs in rural areas is something that happen daily because of the proximity to borders.
2. That there are people within the society who abuse people or even killing them because of their sexual orientation, like being gay and/or lesbian.

### **11.2 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. Home Affairs and SAPS must conduct awareness on how to report human trafficking and SAPS must stop allowing people at the boarders to cross to South Africa without proper papers and soldiers must be deployed to assist police.
2. The government should impose harsher sentences to people who kill others because of their sexual orientation.

## **12. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **12.1 FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. The Department of Social Development seems not to be doing enough in monitoring the impact of social grants, especially when it comes to young beneficiaries.
2. There are still many young people, especially from the farming and rural areas who are not benefitting from social grants, which are provided through SASSA.


### **12.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Department of the Social Development should monitor the impact of SASSA towards ensuring the beneficiation of the young people in the province.
2. The Department of Social Development should identify poor people in communities and ensure that they benefit from the Social Relief programme of the Department and SASSA.

### **13. CONCLUSION**

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Select Committee, wishes to thank all the Honourable Members of the Legislature, the Legislature support staff and all role players who contributed in the preparations towards the successful hosting of the 2018 Youth Parliament.

This Committee report on the 2018 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 should be tabled to the Committee by no later than 28 September 2018.



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

20-09-2018

**DATE**